

THE 5th DAY OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD COMMEMORATION OF OUR
FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, THEODOSIUS, ARCHBISHOP OF CHERNIGOV,
WONDERWORKER OF ALL RUSSIA
AT LITTLE VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 4 Stichera, in Tone VI:

Spec. Mel.: “Having set all aside ...”:

Thy most radiant feast hath dawned like the sun, O divinely wise Theodosius, summoning the people to gladness and illumining all with rays of joy; for in thee hath the glory of Christ, the glory of the Orthodox Church, been revealed, shining forth with wondrous miracles. Wherefore, with love we cry to thee: Pray for us ever, O most sacred father! (Twice)

When the time before appointed by God had come, then did God, Who is wondrous in His saints, glorify thee, for truly the wonder is most glorious: for many years hath thy body remained incorrupt, and now it hath been shown to be a source of healings for all who have recourse to thee with love. Glory to Him that gaveth thee strength! Glory to Him that crowned thee! Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee!

Now doth the land of Russia radiantly hold chorus, glorifying thy holy memory, O holy hierarch, father Theodosius, for it hath found in thee a new intercessor and a fervent advocate at the throne of God, a speedy aid amid misfortune and a physician for the ailing that taketh no fee. Glory to Him that hath given thee the gift of healing! Glory to Him that hath glorified thee! Glory to Him that doth glorify His holy Church through thee!

Glory ..., in the same tone and melody:

With hymns let us praise today the most glorious wonderworker, whom Christ hath bestowed upon His Church, setting forth the truth of our Orthodox Faith to the reproof of those who reason vain things and for the instruction of those who have gone astray. Rejoice, O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, most radiant star in the heavens of the Church! Rejoice, wondrous boast of the land of Russia! Rejoice, ready and prayerful comforter of the ailing and the sorrowful! Rejoice, thou fervent intercessor for our souls!

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone IV:

Today the sacred Mother, who is more exalted than the holy temple, hath entered into the holy temple, revealing to the world the Lawgiver and Creator of the law. And the elder Symeon, receiving Him in his arms, cried out, rejoicing: “Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, for I have seen Thee, the Savior of our souls!”

Or if it be not the feast, the Theotokion from the Oktoechos.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel: "O house of Ephratha ...":

Thou hast been shown to be the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit, * O all-blessed father Theodosius, * having cleansed thy soul and body of the passions * and adorned thyself with love and humility, ** as a fit habitation for Him.

Verse: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, * and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

O father Theodosius, * thou boast of holy hierarchs * and glory of monastics, * standing before the throne of the most holy Trinity ** pray thou unceasingly on behalf of our souls.

Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; * in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

Hearken unto the supplications of thy children * that have recourse to thee in love, * O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, * and grant the heartfelt petitions ** of those who honor thy holy memory.

Glory ..., in Tone VIII:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, who can recount the labors which thou didst take up for the sake of the love of Christ? For by fasting, vigil and ceaseless prayer thou didst slay the arrogance of the flesh; and by humility, patience and love for thy neighbor thou didst prepare thyself as an abode for the Holy Spirit. Wherefore, thou now dost dwell in the mansions of heaven, where, now making thine abode, do thou ever pray on behalf of our souls.

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone II:

"Receive, O Symeon, * the Lord of glory * as thou wast told by the Holy Spirit. * For, lo! He is come!" the Most Pure One cried aloud.

But if it be not the feast, then the following Theotokion, in tone VIII:

O Sovereign lady, * accept the supplications of thy servants, ** and deliver us from all want and grief.

Troparion, in Tone IV:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, most honored among hierarchs, * thou wast a beacon to thy flock; * then thou didst pass on to the mansions of heaven. * Pray thou at the throne of the King of glory, * that He deliver us from the evils which beset us * and save our souls, O holy one, ** by thine intercessions.

Glory ..., Both now ..., the Troparion of the feast, in Tone I:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, * for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, * illumining those in darkness. * Be glad, also, O righteous elder * who hath received in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, ** Who granteth us the resurrection.

But if it be not the feast, we chant the Resurrectional Theotokion, in Tone IV:

The mystery hidden from all ages * and unknown to the ranks of Angels, * hath been revealed to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: * God incarnate in an uncommingled union, * Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake, * and through it hath raised up the first-formed man, ** and saved our souls from death.

AT GREAT VESPERS

We chant “Blessed is the man ...,” the first antiphon.

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 8 Stichera.

4 Stichera of the Feast, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Joy of the ranks of heaven ...”:

The uncircumscribable and transcendent Word, * Who is borne aloft with glory * by the heavenly thrones, * doth Symeon receive in his arms, crying: * ‘Now let me depart according to Thy word, O Savior, ** Thou salvation and delight of the faithful!’ (Twice)

Beholding Thee as a babe, the wondrous Symeon cried aloud: * I am afraid, and fear holding Thee the pre-eternal Word, * begotten of the Father, * in mine arms, O Master; * but since Thou seekest Thy servant in peace, ** so now let me depart, in that Thou art lovingly compassionate.

Now let the gates of heaven be opened! * The Word of God, Who was born of the Father without seed, * hath been born of the Virgin, * voluntarily assuming human flesh, * to restore our nature, in that He is good, ** and to set it at the right hand of the Father.

And 4 Stichera of the Saint, in Tone II:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, though thou hast finished thy course in secret struggles, yet the wondrous fragrance of thy humility, beloved of God, cannot be hid. Wherefore, thou hast been shown to be a most radiant lamp which hath not been hidden beneath a bushel, but hath been set upon the lampstand of the Church of God and glorified by God, Whom do thou entreat on behalf of our souls. (Twice)

O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, though thou wast led up to a hierarchal throne as a man full of grace, yet didst thou preserve the simplicity of monastic life, remaining in good obedience to thy spiritual father and showing to all an example of humility, following the example of the Lord Jesus, Whom do thou entreat on behalf of our souls.

O divinely wise father Theodosius, though thou wast not long a pastor of the Church of Christ, yet didst thou acquire the great love of thy flock, embracing all in thy love, comforting the sorrowful and making haste to assist the orphaned and the widowed. Wherefore, even after thy blessed repose, the sorrowful and ailing, having recourse to thee as to one who is alive, receive an abundance of grace, glorifying Christ God, Who is wondrous in His saints, Whom do thou entreat on behalf of our souls.

Glory ..., in Tone VI:

O man of God and faithful servant, minister of the Lord, man of divine desires, chosen vessel of the Holy Spirit, pillar and ground of the Church, heir of the kingdom: Cease thou never to pray for us to the Lord!

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone VI:

Let the gates of heaven be opened today; for the beginningless Word of the Father, receiving a beginning under time, without abandoning His divinity, is voluntarily borne by His Virgin Mother into the temple of the law as a babe forty days old. And Symeon taking Him in his arms, cried aloud: "Let Thy servant depart, O Master, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! O Lord Who hast come into the world to save the human race, glory be to Thee!"

But if it be not the feast, the Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Who doth not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? * Who will not hymn thy most pure birthgiving? * For the only-begotten Son Who hath shone forth timelessly from the Father, * came forth, ineffably incarnate, from thee, O pure one; * By nature he is God, by nature for our sakes, he hath become a man * not divided into two Hypostases, * but known in two natures without commingling. * Him do thou beseech, O pure and most blessed one, ** that our souls find mercy!

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the day. Three Lessons:

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The memory of the righteous man calleth forth praises, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Out of her mouth truth proceedeth, and law and mercy she carrieth on her tongue. Hear me, then, O children, for I will speak of excellent things; and happy is the man that will keep unto my ways, for my paths are the paths of life, and the desire is fashioned of the Lord. Wherefore, I entreat you and put forth my voice before the sons of men, for I with wisdom set up everything; I have called forth counsel, understanding and knowledge. Counsel is mine and sound wisdom, mine is understanding and strength is mine. I love them that love me, and those that seek me shall find grace. Understand, then, O ye simple, the cunning, and ye uninstructed-direct your hearts unto it. Harken unto me again, for I will speak of honorable things, and the opening of my mouth shall be right things, for my mouth shall speak truth and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. For I will teach you the truth, so that your hope may be in the Lord and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom; but the froward tongue shall be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness. A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just

weight is His delight. When pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly is wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them, but transgressors shall be taken in their own haughtiness. When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth. The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead. A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the just be delivered. When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

But though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was loved of him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord; therefore hasted he to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood it not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That his grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect unto his chosen.

At the Litiya, these Stichera, in Tone II:

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

When thou didst pass on from earthly things to those of heaven, O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, then did God, Who is wondrous in His saints, bestow upon thee the grace of healing; for thou didst appear to the ailing hierarch John and, commanding him to celebrate the liturgy on the morrow, didst straightway restore him to health. Wherefore, joyously bowing down before thy relics, with compunction he cried out: Glory to Him that doth glorify His saints!

O holy hierarch, thou dost intercede for all that have recourse to thy protection with faith, for thou art shown to be a comforter amid sorrows, a gracious physician amidst afflictions, a most wise guide on the path of salvation, and a most fervent intercessor for all before God. Wherefore, honoring thy holy memory with love, as to our most merciful father, we cry to thee: Pray thou on our behalf, O holy hierarch Theodosius!

Glory ..., in Tone III:

Through thee did God make manifest marvelous and most glorious wonders, O father Theodosius, when it was His good pleasure to glorify thy precious and much-healing relics, for the blind regained their sight, the dumb waxed eloquent, paralytics and the lame were cured, and the name of God was glorified by all; for in thee hath the Lord visited the land of Russia, and through thee have we beheld the mighty works of God. Wherefore, reverently honoring thy holy memory, we fall down before thee and entreat thee: Pray thou for the salvation of our souls!

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone V:

The Ancient of days, having become a babe, is borne into the temple by the Virgin Mother, fulfilling the promise of His own law; and Symeon, receiving Him, said: “Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Holy One!”

But if there be no feast, we chant this Theotokion, in the same tone:

O Theotokos, intercession for all who pray to thee; * In thee do we make bold, * and in thee do we glory; * to thee do we flee, entreating thee: ** Pray thou for the salvation of our souls!

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone V:

Spec. Mel: “Rejoice, thou life-bearing Cross ...”:

Rejoice, O holy hierarch Theodosius, * most glorious adornment of the Church of Russia, * radiant boast of the city of Chernigov, unshakable pillar of Orthodoxy, * who wast glorified by God for the reproof of the arrogance of the impious, * and wast revealed as a worker of wonders! * Rejoice, O our new intercessor before God! * Standing ever before Him with all the saints, ** pray thou for the salvation of our souls.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Rejoice, O sacred one, * divinely wise guide of monks, * who didst love Christ from thy youth, * and Whose easy yoke thou didst bear with joy! * Rejoice, thou that leadest all to God, * not only by word, but also by deed and the example of thy life! * Standing now before Him, * pray thou on behalf of thy children * that honor thy holy memory with faith and love, ** O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father!

Verse: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Rejoice, O hierarch of God, * who hast been adorned with the beauty of the episcopal rank * and dost shine forth in virtue! * Rejoice, thou mirror of humility, * splendid model of meekness and guilelessness * and inexhaustible treasury of love! * Rejoice, thou that even after thy repose didst not forsake thy flock, * but dost ever benefit it, * and showest thyself to be a father who loveth his children! * Wherefore, celebrating thy memory, * we flee unto thee, as to our father, * and cry out to thee with love: * Pray for us, O our father, ** that our souls may be saved!

Glory ..., in the same tone and melody:

Come, ye Christian people, and with hymns let us crown the new and most marvelous worker of wonders whom Christ, Who is wondrous in His saints, hath glorified and bestowed upon the land of Russia as a fervent intercessor. Rejoice, O Theodosius, our father, ready comforter amid our sorrows! Rejoice, most merciful physician of the afflicted! Rejoice, thou that art ready to ask of the Lord those things which lead to salvation for each and every one! And now, standing before the throne of His majesty, as a good and faithful servant of the Lord summoned to the joy of thy Master, entreat Him for the salvation of our souls.

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone VIII:

He Who is borne upon the cherubim and hymned by the seraphim, hath been borne into the temple of God today in accordance with the law, sitting in the arms of the elder as upon a throne, and as God doth receive the offerings from Joseph: a pair of turtledoves - the undefiled Church and the people newly-chosen from among the gentiles; and two young pigeons - the Old, and the beginning of the New. And Symeon, having finally received the fulfillment of the promise made to him, blessed the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, foretelling in imagery the sufferings she would endure and asked from God deliverance, and cried aloud: "Lettest now Thy servant depart, O Master, as Thou didst tell me before; for I have seen Thee, the pre eternal Light, the Savior and Lord of the Christian people!"

But if there be no feast, we chant the Theotokion, in Tone V:

Thou art the temple and portal, * the palace and throne of the King, * O most honored Virgin, * through whom Christ the Lord, my Redeemer, * Who is the Sun of righteousness, * hath revealed Himself unto those who sleep in darkness, * deigning to enlighten those * whom He hath fashioned in His image by His own hand. * Wherefore, O all-hymned one, * as thou hast acquired a mother's boldness before Him, ** entreat Him without ceasing, that our souls be saved.

At the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, most honored among hierarchs, * thou wast a beacon to thy flock; * then thou didst pass on to the mansions of heaven. * Pray thou at the throne of the King of glory, * that He deliver us from the evils which beset us * and save our souls, O holy one, ** by thine intercessions. (Twice)

And that of the feast, in Tone I:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, * for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, * illumining those in darkness. * Be glad, also, O righteous elder * who hath received in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, ** Who granteth us the resurrection. (Once)

If the Saint's day fall on a Sunday: Rejoice, O Virgin..., (Twice); of the Saint (Once)

AT MATINS

On “God is the Lord ...,” the Troparion of the feast, in Tone I:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, * for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, * illumining those in darkness. * Be glad, also, O righteous elder * who hath received in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, ** Who granteth us the resurrection. (Twice)

Glory ..., that of the saint, in Tone IV:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, most honored among hierarchs, * thou wast a beacon to thy flock; * then thou didst pass on to the mansions of heaven. * Pray thou at the throne of the King of glory, * that He deliver us from the evils which beset us * and save our souls, O holy one, ** by thine intercessions.

Both now ..., that of the feast.

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VI:

As of old the ailing were cured by touching the hem of Christ’s garment, and as the handkerchiefs and aprons of Paul healed incurable diseases, so also are many of the sick now healed on touching the vestments wherewith thy relics have been clothed, O holy hierarch Theodosius. Wherefore, rejoicing and glorifying God, with love we cry out to thee: By thy supplications heal thou also our diseases of body and soul, O all-blessed one!

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Thou art truly the strength of the helpless, O most holy Virgin Mother. Hence we, the lowly, are exalted through thee, and in thee are we caught up on High, for thou art the protection and mediatrix before God for all mankind.

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV:

As a forthright witness to the truth before those who abound in heresy and trouble simple souls hath Christ shown thee forth in His Church, for thou hast vanquished the superstition of men not by words, but by the incorruption of thy relics, confirming the holy Faith with many signs and wonders, O holy hierarch Theodosius, our father, to the joy and salvation of all that honor thy holy memory and cry out to God: Glory to Him that doth glorify His saints!

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

O all-immaculate Virgin, * who hast given birth to the transcendent God, * do thou, together with the Hierarch Theodosius, * unceasingly entreat Him to grant us remission of sins * before our end, * for as is meet, we hymn thee with faith and love, ** O only all-hymned one.

The Magnification: We magnify thee, O holy hierarch Theodosius, and we honor thy holy memory, for thou dost entreat Christ God for us!

Selected Psalm Verse:

A: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the World.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Alleluia ..., Glory to Thee, O God. (Thrice)

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone VI:

Even after thy repose art thou truly shown to be a pastor and father, and a grace-filled guide, O Theodosius, our father; for, appearing to the afflicted in dreams, thou dost teach them to honor the Church of God and her divine precepts, to partake of the Mysteries of God for the salvation of one's soul, and to offer up supplications unto the most pure Mother of God. With her do thou ever pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VI:

Show forth thy ready protection and aid * upon thy servants, O pure one; * still the waves of my vain thoughts, * and raise up my fallen soul, O Theotokos. * For I know, O Virgin, ** I know that whatsoever thou dost desire, thou canst do.

Then, the Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV.

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Verse: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Let every breath ...,

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN (JN. 10:9-16).

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VI:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, favorite of God and co-communicant of Christ, as is thy name, so also was thy life; for in offering the whole of thyself unto God as a gift, thou wast truly shown to be a gift of God to the Russian land. Glorious was thy life, and thy repose is with the saints. Pray thou for our souls!

Canon of The feast, with 6 Troparia; and that of the saint, with 8 Troparia:

ODE I

Canon of the Meeting, in Tone III:

Irmos: The Sun once passed over dry land * in the midst of the deep. * For the water on both sides became firm as a wall * while the people traversed the sea on foot, * chanting in a manner pleasing to God: * Let us sing unto the Lord; * for gloriously hath he been glorified.

Let the clouds pour forth rain, for Christ the Sun Who is borne aloft upon a light cloud is brought to the temple as a babe in the arms of the unblemished one. Wherefore, O ye faithful, let us cry aloud: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Be strong, ye hands of Symeon feeble with age; and ye weary legs of the elder, hasten straightway to meet Christ, joining chorus with the incorporeal ones, chanting: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

O ye heavens stretched out in wisdom, be glad; and rejoice, O thou earth! For Christ the Fashioner, having come forth from the most blessed womb of His Mother, is borne by the Virgin Mother as a babe to God the Father, He Who was before all the ages, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Canon of the saint

Irmos: Having passed through the water as upon dry land, * and having escaped the malice of the Egyptians, * the Israelites cried aloud: * Unto our God and Redeemer let us sing.

Accept this praise offered thee by unworthy lips, and by thy fervent prayers to God grant peace to those who honor thy holy memory, O Theodosius, our father!

From thy youth thou didst love the Lord, preserving thy purity undefiled; from childhood didst thou cleave to Him with thy pure soul, keeping thy heart in simplicity and guilelessness. Wherefore, thou wast truly a child of God, O holy Theodosius.

It is good for a man when he beareth the yoke in his youth, saith the Scriptures. Following this saying, with joy didst thou take up the yoke of the Lord from thy youth, and didst become an exemplary monk, O blessed Theodosius.

Theotokion: O most holy Virgin Mother of God, our hope unashamed: save us, hearken unto us that are cruelly held fast by the passions, and grant us a helping hand by thine intercessions.

ODE III

Canon of the feast

Irmos: O Lord, the firm foundation of those who put their trust in Thee, * do Thou establish the Church, * which Thou hast purchased * with thy precious blood.

He that was first begotten of the Father before the ages hath appeared as the first-born Babe of the undefiled Virgin, stretching forth His hand unto Adam.

God the Word hath appeared as a babe, setting aright the first-formed man, who through deception had become childish of mind.

Without undergoing change, the Creator became a Babe, rendering divine our nature, the product of earth to which it returneth again.

Canon of the saint

Irmos: **O Lord, Creator of the vault of Heaven * and Builder of the Church, * do Thou strengthen me in Thy love, O Summit of desire, * O Support of the faithful, * O only Lover of mankind.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, saith the Lord. Heeding this salvific word, thou didst strive to acquire poverty of spirit more than all other virtues, O venerable one, loving it as a mighty defense against every temptation and as the God-loving mother of all virtues.

Knowing that humility is born of obedience and dispassion of humility, thou didst love obedience with all thy heart, cutting down evil thoughts in all things by thy will, wherefore, thou didst attain even unto dispassion, having prepared thy soul as a pure habitation for the most holy Spirit.

Thou didst acquire great meekness, O divinely wise Theodosius, courageously enduring all sorrows, and lovingly covering every offense and abasement with silence. Wherefore, thou hast received an inheritance in the land of the living, where the righteous dwell forever, glorifying the Lord Jesus.

Theotokion: **We** have no boldness before thy Son and God, O most holy Sovereign Lady; nor would we have boldness before thee, ever defiled as we are by sins, O all-immaculate and merciful Mother, were thou not to summon us, the errant, to repentance, driving from us all despondency and indifference with the hope of salvation.

The Kontakion of the feast, in Tone I:

O Thou Who didst hallow the Virgin's womb by Thy birth * and didst bless the hands of Symeon as was meet, * by anticipation Thou hast now saved even us, O Christ God. * But in the midst of battle grant peace to Thy community, * and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, ** O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

Ikos: **L**et us make haste to the Theotokos, desiring to behold her Son borne unto Symeon. Looking upon Him from heaven, the bodiless hosts in amazement proclaim: "We behold things wondrous, most glorious, unapproachable and ineffable: for He Who created Adam is borne as an infant; He Whom naught can contain is held in the elder's arms; He Who is in the infinite bosom of His Father is willingly constrained in the flesh, but not in His divinity, He Who alone is the Lover of mankind."

Sessional Hymn of the saint, in Tone IV:

Thou wast shown to be a grace-bearing beacon, O Theodosius our father, resplendent with the calm light of humility, illumining us with thy love. Wherefore, honoring thy memory with love, we cry to thee: Pray for us, O holy hierarch of God, thou newly revealed wonderworker!

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Having minds darkened by many transgressions, * we cry out for thy mighty aid, O Virgin Theotokos: * Enlighten the eyes of our souls, and shine upon us the radiance of repentance, * through the prayers of the holy hierarch Theodosius * who was pleasing unto thee, ** O thou who alone art pure and blessed!

ODE IV

Canon of the feast

Irmos: Thy virtue, hath covered the heavens, O Christ, * for having come forth from the Ark of Thy sanctification, * from Thine undefiled Mother, * Thou hast appeared in the temple of Thy glory * as an infant borne in arms, * filling all with Thy praise.

Rejoicing, the Theotokos cried aloud: O Symeon, initiate of ineffable mysteries, take in thine arms Christ, the Word Who hath become a babe, of Whom thou wast informed of old by the Holy Spirit, and cry out to Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

O Symeon, rejoicing take up Christ, the little Child, on Whom thou hast set thy hope, the Consolation of the Israel of God, the Creator and Master of the law, Who fulfilleth the tenets of the law; and cry aloud to Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

Beholding the beginningless Word borne as a babe in the flesh by the Virgin as on the throne of the cherubim, the Author of all, Symeon marveled and cried aloud to Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

Canon of the saint

Irmos: Thou, O Lord, art my strength and Thou art my power, * Thou art my God and Thou art my joy, * Thou Who, while never leaving the bosom of Thy Father, * hast visited our poverty. * Therefore with the Prophet Habbakuk I cry unto Thee, * 'Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!'

Weighed down by illness and exhausted by old age, the arch pastor Lazarus first made thee his concelebrant and afterwards his successor, O holy hierarch Theodosius, and a beacon to the Church of Chernigov. By thy prayers illumine it forever!

Truly thou wast shown to be worthy of a hierarch's honor and authority, O father Theodosius, being most wise of word, virtuous of life, learned in the divine Scriptures and exceeding content to guide the rational sheep.

Adorned with piety and renowned amongst all the people of the land of Chernigov for thy spiritual life, thou wast unanimously chosen by them for the great ministry of the Church of God, O father Theodosius. By thy prayers do thou now watch over it!

Theotokion: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much, saith James, the brother of the Lord; and the prayer of the holy hierarch Theodosius also availeth much, rendered effectual by thy maternal supplication, O most holy Theotokos and Sovereign Lady; for thou art our intercession, protection and help, O gracious one.

ODE V

Canon of the feast

Irmos: In a vision Isaiah saw upon a throne, * God lifted up on high * borne aloft by angels of glory; * and he cried: 'Woe is me! * For I have foreseen God made flesh, * the Lord of the never-setting light * and the King of peace.'

The divine elder, comprehending the glory that was revealed of old to the prophet, and beholding the Word held in His Mother's arms, cried aloud: Rejoice, O pure one, for like a throne, God the unwaning Light. Who reigneth with peace, is held by thee!

The elder, bowing low and divinely touching the feet of the Mother of God who kneweth not wedlock, said: O pure one, thou dost bear Fire! I fear to hold the infant God, the unwaning Light, Who reigneth with peace!

Isaiah, purified by the burning ember brought by the seraphim, and the elder illumined by the O Mother of God, cried to her: thou hast given me Him Whom thou dost bear in thine arms as with tongs, the Light unwaning, Who reigneth with peace.

Canon of the saint

Irmos: O Light never-waning, * why hast Thou turned Thy face from me * and why has the alien darkness surrounded me, * wretched though I be? * But do Thou guide my steps I implore Thee * and turn me back towards the light of Thy commandments.

The people of the city of Chernigov rejoiced, beholding thee vested in the splendor of the hierarchal rank, standing before the throne of the grace of God with their archpastor Lazarus, lifting up thy venerable hands on behalf of thy flock and giving thanks unto Christ. And their hearts were moved to compunction.

In life, love and spirit, faith and purity thou wast an example to all the flock entrusted to thee by God. Wherefore, it was not only thine own sheep that cleaved unto thee with love, but even the heterodox honored thee as a man of God, O Theodosius our father.

Thou wast truly a shepherd to thy rational flock, ready to lay down thy life for thy sheep, O holy hierarch Theodosius. Wherefore, thou hast been shown to be an invincible champion of the oppressed, a fearless zealot reproving the mighty of this world with love and paternally instructing thy flock, most wisely guiding the erring to the right path.

Theotokion: Grant life unto my slain soul; raise it up, for it is fallen; heal it, for it is wounded. Enlighten my mind; still the waves of temptations, O Mother of God, most holy Virgin, and save me through thine intercessions, O most pure one.

ODE VI

Canon of the feast

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

In Sion wast Thou set as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense for the disobedient, and the inviolate salvation of the faithful.

Clearly bearing the lineaments of Him Who begot Thee before the ages, in Thy tender compassion Thou hast now been clothed in the weakness of the earth-born.

Now lettest him that worshipped Thee as the Son of the Most High, the Son of the Virgin, God become a Child, depart in peace.

Canon of the saint

Irmos: I will pour out my prayer unto the Lord, * and to Him will I proclaim my grief; * for my soul is filled with evils, * and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh, * and like Jonah I pray unto Thee: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Being an exemplary monk from thy youth, thou didst lovingly found monastic habitations and there didst set everything in good order for the good of monastic life, ever guiding all to God with thy paternal instructions, O divinely wise Theodosius our father.

Most beautifully fashioning of thy soul a temple for the Spirit of God by thy virtues, thou didst love the splendor of the house of God; and taking most diligent care therefore, thou didst erect yet new temples to the glory of God the Creator Who hath beautifully adorned the whole world with ineffable comeliness.

With angelic joy didst thou rejoice, O holy hierarch of God, when thou didst behold thy children walking in the truth; and as a father that loveth his children thou didst pray for the salvation of all, embracing all with thy love and interceding for all, O holy hierarch Theodosius our father.

Theotokion: Come, all ye faithful, let us fall down before the Mother of God, the fervent intercessor for our race; and in compunction of heart let us cry aloud: O Sovereign Lady, most holy Theotokos, shelter us beneath thy gracious protection and deliver us from all evil by thine intercessions.

Kontakion of the saint, in Tone IV:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, * for Christ the Chief Shepherd thou didst labor, * nurturing thy rational sheep in the spiritual pasture; * and from Christ God didst thou

receive the gift of healing * to cure spiritual and bodily infirmities * of all who with faith have recourse to thy healing relics. * Wherefore, pray thou now, O holy one, * that all who call upon thy name ** be saved from the assaults of the enemy, and that our souls find mercy.

Ikos: **G**od's gift to the land of Russia hast thou truly been shown to be, O holy Theodosius, for, having offered thyself to God from thy youth, thou didst fight the good fight until the end and didst receive great gifts, being a chosen vessel of grace. Wherefore, as in thy life, and yet more so after thy blessed repose, thou dost lift up thy venerable hands with boldness, standing before the throne of the most holy Trinity, praying fervently for thy flock and for the whole Russian land. Thus, having recourse unto thee with faith and love, all that sorrow receive consolation abundantly and the ailing are deemed worthy of healing. With them we also cry out to thee, as to a father who loveth his children: Pray for those who call upon thy name, O holy one, that our souls be saved from the assaults of the enemy!

ODE VII

Canon of the feast

Irmos: **O** Thou who in the midst of the fire * bedewed the children as they discoursed on things divine, * and Who didst take up Thy dwelling in the pure Virgin: * O Word of God Thee do we reverently praise chanting: * O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.

I go to announce glad tidings unto Adam and Eve who dwell in Hades, cried Symeon, joining chorus with the prophets, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

God, the Redeemer of the race of mortals shall go even unto Hades; He shall grant forgiveness to all, sight to the blind, and even the mute shall chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

And Symeon foretold to the Virgin: A sword shall pierce thy heart, O incorrupt one, beholding thy Son upon the Cross, to Whom we cry out: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Canon of the saint

Irmos: **T**he Hebrew children in the furnace * boldly trampled upon the flames, * changing the fire into dew, they cried aloud: * 'Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, throughout the ages'.

Ever meditating upon the memory of death, it was thy desire to keep the Cross of the Lord continually before thine eyes, and the depiction thereof was with thee as an inseparable companion even while thou didst journey, that thou mightest ever cry out to the Lord from thy heart: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Even after death thou dost, through the grace of God, remain with thy children as one who is alive; and after thy repose thou art shown to be a good shepherd unto them, O father Theodosius, guiding those who are ignorant of the faith in visions during sleep, and teaching all to cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Thou didst command the ailing monk to go to the church of God and to pray, O father Theodosius, standing before him in a dream; and instructing him paternally, thou didst remind him of his sins, calling him to repentance; and thou didst grant him healing, that he might continually glorify the Lord, crying: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

Theotokion: **H**aving dissipated my mind, my heart hath waxed gross and my will hath grown feeble. O Sovereign Lady Theotokos, take pity upon me, a sinner; heal thou my soul, and save me, for thou art the good Mother of my good Savior, that I might continually cry out to Him: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, throughout the ages!

ODE VIII

Canon of the feast

Irmos: **U**nited 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 and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

O people of Israel, beholding your glory, Emmanuel, the Babe born of the Virgin, join ye now in chorus in the presence of the Ark of God, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Behold, cried Symeon, this One Who is both God and Babe shall be a sign of contradiction. O ye faithful, let us cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

God the Word, being Life itself and having become a Babe, shall be the downfall of the disobedient, but the restoration of those who chant with faith: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Canon of the saint

Irmos: **S**eated upon the throne of glory, * and unceasingly glorified as God, * **O** ye angels and heavens bless, ** hymn and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!.

Who can declare all thy wonders as is meet, O holy hierarch Theodosius? For thou dost show thyself to be a peerless physician even unto the ailing that seek thee not, and thou dost call upon all to confess the glory of God Who doth glorify His saints and is supremely exalted throughout all ages!

Thou hast shown thyself to be a helper and refuge for those who are afflicted by unclean spirits, O holy hierarch Theodosius, with the power of God driving all demonic activity away from those who with faith have recourse to thy relics, that the name of God may be glorified throughout all ages.

Thy name, O holy hierarch Theodosius, poured forth like myrrh, is wafted, like the fragrance of God's paradise, over the face of all the land of Russia, delighting the hearts of the faithful and moving them to hymn in spiritual joy the Lord Who is supremely exalted throughout all ages.

Theotokion: Disdain not the supplications of thy servants, O Mother of God. Accept our prayers, for the sake of the holy hierarch Theodosius who was pleasing unto thee, and bear them to the throne of thy Son and God, that His name may be glorified by all creation throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Canon of the feast

Refrain: O Virgin Theotokos, thou hope of Christians, preserve and save those who trust in thee.

Irmos: In the shadow and the letter of the Law, * let us, the faithful, discern a figure: * every male child that openeth the womb * shall be sanctified to God. * Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word * and Son of the beginningless Father, * the firstborn Child of a Mother who hath not known a man.

The ancients were wont to offer a pair of new-born doves and two young birds, but the godly elder and the chaste prophetess Anna serve in their stead, magnifying the only-begotten Son of the Father, Who was born of the Virgin and is borne into the temple.

Thou hast imparted unto me the joy of Thy salvation, cried Symeon. Accept Thou Thy servant, for I am weary of the shadow, as a mystic and sacred preacher of the new grace, magnifying Thee in praise!

The aged Anna, chaste and venerable, prophesying in sacred manner, openly confessed the Lord in the temple, and she magnified the Theotokos, proclaiming her to all present.

Canon of the saint

Irmos: With never ceasing praises we magnify thee, * the Mother of God Most High, * who art higher than the all-pure hosts, * and who beyond comprehension knew not wedlock, * yet hath truly given birth to God.

As a most merciful healer, O holy Theodosius, thou dost not only mercifully heed the afflicted that call upon thee, but dost obey their continual petitions, and according to their faith thou dost show thyself to be a ready physician for the sick, having mercy on and comforting all and pouring forth most abundantly thy compassion upon all.

Truly marvelous and beyond all telling are thy wonders, O Theodosius our father; for thou hast shown thyself to be the glory of the Church of Russia, a heavenly preacher of the Orthodox Faith and a steadfast witness to the Truth.

O holy one of God, favorite of Christ, inexhaustible treasury of mercy: Look thou down upon my infirmities; heal my soul which is badly tempest-tossed by the

passions; heal thou my body also which is encompassed by weaknesses, that in thee I may glorify the grace and tender compassion of Christ God Who is wondrous in His saints.

Theotokion: **T**o thee do I offer my sinful heart, O most merciful Mother. Before thee do I cast the weakness of my soul and my body. By thy prayers do thou help and have mercy on me!

Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel: “Heaven with stars ...”:

He that adorned heaven with stars hath revealed thee, O holy hierarch Theodosius, as a new and most radiant star adorning the heaven of the Church and driving away the darkness of the arrogance of the impious. Wherefore, enlighten thou our souls, which are darkened by sin, and guide us toward repentance by thy prayers, O venerable one.

Glory ..., Both now ..., of the feast:

The elder, brought into the temple by the Spirit, took the Master of the Law in his arms, crying: Do Thou now loose me from the bond of the flesh according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen the revelation of the Gentiles, and the salvation of Israel!

On the Praises, 4 Stichera of the holy hierarch, in Tone VI:

Our all-blessed and God-bearing father Theodosius, disdaining the beauties of this world and its fleeting pleasures, thou didst love the monastic life and wast joined to the choir of the angels. Wherefore, in thy miracles thou dost wondrously shine forth upon the whole world as a most radiant beacon. Pray thou therefore for us who keep thy holy memory, for we are thy children and the sheep of thy rational flock. We call upon thee for aid, asking that through thee we might receive peace and great mercy. **(Twice)**

O divinely wise and all-blessed Theodosius, thou didst subject all the pride of thy flesh to thy soul; cleansing thyself by fasting and secret struggles, thou wast shown to shine like gold tried in the crucible, becoming a dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. Bringing good order to monastic habitations and magnificently adorning the churches of God, well didst thou tend thy rational sheep, leading them up to the heights of the virtues by thy teachings as by a ladder. Remember us that honor thine ever-sacred memory, and pray thou that our souls be saved.

Thou didst shine upon us thy God-pleasing life, O most glorious Theodosius, instructing us with the virtue beloved of God; for in thyself didst thou manifest to all a rule of faith and a model of abstinence, and an inexhaustible treasury of love and humility. Wherefore, honoring thy holy memory, we glorify Christ Who hath crowned thee. Him do thou beseech for the salvation of our souls.

Glory ..., in Tone II:

What shall we offer unto Thee, O Christ our God? How shall we worthily hymn Thy compassion which Thou dost pour forth most abundantly upon us, the unworthy? We are blessed, being children of Thine Orthodox Church, wherein, as in

days of old, Thou dost even now show forth wondrous and most glorious miracles, glorifying Thy saints. And, lo! we now radiantly celebrate a new and most marvelous wonderworker, whom Thou hast been well-pleased to glorify! We glorify Thy name, O Lord our God. We bow down before the greatness of Thy goodness, and, falling prostrate, cry out to Thee: Through the prayers of the holy hierarch Theodosius, have mercy upon us!

Both now ..., of the feast, in Tone VI:

O Christ our God, Whose good pleasure it was to sit today in the arms of the elder, as in the chariot of the cherubim: in that Thou lovest mankind, deliver and save us who hymn Thee, calling us forth from the tyranny of the passions.

Great Doxology & the Dismissal.

AT LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from ODE V of the feast's canon, and 4 from ODE VI of the saint's canon.

The divine elder, comprehending the glory that was revealed of old to the prophet, and beholding the Word held in His Mother's arms, cried aloud: Rejoice, O pure one, for like a throne, God the unwaning Light. Who reigneth with peace, is held by thee! (Twice)

The elder, bowing low and divinely touching the feet of the Mother of God who kneweth not wedlock, said: O pure one, thou dost bear Fire! I fear to hold the infant God, the unwaning Light, Who reigneth with peace!

Isaiah, purified by the burning ember brought by the seraphim, and the elder illumined by the O Mother of God, cried to her: thou hast given me Him Whom thou dost bear in thine arms as with tongs, the Light unwaning, Who reigneth with peace.

Being an exemplary monk from thy youth, thou didst lovingly found monastic habitations and there didst set everything in good order for the good of monastic life, ever guiding all to God with thy paternal instructions, O divinely wise Theodosius our father.

Most beautifully fashioning of thy soul a temple for the Spirit of God by thy virtues, thou didst love the splendor of the house of God; and taking most diligent care therefore, thou didst erect yet new temples to the glory of God the Creator Who hath beautifully adorned the whole world with ineffable comeliness.

With angelic joy didst thou rejoice, O holy hierarch of God, when thou didst behold thy children walking in the truth; and as a father that loveth his children thou didst pray for the salvation of all, embracing all with thy love and interceding for all, O holy hierarch Theodosius our father.

Theotokion: **C**ome, all ye faithful, let us fall down before the Mother of God, the fervent intercessor for our race; and in compunction of heart let us cry aloud: O Sovereign Lady, most holy Theotokos, shelter us beneath thy gracious protection and deliver us from all evil by thine intercessions.

Troparion of the feast, in Tone I:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, * for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, * illumining those in darkness. * Be glad, also, O righteous elder * who hath received in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, ** Who granteth us the resurrection.

Troparion of the holy hierarchy, in Tone IV:

O holy hierarch Theodosius, most honored among hierarchs, * thou wast a beacon to thy flock; * then thou didst pass on to the mansions of heaven. * Pray thou at the throne of the King of glory, * that He deliver us from the evils which beset us * and save our souls, O holy one, ** by thine intercessions.

Kontakion of the holy hierarchy, in Tone IV:

Glory ..., **O** holy hierarch Theodosius, * for Christ the Chief Shepherd thou didst labor, * nurturing thy rational sheep in the spiritual pasture; * and from Christ God didst thou receive the gift of healing * to cure spiritual and bodily infirmities * of all who with faith have recourse to thy healing relics. * Wherefore, pray thou now, O holy one, * that all who call upon thy name ** be saved from the assaults of the enemy, and that our souls find mercy.

Kontakion of the feast, in Tone I:

Both now ..., **O** Thou Who didst hallow the Virgin's womb by Thy birth * and didst bless the hands of Symeon as was meet, * by anticipation Thou hast now saved even us, O Christ God. * But in the midst of battle grant peace to Thy community, * and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, ** O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of His saints.

Verse: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS (13:17-21)

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, in Tone VI: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

Verse: His seed shall be mighty upon the earth.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (6:17-23)

At that time: (Jesus) came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; and they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven.

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