

AUGUST 16, 2020
AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION
Translation of the Image “Not-made by hands”
of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople

At the time when our Lord preached the Good News and healed every illness and infirmity of men, there lived in the city of Edessa, on the shore of the Euphrates, a prince named Abgar, who was completely infected with leprosy. He heard of Christ, the Healer of every pain and disease, and sent an artist, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ in which he begged the Lord to come to Edessa and to cure him of leprosy. In the event that the Lord was unable to come, the prince ordered Ananias to portray His likeness and to bring it to him, believing that this likeness would be able to restore his health. The Lord answered that He was unable to come, for the time of His passion was approaching. Instead, He wiped His face with a towel--and the image of His face remained on the towel. The Lord gave this towel to Ananias with the admonition that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely--He would send the prince a messenger who would complete the healing of his disease later on. Receiving the towel, Prince Abgar kissed it and the leprosy completely fell from his body, but a little remained on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Abgar, preached the Gospel, and secretly healed and baptized him. The prince then destroyed the idols which stood at the gates of the city. He placed the towel with the likeness of Christ--with a wooden backing, framed in a gold frame, and adorned with pearls--above the gates. The prince also wrote beneath the icon, directly on the gateway: "O Christ God, no one will be ashamed who hopes in You." Later, one of Abgar's great grandsons restored idolatry, and the Bishop of Edessa came by night and walled up that icon over the gates. Centuries passed. During the reign of Emperor Justinian, the Persian King Chozroes attacked Edessa, and the city was in great hardship. It happened that Bishop Eulabius had a vision of the All-Holy Theotokos, who revealed to him the mystery of the sealed wall and the forgotten icon. The icon was discovered, and by its power the Persian army was defeated.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Three stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1, followed by three of the feast and three for the Image

Resurrection, tone 1:

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins, //

for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

Encircle Zion and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead! //

For He is our God, Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

Come, O people, let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead! //

For He is our God, Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

Feast, tone 2:

With what unworthy lips shall we bless the Theotokos?
She is more honored than the creation,
and more holy than the Cherubim and all the Angels.
She is the immovable Throne of the King,
the Abode in which the Most High has dwelt.
She is the salvation of the world, the Holy Place of God, //
Who richly grants unto the faithful great mercy on this her holy feast.

What songs filled with awe
did all the Apostles of the Word offer you, O Virgin,
as they stood round your deathbed and cried aloud in wonder:
“The Palace of the King withdraws;
the Ark of Holiness is raised on high.
Let the gates be opened wide,
that the Gate of God may enter into abundant joy, //
she who without ceasing asks great mercy for the world!”

What spiritual songs shall we now offer you, O most holy one?
For by your deathless Dormition you have sanctified the whole world,
and have been translated to the places above the world,
there to perceive the beauty of the Almighty,
and, as His Mother, to rejoice in it exceedingly.
You are attended by ranks of Angels and by the souls of the just, O pure Virgin. //
Join them to ask for us peace and great mercy!

Image, tone 2:

With what eyes shall we who dwell on earth
gaze upon Your image, O Christ,
upon which the hosts of Angels cannot look without fear,
for it flashes with rays of divine lightning?
Today it departs from a land of the godless
and journeys by the will of God to the royal city and the pious people,
where its arrival is greeted by all Orthodox Christians, //
who fall down before it in faith and fear.

With what hands shall we who are earthly
touch Your image, O Word?
How shall we, polluted in sin,
dare to gaze upon the face of our sinless God?
How shall we, paralyzed in corruption,
come before Him who cannot be approached?
The Cherubim veil their faces, not daring to look upon You;
the Seraphim who carry You cannot gaze upon Your glory.

All creation serves You in fear.
O merciful Christ, do not condemn us, //
who unworthily and with trembling venerate Your image in faith!

The praiseworthy day of the Master has clearly appeared to us;
for He Who is enthroned on high
now looks down upon us through His most pure image.
He Who is above the Cherubim, upon Whom no one may gaze,
is made visible through His image
to those with whom He shares His own likeness,
formed ineffably by the immaculate finger of the Father according to His likeness. //
As we worship it with faith and love we are sanctified.

GLORY...for the Image, tone 8:

Great is the depth of Your providence,
O Master, Who love mankind,
for, bestowing Your bounties upon Your creation generation after generation,
You have depicted an image of Your most pure face,
which You sent to faithful Abgar, who desired to see You,
Who are invisible in Your divinity even to the Cherubim,
so that, gazing upon the image of You,
Who for our sake became incarnate and willingly suffered,
we may be set aflame with Your love, //
which You have poured out on us for the sake of Your great mercy

NOW AND EVER... the Theotokion of the Resurrection, tone 1:

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven,
as the temple of the godhead!
She destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!
Since she is our foundation of faith,
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!
Courage! Courage! O People of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies //
since He is all powerful.

APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1:

We have been freed from sufferings by Your suffering, O Christ.
We have been delivered from corruption by Your Resurrection. //
O Lord, glory to You!

Let creation rejoice!
Let the heavens be glad!
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.
Slaying death, He has given life.//
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of mankind.

As King of heaven and earth,
You were voluntarily crucified in Your love for mankind.
Hell was angered when it met You below.
Adam rose seeing You, the Creator, under the earth.
O Wonder! How has the Life of All tasted death?
You enlightened the world which cries://
“O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!”

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Your tomb,
bearing myrrh and lamenting.
Not finding Your most pure body,
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.
They told the Apostles://
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

GLORY...for the Image, tone 6:

You became flesh just as You desired, O Lord;
You willed to accept our poverty,
and You showed Your abundant compassion,
by which You deified me who am dust.
We glorify You, O Lover of man,
as we behold Your providence through seeing an icon of Your image.
By this grant Your servants unhindered entrance into Eden, O Savior,//
overlooking all our transgressions!

NOW AND EVER... for the Dormition, tone 8:

Jesus, your Son and our God, O Theotokos,
confirming His two natures,
dies as a Man and arises as God.
And it was His good pleasure, O Mother of God,
that you also die,
lest unbelievers consider His dispensation but a fantasy.
You were translated to the heavenly realm, O celestial Bride,
taken up from the earth as a bride from her chamber where she dwells.
The air was sanctified by your passage,
just as the earth was illumined by the One Who was born of you.
The Apostles send you forth, and the Angels bear you up.
As they buried your all-pure body, singing funeral hymns for you,

they gazed in awe and spoke with fear:
“This change is from the right hand of the Most High,
for He dwelt within you, yet you have remained unchanged.
O all-hymned Mother, cease not to watch over us,
for we are your people and the sheep of your pasture;
and we call upon your name,//
asking salvation and great mercy for your sake!”

Troparia

Resurrection, tone 1:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O giver of Life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Glory...

Image, tone 2:

We venerate Your most pure image, O God One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.”

Now & ever...

Dormition, tone 1:

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity!
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos!
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,//
And by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

THE DIVINE LITURGY

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O giver of Life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Image, tone 2

We venerate Your most pure image, O God One,
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,
by coming to save the world.”

Feast, tone 1

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity!
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos!
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, //
And by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

KONTAKIA

Resurrection, tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee;
Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

Image, tone 2

Uncircumscribed Word of the Father
as we behold the victorious image of Your true incarnation,
not made by hands, but divinely wrought
in Your ineffable and divine dispensation towards us,
we honor it with veneration!

Feast, tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions,
For being the Mother of Life, //
She was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

PROKEIMENON, tone 1: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope

on Thee.

Vs. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

2nd PROK., tone 4: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord hath done marvelous things.

EPISTLE: (131) 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 Brethren, I think that God has shown us, the Apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle unto the world, both to Angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, but we are despised! To the present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel. Therefore I beseech you, to follow me. **(250) Colossians 1:12-18** Brethren, give thanks unto God the Father who has made us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. Who has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, in Whom we have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were made that are in heaven and that are on earth, both visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist... And He is the head of the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may be preeminent...

Alleluia in the first tone: God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me!

vs. He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

vs. O Lord, we shall walk in the light of Thy countenance, and exult in Thy Name for ever!

GOSPEL: (72) Matthew 17:14-23 At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. **(48-ctr) Luke 9:51-56; 10:22-24 (Image)** At that time, it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because

His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village. And the Lord said “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and in Thy name shall we rejoice all the day.
Alleluia....