

The 9th Day of May

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Isaiah; and the Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Christopher. Also, the Commemoration of the Translation of the Precious Relics of our father among the saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, from Myra to Bari in Italy, whose service follows after this.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

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

Purified by the burning fire of the pre-incarnate God /
The great and glorious Isaiah was entrusted with his prophetic call /
And because of his abundant virtues and purity /
He was found worthy to behold the divine splendor of God; /
Thus he stood forth as a herald to proclaim the coming salvation to the nations ///
And the appearance of God.

Having cleansed thy mind and thoughts of all impurity /
O right-wondrous Isaiah, /
Thou didst see God seated upon His lofty throne /
And wast instructed in the holy Mysteries, O glorious one. /
Thus thou didst become a well-tuned instrument of the Spirit /
Ceaselessly sounding His divine energy and inspiration, ///
Ever pouring forth the wisdom of God.

Thou wast taught by the divine seraphim /
As they unceasingly glorify the Thrice Holy Wisdom of the Triune God /
And thou wast entrusted with the grace-filled gift of prophecy, /
O right-wondrous Isaiah; /
Therefore, we celebrate thy most sacred memory ///
And we call upon thee as our powerful intercessor before Christ the Lord.

And 3 stichera of the Martyr, in the same Tone: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

O all-glorious Christopher, /
Thou steadfast pillar bearing the name of Christ, /
Thou precious ornament of grace divine /
Who cast down the dominion of the powerful and shamed the tyrants’ pride /
By proclaiming Christ, thy Creator, to be thy One true King ///
And by His divine power didst receive from above thy crown and abiding praise.

Illumined by the unapproachable light of Divinity, /

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And armed with the ineffable and invincible power of grace /
Thou didst cast down the gloominess of idolatry /
And destroyed thine oppressors' arrogance; /
For neither fire nor the sword nor the arrow could harm thee /
As thou emerged victorious, conquering them all.

The angelic hosts marveled at beholding thee, /
The ranks of martyrs rejoiced with thee /
And the assemblies of the righteous cried out in joy with thee /
When God crowned thee from on high with His holy hand. /
Therefore, with one voice we cry aloud: /
Through the prayers of Thy martyr Christopher, save all who honor his holy memory ///
In that Thou art compassionate, O merciful Lord.

Glory..., now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.

Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of the Prophet, in Tone 2:

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

Glory..., the Troparion of St. Christopher, in Tone 4:

Thou standest now before the King of the heavenly hosts /
Arrayed in garments dyed with the crimson of thy blood, /
And together with the assembly of angels and martyrs /
Thou dost sing the Thrice-holy hymn and the awesome praises of God. ///
Through thine intercessions, O ever-memorable Christopher, entreat Him now to save our
souls.

Now and ever..., from the Pentecostarion.

Matins

The Canon

**The Canon of the Pentecostarion, with 4 Troparia, including the Irmos;
and that of both the Prophet and the Martyr, with 6 Troparia:**

**The Canon for both the Prophet and the Martyr, in Tone 4,
*the composition of Theophanes.***

Ode 1

Irmos: Let us sing to the Lord, who in days of old guided His people into the sea where He drowned Pharaoh and all his host, a song of victory, for He hath been greatly glorified.

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Refrain: Holy Prophet of the Lord Isaiah, pray to God for us!

Enlighten me, O Lord my God, and illumine my way, that I may worthily praise the glorious and honorable festival of Thy holy prophet.

Isaiah's clarion call, sounding forth upon the earth, summons all the children of the Church to celebrate his memory.

Making the passions of thy flesh subject to the will of thy soul, O God-bearer Isaiah, thou wast given the grace to behold the glory of the Almighty.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Refrain: Holy Martyr Christopher, pray to God for us!

Come, O ye Christ-bearing people, and let us piously praise today the memory of the martyr Christopher, the divinely-wise witness to the Truth.

Thou didst courageously struggle against deceit, O passion-bearing martyr, and trampled the threats of thy tormenters underfoot, being strengthened by the power of Christ.

Theotokion:

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

The glorious prophet Isaiah foreseeing thee as the stem, proclaimed the Word made flesh who would blossom forth from thee like a flower, O most pure Virgin.

Katavasia from the Pentecostarion.

Ode 3

Irmos: The bow of the mighty is become weak and the weak have girded themselves with power; therefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Receiving the full radiance of the Spirit, O glorious one, thou didst proclaim the ineffable mystery of the dispensation of the Word.

Being caught up to the heights of heaven, and glowing with the radiance of piety thou didst denounce the impotent vanity of idolatry.

Isaiah prophesied Christ the Master who sustains the universe to be the precious Cornerstone set in Zion.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Thou didst suffer grave wounds, O martyr Christopher, but being protected by the armor of the Cross thou art now rejoicing having attained delight of thy desire.

Thy flesh was slashed, O martyr Christopher, but thy God-loving soul was lovingly nourished as it meditated on the delights of the heavenly kingdom.

Theotokion: **T**ruly the prophecy of Isaiah hath been fulfilled: for the Virgin hath given birth to the incarnate Giver of life, the Savior of our souls.

Katavasia.

The Sessional (Kathisma) Hymn of the Prophet, in Tone 4: To the melody, “Quickly go before...”

Having cleansed thy soul of carnal pássions /
Thou didst behold Him who is Gód of all, /
And being enriched with the shining rays of prophecy, thóu didst proclaim: /
The Creator shall be born as a little babe /
And shall save us from corruption ///
Through the supplications of her who gáve Him birth.

Glory..., the Sessional Hymn to the Martyr, in the same Tone: To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”

Completing thy great feat of mártyrdom /
O glorious Christopher, /
Thou didst receive a crown of victory from God. ///
Beseech Him now to deliver us from every misfortune and sórrow.

Now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

Ode 4

*Irmos: Proclaiming the coming of Thine appearance on earth, O Christ God, the prophet cried out with joy:
Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Ascending to the summit of the virtues, thou didst converse in purity with Him whom thou didst desire, and didst joyfully sing: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Isaiah was entrusted with the grace of prophecy and showed himself to be a dwelling place of God; and thus he was vouchsafed the incorruptible glory of the heavenly hosts.

As an initiate of the ineffable mysteries, O glorious Isaiah, and being filled with the Spirit divine, thou didst foretell that the children, the Churches of the nations, would be renewed.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Having struggled on the earth, thou hast received thine inheritance in heaven, O martyr; for with great courage didst thou extinguish the cruel demon's deceit.

The serpent sought to tempt thee as he had once tempted our forefather Adam of old, but though he sought to ensnare thee, he himself was put to shame and vanquished.

Theotokion: **T**he Babe was born of the prophetess, the Mother of God, without pain, and His sovereignty was upon His shoulders, as the divinely-wise Isaiah had foretold.

Ode 5

Irmos: Send down upon us Thine enlightenment, O Lord, and free us from the gloom of transgressions, O Good One, granting us Thy peace.

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Beholding the hidden mystery and the ancient counsel of the Most High, thou didst announce God's coming dispensation concerning us, O divinely-eloquent Isaiah.

The ever-flowing well-spring of Thy sufferings, O Lord, has washed away all our passions; for Thou hast come, O Savior, as the prophet Isaiah had foretold.

What the divinely-wise prophet Isaiah proclaimed is so that the ignorant would know that the Trinity is One in Essence, the Word and the Holy Spirit proceeding from God the Father.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Enlightened by grace, thou didst fish for men, O wise martyr, and, invested on earth with power from on high, thou didst truly destroy the savagery of the lawless tormentors.

Desiring the pleasures of heaven more than anything on earth, O wise Christopher, thou didst endure the pain of thy martyrdom with the strength of the power of the Cross.

Theotokion: **O** Lord, Isaiah clearly beheld Thee casting down the idols of Egypt, sitting on the swift cloud of Thine all-laudable Mother.

Ode 6

Irmos: Prefiguring Thy three-day burial, the prophet Jonah cried out in the belly of the whale; deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King and Lord of hosts.

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Transported by the Spirit, Isaiah beheld on the Throne of dominion, the thrice-radiant glory of God ever praised by the Thrice-holy hymn.

The Seraph carried the burning ember by tongs to thy fearful lips, O Isaiah, thus mystically consecrating thee and making thee a prophet of God.

Observing from afar the fulfillment of his prophecies, Isaiah leapt for joy and rejoiced in spirit together with the angels, as he glorified God who fulfilled his words.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Waging war not against flesh or blood, the valiant martyr Christopher vanquished principalities and demons, strengthened by the invisible power of the Son of God.

Piously loving God with divine longing, O martyr, thou didst not feel pain when being cut by the sword, ever lifting up thy mind to thy Master.

Theotokion: **T**he glorious prophet Isaiah unceasingly rejoices, for he beheld the Virgin conceive in her womb and give birth to the incarnate Word, the Son of God.

Katavasia.

The Kontakion of the Prophet, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “The Theotokos, who is ever vigilant....”*

Thou didst receive the gift of prophecy /
O martyred prophet Isaiah; /
Thou didst explain to all the incarnation of the Lord /
Proclaiming aloud to the ends of the earth: ///
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive God in her womb!

Ikos: **L**et us, the faithful of all lands come together and worthily praise Isaiah, wondrous among the prophets, for, receiving the gift of prophecy, he illumined the world, proclaiming to all the mystery of the divine union, and crying aloud together with them: The invisible God is with us! Behold, a Virgin shall conceive Him in her womb!

Ode 7

Irmos: *In Babylon of old, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace as they sang aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Beholding the deliverance of our salvation at hand, Isaiah cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Crowned with the grace of a prophet and the crown of a martyr, Isaiah cried aloud: Thou art my strength and my song, blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

With thy divinely-inspired tongue thou didst explain the nature of piety and the laws of life, O divinely-wise prophet Isaiah, teaching us to cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Having endured and completing the race of martyrdom, thou dwellest now in the heavenly mansions, O Christopher, singing to the Lord: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

With the dew of piety, the martyr Christopher caused the flame of ungodliness to die out

as he sang to the Lord: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Theotokion: Beholding the splendor of the Virgin's birthgiving beyond all nature, Isaiah cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Ode 8

Irmos: The children in Babylon, consumed with divine zeal, courageously trampled the tyrant and the flames underfoot when cast into the midst of the flames; they were covered with dew and sang: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Wearing a bridegroom's robe of gladness, the glorious prophet Isaiah now rejoices in all the delights of paradise, and with the angels, he cries aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

The accursed of the earth who, from of old were deceived by the demons and cut themselves off from God, have rightly fallen away, for in accordance with the prophet's words, they were unable to cry: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Forsaking the call of lies, multitudes of the gentiles have hastened to the divine light and betrothed themselves to the Church of Christ, as Isaiah once foresaw; and now, with voices of joy, they sing aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

The Troparia of the Martyr:

The tidal wave of idolatry has broken itself upon the steadfast bastion wall of the martyrs who stood firmly amidst all tribulations for Christ as they sang aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Clad in a robe woven with the royal purple of thy blood, O invincible martyr Christopher, thou hast joined chorus with the angels, singing to thy Creator: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord.

Theotokion: The Virgin Maiden, Mother of God, holds the infant Word who created all things and gave life to all, as Isaiah hath foretold in days of old; and he now cries aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout the ages.

Katavasia.

Ode 9

Irmos: Through weakness, Eve brought about the curse of disobedience, but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast budded forth blessing unto the world in the Fruit of thy pregnancy. Therefore, we all magnify thee.

The Troparia of the Prophet:

Thou hast stood before the splendor of the throne of the Master of the heavenly hosts, O most blessed, glorious and God-pleasing prophet, and now thou dost delight in His glory, gathering together the fruit of thy piety. Therefore, we all magnify thee.

Come now, all ye who desire to receive the gift of the prophet's light! Read ye the Book of Isaiah filled with divine knowledge, and attend to it with steadfast desire, that we all may be filled with radiance divine!

Filled with the radiance of the Holy Spirit, pray that those who faithfully celebrate thy splendid memory and honor thee may be saved.

The Troparia of the Martyr:

Having received thy martyr's crown of victory, O most glorious Christopher, thou reignest now together with Christ the Lord who strengthened thee in the midst of thy tortures and gave thee His life-bearing hand so that thou mightest prevail over the author of evil.

Washed in the radiant blood of martyrdom, thou wast illumined, O all-wondrous martyr; and now, thou hast joyfully entered with the Bridegroom into His chambers. Never cease intreating Him that peace may be granted to the world, O glorious martyr Christopher!

Theotokion: **O** pure and divine Bride and Mother of God, thou bearest in thine embrace the burning spiritual ember, which Isaiah beheld, united to our kind, splendidly bestowing salvation upon the world. Therefore, with one voice do we all magnify thee!