

The 3rd Day of February

⊗ **The Righteous God-bearer Simeon and Anna the Prophetess;
and the Equal-to-the-Apostle Nikolai, Archbishop of Tokyo and
Apostle to Japan, whose service is provided separately after this.**

— not completed, as of 1/2013.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

3 stichera of the Feast in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heavens....”*

The Creator of all and our Deliverer /
Is borne into the temple by His Virgin Mother, /
And receiving Him the elder cries aloud in joy /
Now lettest Thou thy servant depart in pease, O Good One; ///
Let this be done according to Thy will!

Simeon receives the Creator of all from the arms of the Virgin, /
The Savior of all who was begotten before all ages; /
And he cries aloud saying: /
I have beheld Thy brilliant radiance shining forth, /
Now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, O Good One; ///
For mine eyes have beheld Thee today.

Simeon bears in his arms the Savior /
Who, in the fullness of time was born for the salvation of mankind; /
And he cries aloud rejoicing: /
I have seen the light of the nations and the glory of Israel /
Now lettest Thou thy servant depart from among those here in peace ///
According to Thy command, for Thou art God!

And 3 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

O divinely-inspired one, /
As one righteous, perfected, and glorious in all, /
Thou didst take up in thine arms the One Perfect God /
Who didst come, Incarnate, to justify the world. /
And thou didst cry out to Him that thou mightiest be released from thy body: /
Now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, /
For I have beheld Thee today ///
O Thou who lovest mankind.

Young in spirit, yet elderly in body, O Simeon /
Thou wast given a promise not to see death until thou didst behold in thine arms /

The young Babe who before time is the God and Creator of all /
Who had humbled Himself to take on our flesh /
And beholding Him thou didst cry out rejoicing: ///
Asking to be released from that same flesh and so come into the divine mansions.

The divinely-inspired Anna /
And the all-rich Simeon, resplendent in prophecy, /
Are manifest as blameless according to the Law /
Beholding the Bestower of the Law manifest among us as a little Babe. /
Therefore, let us bow down in worship before Him /
And joyously celebrate today their memory ///
Glorifying, as is meet, the Lord Jesus, who loveth mankind.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 5: *The composition of Germanus*

The Ancient of Days, having become a Babe /
Is borne into the temple by His Virgin Mother /
Fulfilling the promise of His own Law; /
And Simeon, receiving Him, said: /
O Holy One, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace ///
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven...."*

Let us celebrate today the saving grace of the ineffable manifestation of God: /
For Christ God, having without change became a Babe through the Virgin Maiden,
Is borne by His Mother into the temple of God His Father ///
And receiving Him, Simeon embraces Him in his arms.

Verse: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

Thou wast seen by the prophets of old /
Insofar as they were able, O Jesus; /
But now, Thou hast revealed Thyself of Thine own will, O Word of God, /
In the flesh through the Virgin Mary, O Christ, /
And hath made manifest to all Thy salvation, /
O Thou, who art descended from Adam, ///
For Thou art the lover of mankind.

Verse: A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

O Christ, who of old laid down the Law upon Mount Sinai /
Now fulfills the Law upon Mount Zion; /

Thou hast desired to be carried forth into the temple in the arms of the Theotokos, /
And be given in to the arms of Simeon. ///
Together with the doves of sacrifice.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 1: *The composition of Monk John*

Today, He who gave the Law to Moses upon Mount Sinai /
Submits Himself to the commands of the Law,
For in His loving kindness He has become likened to us. /
And now our Pure God, having opened the womb of the pure one, /
Is offered to Himself, as God, ///
Freeing us from the curse of the Law and enlightening our souls.

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! /
From thee hast risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /
Who gives light to those in darkness. /
Rejoice, also, O righteous elder; /
Thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls ///
Who grants us the resurrection.

Matins

At “God is the Lord...,” the Troparion of the Feast, thrice.

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”*

Today the elder asked to be loosed /
From the bonds of this life of corruption ///
Receiving in his arms Christ, the Creator and Lord.

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

By Thy Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, /
And didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ God. /
Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. ///
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind!

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 6: *To the melody, “On the third day....”*

Take up in thine arms, O Simeon, /
Take up the Creator of all; /
O Elder, take up Christ to whom the Virgin Maiden gave birth without seed ///
Unto the joy of our race.

Verse: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

Let us praise the Giver of the Law, /
Before whom the hosts of angels tremble; /
Come all ye people assembled /
And let us praise the only Benefactor, ///
Unto the salvation of our souls.

Verse: A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, /
From the bonds of corruption /
As thou didst promise, /
For I have beheld Thee, O Christ ///
The pre-eternal Light which enlightens the Gentiles and Israel.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 2:

Today the Holy Virgin brought the Holy One to the priest in the temple, /
And stretching for his hands, Simeon received Him; /
And rejoicing, he cried aloud: /
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace /
Let this be according to Thy word!

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the First Ode of the Canon of the Feast, and 4 from the Fourth Ode of the Canon of the Saint.

The Prokeimenon of the Feast, and one for the Saints, in Tone 7: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall set his hope in Him.

The Epistle: (321-ctr) Hebrews 7:7-17

The Alleluia of the Feast, and one for the Saints in Tone 7: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

The Gospel (8) Luke 2:25-38

The Communion Hymn of the Feast, and also for the Saints: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.