

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Repose of Ven. Sergius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Rádonezh  
and All Russia**

Sergius was a great ascetic and light of the Russian Church. He was born in 1313 A.D., in Rostov, of devout parents, Cyril and Maria. After his parents' deaths, Bartholomew--for that was his baptismal name--became a monk, and founded the Monastery of the Holy Trinity in the forests of Radonezh. As a quiet and gentle servant of God, he knew only labor and prayer. Because of the purity of his heart he was made worthy of the gift of miracle-working, even resurrecting the dead in the name of Christ. The Holy Theotokos appeared to him many times. Princes and bishops came to him for advice. He blessed Prince Dimitri Donskoy, and foretold his victory in the battle for the liberation of Russia from the Tartars. He saw into the hearts of men as well as future events. His monastery was full of monks, even during his lifetime and, century after century, has been one of the most important centers of spiritual life and God's miracles. St. Sergius entered into rest in the year 1392 A.D. Following his repose, he appeared many times to various people.

**GREAT VESPERS**

**LORD I CALL: Four stichera of the Resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...**

***St. Sergius , tone 6:***

Forsaking the tumult of the world  
and taking up your Cross, O Saint,  
you followed Christ without any thought of looking back;  
and going to dwell in the wilderness,  
you uprooted the passions of the soul  
and mortified the feelings of the flesh;  
by frequent vigils and prayers you received the grace to heal infirmi-  
ties.

O fellow-converser with the angels  
and companion of the venerable,//

pray to the Lord, venerable Sergius, that our souls may receive mercy!

Who can tell of your labors and pains, O holy Father?  
What tongue can speak of your rigorous life,  
your vigils and abstinence from food,  
your sleeping upon the cold earth,  
your purity of body and soul,  
the complete silence of your lips and mind,  
your true humility, unceasing prayers and discerning judgment,  
the poverty of your apparel,  
and your never-failing remembrance of death?//  
Our holy Father Sergius, pray for the salvation of our souls!

O holy Father Sergius,  
you were revealed to be a physician of our souls and bodies,  
a fount of healing for the sick.  
Adorned with the gift of prophecy, you spoke of future things.  
By your prayer, O saint, you armed the prince fighting for his father-  
land  
against the boastful barbarians,//  
and they fell, struck like the people of Amalek.

O holy Sergius, wise in God,  
you forsook the glory of the world,  
living in the wilderness and the hills.  
You were the pure dwelling-place of the Holy Trinity,  
by Whose strength you raised up many holy churches  
and built a fortress for the salvation of those living the ascetic life.  
Christ our God, Whom you desired from your youth,  
dwelt in you, O blessed one.//  
Entreat Him, O holy Father Sergius, to save our souls!

***St. Sergius , tone 2:***

Enduring with fortitude the things of the present,  
rejoicing in the promise for the future,  
holy Sergius, you said to all:  
“If we now strive unrewarded, we still have hope for eternal life.

Our afflictions are grievous, but Paradise is sweet.  
Our labors are painful, but our undertaking is everlasting.  
Therefore do not be slothful, O people who fast!  
Let us endure but a little that we may be crowned with incorruption//  
by Christ our God, the Savior of our souls!”

Looking upon afflictions as pleasure,  
walking along the straight and narrow way,  
most blessed Sergius, you said to your disciples:  
“Do not fear the struggle of abstinence,  
by which we may escape the fearful torments of hell!  
Let our hands be clasped in prayer, that we may reach out to God!  
Let our feet be established to stand before Him in prayer!  
Let us not spare the corruptible nature!  
Let us surrender ourselves willingly to the fight,//  
that we may be crowned with triumph by Christ our God!”

***Glory ... St. Sergius, tone 6:***

You have kept the image of God within you unharmed,  
and by fasting you set your mind above pernicious passion.  
You rose to the Master’s divine image as far as man is able,  
having restrained your nature.  
You strove to make the lower part obey the higher,  
so that the spirit would rule the flesh.  
Therefore you have been shown to be the summit of those living the  
ascetic life,  
a dweller of the wilderness,  
a trainer of those who run the good race,  
a renowned example of virtue.  
O Sergius, our father,  
now in the heavens you behold in all purity the Holy Trinity//  
while you pray on behalf of those who honor you in faith and love.

***now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound Vespers book)***

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:**

**Proverbs (from 10, 3, 8).** The memory of the righteous is with praise and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom and the mortal who has understanding. For it is better to purchase her than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she bears law and mercy upon her tongue. Hear me, O child, for I will speak noble things. Blessed is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Therefore, I pray thee, and utter my voice to the sons of men: For I, wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine, understanding and strength are mine. I love those who love me and those seeking me shall find grace. Understand craftiness, O you who are simple, and imbibe knowledge, you who are untaught. Hear me again, for I will speak noble things: I will open my mouth and from my lips shall come what is right. For my throat shall meditate truth; false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them that is twisted or perverse. They are all straight to him who understands and right to those who find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.

**Proverbs 10:31-11:12.** The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse. Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight. When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. When a

wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of the unjust perishes. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.

**Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9.** But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

**APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 6 (spiral bound Vespers book)**

**Glory ... St. Sergius, tone 8:**

We honor you, O Sergius our father,  
as the instructor of a multitude of monks.  
We have indeed learned to walk rightly in your footsteps.  
Blessed are you, 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.//  
Together with them, entreat the Lord that He grant mercy to our souls!

**now and ever ...theotkoion, tone 8**

O unwedded Virgin,  
who ineffably conceived God in the flesh,  
O Mother of God most high,  
accept the cries of your servants, O blameless One!  
Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//  
Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

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**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. Sergius, tone 4:**

A zealot of good deeds  
and a true warrior of Christ our God,  
you struggled greatly against the passions in this passing life;  
in songs and vigils and fasting you were an image and example to your  
disciples,  
thus the most Holy Spirit lived within you,  
and you were made beautiful by His working.  
Since you have great boldness before the Holy Trinity,  
remember the flock which you have wisely gathered,//  
and do not forget to visit your children as you promised, venerable  
Sergius, our father!

**Resurrectional dismissal theotokion, tone 4:**

The mystery of all eternity,  
unknown even by Angels,

through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//  
saving our souls from death.

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