

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022
9th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Dormition
Prophet Micah

The Prophet Micah, the sixth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Judah and was a native of the city of Moresheth, to the south of Jerusalem. His prophetic service began around the year 778 before Christ and continued for almost 50 years under the kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Righteous Hezekiah (721-691 B.C., August 28).

He was a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah. His denunciations and predictions were in regard to the separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel. He foresaw the misfortunes threatening the kingdom of Israel before its destruction, and the sufferings of Judah during the incursions under the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib.

To him belongs a prophecy about the birth of the Savior of the world: "And thou, Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, art too few in number to be reckoned with the thousands of Judah; yet out of thee shall come forth to Me, one who is to be a ruler in Israel, and His goings forth were from the beginning, even from eternity" (Mic. 5: 2). From the words of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 26: 18-19), the Jews evidently were afraid to kill the Prophet Micah. His relics were discovered in the fourth century after the Birth of Christ at Baraphsatia, through a revelation to the Bishop of Eleutheropolis, Zeuinos

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stichera of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spirital bound Vespers book), then ...

Forefeast, tone 4:

Let us sound the cymbals!

Let us shout aloud in hymns,
acclaiming in anticipation the feast of the Virgin's departure!

Let us joyfully call out at the tomb with songs,
for the Mother of God, the golden ark,
now prepares to pass over from earth to heaven,//
as she is translated to the divine brightness of new and divine life!

Today the company of Apostles
is wondrously gathered from the ends of the earth;
for the living city of Him Who is the Master of all
hastens to depart gloriously from the earth to what is higher,
and join the chorus with the King, her Son.
Sing a hymn of departure at her divine burial,//
united in mind with the heavenly hosts!

Come now and gather on the Prefeast,
company of priests, kings and rulers,
together with the ranks of virgins!
Assemble together, all people, sending up funeral songs!
For tomorrow the Queen of all, bound for the mansions of
heaven,//
will commit her soul into the hands of her Son.

Prophet Micah, tone 4:

You show most exalted divine knowledge,
proclaiming the high and lofty mountain:
the preaching of the Savior that would be revealed
at the top of the mountains,
where the nations hasten with faith and turn with fervor
to learn the ways of the Lord.//
They are saved with eternal salvation.

O Micah, wondrous among the Prophets,
with a divinely inspired tongue,
you prophesied the Prince Whose coming is indeed from everlasting:
He issues forth as the Shepherd of His people
coming forth from Bethlehem.

Now you behold thy prophecy fulfilled,//
and with divine wisdom we glorify Him about Whom you spoke.

Standing before the throne of God, O most honored Prophet,
given joy and beholding glory,
you delight in divine food, filled with spiritual gladness and joy.
Now look down upon those who celebrate your memory,//
delivering them from dangers by your unceasing prayers!

Glory ... Forefeast, tone 4:

O pure and most holy Virgin,
the multitude of angels in heaven and men on earth
extol and venerate your falling asleep,
for you are the Mother of Christ our God and Creator of all.
Never cease to intercede with Him on our behalf,
for, next to God, we have put our hope in you,//
O greatly-honored, unwedded Theotokos!

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book)

Glory ... now and ever ... Forefeast, tone 2:

She who is higher than the heavens
and more glorious than the Cherubim,
she who is held in greater honor than all creation,
she who by reason of her surpassing purity
became the vessel of the everlasting Essence,
today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son.//
With her all things are filled with joy, and she bestows great mercy
on us.

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!

Forefeast, tone 4:

Dance with joy, O peoples!
Clap your hands with gladness!
Gather today with fervor and jubilation;
sing with exultation!
The Mother of God is about to rise in glory,
ascending from earth to heaven.//
We ceaselessly praise her in song as truly Theotokos.

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