

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Translation of the Relics of Hieromartyr Ignatius the Godbearer

The Transfer of the Relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer: (See December 20). After the holy hieromartyr Ignatius was thrown to the lions in the year 107 on the orders of the emperor Trajan, Christians gathered up his bones and preserved them at Rome. Later, in the year 108, the saint's relics were collected and buried outside the gate of Daphne at Antioch. A second transfer, to the city of Antioch itself, took place in the year 438. After the capture of Antioch by the Persians, the relics of the Hieromartyr Ignatius were returned to Rome and placed into the church of the holy Hieromartyr Clement in the year 540 (in 637, according to other sources). Saint Ignatius introduced antiphonal singing into Church services. He has left us seven archpastoral epistles in which he provided instructions on faith, love and good works. He also urged his flock to preserve the unity of the faith and to beware of heretics. He encouraged people to honor and obey their bishops, "We should regard the bishop as we would the Lord Himself." (To the Ephesians 6) In his Letter to Polycarp, Saint Ignatius writes: "Listen to the bishop, if you want God to listen to you... let your baptism be your shield, your faith a helmet, your charity a spear, your patience, like full armor." (Compare Eph. 6:14-17 and the Wisdom of Solomon 5:17-20. Also *The Ladder* 4:2)

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: *Six stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book) followed by three for the Martyr*

You were the last successor of John the Theologian and you followed in his steps, O Ignatius.

You rose from the east but appeared in the west, thus you illuminated all

with the lightning flashes of godly preaching.
There you departed from the world,
and shone out to God, O most-wise Martyr, //
crowned with the splendor of grace.

O most-wise God-bearer, Ignatius,
your relics were given to your city in a holy way.
They were hallowed in splendor by your suffering,
thus illuminating us with grace by their return.
They have become the cause of our solemn feast;
they fill with gladness those inspired by God
and delight with sweet fragrance //
those who honor you with devotion.

Before, you shone from the east upon the lands of the west
more brightly than the morning star.
Now, in the return of your divine relics,
you have spread beams of light upon the earth from the evening sky.
You entreat Christ to deliver from corruption and misfortune //
those who celebrate your most honored memory with faith.

GLORY... Martyr, tone 8:

Embracing Christ as your love, O God-bearer Ignatius,
you received the reward of being a priest of Christ's Gospel,
even unto the shedding of your blood.
Thus, becoming the immortal Sower's wheat,
ground by the teeth of wild beasts,
you offered yourself as a loaf of sweet bread to Christ.//
O blessed passion-bearer, never cease to pray for us!

NOW AND EVER...the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTIKHA: *All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book)*

GLORY...for the Martyr, tone 1:

O blessed Ignatius,
your soul was strong and hard as a stone.
You cried to your beloved Christ with great longing:

“It is not a material fire burning within me,
but the voice of the living water dwelling within my heart,
continually crying: ‘Come to the Father!’”
Therefore in your desire to be with Christ,
inflamed with the Holy Spirit,
you urged the beasts to speedily take you from this world.//
Never cease to pray for the salvation of our souls!

NOW AND EVER...Resurrectional Theotokion in tone 1:

Behold, Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled,
for the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin!
God was born, and so nature was restored anew.
Do not despise the entreaties of your servants, O Mother of God!
We offer them to you in your temple.
Since you carried in your arms the compassionate One,
have compassion on your servants,//
and pray that our souls may be saved!

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!

Saint Ignatius, tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,
you became a successor to their throne.
Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine
contemplation, O inspired one of God;
by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith,
even to the shedding of your blood.//
O Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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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