

The 8th Day of February



Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord; the Holy Greatmartyr Theodore the General (Stratelates); and the Prophet Zechariah, who beheld the Sickle.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:

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

Thou wast revealed by the Holy Spirit /
As an invincible warrior and brave martyr for Christ, /
For having cast down the adversary with the wisdom of thy words /
And thy longsuffering deeds, /
Thou didst receive the crown of victory, ///
And art numbered with the angelic hosts, O greatmartyr Theodore.

Thou didst become a divine pillar of piety, O greatly-rich one /
By reducing to ashes the temples of the ungodly; /
Thou wast led as a pure and blameless lamb and a well-pleasing offering, /
To Him, who sacrificed Himself for thee, /
And who had thus glorified thy holy memory, ///
Granting thee as a treasury of miracles to those still in the world, O martyr Theodore.

Thou wast hanged and stretched upon a Cross, /
Thy flesh was flayed, and arrows pierced thy body, /
And suffering great torments thou wast beheaded by a sword; /
Through this all didst thou remain invincible and victorious /
By the power of Him who Himself was nailed to the Cross, ///
O Theodore, thou glory of martyrs!

And stichera, of the Prophet in Tone 8: *To the melody, “What shall we call thee, O saint?...”*

By living on earth the life of the angels, /
Thou didst converse with them, O prophet divine, /
Thereby illumining thy mind past all understanding: /
Thine eyes were cleansed so thou might behold wondrous images, /
Great secrets were disclosed and great mysteries were revealed to thee. /
Therefore, having prophetic illumination and spiritual renewal, ///
Pray that our souls may be saved.

8 FEBRUARY

Thou was revealed as an earthly angel /
Having the angels of heaven as thy companions on earth; /
And beholding things beyond the plane of the world /
Thou didst shine forth, a radiant beacon of spiritual light; /
And in the words of the Psalmist, thou wast like the fruitful olive tree /
That, by the action of God, pours its oil upon the faithful. ///
Pray that our souls may be saved.

Delighting now in the longed-for spiritual union with God /
And partaking of eternal sweetness and beholding His ineffable glory, /
And adorned with a crown of beauty as His most-true prophet, /
Earnestly pray for us who praise thee, O Zechariah, well-pleasing to God, ///
That our souls may be saved.

Note: If it be Lent, then we sing: (taken from the 18th Day of February):

Glory..., now and ever..., the Theotokion, in Tone 8:

Whom art thou emulating, O wretched soul? /
One who never rises to repentance? /
One not afraid of the fire awaiting the wicked? /
Arise, and quickly call on her who is our lone defense, /
And cry out: “O Virgin Mother! /
Entreat thy Son and our God ///
That He deliver my soul from the snare of the deceiver!”

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 8: To the melody “O most-glorious wonder...”

When she beheld the Lamb /
Stretched out by His own will upon the Tree of the Cross, /
With maternal tears the Ewe-lamb cried aloud: /
“Oh, my Son, what is this strange sight that I see? /
How is it He, who giveth life to all as Lord, /
Is put to death by longsuffering, /
While granting the earthborn the resurrection? ///
O my God, I glorify Thy great condescension!”

Otherwise:

Glory..., in Tone 8: To the regular melody

Let us, the faithful praise and bless Theodore, /

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

The greatmartyr and champion of the world /
For he is truly the heir of God's blessings, rightly named "the Gift of God," ///
And he prays to Christ our God to save our souls.

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

He who is borne aloft by the cherubim /
And praised in hymns by the seraphim , /
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 fitting 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 Symeon, 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 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, in Tone 2: To the melody, "O House of Ephratha ..."

Open wide, ye gates of heaven, /
For behold, Christ the Babe is brought into the temple as an offering ///
To God the Father by His Most-pure Mother!

Verse: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

Christ the sacred ember of fire /
Whom the holy Isaiah foresaw, /
Now rests in the arms of the Theotokos ///
As she brings Him to the Elder at the altar.

Verse: A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Symeon held the Master in his arms with fear and joy /
And asked that he now be permitted to depart this life, ///
Singing the praises of the Mother of God.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 5:

Today, the precious memory of the passion-bearer of Christ /
Shines brighter than the morning star, /
Invisibly enlightening the hearts of the faithful, /
Driving away the clouds that darken our souls /
By the action and grace of the Spirit. /
Let us, who love the martyrs, cry aloud: /
Rejoice, O Theodore, for thou hast been revealed to us as God's gift of grace, /
Extending a multitude of miracles to those who hasten to thee, /
And do thou ceaselessly pray to Christ, /
That those who faithfully celebrate thy precious memory ///
Receive eternal blessings.

Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone:

The Ancient of Days, having become a babe /
Is brought into the temple by His Virgin Mother /
Fulfilling the promise of His own Law; /
And Symeon said receiving Him: /
O Holy One, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace ///
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.

The Troparion of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 4:

Thou wast a valiant general in the army of the heavenly King /
And a militant defender of the Truth. /
By wisely taking up the armor of faith /
Thou didst defeat the legions of demons becoming thyself a victorious martyr ///
Therefore, O passion-bearing Theodore, we faithfully bless and honor thee.

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! /
From thee hast risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /
Who gives 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

At "God is the Lord..." the Troparion of the Feast, twice; Glory..., that of the Greatmartyr, once; Now and ever..., that of the Feast.

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3: *To the melody, “The beauty of virginity...”*

The holy Symeon lifted Thee up, O Christ, /
Incarnate of the Virgin /
And with joy he cried aloud: /
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace! /
Anna, the pure and glorious Prophetess also gave witness and praise to Thee, /
And we cry out to Thee, O Giver of Life, ///
Glory to Thee for showing Thy bountiful mercy toward us.

Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat: “The holy Symeon lifted Thee up...”

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional hymn, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “The shepherd’s pipes...”*

Thou, who art co-eternal with the Father /
Wast born on earth, /
And carried into the temple, O Infinite One! /
Rejoicing, the elder took Thee in his arms, and cried aloud: /
Now lettest me whom Thou hast visited depart in peace /
According to Thy word, ///
O Thou whose good pleasure it is, as God, to save the human race.

Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat: “Thou, who art co-eternal...”

The Canon

The Canon of the Feast, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos
and two Canons for the Saints, with 4 Troparia each.

Ode 1

The Canon of the Feast, in Tone 3

*having the Acrostic: “The Elder joyously embraced Christ,”
the composition of Cosmas.*

Irmos: *The sun once shone with its rays upon dry land in the midst of the deep; for the water on both sides became firm as a wall while the people crossed the sea on foot offering songs acceptable to God: Let us sing to the Lord, for He hath been greatly glorified.*

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Let the clouds drop with rain, for Christ the Sun, riding upon a swift cloud, is carried by pure hands as a babe into the temple. Therefore let us the faithful cry aloud: Let us

sing to the Lord, for He hath been greatly glorified.

Ye hands of Symeon, weakened by age, be strong, and ye, the feeble legs of the Elder, run straight to meet Christ. Forming a choir with the bodiless powers, let us sing to the Lord, for He has been greatly glorified.

Be joyful, O heavens stretched out in wisdom, and be ye exceedingly glad, O earth. For Christ the Fashioner, who came forth from the bosom of the Godhead and who was before all things, as a newborn child is offered to God His Father in the temple by His Mother the Virgin: for He has been greatly glorified.

The Canon of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 8

Irmos: The staff of Moses performed miracles, striking the sea like the Cross, submerging Pharaoh with his chariots, saving the Israelites in their flight as they sang a song of victory.

Refrain: Holy Greatmartyr Theodore, pray to God for us!

O Theodore, great among the martyrs, robed now in divine splendor, adorned with the crown of martyrdom, and radiant with the glory of the Holy Trinity: be thou ever mindful of us who praise thee.

The holy memory of thine honorable struggles hath shone forth for us full of light and divine grace, illumining all who piously honor thee, O Theodore, thou witness for the Lord.

When the storm of idolatry beset humanity, the holy martyr, guided by the divine grace of the Cross, reached the haven of paradise rejoicing, having ended his voyage untouched by the storm.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin, portal through which God had passed, open unto me the doors of repentance, enlighten my soul with holy reasoning, and drive away the gloomy darkness of the passions, that, rejoicing, I may rightly bless and honor thee.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet, in Tone 4

Irmos: Let us sing a song unto the Lord, who led His people across the Red Sea: for He alone is glorified.

Refrain: Holy Prophet of God Zechariah, pray to God for us!

Entreat the Lord to grant me enlightenment, O most wondrous Prophet Zechariah, for the Giver of Life doth hearken to the voice of thy prayer.

Adorned with the beauty of divine grace, with a pure soul dost thou now behold the beauty of the angels.

Glory...

Dwelling now amidst the splendors of the heavenly hosts, O divinely wise one, the

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angels enlighten and converse with thee, O divinely-blessed prophet.

Now and ever...

Theotokion: Thou hast loosed the curse of our first mother Eve, O immaculate Lady; and having given birth to Christ, thou hast enriched the world with blessings.

Katavasia, the irmosi of the Feast: The sun once shone with its rays... *(see above)*

Ode 3

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: O Lord, the firm foundation of those that put their trust in Thee, do Thou confirm the Church, which Thou hast purchased with Thy precious blood.

The firstborn of the Father before all ages has appeared from an undefiled Maiden as a firstborn child and He stretches out His hand to Adam.

That He might restore the first-formed man who, through beguilement had become childish in his mind, God the Word has appeared as a Child.

The Creator, having become a young child without undergoing change, has, according to the form of His divinity, reshaped our nature, taken from the earth and destined to return to earth once again.

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: Thou didst establish the heavens in wisdom; Thou didst set the earth upon the waters. Now establish me on the rock of Thy commandments. None is as holy as Thou, O Lover of man.

Thou didst stand in the midst of the judgment hall like a mighty lion, announcing the word of salvation, reproaching the impious, proclaiming the truth, and denouncing the delusion of godlessness, O Greatmartyr Theodore.

The tyrant was amazed at thy valor and moved to bestial wrath, he mercilessly flogged thee with a rawhide lash, O wise martyr Theodore, thou destroyer of pagan idols.

As a triumphant warrior crowned by the power of the divine Spirit and strengthened by the grace of the Cross, O divinely wise one, thou didst wipe away the bloody drops of thy wounds with brave determination as though they were but drops of water.

Theotokion: The Lord who was born of thee has truly wrought great things in thee, and all generations now bless thee, O holy Mother of God.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: There is none as holy as the Lord, and none as righteous as our God whom the whole of creation hymns; There is none more righteous than Thee, O Lord.

The grace of the Most High overshadowed thee, enlightening and teaching thee through the holy angels with the divine guidance of ineffable knowledge, O most wise and blessed prophet.

Instructed in divine goodness, O richly blessed prophet, thou didst live a fruitful and holy life in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Thou, O Lord, art the unshakable rampart, the confirmation of the wise and holy people, and the salvation of souls, as the wondrous prophet had taught us of old.

Theotokion: Thy incorrupt and most pure birthgiving, O Theotokos, has delivered the world from corruption and death, for thou hast given birth to the Savior, the eternal Word of God.

Katavasia: O Lord, the firm foundation... (see above)

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

By Thy Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, /
And didst bless Symeon'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!

Ikos: Let us hasten to the Theotokos desiring to behold her Son brought to Symeon. The bodiless powers, looking at Him from on high, were filled with amazement, saying "Now we see wondrous and most marvelous things, past all telling and understanding. He who created Adam is carried as a babe; He who cannot be contained is encompassed by the arms of the Elder; He who rests unconfined in the bosom of His Father, is voluntarily circumscribed in the flesh, but not in His divinity, He who alone loveth mankind."

Sessional Hymn to the Greatmartyr, in Tone 8: To the melody: "Of Wisdom..."

Having put on the whole armor of God /
And cast down the delusion of idolatry, /
Thou didst move the angels to praise thy labors and struggles; /
For, setting ablaze thy mind with the love of God, /
Thou didst bravely endure a fiercy death. /
And, being true to thy name, thou dost distribute godly gifts to all who ask. /
Therefore, we cry out to thee, O passion-bearer Theodore: ///
Beseech Christ God, that He grant forgiveness of sins to those who lovingly
celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., Sessional Hymn to the Prophet, in Tone 3: To the melody: "Awe'd by the

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

beauty of virginity ...”

O wondrous Prophet Zechariah, /
Thou didst behold the steeds of the chariot guided by the hand of God, /
And rejoicing now as an ever-memorable prophet, /
Do thou pray that those who keep thy most holy memory with faith ///
Be guided onto the path of the knowledge of God.

Now and ever..., Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in Tone 1: To the melody; “The angelic powers were at Thy tomb...”

He who is seated upon the holy throne with the Father, /
Has come down to earth born of the Virgin; /
He who is not bound by time, has become a babe; /
And Symeon, received Him in his arms and said: /
“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, ///
O Compassionate One, having brought great joy to me.”

But if during Lent: Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 3:

Beyond all human thought and understanding, /
Is the unapproachable dread mystery that God hath wrought in thee,
O divinely joyous Sovereign Lady; /
For having conceived the infinite One in thy womb, /
Thou didst give birth to Him clad in the flesh taken from thy most pure
blood. /
Entreat Him who is thy Son, O most-pure Lady, ///
That our souls may be saved.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

When Thy unwedded Mother beheld Thee, O Christ, /
Hanging dead upon the Cross, /
She cried out weeping maternally: /
How has the ungrateful assembly repaid Thy many great wonders, /
Thou, who hast filled them with many gifts? ///
But I glorify Thy ineffable condescension, O Master!

Ode 4

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: Thy virtue, O Christ, has covered the heavens, for proceeding forth from the Ark of Thy sanctification, from Thine undefiled Mother, Thou hast appeared in the temple of Thy glory as an infant in arms, and the whole world was filled with Thy praise.

The Theotokos cried: “O Symeon, initiate of the ineffable mysteries: Rejoice, and take in thine arms Christ, the Word become a child, concerning whom thou wast told long since by the Holy Spirit, and cry aloud to Him: The whole world hath been filled with Thy praise!”

O Symeon, receive with joy Christ in age a babe, the Consolation of God’s Israel, for which thou hast hoped, the Maker and Master of the Law who fulfils the order of the Law; and cry unto Him: “The whole world hath been filled with Thy praise!”

Symeon was amazed when he beheld incarnate the Word that is without beginning, carried by the Virgin as on the throne of the cherubīm, the Cause of all being, Himself become a babe; and he cried aloud to Him: “The whole world hath been filled with Thy praise!”

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my God, my power, my joy; without leaving Thy Father's bosom Thou hast visited our wretchedness. So with the prophet Habakkuk I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy Power, O Lover of mankind!

Christ truly spoke through thee, O holy martyr, and the pride of Lucinius was wounded with thy wise words; for thou didst profoundly denounce his great impiety, O martyr, and amazed all who witnessed thy most glorious deeds, O Theodore, thou noble and righteous martyr.

Hung high by the haughty tyrant, torn with claws of iron, stained red with the drops of thine own unjustly shed blood, thou didst put off the coarse garments of the corruption of mortality.

Theotokion: **W**ipe away the handwriting of my wicked sins with the spear that pierced the sacred side of Him whose desire it was to become incarnate of thee, O most holy Virgin, and pray that I, who have thoughtlessly separated myself from God, may be inscribed in the book of the saved.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: The prophet perceived Thee with divine vision, O Word, when he foretold that Thou wast to become incarnate of the Theotokos alone, the Mountain overshadowed by the grace of God; and with awe, he glorified Thy power.

O all-blessèd prophet, clearly thou dost instruct all to honor the One illumining Essence defined in three Suns, bringing all creatures to Him by the abundance of His grace.

Being thyself a chariot bearing God and beholding the chariots of the angels moving as ordained, O prophet, thou wast found worthy of surpassing them.

O blessèd prophet, thou didst behold a lamp of great splendor —the very image of the radiance of God — thus beholding Him who seeth all things, and by whom we are all saved.

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

Theotokion: The wise prophets and eye-witnesses of God foresaw thy pure birthgiving, prefiguring it in many great and divers images.

Ode 5

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: In a figure Isaiah saw God upon a throne, lifted up on high and borne in triumph by angels of glory; and he cried: “Woe is me! For I have seen beforehand God made flesh, Lord of the light that knows no evening and King of peace.”

The aged servant of God, seeing before him the Word held in the arms of His Mother, understood that this was the Glory made manifest of old to the prophet; and he cried, “Rejoice, O holy Lady; for as a throne dost thou carry God, Lord of the light that knows no evening and the King of peace.”

The Elder bent down and reverently touched the footprints of the Mother of God who knew no wedlock, and he said: “O pure Lady, thou dost carry Fire. I am afraid to take God as a babe in my arms, Lord of the light that one, thou dost bear Fire! I fear to hold the infant God, Lord of the light that knows no evening and the King of peace.”

“Isaiah was cleansed by receiving the coal from the Seraph,” cried the old man to the Mother of God. “Thou dost fill me with light as thou dost entrust to me, with thy hands as with tongs, Him whom thou holdest, Lord of the light that knows no evening and the King of peace.”

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: Why hast Thou cast me away from Thy face, O never setting Light? Why has this dismal darkness covered me, the wretched one? Guide me in return to the light of Thy commandments, I pray Thee.

Illumined with the radiance of the Holy Spirit, consumed with love for Christ, and nurtured with the hope of heaven, thou didst despise the flesh feeling neither pain nor paying heed to the horror of thy torment.

Bearing the easy yoke of the Master upon thy shoulders, O most blessed passion-bearing martyr, and weighted down with a great burden, thou didst not yield in any way, nor wast thou shaken or conquered, O valiant warrior Theodore.

Having called thee from heaven, the Christ the Word granted thee valor, and by His power thou didst endure the bitter pain, torment, and death visited upon thee by the godless oppressor, O thou glorious witness for Christ.

Theotokion: Pray thou that I remain unharmed, and that my good nature never change, that I may walk according to that which is right and do those things which are pleasing

to God, O good Lady, who hast given birth to the Good Word who hath delivered us from senseless sins.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: Thou hast enlightened with the knowledge of God all the ends of the universe that before lay in the darkness of ignorance. Illumine me also with the dawning of Thy love for mankind.

We rightly bless the Prophet Zechariah for he foresaw the suffering of the Savior with his pure heart and keen mind.

Foreseeing Thy coming, the holy prophet commanded, saying: Rejoice, O Sion, for thy righteous King doth come, saving all by His meekness!

The glory and adornment of the eloquent prophets hath illumined the world with the radiant light of his prophecies.

Theotokion: He who became man for our sake hath freed us from the ancient transgression and renewed us through the Virgin's giving birth.

Ode 6

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: The Elder, having seen with his eyes the salvation that was to come to the people, cried aloud unto Thee: "O Christ that comest from God, Thou art my God."

Thou hast been set up in Sion as a stumbling stone and rock of offense for the disobedient, but unto the faithful Thou art salvation which cannot be broken

Bearing faithfully the image of Him who begat Thee before all ages, Thou hast now from pity put on the weakness of mortal man.

Now lettest Thou depart in peace him who worships Thee as the Son of the Most High and Son of the Virgin; God become a Child.

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: I pour forth my prayer to the Lord, and I lift up my sorrows before Him, how my soul is become full of evil and how my life draweth near to Hades, and like Jonah I pray: Deliver me, O God, from corruption.

Thou wast crucified emulating the image of the Passion of the Dispassionate Christ, O glorious martyr, nailed to a tree, as was the Master who voluntarily freed mankind of all passions by the Cross, O blessed one.

Hung upon a tree like the Lamb, shot full of arrows, thine eyes plucked out, thy body sorely wounded, O blessed martyr, thou didst wound the hearts of thine enemies with the sharp spear of thy passion and suffering.

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

Though torrents of torments threatened the house of thy soul, yet it remained firm and unshaken, for it was founded upon the immovable rock of Him that shone forth from the Virgin and enlightened the human race.

Theotokion: **O** Mary, Sovereign Lady of all the world, as thou didst give birth to the Lord of all, do thou deliver me from the bondage of the enemy, rescue me from all his torments, and save me who places unwavering hope in thee.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: *I pour forth my prayer to the Lord, and I lift up my sorrows before Him, how my soul is become full of evil and how my life draweth near to Hades, and like Jonah I pray: Deliver me, O God, from corruption.*

Filled with prophetic inspiration and having learned ineffably of future things, thou wast sent to preach the grace which was to come, knowing the approach of the day of the Cross of the Lord, O thou who art pleasing to God.

Adorned with spiritual understanding, thou wast deemed worthy of gifts which are beyond our comprehension, O richly bless't prophet, beholding the angelic hierarchies and their glorious proclamations which teach wondrous and divine mysteries.

O God pleasing Prophet Zechariah, having acquired the lamp of the virtues, thou didst shine with the radiance of divine knowledge, foretelling that the mystic Lamp, the incarnate Word, would appear as God out of Sion.

Theotokion: **L**oving the beauty of Jacob, the Sun of the Godhead which established heaven, revealed thee to be a noetic heaven, O Theotokos, and shone forth in the flesh from thy womb illumining the world with grace.

Katavasia: The Elder, having seen... *(see above)*

The Kontakion of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 2:

Having put on the armor of faith /
And arming thy soul with courage /
Thou didst take into thy hand the word of God as a spear /
And thou didst vanquish the enemy. /
O Theodore, great among all the martyrs, ///
Together with them pray Christ God on behalf of our souls.

Ikos: **C**ome, all ye faithful, and with wreaths of praise let us crown Theodore, for through the radiance of his wondrous miracles hath he shone forth as God's great gift to the world; and having vanquished the enemy through his mighty struggle, now showers us all with drops of healing in place of his blood, to the great joy of Christ, who grants everlasting

peace to all. Therefore, O greatmartyr Theodore, ceaselessly entreat Him on behalf of our souls.

Ode 7
The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: *O Word of God who in the midst of the fire hast dropped dew upon the children as they discoursed on things divine, and who hast taken up Thy dwelling in the pure Virgin; Thee do we praise, devoutly singing: “Blessèd art Thou, O God of our father!”*

I depart,” cried Symeon, “to declare the good tidings to Adam abiding in Hades and to Eve;” and with the prophets he sang rejoicing: “Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!”

To deliver our kind formed from dust, God will go down even unto Hades.” He will give freedom to all the captives and sight to the blind, and He will grant the mute to cry aloud:” Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!”

A sword shall pierce thy heart, O all pure Virgin,” Symeon foretold to the Theotokos, “when thou shalt see thy Son upon the Cross to whom we cry aloud: “Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!”

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: *Once, in Babylon, the fiery flames stood in awe before the condescension of God; and the children, dancing in the furnace as though in a meadow sang in joy: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!*

Thou didst joyously proclaim the mighty works of the Ruler of all, and all looked, in amazement as the tyrant cried out with faith: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

With words of wisdom didst thou draw those who drew near from out of the depths of ignorance, O most blessèd Theodore, making many of them witnesses of the Lord as they sang aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

An angel from heaven entered the prison where thou wast bound to a column and loosed thee, O Theodore, granting thee boldness and the strength to cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Theotokion: **O** Christ, for the sake of her who gave birth to Thee, take pity on me and save me who have lived in sloth forsaking Thy holy laws and Thy commandments, for Thou art our merciful Benefactor and our God.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

Irmos: The Hebrew children in the furnace boldly trampled upon the flames, and changing the fire into dew, they cried aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages.

Thy divinely inspired prophecies have gone out into all the world, and thy mighty words: “Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, who art praised and exalted throughout the ages!” are our fervent prayer.

Illumined with radiance from on high, thou didst behold things which are to come as though they were today. Therefore, O most richly-bless’t prophet, thou didst cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, who art praised and exalted throughout the ages!

Theotokion: With hymns of praise we honor thee, O holy Virgin, for thou hast honored the human race which was condemned through grievous sins in ancient times, and to thee we cry aloud: Blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb, O Lady most pure!

Ode 8

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: Standing together in the unbearable fire yet not harmed by the flame, the children, champions of godliness, sang a divine hymn: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

O people of Israel, beholding your Glory, Emmanuel, the Child of the Virgin, offered before the Ark of God, dance now and sing together: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

“Behold,” cried Symeon, “this is He who is at once God and a child, who shall become a sign that is spoken against.” Unto Him let us, the faithful, sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

He that is Life, God the Word, has here become a little child: and He shall be the fall of the disobedient and the rising again of all those who sing with faith: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: The Chaldean torturer became enraged; he ordered the furnace to be heated seven-fold; but seeing the godly youths saved by a great might, he sang to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

Valiantly didst thou vanquish the enemy, having destroyed his armies with the weapon of faith. Therefore, thou hast received the crown of victory, as thou didst sing aloud to the Lord: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

After suffering torture and crucifixion, thou didst bow thy neck before God as thy

precious head was severed by a sword as thou didst cry aloud to the Lord: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

Thy sacred and much-suffering relics have become a wellspring of healing for all the faithful, and all who have recourse to thee in faith, receive deliverance from the passions and the salvation for their souls, as they cry aloud to the Lord: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

Theotokion: **O** blessed Virgin Theotokos, enliven my soul which hath been slain, and raise it up for it hath fallen; heal it, for it hath been wounded; grant peace to my mind, calm thou the waves of temptations, and save me as I cry aloud: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: *Thou, who art glorified upon the holy mountain where Thou didst reveal to Moses the mystery of the Ever-virgin in the bush not burned by fire, do we magnify throughout all ages!*

The holy prophet and converser with angels, Zechariah, proclaimed a great command: “Rejoice, O holy city of Mount Sion, and thou, O city of Jerusalem, be glad throughout all ages!

Adorn thyself, O Prophet Zechariah, beholding the words of thy prophecy, enlightened by the Spirit to be fulfilled, as we praise and magnify the Lord throughout all ages.

O glorious prophet, thou didst behold the angels of the Lord standing among the myrtle trees as they instructed thee in knowledge of all things, and thou dost now praise Christ throughout all ages!

Theotokion: **R**ejoice, O fiery throne of God! Rejoice, O portal of the immaterial Grace! Rejoice, swift cloud which revealed to us the Sun of righteousness! Rejoice, O most pure Theotokos!

Katavasia: Standing together... *(see above)*

Ode 9

The Canon of the Feast

Irmos: *We faithful saw the figure in the Law and the Scriptures; every male child that open'd the womb was holy to God. Therefore we also magnify the Only-begotten Son of the unoriginate Father, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.*

Of old the people offered a pair of doves and two young pigeons. In their stead, the godly Elder and Anna the Prophetess, sober in spirit, ministered and gave glory to the Child of the Virgin, the Only-begotten Son of the Father, as He was brought into the

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temple.

“Thou hast committed to me the exceeding joy of salvation, O Christ” cried Symeon. **“Take Thy servant, who is weary of the shadow, and make him a new preacher of the mystery of grace, as he magnifies Thee in praise.”**

Holy Anna, sober in spirit and venerable in years, with reverence confessed the Master freely and openly in the temple; and proclaiming the Theotokos, she magnified her before all who were present.

The Canon of the Greatmartyr

Irmos: The heavens were filled with fear, the ends the earth were filled with awe, for God revealed Himself in the flesh to men and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, so the leaders of men and angels magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Thou didst consecrate thyself to our God, the Lamb who was slain, O martyr, and thou didst ascend up as a sweet-smelling burnt offering to Him, a holy sacrifice, perfect and most pure. Therefore, we rightly praise and bless thee.

Thou didst appear as the radiant sun at the dawning of a perfect day, O Theodore, piously illumining the earth with all thy wonders, as the light of thy suffering drives away the darkness of error and the passions.

Having conquered the bodiless foe, thou wast united with the angels while yet in the flesh, and the choirs of the martyrs rejoiced! Now together with them thou dost praise the Trinity, O thrice-bless't Theodore, luminary of the Church and adornment of all passion-bearing martyrs.

The earth joyfully received thy precious body, O Greatmartyr Theodore, and heaven also rejoiced having received thy sacred soul. And we celebrate thine honored memory, and entreat thee as our intercessor, that by thy prayers our souls may be saved.

Theotokion: O Virgin beloved of God, having bathed my wounded heart in tears of pure repentance, I entreat thee to beseech the Good Lord on my behalf, that He may save me from all defilement, so that I may ever bless and magnify thee, O most pure Theotokos.

The Canon of the Holy Prophet

Irmos: We the faithful magnify thee with never ceasing voices, O Mother of God Most High, who art greater than all the hosts of heaven, and who beyond all understanding, knew no wedlock, yet hath truly given birth to God.

Having forsaken every earthly care, O all-wise one, thou dost now stand before God offering prayers on behalf of the world. Therefore, we all bless thee, O holy Prophet

Zechariah.

Following the holy words of thy lips, we call upon the Lord; and, saved by Him, O Zechariah, we reverently bless thee as a prophet and preacher of the Truth.

By thy prayers, O divinely inspired one, entreat the Master to be merciful to those who with faith celebrate thy great and holy feast and lovingly honor thee as a prophet and divine preacher of the Truth.

Theotokion: Thou art truly an ocean of miracles and a wellspring of blessings, O pure Lady Theotokos, and trusting in thine intercession, we make haste and speedily take refuge under thy protection.

Katavasia: We faithful saw... *(see above)*

Exapostilarion of the Greatmartyr:

Having quenched all the fiery darts of the wicked and the raging of the demons, thou didst die for thy faith in the Creator, O blessed Theodore, as a witness to the Truth, and thou dost save from every tribulation and from the malice of the evil one all those who come to thee in faith.

Glory..., now and ever..., that of the Feast:

The Elder brought to the temple by the Spirit, took in his arms the Master of the Law and cried to Him: “Now let me depart in peace from the bonds of the flesh, O Lord, according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen the revelation that brings light to the Gentiles and the salvation of Israel!

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 1: To the melody, “O all-praised martyrs....”

The true, most-glorious ark of God, /
His most-pure Mother, /
Carries Him forth today into the temple for its purification, /
And places Him into the arms of Symeon the wise, /
Thus sanctifying the Holy of Holies ///
Which now rejoices in Him that alone is Holy.

Verse: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.

Symeon is glorified today, /
For having piously received Christ as a living coal of purification, /
He kisses Him in witness, and being purified, rejoices /
And asks for leave to depart in peace, ///

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And we the faithful bless and honor him with unceasing praise.

Verse: A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Today the most-pure Virgin, the living portal of the King and Lord, /
Brings Him into the temple carried in her arms, /
And enters through the doors that had once been mystically shut on earth, ///
And beholding her presence, the choirs of angels praise her with divine song.

Glory..., in Tone 8:

Bravely thou didst triumph over deceit, O Theodore, /
Shaming the inhumanity of Linicius with thy fiery eloquence. /
And having accomplished thy martyrdom, /
Thou dost now rejoice with angles in heaven
Ever entreating Christ God, O blessed one, ///
That He be merciful to us on the Day of Judgment.

Now and ever..., in Tone 5:

Search ye the Scriptures /
As Christ our King commands in the Gospels, /
For there we will find Him that was born of the Virgin; /
Him that was wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger /
And fed with His Mother's milk; /
Him that was circumcised and carried by Symeon — /
Him that came to earth not as an apparition nor by conjecture, but in very truth. ///
To Him let us cry: O God before the ages, glory to Thee!

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Eighth Ode of the Canon of the Feast, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Martyr.

1.-2. O people of Israel, beholding your Glory, Emmanuel, the Child of the Virgin, offered before the Ark of God, dance now and sing together: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever. *(twice)*

3. “Behold,” cried Symeon, “this is He who is at once God and a child, who shall become a sign that is spoken against.” Unto Him let us, the faithful, sing: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

4. He that is Life, God the Word, has here become a little child: and He shall be the

fall of the disobedient and the rising again of all those who sing with faith: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, exalt Him above all forever.

5. Thou wast crucified emulating the image of the Passion of the Dispassionate Christ, O glorious martyr, nailed to a tree, as was the Master who voluntarily freed mankind of all passions by the Cross, O blessed one.

6. Hung upon a tree like the Lamb, shot full of arrows, thine eyes plucked out, thy body sorely wounded, O blessed martyr, thou didst wound the hearts of thine enemies with the sharp spear of thy passion and suffering.

7. Though torrents of torments threatened the house of thy soul, yet it remained firm and unshaken, for it was founded upon the immovable rock of Him that shone forth from the Virgin and enlightened the human race.

8. Theotokion: O Mary, Sovereign Lady of all the world, as thou didst give birth to the Lord of all, do thou deliver me from the bondage of the enemy, rescue me from all his torments, and save me who places unwavering hope in thee.

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace! /
From thee hast risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /
Who gives 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.

The Troparion of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 4:

Thou wast a valiant general in the army of the heavenly King /
And a militant defender of the Truth. /
By wisely taking up the armor of faith /
Thou didst defeat the legions of demons becoming thyself a victorious martyr ///
Therefore, O passion-bearing Theodore, we faithfully bless and honor thee.

The Kontakion of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 2:

Having put on the armor of faith /
And arming thy soul with courage /
Thou didst take into thy hand the word of God as a spear /
And thou didst vanquish the enemy. /
O Theodore, great among all the martyrs, ///
Together with them pray Christ God on behalf of our souls.

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The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

By Thy Nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, /
And didst bless Symeon'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!

The Prokeimenon in Tone 7: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord, / and shall set his hope in Him. *Verse:* Hear my voice, O God, when I pray into Thee!

The Epistle: (292) 2 Timothy 2:1-10

The Alleluia in Tone 4: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. *Verse:* They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

The Gospel: (36) Matthew 10:16-22

The Communion Hymn of the Saint: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

1/3/2015 SDA
Updated 5/8/2017 SDA
11/20/2020 SDA
Completed 12/20/2025 SDA