

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023
32nd Sunday after Pentecost
Apostle Timothy of the Seventy
Monk-Martyr Anastasius the Persian

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of Saint Andrew (November 30) and Saint Luke (October 18). The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with Saint Paul's words to Saint Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: 4 stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

Apostle Timothy, tone 1:

Manifestly illumined
by the rays of the Spirit,
O divinely revealed Timothy,
thou wast shown to be a most rad-i-ant beacon,
passing over all the earth
and enlight'ning it with grace.
Pray thou now, that our souls be granted peace and great mercy.

O divinely wise Timothy,
thou didst drink of the torrent of sweetness
and, emulating Christ,
with godly wisdom hast given drink
to those who fervently desire the understanding of God.
To Him hast thou now joyously departed,
contemplating the supremely rad-i-ant glory of the Trinity and immeasurably powerful peace.

Placing thyself in submission to Paul,
conversing with the Spirit through writing,
thou didst become wholly rad-i-ant with light,
a generous husbandman, and an earnest favorite of the Lord,
living in chastity and piety,
O divinely wise Timothy;
wherefore thou hast been deemed worthy of crowns of victory as a lawful-
spiritual athlete.

Ven. Anastasius, tone 1:

O all-blessed Anastas-i-us,
thou boast of the martyrs,
who achieved splendid victories over falsehood,
thou bearest in thy name a standard of fame,

being borne aloft everywhere
as a steadfast victor.

And now do thou raise up from sinful falls those who honor thy mem-o-ry
with faith.

O martyr Anastas-i-us,
achieving a splendid victory over falsehood,
thou didst receive a twofold crown
for thine ascetic struggle
and thy steadfast contest,
and thine opposition, even unto death.

And Christ the Master hath given thee the ability to work miracles, as is
meet.

The ends of the world now hymn thy miracles,
O wonder-worker Anastas-i-us;
for Christ hath adorned thee,
rewarding with miracles thee who endured tortures for His sake;
and after thy death thou wast deemed worthy of immortal glory and blessed-
ness.

Glory ... Apostle Timothy, tone 8:

Chosen by God before to be the disciple of the wise Paul,
thou didst learn divine things;
and having lived in goodness
and preserved the Faith unadulterated even unto the shedding of thy blood,
thou wast shown to be a faithful hier-arch, O Apostle Timothy.
Therefore, thou didst denounce the idolaters
and, wounded by staves and stones, hast received the crown of martyrdom.
Wherefore, O all-blessed one,
pray on behalf of us who celebrate thine honored mem-o-ry with faith.

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTICHA: *All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...*

Glory ... Ven. Anastasius, tone 2:

Christ, Thou didst magnify the power of the precious Cross in Judea and in Babylon,
for because of it they came to know the feast of Thy life-creating resurrection:

And now the right laudable and glorious athlete Anastas-i-us,
a martyr of countless miracles,
hath become for them a liberator from the captivity and the madness of idol-
atry,
joining chorus with the angels and praying on behalf of our souls.

now and ever ... the theotokion of the Resurrection in tone 2 (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.

Apostle Timothy, tone 4:

Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things,
You were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest.
From the chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries;

You kept the faith, and finished a course equal to His.
Bishop martyr Timothy, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

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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