

The 19th Day of October

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Joel; Holy Martyr Varus.

And the Commemoration of our Venerable Father among the

Saints, John of Rila. (Whose service follows this service – *not translated into RLE as of 8/2014*)

Vespers

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

The Divine Spirit hath been poured out, /
As thou didst prophesy, being moved by Him, /
O thou hon’rable prophet Joel. /
And thou didst reveal the manifestation of the divine mysteries, /
For those who receive His gifts speak of wisdom ///
Being illumined by the divine light and godly grace.

The wondrous Joel, being filled with divine tidings, /
Emerged from thine abode as a well spring, O Master, /
Quenching the thirst of the souls of the faithful /
Imparting them sweet waters to nourish their thoughts; /
And since he was great in his spirit ///
He was carried by his virtues to heights of divinity.

In thy boldness as a prophet and thy closeness to God, /
Thou didst behold heavenly visions, O Joel, /
Now we pray thee to entreat His mercy upon us, /
Who celebrate thy holy memory, O glorious one, /
That He bestows on us the remission of our sins, ///
And grants us to partake of His divine delights and great mercy.

And 3 stichera to the Martyr, in Tone 6: *To the melody, “Having set all aside....”*

Beholding the sufferings of the victorious martyrs /
And being filled with boldness divine, /
Thou didst enter the arena, O Varus, /
And fearlessly facing death and the torments awaiting thee, /
Thou didst preach Christ, Who become man for our sake; /
Being then grievously wounded and dismembered /
Thou didst rejoice with perfect understanding, /
Looking forward to the abiding glory /
That awaited those who love God, ///

O wise and holy martyr.

Beholding thy flesh and blood falling away, /
Thou didst bravely endure thy torments /
As though witnessing the sufferings of another. /
And being bound to a tree /
Thou didst patiently watch as the torturers dismembered thee; /
Then thou didst give thy spirit over into the hands of God /
To the dismay of those who beheld thy steadfast endurance. /
Therefore we honor thee, O wise martyr Varus ///
For casting down the tyrant with thy great courage and suffering.

Embalming thee with myrrh and spices, /
The blessed Cleopatra buried thee under the earth /
And built a holy Temple over thy body /
There to keep thy memory and fervently seek thine intercessions: /
Thou didst enlist her son in thy spiritual army /
Where he was clothed in glory and joined to the ranks of the saints. /
May this also be vouchsafed to us ///
Who piously celebrate thy festival, O wondrous martyr Varus.

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

Rejoice, O staff of Aaron, /
Rejoice, thou who budded forth from the root of Jesse, /
Rejoice from whom sprang forth the never-fading Flower, /
The eternal Tree of Life standing in the garden of heaven
Rejoice, O Maiden who nourishes us with the Bread of wisdom, /
Rejoice, thou robe of royal purple, thou Bride of God, the King of heaven, /
Rejoice, O most radiant crown, the adornment of hierarchs ///
Rejoice, thou only pure and only blessed one.

Or the Stavrotheotokion: To the melody, "On the third day...."

Beholding her Lamb upon the Cross, /
The unblemished ewe-lamb, the immaculate Lady, /
Cried out in maternal amazement: /
"What is this new and all-glorious wonder, /
O my Sweetest Child? /
How hath this ungrateful assembly betrayed Thee to Pilate, /
And condemn Thee to death, the Life of all? ///
Yet do I praise Thine ineffable condescension, O Word!"

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

The Apostikha from the Octoechos.

The (General) Troparion of the Prophet, in Tone 2: *(none given in the Menaion)*

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

Or this Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:

Thy holy martyr Varus, O Lord /
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. /
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons. ///
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

Matins

— incomplete as of 8/2014

The Kontakion of the Martyr, Tone 4:

Following the example of Christ, /
Thou didst drink of His cup, O martyr Varus. /
Through thy sufferings thou didst receive thy crown /
And dost rejoice now with the angels. ///
Pray now without ceasing on behalf of our souls.