

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.

Thou wast 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, /
 The greatmartyr and champion of the world /

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

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:

He 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 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 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 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 embler 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.

Simeon 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 Simeon 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

— incomplete as of 1/1/1215

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 Simeon 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 Simeon 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. — incomplete as of 12/31/1214

After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

By 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!

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 understanding and past telling. He who created Adam is carries as a babe. He who cannot be compassed is encompassed by the arms of the elder, He who rests uncircumscribed in the bosom of

His Father, is voluntarily circumscribed in the flesh, but not in divinity, He who alone loveth mankind.’

After the Sixth Ode, 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:** Come, 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.*

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 Simeon 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.*

Simeon 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, ///
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.

THEODORE THE GENERAL; THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

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 Simeon — /
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.

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.

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