

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Day of August

Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos; the  
Commemoration of the Holy Apostle Thaddæus of the Seventy;  
the Holy Martyr Vassa (*Bassa*) of Edessa, and her sons.

### Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera of the Apostle, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O blessèd apostle Thaddæus /  
Having drawn near to the unoriginate Light /  
Thou didst become a second shining star through communion with it. /  
And having thus shattered the dark night of idolatry /  
Thou didst lead countless souls to the Almighty. /  
Therefore, we rejoice and glorify Christ, ///  
And we honor thy radiant, bright, and God-pleasing memory.

O blessèd and God-pleasing apostle Thaddæus /  
After the divine and light-bearing resurrection of Christ /  
And His holy ascension to heaven /  
Thou didst go to Edessa to preach the Word of God. /  
And by thy teachings and thy miracles /  
Thou didst bring Abgar the king, to Christ, ///  
And confirming all those with him in the Truth.

O blessèd and divinely-wise apostle Thaddæus /  
By the touch of thy hand sight was given to the blind, /  
Health to the sick, and the ability to walk to the lame; /  
Strength was returned to those paralyzed /  
And the saving grace of understanding was given to the feeble of mind; /  
For Thou wast filled with the gifts of the all-accomplishing Spirit. ///  
Therefore, we praise thee, O richly-bless’t one.

And 3 stichera of the Martyr, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Thou didst endure the suffering of many torments, /  
O most-praised and glorious one, /  
And having borne them all with great strength /  
Thou wast translated from pain to the place of rest /  
To delight in the never-setting and radiant joy /  
Of the divine and everlasting Light. /

Therefore, we bless and celebrate thy holy memory, ///  
O passion-bearing and God-pleasing martyr Vassa.

**W**hen, after having suffered great torments /  
Thou wast cast to drown in the sea, /  
God, the Savior of all, saved thee /  
And by His divine power trampled the power of the enemy. /  
Thus, O suffering Vassa, hast thus enlightened the minds of the faithful, ///  
With this wonder past all understanding.

**L**ike a melodious bird in the meadow /  
Thou didst call out to thy nestling children, /  
Amidst the blood-red field of torture, /  
That they might escape together with thee the snares of deceit; /  
And with them, O divinely-wise and wondrous Vassa, /  
Thou didst come to make thine abode in mansions of heaven, ///  
Where thou dost ever pray for us all.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast, in Tone 6:**

**O** come, ye people, /  
And let us all commemorate the falling asleep /  
Of the most pure Mother of God; /  
For today the angels celebrate the hon'able repose of the Theotokos /  
And summon us mortals to join them in ceaseless song: /  
Rejoice, thou who hast been translated from the earth to the mansions of heaven! /  
Rejoice, thou who brought together the assembly of the disciples on billowing clouds!  
Rejoice, our hope and our salvation! ///  
Thus we, the Christian people forever bless thee!

**At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: To the melody, "Down from the Tree...."**

**C**ome, all ye bearing candles of light /  
And let us honor the Dormition of the Theotokos with cymbals and hymns, /  
For the Mother of God is translated from the earth /  
And dwelleth now, abiding, in immaterial glory /  
Beholding the beauty of God ///  
And pouring forth grace upon all who honor her memory with faith.

**Verse:** Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.

**T**he sacred assembly of the apostles hast gathered from all the ends of the earth /

On the dew of divine clouds, O Lady, /  
To bury thy precious, God-pleasing, and incorrupt body. /  
And all the hosts of heaven, invisibly surrounding thy bier, sing hymns to thee: ///  
Rejoice, new ark of holiness!

*Verse:* The Lord hath sworn to David a sure oath and will not change His mind.

**A**ll thine awesome mysteries are ineffable beyond all understanding, /  
For thou as the Mother of God hast now adorned the heavens /  
Thus enlightening the world, perfuming it with thy divine memory. /  
Therefore all the nations praise and bless thee: ///  
Rejoice, new ark of holiness!

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast in Tone 8:**

**T**oday, the heavenly choir of virgins stands ‘round the bier of the Virgin Mother, /  
And the souls of the righteous surround them and glorify the Queen: /  
The virgins offer their purity in the place of myrrh; /  
And the righteous offer their immaterial praise and virtue; /  
For fitting it is that the Mother of God, /  
Be escorted by the honors and virtues befitting the Queen. /  
Therefore, let us cleanse our lives /  
And follow after them to the burial of her who is the Mother of our God, ///  
And with them, let us bless her with spiritual songs of praise.

**The Troparion of the Apostle, in Tone 3:**

**O** holy apostle Thaddæus, /  
Intercede with our merciful God, /  
That He may grant to our souls ///  
The remission of our transgressions.

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

**I**n giving birth, O Theotokos, thou didst preserve thy virginity, /  
In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world. /  
Thou wast translated into life, O Mother of Life, ///  
And by thy prayers dost redeem our souls from death.

**Matins**

—incomplete as of 6/2016

**The Kontakion of the Apostle, in Tone 4:**

**T**he Church has thee, O apostle Thaddæus /

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As a brightly shining star, illumined by thy miracles, ///  
Saving those who with faith honor thy holy memory.

**The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 2:**

**N**either the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos /  
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions: /  
For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life ///  
By the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

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