

THE 8th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY GREAT MARTYR
THEODORE THE GENERAL

AT VESPERS:

At "Lord, I have cried ...," six stichera, three in Tone II:

Spec. Mel: "When from the Tree ..."

Wholly didst thou bring thyself to Him Who gaveth thee perfect life, O most blessed one, as a living and animate whole-burnt offering, a sacrifice most pure and well-pleasing. Wherefore, thou hast become a right acceptable intercessor, rescuing from the tempest all that hymn thee with faith and call upon thee, O martyr Theodore.

Diligently didst thou cultivate the seed of the Word which was sown in thy soul, and thou didst increase it through the pangs of thy suffering; and wisely laid up in the granaries of heaven, thou didst find incorruptible delight, wherein now reveling, O blessed one, by thy mediations before Christ save them that hymn thee with faith.

O martyr and passion-bearer of Christ, by thine entreaties save them that are in divers needs, repelling every evil circumstance, driving away soul-destroying grief, and beseeching mercy and grace for us, that, saved by thy supplications, we may hymn thine honored struggles rejoicing, O Theodore.

And three in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel: "As valiant among the martyrs ...":

A courageous athlete, * an invincible warrior * wast thou shown to be by the Holy Spirit, * having cast down the aggressor * by the wisdom of thy words * and wisely by patient manifestations of thy deeds. * Wherefore, thou hast received crowns of victory * and hast been joined to the choirs on high, * O great martyr Theodore.

A pillar of godly piety wast thou, * O thou that art most rich, * detesting the temples of the impious, * brought as a most perfect lamb * and all-acceptable immolation * unto Him that was blamelessly sacrificed for thy sake, * Who glorified thy holy memory, * and bestowed thee as a treasury of miracles * upon them that are in the world, O Theodore.

Lifted up upon a cross, * thy flesh lacerated, * wounded with sharp arrows, * beset with pain through all manner of the tormentors' skills, * thou wast shown to be unbowed and invincible * through the power of Him that was nailed to the Cross, * O Theodore, glory of the martyrs.

Glory ..., in Tone V:

Today hath the honored memory of Christ's passion-bearer shone forth more brightly than the morning star, invisibly illumining the hearts of the faithful and dispelling the clouds from their souls through the activity of the grace of the Spirit. To Him let us cry aloud, O ye that love the martyrs: thou divinely bestowed grace which hath been revealed to the faithful, which spreadest forth multitudes of miracles upon them that flee unto thee, O blessed Theodore! Unceasingly entreating Christ, fail not to obtain eternal blessings for them that honor thy memory with faith.

Now and ever ..., of the feast, or Theotokion; or this Stavrotheotokion:

Spec. Mel: "Rejoice ...":

Once the Ewe-lamb, beholding her Lamb hastening to the slaughter, followed earnestly, crying out these words to Him: Whither goest Thou, O Christ my Child most sweet? Wherefore runnest Thou this swift course so diligently, O Thou Who art long-suffering? O Jesus most desired, sinless, most merciful Lord: grant a word unto me, Thine handmaid, O my most beloved Son. Spurn not in silence her that gaveth Thee birth in manner most strange, O compassionate, most compassionate God, Who grantest the world great mercy.

At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Oktoechos, and;

Glory ..., in Tone VIII: Idiomelon:

O all ye faithful, let us bless the great and noble martyr Theodore as is meet, as the namesake of God's gifts and the heir of His blessedness, the champion of the world, for he entreateth Christ God in behalf of our souls.

Now and ever ..., Theotokion; or this Stavrotheotokion:

Spec. Mel: "O most glorious wonder ...":

I cannot bear, O my Child, * to behold Thee * dying upon the Tree, * Thou that givest courage unto all, * that Thou mightest give divine and saving courage * unto them that of old fell into the sleep of perdition * through the fruit of disobedience, * weeping, said the Virgin, whom we magnify.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

Through true recruitment didst thou become a most comely general of the heavenly King, O passion-bearer Theodore; for with the weaponry of faith thou didst wisely array thyself, didst vanquish legions of demons and didst show thyself forth as a victorious athlete. Wherefore, with faith do we ever bless thee.

AT MATINS:

Both canons from the Oktoechos, without the martyria; and the canon of the great martyr, with six troparia, the acrostic whereof is: "With divine praises I hymn thee, the namesake of divine gifts," The composition of the Theophanes, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: Israel of old, having traversed the depths of the Red Sea with dryshod feet, conquered the might of Amalek in the wilderness through Moses' hands stretched forth in the form of a cross.

A martyr manifestly adorned with splendors, thou dost stand before Christ the Benefactor, arrayed by Him, for thou art the namesake of divine gifts, O martyr Theodore.

Armed with the divine weaponry of faith, thou didst steadfastly cut down the soul-destroying legions of the enemy, O Theodore; and as victor thou hast been crowned with the martyrs.

Showing forth the splendid courage of thy soul before the impious emperor, O divinely wise one, thou didst put him to shame by the wisdom of thy words and the grace of thy deeds, O Theodore.

Theotokion: **B**y the will of the Father and through the divine Spirit thou didst conceive the Son of God without seed, and didst give birth in the flesh unto Him Who was begotten of the Father without mother, and Who for our sake was born of thee without father.

ODE III

Irmos: The Church doth rejoice in Thee, O Christ, crying aloud: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge and my consolation!

Like a mighty commander thou didst vanquish the legion of the impious, and didst trample down all the wiles of the perverse serpent.

In that thou wast earnest of soul, O glorious one, with pious intent thou didst destroy the adulterous temples of the impious.

With strength of mind didst thou endure the assaults of the cruel foe, emulating the life-creating death of the Judge of the contest.

Theotokion: **O** Mother of God, in manner transcending nature thou alone hast become the mediator of blessings for those on earth. Wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice!

Sedalion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel: "Of the wisdom ...":

Having taken up the armor of God and destroyed the falsehood of idolatry, thou didst move the angels to praise thy struggles; for, having set thy mind afire with divine love, thou didst manfully endure a fiery death. Wherefore, true to thy name, thou bestowest divine gifts upon them that ask, O passion-bearer Theodore; for which cause we cry out to thee: Beseech Christ God, that He grant remission of sins to them that lovingly honor thy memory.

Glory ..., Now and ever ..., of the feast, or this Theotokion:

Having fallen into the subtle temptations of enemies, visible and invisible, trapped in the tempest of my countless offenses, I flee to the haven of thy goodness, O pure one, as to my fervent assistance and protection. Wherefore, O all-pure one, do thou earnestly entreat Him that was incarnate of thee without seed in behalf of all thy servants who unceasingly pray to thee, O all-pure Theotokos, ever beseeching Him to grant remission of our offenses unto us that hymn thy glory as is meet.

Stavrotheotokion: **T**he Virgin and Mother of Jesus, beholding the Creator upon the Tree, groaned, weeping, and was smitten with grief, her soul and body rent asunder, smiting herself, crying out to Him bitterly, and lifting up her voice: Woe is me, O my Son! How can I endure Thy passion, the nails and the spear, I who without pain gaveth Thee birth? But haste Thou to arise, that I may see Thee, my Son and God, that my lamentation and pain may cease, and that they who hymn Thy passion may receive remission of their offenses.

ODE IV

Irmos: **B**eholding Thee lifted up upon the Cross, O Sun of righteousness, the Church stood in her place, crying out as is meet: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou didst wound the serpent that wished to wound thee, and by thy steadfast opposition thou didst show thyself to be a martyr, earnestly chanting unto Him that gaveth thee strength: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Having laid waste to thy flesh with many wounds, thou didst set thy mind immovable, O thrice-blessed one, chanting earnestly unto Him that gaveth thee strength: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou didst adorn thyself, joining thine honored sufferings to the sufferings of the Master, O all-wise one, and thou wast vouchsafed His radiance and longed-for comeliness.

Theotokion: **W**ithout tasting of wedlock thou gavest birth, O Virgin, and after thy birthgiving thou wast again shown to be virginal. Wherefore, unceasingly and with steadfast faith we cry out to thee, O Mistress: Rejoice!

ODE V

Irmos: **T**hou hast come into the world as a light, O my Lord, a holy light which turneth from the gloom of ignorance them that hymn Thee with faith.

With the shedding of the blood of thy flesh thou didst put an end to the blood offered to the demons unto destruction, O invincible Theodore.

O, the pious demeanor! O, the noble mind! O, the most fervent faith of the honored passion-bearer, whereby he acquired God!

Possessed of a mind illumined by the light of God, thou didst cast into darkness the serpent, the champion of evil, O God-bearing Theodore.

Theotokion: Thee do we set as an invincible weapon against the enemy; thee have we acquired as the confirmation and hope of our salvation, O Bride of God.

ODE VI

Irmos: I shall sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord, the Church crieth out to Thee, cleansed of the blood of demons by the Blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

Stretched upon a cross and transfixed with nails, presenting an image of the saving Passion of the Creator, O blessed one, thou didst with bold ardor vanquish them that are cast down.

When thou wast imprisoned in the dungeon, lawfully contesting, Christ appeared unto thee, raising thee up to feats of battle against the enemy, in that He is the Judge of the contest, O all-glorious one.

To Him that willingly offered Himself as a sacrifice for thy sake didst thou bring thyself as a sacrifice pure, holy and unblemished, O passion-bearer Theodore.

Theotokion: O wonder greatest of all wonders! As Virgin thou didst without knowing man conceive in thy womb Him that sustaineth all things, yet didst not confine Him therein.

Kontakion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel: "Seeking the highest ...":

Arrayed in faith with manliness of soul, and taking in hand the word of God as a spear, thou didst conquer the enemy, O Theodore, great among the martyrs. With them cease thou never to entreat Christ God in behalf of us all.

Ikos: Come, all ye faithful, and with wreaths of hymnody let us crown Theodore, the most radiant adornment of athletes; for in the splendor of his miracles he is shown to be God's great gift to the world. Having vanquished Belial the enemy by his honored sufferings, he sendeth down as dew streams of healings with the drops of his blood. In all these things doth Christ rejoice, and He granteth everlasting peace. Wherefore, we cry out to the martyr: Pray thou unceasingly for us all!

ODE VII

Irmos: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace, afire with love of piety more than with the flame, cried out: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

In the furnace of thy struggles didst thou utterly consume the fuel of impiety, O glorious martyr, and thou wast a beacon of piety, chanting: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

As a commander wise and sober in deed, thou didst prevail over the senseless and impious emperor; and, strengthened by the power of the Spirit, thou didst show him to be powerless.

By the praises of thy greatness is the law overcome; for with the most radiant effulgence of torment didst thou shine forth, O Theodore, crying out to thy Master: Blessed is the might of Thy dominion!

Theotokion: Rejoice, O divine and sanctified habitation of the Most High, for through thee, O Theotokos, hath joy been imparted to them that cry: Blessed art thou among women, O all-immaculate Mistress!

ODE VIII

Irmos: Stretching forth his hands, Daniel shut the lions' mouths in the pit; and the young lovers of piety, girded about with virtue, quenched the power of the fire, crying out: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

"Trusting in Thee, Who for my sake didst endure the Cross and death, I have been lifted up upon a cross, O Master, and am pierced by arrows and am touched by grievous wounds, O Lord," thou didst cry in thy suffering, O noble-minded martyr Theodore.

Rejoicing, thou didst offer thyself as a pure sacrifice to thy Creator, O Theodore, and translated to the kingdom of heaven, O glorious one, with the martyrs thou dost ever cry out in sacred manner: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Like a lily, like a noetic rose, dost thou perfume us with the fragrance of thy sufferings, ever driving away the stench of our passions with grace, and constraining us to sing with sweet-smelling souls: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: Thou alone among all generations wast shown to be the Mother of God, O most pure Virgin. Thou was not consumed by the fire of the unapproachable Light. Wherefore, we all bless thee, O Mary, thou Bride of God.

ODE IX

Irmos: Christ, Who united the two disparate natures, the Chief Cornerstone uncut by human hands, was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. Wherefore, in gladness we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Adorned by thy sufferings, abiding and rejoicing with the assemblies of the blessed and the choirs of martyrs, wearing thy crown thou dost stand now before Him Whom thou didst desire, O Theodore.

Caught up to the heights of heaven, disdainng earthly things, thou wast accounted worthy of the end for which thou didst long, receiving the very perfection of desires, rejoicing, O Theodore.

Having boldness before God, as a noble and wise athlete, ask thou remission of offenses for us that praise thee with love, delivering us all from sufferings and sorrows.

The divinely wise martyr, desiring Thee alone, the immortal Word, Who suffered and died in the flesh, having received Thine immortality, hath made his abode in the heavens, in the presence of Thee, the almighty Creator of all.

Theotokion: **C**ome ye all, and with faith and love let us unceasingly praise the blessed Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, having on her account received joy everlasting.

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel: "Heaven with stars ...":

Adorned with comeliness, a right mighty commander, a warrior glorious among athletes, thou didst offer thyself to Christ, and wast shown to be a divine gift to the world, O Theodore.

Glory ..., Now and ever ..., Theotokion:

By thy mighty protection keep all of us, thy servants, unharmed by the assaults of the enemy, O pure one, for thee alone have we acquired as a refuge amid our needs.

At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Oktoechos, and Glory ..., in Tone VIII:

Having set for thyself a feat of prowess, thou didst manfully contend against deception, O Theodore; and with the fiery eloquence of thy tongue didst put to shame the inhumanity of Lucinius. Wherefore, rejoicing with the angels, O blessed one, beseech Christ God, that He be merciful to us on the day of judgment.

Now and ever ..., of the feast, or the Theotokion; or this Stavrotheotokion:

Spec. Mel: "O most glorious wonder ...":

I cannot bear, O my Child, * to behold Thee * dying upon the Tree, * Thou that givest courage unto all, * that Thou mightest give divine and saving courage * unto them that of old fell into the sleep of perdition * through the fruit of disobedience, * weeping, said the Virgin, whom we magnify.

AT LITURGY:

On the Beatitudes, eight troparia: four of the feast, or of the Oktoechos; and four from Ode III of the canon to the great martyr:

Like a mighty commander thou didst vanquish the legion of the impious, and didst trample down all the wiles of the perverse serpent.

In that thou wast earnest of soul, O glorious one, with pious intent thou didst destroy the adulterous temples of the impious.

With strength of mind didst thou endure the assaults of the cruel foe, emulating the life-creating death of the Judge of the contest.

Theotokion: O Mother of God, in manner transcending nature thou alone hast become the mediator of blessings for those on earth. Wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice!

Troparion of the great martyr, in Tone IV:

Through true recruitment didst thou become a most comely general of the heavenly King, O passion-bearer Theodore; for with the weaponry of faith thou didst wisely array thyself, didst vanquish legions of demons and didst show thyself forth as a victorious athlete. Wherefore, with faith do we ever bless thee.

Kontakion of the great martyr, in Tone II:

Arrayed in faith with manliness of soul, and taking in hand the word of God as a spear, thou didst conquer the enemy, O Theodore, great among the martyrs. With them cease thou never to entreat Christ God in behalf of us all.

Prokimenon, in Tone VII: The righteous man shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Stichos: Harken, O God, unto my prayer, when I make supplication unto Thee.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY [2:1-10]

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead, according to my gospel: wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Alleluia, in Tone IV: The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

Stichos: They that are planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God shall they blossom forth.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW [10:16-22]

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given to you in that same hour what ye shall speak, for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child; and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Communion Verse: In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.