

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021
PROPHET HOSEA
MONK-MARTYR ANDREW OF CRETE

On this day, we remember the following saints:

The Holy Prophet Hosea.

The son of Beerī of the tribe of Issachar, he lived and prophesied more than eight hundred years before the birth of Christ. His inspired words are found in his book, which contains fourteen chapters. He strongly rebuked Israel and Judah for their idolatry, foretold God's punishment for their sin, the destruction of Samaria and Israel for their apostasy but the showing of God's mercy on the tribe of Judah. He foresaw the end of the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, and the coming of the Lord and the rich gifts that He would bring to earth. He lived to great old age, and entered peacefully into rest.

The Holy Martyrs Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenaries.

There were three pairs of holy brothers called Cosmas and Damian. The first entered peacefully into rest on November 1st, the second were stoned to death in Rome on July 1st, and the third were Arabs - and it is of these that we are thinking today. They were doctors by trade and, when they embraced the Christian faith, they healed the sick in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, becoming known on all sides for their miraculous hearings. The wicked pagans seized them and took them before the governor, Lysias, in the town of Aegae. These holy brothers would not deny Christ at any price, so they were first thrown into the sea and then into fire, but God almighty saved them from drowning and from the flames, an angel of God appearing to them and saving them. The pagan governor ascribed this to some magical power of theirs, but they replied: 'We have no sort of magic, nor use any, but we have the power of Christ to save us and all who call upon His holy name.' They were then stoned, but the stones bounced off them, and they were finally beheaded with the sword. Ss Leontius, Anthimus and Euprepus also suffered with them and received wreaths of glory. They suffered in the time of Diocletian and Maximian, in the early fourth century. Many miracles were wrought by their holy relics, such as they had themselves also wrought while living on this earth.

Our Holy Father, the Martyr Andrew.

He was a Cretan by birth, and a Christian priest. At the time of the iconoclast persecution, he showed himself a great fighter for their veneration and went to Constantinople to denounce the wicked Emperor Copronymos for his iconoclasm. The Emperor was one day in the Church of the Holy Martyr Mamas. Andrew went into the church, stood before the Emperor and began to rebuke him openly, before all who were present: 'You would do better, O King, to look to the work of the army and the governing of the people, than to the persecuting of Christ and His servants.' For this he was harshly flogged and tortured, and dragged through the streets, where a heretic attacked him with an axe and killed him. Thus Andrew gave his holy soul into God's hands, in the year 767. His relics had healing power.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stihera of the resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by three stikhera for the Prophet, and three stikhera for the Martyr)

Prophet, tone 1:

The Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father, through your tongue spoke of the coming of Christ, which would come to pass in later times for the restoration of creation.
O Prophet, as we now behold the fulfillment of what was prophesied, //
we honor your memory!

O Lover of man, You took our nature as Your bride, although it had willfully fallen away from You. You delivered it from defilement, joining it inseparably to Yourself through an ineffable union. Your prophet was an image of this, // chastely taking a former harlot for a wife.

O divinely eloquent Prophet,
we see your words now filled with grace.
As you stand before the God of all,
pray for all who celebrate your memory with faith,//
asking forgiveness of sins, peace, and great mercy for their souls!

Martyr, tone 4:

You united yourself to the Lord from childhood, O blessed one,
running your course to the end.
Armed with the Cross, you set your hand to the plow,
following the commandments of the Lord, as it is written.
Entreat Him that those who celebrate your most honored memory
with faith//
may be delivered from corruption and tribulation.

Through faith you became a precious stone that was not broken,
but beaten and rolled upon the ground,
you made smooth the path of faith, O glorious one,
so that it is easy to climb, O Father.
You overturned the opinions and evil fame of Copronymus,//
for they were a rotten foundation.

Raised on the dogmas of the Apostles, O blessed one,
and the teachings of the divine Fathers,
you venerated the visible image of the incarnate God in sacred
symbols
and in honorable icons.
Therefore you suffered for them, O glorious one.//
You were revealed to be a teacher of piety and the adornment of
martyrs.

***GLORY...NOW AND EVER... Dogmatic of the
resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the resurrection in tone 8 (spiral
bound vespers book)***

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 8

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Prophet Hosea, tone 2

We celebrate the memory
of Your prophet Hosea, O Lord;
through him we beseech You://
“Save our souls!”

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 2

All beyond thought, all most glorious,
are your mysteries, O Theotokos.
Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,
you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True
God.//
Entreat Him to save our souls.

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