

THE 9th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MAY
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY PROPHET ISAIAH
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR CHRISTOPHER
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 of the holy prophet, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast given a sign ...”:

Purified by the burning ember of the Godhead * of the Incarnate One, * the great and glorious Isaiah * confirmed his prophecy, * and having been deemed worthy to behold divine glory * by the great richness of his virtue and purity, * he standeth forth as a herald * proclaiming the coming salvation to the nations ** and the appearance of God.

Having cleansed mind and thought, * O right wondrous Isaiah, * as a rightly pleasing harp of the Spirit, * ever plucked * by His action and inspiration, * thou wast tuned with divine wisdom, O most glorious one, * beholding Him Who sitteth * upon an exalted throne, ** and learning things divine.

Having seen and been taught * of the divine seraphim who unceasingly glorify * the single dominion * of the Godhead in three Hypostases, * thou wast assured of the grace of prophecy, * O wondrous one; * wherefore, celebrating thy most sacred memory, * we bring thee before Christ ** as a most powerful advocate.

And 3 Stichera of the holy martyr, in the same tone:
Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

O most glorious Christopher, * thou pillar named after Christ, * precious adornment of grace: * having cast down the dominion of the mighty, * thou didst put the tyrants to shame * and proclaim Christ, thy Creator, to be thy true King; * and by His divine power * thou hast received from heaven a divine crown ** and abiding glory.

Illumined with unapproachable divinity, * ineffable grace * and constant effulgence, * destroying the gloom of idolatry, * thou didst resplendently cast down the arrogance of the iniquitous; * and, assailed by fire and wounds, * thou didst cast down at the tribunal * the archer who was thy foe, ** and wast revealed to be victorious.

The hosts of the armies on high * marveled at thee, * the ranks of the martyrs rejoiced with thee, * the assemblies of the righteous cried out together, * and from on high God crowned thee with His divine hand. * Wherefore, we cry aloud: * Through the supplications of Christopher * save all who celebrate his divine festival, ** in that Thou art compassionate.

Glory ..., Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion.
Troparion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Celebrating the memory * of Thy Prophet Isaiah, O Lord, * through him we entreat Thee: ** Save Thou our souls!

Glory ..., Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Arrayed in vesture dyed with thine own blood, * thou standest before the King of hosts, O ever-memorable Christopher; * therefore, with the incorporeal ones and the martyrs * thou dost sing thrice-holy and awesome melodies. ** Wherefore, by thy supplications save thou thy flock.

Both now ..., Troparion from the Pentecostarion.

AT MATINS

Canons of the holy prophet and martyr, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: I will sing unto Thee, O Lord my God, * for Thou hast led Thy people out of the bondage of Egypt, * and hast drowned in the waters * the chariots and the might of Pharaoh.

Troperia of the holy prophet

Enlighten me, O word my God, and guide me, that I may radiantly praise the glorious and honored festival of Thy divine prophet.

The divinely sounded trumpet of Isaiah, sounding forth unto the earth, hath summoned the children of the Church to celebrate his memory.

Having steadfastly made the passions of thy body subject to the thoughts of thy soul, O God-bearer, thou hast been deemed worthy to behold the glory of the Almighty.

Troperia of the holy martyr

Come, all ye Christ-bearers, and let us piously hymn today the memory of Christopher, the divinely wise witness to the Truth.

Having manfully struggled against falsehood, O passion-bearer, strengthened by the might of Christ thou didst trample underfoot the threats of the tyrants.

Theotokion: O most pure Theotokos, the glorious Isaiah, foreseeing thee as a staff, proclaimed the incarnate Word Who would come forth from thee like a flower.

ODE III

Irmos: The bow of the mighty hath waxed feeble * and the weak have girded themselves with strength: * therefore is my heart established * in the Lord.

Troperia of the holy prophet

Receiving the full radiance of the Spirit, O glorious one, thou didst proclaim the ineffable mystery of the dispensation of the Word.

Thou wast caught up to the heights of heaven, and didst show forth the radiance of piety, denouncing the impotence of the vanity of idolatry.

Isaiah prophesied Christ the Master, Who sustaineth the universe, as the all-precious Cornerstone set in Sion.

Troperia of the holy martyr

Protected by the armor of the Cross, O martyr Christopher, thou didst endure wounds, delighting now, and rejoicing, in that which thou didst ever desire.

Thy flesh was cut away by wounds, O Christopher, but thy God-loving soul was nourished with love, meditating on the delight of the kingdom.

Theotokion: Truly the saying of Isaiah hath been fulfilled: for the Virgin hath given birth to the incarnate Bestower of life, the Savior of our souls.

Sessional Hymn of the holy prophet, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

Having cleansed thy soul of carnal passions, thou didst behold Him Who is God over all, O most noetically rich prophet, shining forth with the radiant beams of prophecy, and saying: “The Creator shall be born as a little Babe, Who will save us from corruption through the supplications of her who gave Him birth!”

Glory ..., Sessional Hymn of the holy martyr, in the same tone:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast appeared today ...”:

Finishing the struggle of martyrdom, O glorious and blessed Christopher, thou didst receive a crown of victory from God, Whom do thou beseech that He deliver us from misfortunes.

Both now ..., Sessional Hymn from the Pentecostarion.

ODE IV

Irmos: Proclaiming the advent of Thine appearance on earth, O Christ God, * the prophet cried aloud with gladness: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Troparia of the holy prophet

Ascending to the summit of the virtues, and conversing in purity with Him Whom thou didst desire, thou dost sing with joy: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Isaiah was entrusted with the grace of prophecy, showing himself to be a dwelling-place of God; wherefore he hath been counted worthy of the incorrupt glory of the heavenly hosts.

As an initiate of ineffable mysteries, O glorious one, full of the divine Spirit thou didst say in a proverb that the children, the Churches of the nations, would be renewed.

Troparia of the holy martyr

Thou hast received a heavenly inheritance, O martyr, having struggled for Christ on earth, manfully extinguishing the idolatrous delusion of the cruel demon.

As he had tempted our forefather Adam of old, the serpent exposed thee to a woman’s temptation, O martyr, but though he sought to choke thee, he was vanquished and put to shame.

Theotokion: The Babe born from the Mother of God painlessly, hath been given to us by the prophetess; Whose governance the godly Isaiah proclaimed would be upon His shoulders.

ODE V

Irmos: Do Thou O Lord send down upon us * Thine enlightenment, and free us * from the gloom of transgression, O Good One, * granting us Thy peace.

Troparia of the holy prophet

Beholding the lofty hidden mystery, and the ancient counsel of the Most High, thou didst announce God's dispensation concerning us, O divinely eloquent one.

The ever-flowing well-spring of Thy sufferings, O Lord, washeth away our passions; for Thou hast come, O Savior, as the Prophet Isaiah hath taught.

The pious Isaiah hath proclaimed to the ignorant the one Trinity in a single Essence: the Word and the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from God the Father.

Troparia of the holy martyr

With the enlightenment of grace thou didst fish for men, manifestly annulling the savagery of the ungodly tyrants, O wise one, who wast invested on earth with power from on high.

Manifestly desiring the enjoyment of heaven more than anything earthly, O wise Christopher, thou didst mightily endure the pangs of martyrdom, strengthened by the Cross.

Theotokion: Isaiah clearly foresaw Thee sitting upon the cloud of Thy most hymned Mother, O Lord, casting down the idols of Egypt.

ODE VI

Irmos: Prefiguring Thy three-day burial * Prophet Jonah praying in the belly of the sea-monster cried aloud: * Deliver me from corruption * O Jesus Thou King of hosts.

Troparia of the holy prophet

Transported by the Spirit, Isaiah beheld on the throne of dominion the threefold shining glory, hymned with the thrice-holy hymn.

To thy fearful lips, O Isaiah, the seraph bore the burning ember, carrying it with tongs; making thee a mystically consecrated prophet of God.

Perceiving from afar the fulfillment of his prophecies, Isaiah rejoiced spiritually with the angels and, leaping up, glorified Him Who hath fulfilled his prophecies.

Troparia of the holy martyr

Waging war not against flesh or blood, the valiant one vanquished principalities and demons, strengthened by the invisible power of the Son of God.

Piously loving the uttermost Desire, O spiritual athlete, thou didst not feel pain when lacerated, ever elevating thy mind to thy Master.

Theotokion: Having beheld the Virgin who hath conceived in her womb and given birth to the Word, the Son of God incarnate, the glorious Prophet Isaiah doth now rejoice.

Kontakion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: “The tomb and mortality ...”:

Receiving the gift of prophecy, * O martyred Prophet Isaiah, thou herald of God, * thou didst explain to all the incarnation of the Lord, * exclaiming aloud to the ends of the earth: ** “Behold, a Virgin shall conceive in her womb!”

Ikos: **L**et all of us faithful from all lands, come together to hymn as is meet, Isaiah wondrous among the prophets; for, receiving the gift of prophecy, he illumine the whole world, proclaiming unto all the mystery of the divine union, and crying out with them: “The invisible God is with us! Behold, a Virgin shall conceive in her womb!”

ODE VII

Irmos: **O**f old the Children of Abraham in Babylon * trampled down the flame of the furnace, * crying aloud with hymns: * O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

Troparia of the holy prophet

Beholding the deliverance of salvation which will come upon us, Isaiah cried aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

With the grace of prophecy and the crown of martyrdom hath Isaiah been crowned, who is my strength and my song. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

With thy God-bearing tongue thou didst lay down the bounds of piety and the laws of life, O divinely inspired prophet. O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Troparia of the holy martyr

Having run the path of martyrdom with endurance, Christopher dwelleth in the mansions of heaven, chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

With the dew of piety Christopher caused the flame of ungodliness to die out, crying out in hymns: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **B**eholding the supra-natural birthgiving and the splendor of purity of the Virgin, Isaiah cried out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

ODE VIII

Irmos: **I**n Babylon the godly Children, * burning with a fiery zeal for God * bravely trampled upon the threat of the tyrant and the fire; * and thrown into the midst of the flames * they were refreshed with dew and sang: * Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Troparia of the holy prophet

Arroyed as with a bridegroom’s robe of gladness, the glorious Isaiah doth now rejoice in gladness, delighting in divine food, and exclaiming with the angels: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

The accursed ones who were deceived by demonic words, of old cut themselves off from God, have fallen away from the pure earth, wherefore, in accordance with the prophet's words, they are rightly unable to chant: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Forsaking falsehood, multitudes of the gentiles have hastened to the divine radiance and betrothed themselves to the Church of Christ, as Isaiah foresaid of old; and with hymns they now chant: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Troparia of the holy martyr

The wave of the madness of idolatry, boldly issuing forth, hath been broken upon the steadfast and adverse opposition of the martyrs, who having accepted tribulations for Christ cry aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Beautifully arrayed now in a royal robe empurpled in thy blood, O invincible martyr Christopher, thou hast joined chorus with the angelic choirs, chanting to thy Creator: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Theotokion: **T**he Virgin Maiden, the Mother of God, holding as an infant the Word Who giveth life unto all and hath created all things, as Isaiah said of old, joyfully cried aloud: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

ODE IX

Irmos: **E**ve dwelt under the curse of sin * because of the infirmity of disobedience; * but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, * hast through the Offspring of thy pregnancy * blossomed forth blessing upon the world. * Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

Troparia of the holy prophet

Thou dost stand in splendor before the throne of the Master of hosts, O all-blessed and glorious God-pleaser, delighting in His glory and gathering together the fruits of thy piety; wherefore we all magnify thee.

Come now, O ye who desire the gifts of the prophet's light, earnestly receive ye the Book of Isaiah, which is full of divine knowledge. Let us attend unto it with steadfast desire, that we may be filled with divine radiance.

Manifestly illumined by the Spirit of radiance, O God-bearing Isaiah, pray thou that those who with faith celebrate thine honored and radiant memorial may receive salvation, that we all may magnify thee.

Troparia of the holy martyr

Receiving a radiant crown as a victor, O all-glorious Christopher, thou reignest with the Master, Who strengthened thee amid thy tortures and gave Thee His life-bearing hand, that thou mightest prevail over the author of evil.

Radiantly washed in the blood of martyrdom, thou wast illumined, O all-wondrous one; and, rejoicing now, thou hast entered with the Bridegroom into the virginal wedding-chamber. O glorious martyr, cease not to ask peace for the world.

Theotokion: O pure divine Bride and Mother of God, in thine arms thou dost bear the noetic Ember, which Isaiah beheld, united to our form, and splendidly bestowing salvation upon the world. Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Celebrating the memory * of Thy Prophet Isaiah, O Lord, * through him we entreat Thee: ** Save Thou our souls!

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Arroyed in vesture dyed with thine own blood, * thou standest before the King of hosts, O ever-memorable Christopher; * therefore, with the incorporeal ones and the martyrs * thou dost sing thrice-holy and awesome melodies. ** Wherefore, by thy supplications save thou thy flock.

Kontakion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Receiving the gift of prophecy, * O martyred Prophet Isaiah, thou herald of God, * thou didst explain to all the incarnation of the Lord, * exclaiming aloud to the ends of the earth: ** “Behold, a Virgin shall conceive in her womb!”