

JULY 31, 2022

**Forefeast of the Procession of the
Honorable and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord
Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia**

Saint Eudokimos, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived during the ninth century during the reign of Emperor Theophilus (829-842). He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family known to the emperor. They raised their son "in discipline and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6: 4), planting in his soul a sincere faith and holy virtues.

The righteous life of St. Eudokimos was devoted to pleasing God and serving his neighbor. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them. He would speak only with his own mother, whom he greatly respected. The emperor valued his virtue and talents, so he appointed St. Eudokimos as governor of Chorziane, Armenia. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, St. Eudokimos governed the people justly and with kindness. He concerned himself with the unfortunate, and with orphans and widows, and he was a defender of the common people. His personal Christian exploits which he did in secret, were known only to God.

Eudokimos pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Lying on his deathbed, St. Eudokimos gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. Then he sent everyone out of the room and entreated the Lord that no one would see his end, just as no one saw his secret efforts during life. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of St. Eudokimos miracles took place at his grave. Many sick people were healed, and the news of the miraculous healings spread.

After 18 months, the mother of St. Eudokimos came from Constantinople to venerate his relics. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, and open the grave. Everyone beheld the face of the saint, bright as if alive, altogether untouched by decay. A great fragrance came from him. They took up the coffin with the relics from the earth, and they dressed the saint in new clothes. His mother wanted to take the relics of her son to Constantinople, but the Kharsian people would not clear a path for their holy one. After a certain time the

hieromonk Joseph, having lived and served at the grave of the saint, transported the relics of St. Eudokimos to Constantinople. There they were placed in a silver reliquary in the church of the Most Holy Theotokos, built by the parents of the saint.

St. Eudokimos is considered by the Russian Church to be one of the special protectors and intercessors before God of the family hearth. He was, as his name implies, truly successful in every virtue.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stikhera of the resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound Vespers book), followed by three for the Cross and three for the saint.

Cross, tone 1:

Now, as we celebrate the prefeast,
let all human nature leap with joy,
for the Tree of the Cross, the assurance of healing,
which gives release from all sickness, suffering and affliction,//
will be set before all the faithful!

Come, O faithful, let us behold the strange wonder:
How the Tree of the Cross quenches the fire of every infirmity
and extinguishes the burning heat of the passions
in those who celebrate its prefeast with faith//
and honor the celebration!

All the living celebrate the prefeast with those who have died.
For the Tree of Life, the protector of all,
the Resurrection of the dead, which killed hell,//
now comes to give true grace and healing to all.

Saint Eudocimus, tone 8:

O blessed, divinely-wise Eudocimus,
your pure soul, shining with Orthodox understanding,
and shedding the light of the radiance of virtue,
illuminated the fullness of the faithful,
and dispelled the darkness of demons.

Therefore, we all honor you, O wondrous one,//
for you share in ever-present grace.

Possessed of a compassionate soul, a chaste mind,
a vigilant heart, unwavering faith and truly sincere love,
you passed over from earth to the heavens,
and made your abode with the choirs of the righteous.
Therefore, we all honor you with sacred hymns//
and call you blessed, O holy Eudocimus.

Strengthened by divine teachings,
you drove carnal passions away from your soul
and became a pure abode of the Holy Trinity.
Therefore, you have departed into divine delight,
since God has preserved your body incorrupt
by godly judgments known to Him alone.//
Who clearly glorifies you, O Eudocimus.

GLORY...Saint Eudocimus, tone 1:

How can we not wonder at your goodness and wisdom?
How can we fail to praise your angelic life,
your pure thoughts, meekness, humility and inner stillness,
your constant almsgiving, O venerable Eudocimus?
For you were adorned with all the virtues, O blessed one.//
Therefore, ineffable joy and the Kingdom of Heaven await you.

***NOW AND EVER...the Resurrection Dogmatikon in tone 6
(spiral bound Vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the resurrection in tone 6 (spiral
bound Vespers book)***

GLORY...NOW AND EVER... for the Cross, tone 2:

You are my mighty protection, O three-branched Cross of Christ.
Sanctify me with your power,//
that I may bow down and glorify you with faith and love!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead,//
glory to You.

St. Eudocimus, tone 4

He Who called you from earth to heaven
keeps your body unharmed after death, holy Eudocimus;
for you lived a sober and holy life
and did not defile your flesh;//
so with boldness intercede with Christ that we may be saved!

Cross, tone 1

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

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