

OCTOBER 4, 2020
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR HIERTHEUS,
BISHOP OF ATHENS

The Hieromartyr Hierotheus, the first Bishop of Athens,

According to some, Hierotheus, like Saint Dionysius, was a member of the court of Mars Hill. Hierotheus was a companion of St. Dionysius the Areopagite (Oct 3) and received the Christian Faith from the Apostle Paul a short time after Dionysius did. Later, St Paul appointed him bishop of Athens. At the time of the Dormition of the Most-holy Theotokos, Hierotheus arrived in Jerusalem and took part in her burial. With his divine chanting he inspired heartfelt worship in many, revealing himself as a man inspired from on high. "He was wholly transported, wholly outside himself and was so deeply absorbed in communion with the sacred things he celebrated in hymnology, that to all who heard him and saw him and knew him, and yet knew him not, he seemed to be inspired of God, a divine hymnographer," as Dionysius says (On the Divine Names, 3:2). He labored much in the work of evangelism, converted many pagans to the truth and governed well his rational flock. He finally died a martyr for Christ, Who granted him a twofold crown in His Heavenly Kingdom: the crown of a hierarch and the crown of a martyr.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL (*Seven stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8, followed by **three** stikhera for the Martyr*)

Resurrection, tone 8:

We offer to You, O Christ,
our evening song and reasonable service,
for You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!
For You willed to have mercy on us//
by the Resurrection.

Rejoice, holy Zion!
Mother of the churches, the abode of God!
For you were the first to receive remission of sins//
by the Resurrection.

The Word of God the Father,
begotten before the ages,
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion unto death.
He has saved mortal man//

by His Resurrection.

We glorify You, O Lord
for You voluntarily endured the Cross for our sake.
We fall down in worship before You, almighty Savior.
Do not cast us away from Your face
but hear us and save us, Lover of mankind//
by Your Resurrection!

Glory to You, O Savior Christ,
only begotten Son of God, nailed to the Cross//
and resurrected from the tomb on the third day!

We glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ,
by which You have freed Adam's race from the tortures of hell,//
and as God have granted to the world eternal life and great mercy.

Martyr, tone 4:

Having received the grace of the Holy Spirit,
you passed through all the world, O most glorious Hierotheus,
teaching all to honor the Unity in three hypostases:
the unoriginate Father, the Source of the Godhead,
and with Him the Son Who is co-enthroned and consubstantial with the Father,//
Who was born of a Virgin as a human being endowed with flesh.

You offered your soul as a well-pleasing and divinely-sanctified gift,
and you delivered your body as a divine and sacred offering,
which also sanctifies the souls of those who believe in Almighty God,
and pours out salvation to the faithful.

For this reason we bless your memory and your burial,//
and we love your miracles and proclaim your teachings.

You beheld the twelve Apostles at the most glorious dormition of the Ever-virgin,
the most pure Theotokos, the Mother of the Lord,
and with you was Dionysius, who described the divine hierarchies.
With them we the faithful bless your all-festive and most holy commemoration,//
O glorious Hierotheus.

Glory... Martyr, tone 2:

When you were present at the Mother of God's divine dormition,
O blessed herald of God,
you gladdened the hearts of the faithful by your divine accounts.
Delighting the assembly of the Apostles who preached God,
you sang with divine ecstasy of the mysteries of God.

Therefore, as you have acquired boldness towards Christ,//
pray on behalf of our souls, O hierarch Hirotheus!

Now and Ever... the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 8:

The King of heaven,
because of His love for man,
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.
He took flesh from the pure Virgin
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,
we confess Christ our God!//
Entreat him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls!

APOSTIKHA all stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8:

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,
the Eternal Life has come for death
to raise those who are fallen;
to enlighten those in darkness.//
Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.
He accepted the human body and soul,
and freed both from suffering.
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell//
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.
Accepting burial and arising in glory,
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.
Glory to Your rising on the third day!
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//
as the only compassionate One.

THEOTOKION:

Unwedded Virgin,
you ineffably conceived God in the flesh.
O Mother of God most high,
accept the cries of your servants, O blameless one!
Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//
Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

Troparia

Resurrection, tone 8:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee.

Hieromartyr Hierotheus, tone 4:

We the faithful all praise Hierotheus, the disciple of Paul,
Hierarch of Athens,
the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith,
who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries
and poured forth streams of godly doctrine.
His life was well-pleasing to God, who is greatly merciful.

Resurrectional Theotokion, tone 1:

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”
with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^you,
the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!
Your womb became more spacious than the heavens,
for you carried your Creator.
Glory to Him Who took abode in you!
Glory to Him Who came ^forth from you!//
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

DIVINE LITURGY

TROPARIA

Resurrection tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee.

Saint John of Damascus

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, and purity!
Enlightener of the universe!
And divine inspiration to monastics
by your teachings we are all enlightened,
and by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of Damascus,
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!

Martyr Hierotheus tone 4

We the faithful all praise Hierotheus, the disciple of Paul,
Hierarch of Athens,
the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith,
who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries
and poured forth streams of godly doctrine.
His life was well-pleasing to God, who is greatly merciful.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection tone 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Martyr Hierotheus, tone 8

Hierarch of Athens, we praise you for you have instructed us in awesome and ineffable
things,
and you were revealed to be a divinely inspired writer of hymns.
Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to you:
"Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus."

Steadfast Protectress of Christians

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the creator:
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
for you always protect those who honor you.

PROKEIMENON, tone 8: Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!
vs. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Epistle: (182) 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God has said... “I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, saith the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you, and I will be a Father unto you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty...” Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God...

Alleluia in the eight tone: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

vs. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Gospel: (26) Luke 6:31-36 “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return: and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia...