

The 21st Day of July

Our Venerable Fathers among the Saints, Simeon of Emessa, the Fool for Christ, and his companion in fasting, John; and the Holy Prophet Ezekiel.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

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

Dwelling in the desert, O blessèd ones, /
In unity of mind, /
You didst cause the agitations of the flesh to wither away /
By fasting, prayer and enlightening contemplation; /
Thereby illuminating your hearts /
With the pleasing gifts of the Spirit, ///
O Simeon and John, the confirmation of monastics

Through the pretense of foolishness, O blessèd one /
Thou didst make foolish the wisdom of wickedness, /
Performing wondrous signs and working miracles, expelling demons, /
Enlightening those dwelling in the darkness of sin, /
While preserving thy clarity of mind amidst the turmoil of this world, /
Thou didst receive the reward of dispassion from God ///
O our father Simeon.

Revealing thyself through subtle humility /
Full of mercy and compassion, and full of love for God, /
O divinely-inspired one, /
Humble and meek, thou didst walk the earth like an angel /
Living thy life as if in heaven. /
Therefore, because of thy purity O blessèd Simeon, ///
The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit descended to rest upon thee.

And 3 stichera of the Prophet, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O wondrous Ezekiel, /
Having cleansed beforehand thy body and thy soul, /
Thou didst behold in a vision, in the purity of thy mind, /
The ineffable glory of God /

Ascending, like lightening, beyond all understanding, /
 Borne by a multitude of divine cherubīm /
 Accompanied by the hymns of countless voices, ///
 O most-wise and divinely blessèd one.

O God-pleasing Ezekiel /

In imitation of Christ thou didst long endure the oppression of the foe /
 Being cruelly tortured; /

Becoming the prefigurement of the precious Cross /
 Which was to be the salvation and deliverance of the world, /

O divinely-revealed one. ///

Entreat that all who sing thy praises may come share in this deliverance and salvation.

O divinely-inspired Ezekiel, /

Receiving the scroll from the hands of the Almighty, /

Its words became the sweetest honey in thy mouth, /

And thou didst become a prophet foretelling the sacred mysteries, /

One having seen God—a God-seeing theologian, ///

Granting from God understanding to the raging assembly.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Rejoice, O enlightenment of our souls, /

Rejoice, forgiveness of sinners, /

Rejoice, correction of the negligent, /

Rejoice, O consolation, helper and joy of those in sorrow, /

Rejoice, O gracious healer of infirm spirits, /

Rejoice, O reconciliation with God and our intercessor ///

Rejoice, pure Lady, who art holier beyond compare than the seraphīm!

Or the Stavrotheotokion:

“What is this sight that I see, /

What do mine eyes behold, O Master? /

Thou, Who sustainest all creation, lifted up on the Tree, /

Dost die granting life to all,” /

Cried the Theotokos, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross ///

The God-man Who had ineffably shone forth from her.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of the Venerable Fathers, in Tone 4:

O God of our fathers /
Deal with us according to Thy compassion /
Take not away Thy mercy from us /
But through the prayers of our fathers ///
Guide our lives in peace.

The General Troparion of the Prophet, in Tone 2:

We celebrate the memory /
Of Thy prophet Ezekiel; /
Through him, we implore Thee, O Lord, /
To save our souls.

Matins

The Canon of the Venerable Fathers and the Prophet, in Tone 4:

The composition of Theophanes. — incomplete as of 6/5/13

After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Prophet, in Tone 4: *To the melody,
“Thou hast appeared today...”*

Thou wast revealed as a prophet of God, /
O wondrous Ezekiel, /
By prophesying to all the coming incarnation of the Lord: /
The Son of God born before the ages, ///
The Lamb, and the Creator of all.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Venerable Fathers, in Tone 2:

Let us praise the venerable Simeon /
As an equal to the angels, /
For he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel /
Shining forth to all as an example of the virtues; /
And with him let us honor his companion, /
The ever memorable and God-bearing father John ///
For they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love.