

THE 19th DAY OF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY PROPHET JOEL
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR VARUS
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 of the holy prophet, in Tone VIII:
Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

The Spirit of God hath been poured forth * upon us, the faithful, * as, moved by Him, * the honored Joel said in prophecy; * disclosing the revelation of divine mysteries * and prophesying. * And we who have received His activity * are illumined with divine radiance ** and with the grace of God.

Full of divine eloquence, * the wondrous Joel * doth issue forth from Thy house * like a well-spring watering men’s souls, O Master, * letting fall upon us the sweetness * which delighteth our thoughts, * in that he hath been exalted by the Spirit * and elevated by virtue ** to divine heights.

With thy boldness as a prophet * and thy noetic closeness to God, O Joel, * by which thou dost behold heavenly visions, * do thou move Him to spare us * who with faith celebrate * thy memory, O glorious one, * asking remission of sins, * a share in divine delights ** and great mercy.

And 3 Stichera of the holy martyr, in Tone VI:
Spec. Mel.: “Having set aside ...”:

Beholding the sufferings * of the right victorious martyrs, * full of divine boldness * thou didst enter the arena, O Varus, and didst preach Christ, * Who became a man for our sake; * and thou wast not afraid of death * or the torments that lay before thee. * Wherefore, wounded and mercilessly dismembered, * thou didst rejoice * with perfect understanding, O wise one, * looking toward the glory which abideth ** for those who love God.

Seeing thy flesh and blood * falling away, O spiritual athlete, * thou didst most valiantly endure, * as though another were suffering in thy stead. * Bound to a tree, thou didst endure most patiently * the laceration of the iniquitous; * and committing thy spirit into the hands of God, * thou didst astonish those who beheld thee * with thy steadfast opposition. * Wherefore, we honor thee, O wise Varus, * whose courage was so great, ** and who cast down the tyrant with thy pangs.

The wondrous Cleopatra, * having embalmed thee with spices, * interred thee in the earth, * and raised up to thee a holy church, * celebrating thy feast, O wondrous Varus, * and entreating thee with faith. * Her children didst thou enroll in the noetic army, * adorning them with glory * and numbering them among the choirs of the saints, * whose portion do thou also grant unto us * who piously celebrate thy festival, ** O right wondrous martyr.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in the same melody:

Rejoice, O root bedewed! * Rejoice, O staff of Aaron * who budded forth the never-fading * and ever-living Flower, O pure Maiden, * thou right fruitful garden * who shone forth from the root of Jesse * the Tree of life, * and dost nurture mortals with noetic bread! * Rejoice, O most precious robe of purple, * Bride of God, the King of heaven, most radiant crown, * adornment of hierarchs! ** Rejoice, thou who alone art most pure!

Stavrotheotokion: **W**hen, of old, the unblemished ewe-lamb and immaculate Lady, * beheld her Lamb * upon the tree of the Cross, * she exclaimed maternally, and marveling cried aloud: * “O my Child most sweet, * what is this new and most strange sight I see? * How hath the thankless synagogue * betrayed Thee to the judgment-seat of Pilate * and condemned Thee to death, * Who art the Life of all? * Yet do I hymn Thine ineffable condescension, ** O Word!”

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Varus O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

AT MATINS

One canon from the Oktoechos, with 6 Troparia; and two for the saints, with 8 Troparia.

ODE I

Canon of the holy prophet, the acrostic whereof is: “I marvel at the prophecies of the Prophet Joel”, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone II:

Irmos: Come, O ye people, * let us sing a song to Christ our God, * Who divided the sea, * and made a way for the nation * which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; * for He hath been glorified.

The choir of the prophets rejoiceth with us when thou who hast heavenly wisdom art praised, O divinely eloquent Joel. With them pray thou that we be saved, O blessed one.

Announcing beforehand the words of God, O divinely eloquent one, thou didst foretell the grievous and righteous wrath which would befall thy vain-minded people because of their impiety.

The wondrous, radiant and life-creating inspiration of the Spirit overshadowed thee, O most blessed prophet, and breathed into thee the knowledge of things to come.

Theotokion: The tabernacle of witnesses prefigured thee who art signified in manifold ways, revealing Him Who immutably became incarnate through thee, O most pure Lady, Mother of God.

Canon of the holy martyr, the acrostic whereof is: “I praise the sufferings of Varus and his great glory”, the composition of Joseph, in Tone VI:

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

Thou hast appeared in the heights of the Church of Christ as a radiant sun, illumining the fullness of the earth with the brilliance of thy battles, O blessed Varus.

Embraced by the sweet ardor of divine love, O all-blessed one, thou didst deny thyself and hasten wisely to all the tortures of the flesh, struggling mightily.

Having sensibly bound thyself with the bonds of godly strugglers, O spiritual athlete, thou didst break asunder the bonds of delusion by thy mighty endurance of many torments.

Theotokion: The transcendent Word made His abode within thy womb in a manner past all telling, O pure one, and, having been born in a godly manner, He hath led to Him the choirs of martyrs. With them we praise thee in hymnody.

ODE III

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: O Lord, who didst slay sin upon the tree, * firmly establish us in Thee, * and in the hearts of us who hymn Thee * plant the fear of Thee.

Taught by thy wise dogmas, O prophet, we piously preach fasting and ministry, proceeding to the house of the Lord.

Following thy teachings with all our heart and mind, we weep and seek out God in supplication, O praiseworthy one.

Revealing to us the long-suffering of the all-compassionate Master, O prophet, thou hast also made plain His divine goodness and grace.

Theotokion: **O** most pure one, thou didst conceive God and hast given birth ineffably to the Word incarnate, Who spake through the prophets and hath fulfilled that which they foretold.

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: **T**here is none as holy as Thou, * **O Lord my God,** * who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful **O good One,** * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

Thou didst enter upon valiant struggles with mighty resolve, having made thyself steadfast by hope in the good things to come and by the all-wise teachings of the martyrs of Christ, O blessed one.

Beholding the army of the holy spiritual athletes suffering lawfully, thou didst show forth their courageous strength, entering upon many and varied torments, O Varus.

As a valiant warrior, O Varus, thou didst find thyself in the sacred regiment, and cut down multitudes with the battle-sword of courage, O wise one, being glorified with victories.

Theotokion: **O** Virgin Mother of God, I beseech thee: By the effulgence of grace which is in thee, drive away the most profound darkness of my despair and the clouds of the passions.

Sessional Hymn of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: “O spiritual athletes of the Lord ...”:

O divinely eloquent prophet, filled with the inspiration of the Comforter, thou didst make plain the enlightenment of the nations which would take place in later times. Wherefore, we now piously praise thee; and, celebrating thy memory, cry out to thee: Entreat Christ God on behalf of our souls!

Glory ..., Sessional Hymn of the holy martyr, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior ...”:

Beholding the honored sufferings of the martyrs, and venerating their fetters with love, thou didst hasten to ascend to the summit of witness, O most wondrous one; for, suspended upon a tree, thou didst endure wounds, until thou didst commit thy spirit into the hands of the Lord.

Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high do thou unceasingly beseech God to Whom, in a manner surpassing understanding and all telling, thou hast given birth, that He grant forgiveness of all our sins and correction of life unto those who with faith and love ever glorify thee.

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholdings Thee stretched out dead upon the Cross, O Christ, Thy most immaculate Mother cried aloud: “O my Son, Who with the Father and the Spirit, art beginningless, what is this ineffable dispensation, wherewith Thou hast saved the work of Thy most pure hands, O Compassionate One?”

ODE IV

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: I have heard report of Thy dispensation, O Lord, * and have glorified Thee * Who alone lovest mankind.

O Lord, be Thou merciful unto those who offer Thee pure repentance, for Thou alone art compassionate and greatly merciful.

As thou didst proclaim, O glorious one, the Spirit hath been poured forth from God upon the flesh of all who believe.

The descent of the Spirit which made wise the disciples of the Lord filled thy divinely uttered words.

Theotokion: **D**elivered by thy divine birthgiving from the dark belly of Hades, O most pure one, we call thee blessed.

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

Adorned with holy wounds, thou didst show thyself to be most comely and the beloved of God Who crowned thy head, O right wondrous Varus.

Stretched out on a cross and again upon the ground; O glorious one, thou didst endure cruel pangs. Wherefore, in gladness thou hast inherited the life which is devoid of pain.

The godly martyrs, seeing thee suffering lawfully, strengthened thee with words of patience, O blessed one; and having completed thy valiant sufferings with them, thou hast attained blessedness.

With praises we crown the divine martyrs, for with divine wreaths the grace of God hath crowned them who cast down the conceited thoughts of the enemy.

Theotokion: **O** Lady, from the mire of the passions and the passionate thoughts which alienate me from the one pure God lead me up, that I may bless thee with faith.

ODE V

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: The night is far spent, the day is at hand: * Thy light hath shone upon the world! * Therefore the ranks of angels sing Thy praises, * and all things glorify Thee, O Lord!

The godly Joel hath manifestly foretold to all the coming of Christ, that He would come and save the human race from the falsehood of idolatry.

Having penetrated wholly into the light which transcendeth understanding and is higher than thought, O glorious prophet, thou didst draw forth the grace of prophecy therefrom and preach righteousness.

Pray thou for those who hymn thee, O most noetically rich Joel, and pray that they be saved from all tribulation and be found worthy of divine grace and radiance.

Theotokion: O most holy Virgin, Sovereign Lady of the world, pray thou that those who confess thee to be the Theotokos be saved from countless sins and the evil circumstances of life.

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recalleth us from the darkness of sin.

Strengthened by divine inclinations, O Varus, with valiant mind thou didst endure unremitting laceration, rending apart the heart of the prideful one, the author of evil.

The glorious martyr, seeing pieces of his flesh falling to the ground, rejoiced, looking toward eternal and divine rewards with splendor of mind.

“I hymn, glorify and worship Thee, O Lord God, having been deemed worthy of the good things prepared for those who love Thee!” the martyr fervently cried aloud amid his suffering.

Theotokion: In that thou hast truly been shown to be more holy than the cherubim and seraphim, O all-immaculate one, do thou now sanctify all who with faith call thee sacred, and save them by thy mediation.

ODE VI

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: The great abyss of sin doth encompass me, * and, emulating the prophet, I cry unto thee: * Lead me up from corruption, O Lord!

The well-springs of thy words drop forth divine proclamations, O glorious one, pouring forth spiritually nourishing sweetness, watering those who approach with faith.

We know thee, O divinely eloquent Prophet Joel, to be a mountain of prophecy pouring forth sweetness, and an all-wise preacher of piety.

Theotokion: **O** most pure Lady, who hast given birth to the never-waning Light, illumine the hearts of those who with faith glorify thee and Him Who was ineffably born from thee.

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: **B**ehold the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * **O** greatly Merciful One.

Thou didst disdain the words of the all-iniquitous enemy and patiently endured the unbearable pain of the flames, O much suffering Varus, thou intercessor for those who praise thee with faith.

The most mindless tyrant did not cease inflicting wounds upon thee without pity, until thou didst commit thy sacred soul into the hands of God, made radiant with the beauties of thy struggles.

Emulating Christ, thou wast uplifted upon a tree, and hanging thereon, thou didst surrender thy soul to God, Who crowned thee, having suffered valiantly, O spiritual athlete.

Theotokion: **O** Lady, ever direct my lowly soul which is tempest-tossed on the deep of evils, and guide it to the calm haven, for with unwavering understanding it doth bless thee.

Kontakion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Following Christ and draining His cup, O martyr Varus, * thou wast crowned with the wreath of martyrdom * and having joined chorus with the angels. * Pray thou without ceasing ** on behalf of our souls.

ODE VII

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: **H**e Who of old extinguished the thunderous furnace * and bedewed the children with a noetic dew, * **O** God of our fathers, * **Blessed art Thou.**

As thou didst foretell, O all-honored prophet, a watery well-spring hath issued forth from the house of the Lord.

As the Prophet Joel foretold, Thou hast made a satisfying torrent, from a nourishing grain-bearing source. O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **H**e Who hath created all things, being born from the Virgin, hath saved the world, which piously chanteth: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: **A**n Angel made the furnace bedew the holy Children. * **B**ut the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * **O** God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

O Varus, the supremely good Cleopatra helped to bury thee, who wast illumined with gifts of thy struggles, finding through thee the glory of a proper faith, which thou didst fervently show forth in thine end.

Shedding tears over thee and embalming thee with precious ointments, the most honored woman buried in the earth thee who buried wicked delusion, illumining us with rays of brilliance from thy grave.

The ever-memorable one did not cease pleasing thee, the favorite of Christ, O wise and venerable one, until thou didst show thyself to be a mediator for her of the kingdom of heaven which she and her beloved son were deemed worthy of through thee.

Theotokion: **B**y thy mediation, O Virgin, restore me, who am crushed by my countless offenses, healing my soul and granting me the discourse to cry aloud: Blessed art thou who hast given birth to God in the flesh!

ODE VIII

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: **O**f old the Hebrew children were bedewed in the flames of the furnace, * and gloriously were the Chaldeans burnt up by the Lord therein, * let us sing unto Him saying: * bless ye and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages.

By images of repentance, O glorious one, thou didst manifestly show forth the compassionate Lord Who accepts those who approach Him with faith and cry aloud: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

As a servant of the Lord, O Prophet Joel, thou wast entrusted with the task of proclaiming His mysteries to the people who utter praise and chant: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

As Joel prophesied, rivers of miracles, which are the most glorious apostles of the Lord, pour forth forgiveness upon Judah, watering those who cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: **O** all-immaculate one, while thou didst remain a pure Virgin, thou hast given birth to Christ, the single hypostasis composed of two natures; and chanting to Him, we cry aloud: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: **T**hou didst make flame bedew the holy children, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * Thee do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Hearkening to a mother's entreaties, O martyr, and splendidly enrolling her son in the army of heaven, with ineffable loving-kindness thou didst show that thy glory and that of the honored youth cannot be taken away.

Cleopatra bore thee out of Egypt like riches beyond price. O martyr, lavishing precious gifts of healings upon all of Palestine, which honoreth thee with love.

In gladness thou didst complete thy struggles, O valiant warrior of the Almighty, and hast been crowned by Him as a victor, O all-blessed Varus, thou great glory of the martyrs.

Theotokion: Sins upon sins do I add, yet I do not fear the coming dread judgment. O pure one, overcome the blindness of my soul, and converting me, save me by thine intercession.

ODE IX

Canon of the holy prophet

Irmos: O thou who art blessed in the heavens * and glorified on earth, * rejoice thou bride unwedded.

As a prophet thou dost now dwell joyously with the prophets in the mansions of the heavens.

From on high thou dost now watch over us who reverently glorify thee, O divinely eloquent and most noetically rich prophet.

Through repentance Joel hath shown forth the short path of salvation with divine wisdom.

Theotokion: Having given birth to the compassionate Master and Savior, O Mother of God, thou hast led us up who are fallen.

Canon of the holy martyr

Irmos: It is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

Manifestly girded about with divine power, O valiant sufferer Varus, thou didst cast down the might of the adversary; wherefore, we, the faithful, praise thee, drawing forth abundant healing from thy relics.

Thy memory hath spread forth upon the ends of the earth like light, like the dawn, like the great sun, O all-famed one, illumining all with the radiant effulgence of thine honored struggles and driving darkness away from the hearts of all.

The loving mother, beholding her son shining with thee in great glory, magnified the God of all, O martyr, and most earnestly glorified thee as a most great intercessor, having been manifestly enriched by thee.

The land on which thy most patient body lieth, O wise one, hath been divinely sanctified. By thy supplications, O Varus, grant us remission of sins, amendment of life and deliverance from all difficulties.

Theotokion: The Lord, manifesting Himself through thee, the cloud of light, O Virgin, wrought utter destruction upon the graven images of Egypt; and He hath deemed the multitude of His spiritual athletes worthy to endure, becoming emulators of His honored sufferings:

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

In his sufferings, Thy martyr Varus O Lord, * received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * he set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Kontakion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Following Christ and draining His cup, O martyr Varus, * thou wast crowned with the wreath of martyrdom * and having joined chorus with the angels. * Pray thou without ceasing ** on behalf of our souls.