

The 14th Day of August



Forefeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos; Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Micah.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera to the Forefeast, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Let us sound the cymbals, /
Let us all cry out in song /
As we celebrate the coming feast of the Virgin’s falling asleep /
Brightly let us sing the graveside hymns. /
For the Mother of God, the golden ark, /
Now prepares herself to pass over from the earth to heaven ///
As she is translated to the divine and living brightness in the heights above.

Today the choir of the apostles /
Is most-gloriously gathered from all the ends of the earth /
For the life-bearing vineyard, the Lady over all
Departs from the earth to a nobler place /
So that she may rejoice together with the King, her Son. /
At her divine burial, let us sing hymns at her falling asleep ///
With one accord, together with the all the heavenly hosts.

Come, O ye assemblies of priests, /
Ye kings and all ye princes of the earth, /
And all ye virgins with all the people, let us gather together /
And tomorrow let us sing the funeral hymns /
For our Lady, the Mistress over all, is bound for the mansions of heaven, ///
Desiring to commend her soul into the hands of her Son.

And 3 stichera to the Prophet Micah, in same Tone: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Thou didst loudly proclaim, O blessèd one, /
That it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord /
Shall be established on the tops of the mountains, /
Revealing thy true and great knowledge of God; /
And that all the nations shall earnestly come to it with faith ///
And learn the ways of the Lord unto their eternal salvation.

Thou didst proclaim prophetically, /
O Micah, thou wondrous among the prophets, /
That the Prince shall come from out of Bethlĕhem; /
That He is truly the Ancient of the ages /
Come to tend to His people. /
Now we see that thy prophecy is come to pass ///
And we glorify His coming, as had been wisely spoken by thee.

Standing before the throne of God, /
O all-honored prophet, /
Thou hast truly been granted the joy /
Of beholding the glory of God /
And delighting in His divine nourishment and spiritual joy. /
Now we beseech thee to watch over us /
Who with faith celebrate thy memory, ///
And to deliver us from all misfortune through thine unceasing prayers.

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast in same Tone: (and melody)

O pure and Most Holy Virgin, /
The multitude of angels in heaven and mankind on earth below /
Extol and venerate thy precious falling asleep /
For thou art the Mother of Christ God, the Creator of all. /
Cease not, we pray thee, to intercede with Him on our behalf; /
For next to God we have put our hope in thee, ///
O most-praised and un-wedded Mother of God.

Or the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O House of Ephratha....”

O new wonder! /
O awesome marvel! /
How does the life-bearing maiden submit to death, ///
And now be covered in a tomb?

Verse: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.

Let the race of mankind rejoice /
For, behold, the Virgin, /
The daughter of Adam ///
Is translated from earth to heaven!

Verse: The Lord hath sworn to David a sure oath and will not change His mind.

Let us envision in our minds /
The deathbed of the Virgin /
Surrounded beautifully by the assembly of the apostles ///
Singing hymns at her falling asleep.

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast in the same Tone: *the composition of Anatolius.*

She, who is exalted above the heavens, /
And is more glorious than the cherubim, /
And more hon'orable than all creation, /
She, who by reason of her surpassing purity /
Became the receptacle of the ever-existing Essence, /
Today commends her most holy soul into the hands of her Son. /
Through her are all things filled with joy, ///
And He grants us His great mercy.

The Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:

Dance with joy and clap your hands, O ye people, /
And assemble with love as ye rejoice and cry aloud today. /
For the Mother of God /
Whom we glorify and praise as the Theotokos, ///
Is come to pass over from the earth to heaven.

Matins

— *incomplete as of 6/2016*

After the Sixth Ode:

The Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today...."*

Today the whole universe overflows with the spirit of joy, /
At thy glorious memory, O Mother of God, /
And it cries out to thee: /
Rejoice, O Virgin, /
The boast of all Christians.