

The 7th Day of December

Our Father among the Saints, Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Adorning the court of the Empire with godly works, /
Thou wast then adorned with the dignity of a hierarch, /
Given thee in godly time by divine inspiration. //
Thus both in Church and State thou wast a faithful builder of grace. ///
Therefore, O Ambrose, thou didst inherit thine incomparable crown in heaven.

Thou didst purify thy soul and body, O divinely-wise Ambrose, /
With fasting, vigilance, and constant prayer; /
For this thou wast revealed as a chosen vessel of Christ God, /
And received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit ///
As truly Equal-to the-Apostles.

Thou didst reprove the grievous sin of the pious Emperor, /
As Nathan reproved David of old; /
Courageously didst thou cast him out of the Church /
And disciplined him wisely with repentance ///
Numbering him again among thy flock.

***Note:** But if we sing “Alleluia” at Matins instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos are sung at Vespers, at “Lord, I call,” before the above stichera of the Saint, in the same Tone and melody:*

Armed with the staff of thy protection, O most pure Mother of God, /
Drive away the beastly passions of mine accursèd soul; /
And direct my life in peace ///
And number me among thy chosen flock of sheep.

As thou art the help of the helpless /
And the hope of the hopeless, /
Be thou my release and aid amidst all evils, /
Delivering me from every sin and tribulation ///
As thou art most merciful.

Quench the fiery urgings of my perverse passions, O Virgin, /
With the divine dew and the shower of thy will, /
That even I, like the youths may render thanks to God who was born of thee, ///
And glorify and bless thy grace, O Lady.

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

I am laid low and lie in the filth of my vices, /
Yet I crawl to thy peaceful refuge, O Virgin! /
Deliver me from the storms of passion and from every temptation /
That I may ever extol thy grace ///
O Ever-virgin Mother of God.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

Standing before the Cross of thy Son and God, /
And beholding His long-suffering,
O pure Mother, thou didst cry out weeping: /
Woe is me, O my Child most sweet! /
What are these things which Thou dost suffer unjustly, ///
O Word of God, that Thou mightest save mankind?’

The Aposticha is from the Octoechos.

The Troparion to the Saint, in Tone 4:

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith,
A model of humility and teacher of abstinence, /
So thou didst win the heights of humility, riches by poverty; /
O holy hierarch, father Ambrose, /
Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Matins

**Both Canons from the Octoechos, and the Canon of the Saint,
with 4 Troparia, in Tone 8**

having the acrostic: “I praise Ambrose the Great,” — incomplete as of 11/2014

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 3: To the melody, “The faith divine....”

Shining with the truth of divine dogmas, /
Thou didst darken the Arian delusion. /
O venerable father Ambrose. /
By working miracles by the power of the Spirit /
Thou didst heal the festering sores of passions. /
O blessed hierarch and pastor Ambrose, ///
Pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.