

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023**  
**LEAVETAKING OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**  
**SAINT TIKHON, WONDERWORKER OF ZADONSK**  
**AND ALL RUSSIA**

St Tikhon was born in a simple peasant family in the village of Korotsk, in the providence of Novgorod, in the year 1724 A.D. He received the monastic tonsure at age thirty-four, and, because of his ascetic practice and great spiritual wisdom, he was soon elevated to higher positions of service, until he was consecrated Bishop of Voronezh. His episcopacy lasted for almost five years, but, because of frail health, he withdrew and took up residence in the Monastery of Zadonsk. He died peacefully in the year 1783 A.D. in Zadonsk, where his miracle-working relics now repose. He was a great ascetic of the Russian Church, a rare shepherd, a strong intercessor, and the author of the most beautiful spiritual works. By his wisdom, holiness and asceticism, Tikhon can be equated with the great fathers of the Orthodox Church of ancient times. Because of the many witnessed miracles that were performed over his relics, he was proclaimed a saint, first by the people, then officially by the Church in the year 1861 A.D.

**GREAT VESPERS**

***LORD I CALL: Three stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1 (spiral bound Vespers book), followed by four stikhera for the feast and three for Saint Tikhon***

***FEAST, tone 4:***

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord, the mountain became as heaven, and, like a tabernacle, the cloud spread itself out, when You were transfigured, and the Father bore witness to You. Peter was present with James and John, since they were to be with You at the time of Your betrayal, that, having seen Your wondrous works, they might not be afraid of Your sufferings://

Grant us to venerate Your sufferings in peace, through Your mercy!

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord, You took Your Disciples to a high mountain and were transfigured before them, illumining them with bright rays of Your pow'r. From love of mankind and in Your sovereign might, it was Your desire to show them the splendor of Your Resurrection. In peace count us also worthy of this splendor, O God, // in Your mercy and Your love for mankind!

The mountain that once was veiled in gloom and smoke, is now holy and revered, since Your feet, O Lord, had stood upon it. For by Your dread Transfiguration, the mystery hidden before the ages has been made manifest in the last times to Peter, James, and John. Unable to endure the shining of Your face and the brilliance of Your garments, they fell to the ground upon their faces. Seized with wonder and amazement, they saw Moses and Elijah talking with You about the things that would befall You; and a voice came in testimony from the Father saying: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!// It is He Who grants the world great mercy!"

When You were transfigured upon a high mountain, O Savior, having with You the chief Disciples, You shone forth in glorious majesty, proving that those who excel in the height of their virtues shall be made worthy of divine glory. Moses and Elijah, talking with Christ, showed that He is Lord of both the living and the dead, the God Who spoke of old through the Law and the Prophets. The voice of the Father testified to Him from the cloud of light, saying:

“Listen to Him, Who through the Cross has despoiled hell//  
and has given the dead eternal life!”

***ST. TIKHON, tone 8:***

Come, all Orthodox people,  
let us praise with divine hymns the Hierarch and  
Wonderworker Tikhon:  
the lamp shining with the divine light of Christ, who  
shone in his dark age,  
instructor of Orthodox dogmas, denouncer of false  
teachings,  
eloquent preacher of repentance,  
true teacher of the commandments of Christ who  
himself fulfilled and taught them.  
Falling down at the shrine of his holy relics, which grant  
many healings,  
let us with compunction cry out to him:  
“Enlighten us, our Father, with the light of your  
understanding of God,  
lifting us up from the sleep of sins  
by the fear of the awesome punishment and judgment  
of God.  
Make firm our footsteps on the path of Christ’s  
commandments,//  
and pray that our souls may be saved!”

O divinely-wise God-bearer Tikhon,  
elect vessel of blessings, pure abode of the Trinity,  
precious house of virtues,  
from your youth you have followed after Christ  
and have completed the course very well,  
preserving the Faith until the very end.  
Therefore you received a crown of righteousness from  
Christ God.//

Entreat Him ceaselessly that our souls may be saved!

O most noble shepherd,  
pillar and beauty of the Church,  
bright praise of Orthodoxy,  
the Holy Spirit ordained you to shepherd the flock of  
Christ.  
You tended it well, perfecting priests and instructing the  
people,  
and correcting those who had lost their way.  
You became the protection of the affronted,  
the refuge of widows and orphans,  
and you nourished the needy as well.  
Now, as you stand before the Chief Shepherd,//  
pray that our souls may be saved!

***GLORY... for the Feast, tone 6:***

Prefiguring Your Resurrection, O Christ our God,  
You took with You in Your ascent of Mount Tabor  
Your three Disciples, Peter, James and John.  
When You were transfigured, O Savior,  
Mount Tabor was covered with light.  
Your Disciples, O Word, threw themselves down upon the ground,  
unable to gaze upon the form that none may see.  
The Angels ministered in fear and trembling;  
the heavens shook and the earth quaked,//  
as they beheld on earth the Lord of Glory.

***NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatikon in tone 1*** (spiral  
bound Vespers book)

**Old Testament Readings**

**The reading from Proverbs.**

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 you, 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. (Chapters 10, 3, 8)

### ***THE READING PROVERBS***

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse. The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires. When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead. With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but

through knowledge the righteous escape. When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed. A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. ***(10:31-11:12)***

### **THE READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON**

But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones. ***(4:7-15)***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1*** (spiral bound Vespers book)

***GLORY... St. Tikhon, tone 8:***

What shall we call you, O Hierarch Tikhon:

Good shepherd, since you were prepared to lay down your own soul for your flock?

Successor to the Apostles, since by your writings you instructed all?

Praise of the ascetics and adornment of monks, since you took up vigils, labors, and monastic fasting?

Earthly angel and heavenly man, since you lived on earth in a truly peaceful way?

Son of God, for you loved peacemaking more than all else?

Pray now to Christ God to bring peace to the world//

and to establish firmly the Holy Church!

***NOW AND EVER...for the Feast, tone 6:***

Today on Mount Tabor, O Lord,  
You have shown the glory of Your divine form  
to Your chosen Disciples, Peter, James and John.  
For they looked upon Your garments that gleamed like the light  
and at Your face that shone more than the sun.  
Unable to endure the vision of Your brightness that none can bear,  
they fell to the earth, powerless to gaze at the sight,  
for they heard a voice that bore witness from above:  
“This is My beloved Son//  
Who has come into the world to save mankind!”

### **TROPARIA**

#### **Resurrection, tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;  
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O giver of Life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

#### **St. Tikhon, tone 8**

From your youth you loved Christ, O blessed one.  
You have been an example for all by word, life, love, faith, purity,  
and humility.  
Therefore, you now abide in the heavenly mansions,  
where you stand before the throne of the All-holy Trinity.//  
Holy Hierarch Tikhon, pray for the salvation of our souls!

#### **Transfiguration, tone 7**

You were transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God,  
Revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it.  
Let Your everlasting light shine upon us sinners!  
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to  
You!

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