

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021
VENERABLE SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED

Saint Sava the Sanctified was born in the fifth century at Cappadocia of pious Christian parents, John and Sophia. His father was a military commander. Journeying to Alexandria on military matters, his wife went with him, but they left their five-year-old son in the care of an uncle. When the boy reached eight years of age, he entered the monastery of St Flavian located nearby. The gifted child quickly learned to read and became an expert on the Holy Scriptures. In vain did his parents urge St Sava to return to the world and enter into marriage.

When he was seventeen years old he received monastic tonsure, and attained such perfection in fasting and prayer that he was given the gift of wonderworking. After spending ten years at the monastery of St Flavian, he went to Jerusalem, and from there to the monastery of St Euthymius the Great (January 20). But St Euthymius sent St Sava to Abba Theoctistus, the head of a nearby monastery with a strict cenobitic rule. St Sava lived in obedience at this monastery until the age of thirty.

After the death of the Elder Theoctistus, his successor blessed St Sava to seclude himself in a cave. On Saturdays, however, he left his hermitage and came to the monastery, where he participated in divine services and ate with the brethren. After a certain time St Sava received permission not to leave his hermitage at all, and he struggled in the cave for five years.

St Euthymius attentively directed the life of the young monk, and seeing his spiritual maturity, he began to take him to the Rouba wilderness with him. They set out on January 14, and remained there until Palm Sunday. St Euthymius called St Sava a child-elder, and encouraged him to grow in the monastic virtues.

When St Euthymius fell asleep in the Lord (+ 473), St Sava withdrew from the Lavra and moved to a cave near the monastery of St Gerasimus of Jordan (March 4). After several years, disciples began to gather around St Sava, seeking the monastic life. As the number of monks increased, a lavra sprang up. When a pillar of fire appeared before St Sava as he was walking, he found a spacious cave in the form of a church.

St Sava founded several more monasteries. Many miracles took place through the prayers of St Sava: at the Lavra a spring of water welled up, during a time of drought there was abundant rain, and there were also healings of the sick and the demoniacs. St Sava composed the first

monastic Rule of church services, the so-called "Jerusalem Typikon", accepted by all the Palestine monasteries. The saint surrendered his soul to God in the year 532.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stikhera of the resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by three for the Saint

Saint Sabbas, tone 5:

O divinely wise Sabbas,
you stand together with the Angels and dwell with the holy monks;
you converse with the Prophets
and are co-heir of the Kingdom with the Martyrs and Apostles.
You dwell in the Light that knows no evening
and shine with His divine light and intense desire.
You stand before Him with boldness and unceasing enlightenment,
delighting in His beauties.
Entreat Christ, O holy Father,//
and implore Him to grant to the Church unity, peace and great
mercy!

O divinely wise Sabbas,
you are an unquenchable lamp of abstinence,
a radiant beacon for monastics, illumined with rays of love.
You are an unshaken tower of patient endurance,
the support and strength of those who honor you with faith,
a treasury of healings and true dweller in the desert,
which you showed to be the Paradise of God bearing the divine
fruit of salvation.

Entreat Christ, O holy Father,//
and implore Him to grant to the Church unity, peace and great
mercy!

O divinely wise Sabbas,
you are a fiery pillar of the virtues,

a beacon guiding men from the sea of life to the harbor of God.
As a pure dwelling of the Holy Spirit, you cast down the spirits of
deception.

You are an instructor of monastics,
a sure measure of abstinence,
a height of humility visible to all,
and a fountain pouring forth a depth of healing.
Entreat Christ, O venerable one,//
and implore Him to grant to the Church unity, peace and great
mercy!

GLORY... (for the Saint) tone 6:

You set your mind as master over the deadly passions,
keeping the image unharmed through the ascetic life.
Thus you rose into the perfect likeness, for bravely curbing nature,
you hastened to subject to that which is better:
and made the body servant to the spirit.
Therefore you were revealed as the chief of those living the
monastic life,
a citizen of the desert,
a master teaching those who come to you,
a perfect example of virtue.
Now the shadows have been set aside, O Sabbas,
and in heaven you behold in purity the Holy Trinity//
as you pray with boldness for those who honor you with faith and love.

NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatikon in tone 7

**APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the resurrection in tone 7 (spiral
bound vespers book)**

GLORY... (for the Saint) tone 8:

We honor you, O Sabbas our Father,
the instructor of a multitude of monks.
We have indeed learned to walk rightly in your footsteps.
You are blessed, for having labored for Christ,
you denounced the power of the Enemy.
You were a converser with the Angels and a companion of the
venerable and righteous ones.//
Together with them, entreat the Lord that He may grant mercy to

our souls!

**NOW AND EVER... the Theotokion of the Resurrection
in tone 8 (spiral bound vespers book)**

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 7

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen//
granting the world great mercy.

Saint Sabbas, tone 8:

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe.//
Our Father Sabbas, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 8:

For our sake You were born of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death.
Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of
Your hand!
Reveal Your love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the
Theotokos praying for us,//
and save the despairing people, O our Savior!

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