

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Day of February

**Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord; Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; also, the Commemoration of our Father among the Saints Theodosius, Archbishop of Chernígov, Wonderworker of All-Russia, whose service is provided following this;**

**and the Commemoration of the Icon of the Mother of God “Search of the Lost,”** *(whose service is not provided in RLE as of 12/2016).*

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera:**

*Note:* If this day falls outside of Lent, then the service is of the Afterfeast of the Meeting and of the Martyr. But if it be Lent, then it is only that of the Martyr (*cf. Typikon*). In that case the first two stichera for the Saint are sung thrice and the third sticheron is sung twice, for a total of 8 stichera.

**4 stichera, of the Feast, 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. *(twice)*

**T**hou 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.

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

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

**T**hou didst preserve thy body incorrupt for Christ thy Bridegroom /  
O Agatha, bride of God, /

Adorned with the virtues of virginity. /  
 Radiant with the light of martyrdom, /  
 Thou didst enter into the divine bridal chamber. /  
 Therefore, we celebrate thy universal festival ///  
 And glorify the Savior who hath glorified thee forever. *(twice)*

**T**hou didst bear the flogging of thy body, /  
 Being burned in the flames /  
 And the severing of thy breasts, O glorious one, /  
 Ever gazing with the eyes of thy heart /  
 Upon the everlasting rewards of bliss /  
 And the unfading crown now given thee by Christ ///  
 For whom thou didst suffer, O long-suffering Agatha.

**T**hrough thy prayers, O good and glorious Agatha /  
 Thou didst save from the raging river of Mount Ætna's fire /  
 The city of Catania which venerates thy holy relics /  
 From which flow abundant rivers of divine healing by the grace of the Spirit; /  
 For when thou didst suffer there, thou didst bring low the enemy ///  
 And didst receive the crown of victory, O most-blessed one.

**Note:** If it be Lent, then we sing: (taken from the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of February):

**Glory..., Now and ever...: the Theotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody;**

**B**e merciful and gracious to me, O Lady, /  
 And strengthen me on the rock of virtues /  
 For by the craftiness of demons I have fallen into the pit of perdition. /  
 O help me to defeat the assaults of the enemy, /  
 And vouchsafe that I may fulfill the commands of thy Son and our God ///  
 That I may receive the remission of sins on Judgment Day.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**B**eholding Christ, who loveth mankind, crucified, /  
 His side pierced by a spear, /  
 The all-pure one, cried aloud, lamenting: /  
 “What is this, O my Son? /  
 How have these thankless people rewarded Thee /  
 For all the good things Thou hast done for them? /  
 Dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most beloved Son? ///  
 I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!”

**Note:** But if this day falls outside of Lent, then:

**Glory..., in Tone 8: (by the Sykeote)**

**M**ost glorious was the miracle that took place /  
At the martyrdom of the all-glorious Agatha, the martyr of Christ, /  
Which rivalled that of Moses. /  
For, when obtaining the Law on Sinai /  
He received tablets inscribed by God, /  
But here, an angel from heaven brought an inscribed tablet to her grave /  
Upon which were written these words: //  
“O righteous spirit, thy voluntary suffering ///  
Hath earned thee honor from God and brought deliverance to thy native land.

**Now and ever..., in the same Tone: (by St. Andrew of Crete)**

**H**e who is borne aloft by the Cherubīm /  
And praised in hymns by the Seraphīm , /  
Is brought today into the holy temple in accordance to the Law /  
And rests in the arms of the elder as on a throne. /  
From Joseph He receives gifts fittling for God; /  
A pair of doves, the symbols of His spotless Church /  
And of the newly-chosen people, the Gentiles; /  
And two young pigeons, for He is the Originator of the two Covenants, both Old and the  
New. /  
And Simeon, having been granted the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning  
himself, /  
Blesses Mary the Virgin Theotokos, and foretells in figures the Passion of her Son. /  
From Him he begs release and he cries aloud: /  
‘Now let me depart, O Master, as Thou hast promised me; /  
For I have seen Thee, the pre-eternal Light, ///  
The Lord and Savior of the people that bear the name of Christ.

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

**T**ake 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 according to Thy word.

**L**et 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.

**L**ord, 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..., of the Feast, in Tone 2: (by Andrew Pyrrhus)**

**H**im whom the ministers at the liturgy on-high entreat with trembling /  
Simeon has now received below in his earthly arms, /  
And he proclaims the union of the Godhead with mankind. /  
Seeing the heavenly God as mortal man, /  
He makes ready to withdraw from earthly things, and raises his cry in joy;/  
'Glory to Thee, O Lord, ///  
Who hast revealed to those in darkness the Light that knoweth no evening!'

**The Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**O** Jesus, Thy lamb Agatha /  
Cries out to Thee with great love: /  
"O my Bridegroom, I long for Thee in pain, /  
I am crucified with Thee, and in baptism buried with Thee; /  
I suffer for Thy sake in order to reign with Thee, /  
I die for Thee in order to live in Thee. /  
Accept me as a spotless victim /  
Since I am put to death because of my love for Thee." ///  
Through her prayers, O Merciful One, save our souls. /

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:**

**R**ejoice, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, /  
From thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /  
Who giveth 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**

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 6:**

**L**et the choirs of angels be amazed at this wonder /  
And let us mortals lift up our voices in praise /  
Beholding the ineffable condescension of God: /  
For the One before whom the heavenly powers tremble, the only Lover of mankind ///  
Is now carried in the aged arms of the Elder.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “Let the choirs of angels....”

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “The shepherd’s pipes....”***

**T**hou, O unoriginate Son of the Father /  
Wast born on the earth /  
And carried into the temple, O unapproachable One. /  
There the Elder took Thee in his arms rejoicing, and he cried aloud: /  
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant whom thou didst visit depart in peace /  
According to Thy word, ///  
Whose good pleasure it is to save the race of mankind.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “Thou, O unoriginate Son....”

**The Canon**

The Canon of the Feast, with 6 Troparia, including its Irmos; and  
that of the Martyr, with 4 Troparia, in Tone 2: — *incomplete as of 12/2016.*

**After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**L**et the Church be adorned this day with glorious purple /  
Dyed with the pure blood of the martyr Agatha, ///  
Crying out: Rejoice, O praise of Catania.

**After the 6<sup>th</sup> Ode, the Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 1:**

**B**y 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!