

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023
AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION
PROPHET SAMUEL

THE HOLY PROPHET SAMUEL

Samuel was the fifteenth and last judge of Israel. He lived eleven hundred years before Christ. Samuel was born of the tribe of Levi of the parents Elkanah and Hannah in a place called Ramatha or Arimathea where the noble Joseph was born [Joseph of Arimathea]. The barren Hannah besought Samuel from God through weeping and dedicated him to God when he was three years of age. Living in Shiloh near the Ark of the Covenant, Samuel, in his twelfth year, had a true revelation from God concerning the punishments which were pending before the house of the high priest Eli because of the immorality of his sons Hophni and Phineas. That revelation soon materialized: the Philistines defeated the Israelites, slew both of Eli's sons and captured the Ark of the Covenant. When the messenger informed Eli of this tragedy, he fell dead to the ground and expired in the ninety-eighth year of his life. The same thing occurred to his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phineas. From then on and for twenty years the Israelites were the slaves of the Philistines. After this period of time, God sent Samuel to the people to preach repentance if they wished to be saved from their enemies. The people repented and rejected the foreign idols that they served and recognized Samuel as a prophet, priest and judge. Then Samuel set out with an army against the Philistines and with God's help confused and defeated them and liberated the land and the people. After that, Samuel peacefully judged his people until old age. Seeing him in old age, the people asked him to install a king for them in his place. In vain Samuel tried to turn the people away from this, saying to them that God is their only King but the people stood by their demands. Even though this demand was not pleasing to God, God commanded Samuel to anoint Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin, as their king. Saul reigned for a short time only and God rejected Saul because of his impudence and disobedience and then commanded Samuel to anoint Jesse's son David as king in Saul's place. Before his death, Samuel gathered the entire people and bid them farewell. When Samuel died all of Israel mourned for him and they buried him honorably in his house at Ramatha.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 2 (spiral bound Vespers book), followed by three stikhera for the Feast and three for the Saint

Feast, tone 6:

Today, she who gave birth to Life, the all-undefiled Theotokos, has passed over to everlasting life, granting mercy to the faithful.
All creation now leaps for joy.
The angelic assembly rejoices together,
for they accompany the Queen, singing festive hymns.
Her only Son and King of All makes her abode with Himself, //
for she reigns as sovereign of all.

Clouds bearing the spokesmen of God,
the Apostles who were gathered from all the ends of the earth,
came to Zion to behold the holy dormition of the Mother of the Lord,
and to offer her enlightening words,
and wondrously to perform her burial;
for having given birth to the Lord she is a secure refuge for all the faithful, //
and a mighty, divine and invincible protection on earth.

With splendor let us all keep festival
on the divine dormition of her who is higher than all creatures.
Let us bring to her all the glorious, bright, and divine gifts with
which she is truly adorned:
serene faith and hope and love,
chastity, purity, and truth, in which she takes delight.
May she grant us also to be fellow sharers with her, //
and to inherit the Kingdom on high.

Saint, tone 4:

O Samuel, she who gave birth to you,
received you as a worthy fruit of prayer!
As she had promised, with her maternal hands
she gave you, a rightly acceptable gift, to God her Benefactor!
Therefore the grace of the Spirit rested upon you,

causing you to grow in innocence,//
and adorning you with wisdom, O glorious one!

You were invested as a priest with sacred chrism
and revealed to be a prophet who foresaw things to come!
At the command of God, you foretold the future and anointed a
king.

You judged with justice the people of Israel
who ever sinned and withdrew themselves from their God,//
truly-wondrous Samuel, the blessed bearer of God!

Putting aside the gloom and weight of the flesh
you now behold Him Whom you desired,
not in a mirror darkly or in shadows, as before, but face to face!
You rejoice as you go about the heavens, most honored Prophet,
peer of the other Prophets of God,//
conversor with the righteous and sharer in the portion of the
Angels!

GLORY... for the Feast, tone 6:

At your deathless falling asleep,
O Theotokos, Mother of Life,
clouds caught the Apostles up into the air,
and though they were dispersed throughout the world,
they were brought into a single choir beside your most pure body.
As they reverently buried you, they cried out, singing Gabriel's
words:

“Rejoice, O full of grace!
Virgin Mother, without bridegroom, the Lord is with you!”//
With them implore Him, as your Son and our God, that our souls
may be saved!

***NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatic in tone 2 (spiral bound
Vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 2 (spiral
bound Vespers book)***

GLORY...NOW AND EVER... Feast, tone 6:

When the Translation of your immaculate body was being

prepared,
the Apostles surrounded your deathbed and looked on you with
trembling.

They gazed at your body and were seized with awe,
while Peter cried out to you with tears:

“O Virgin, I see you, who are the life of all, lying here out
stretched,

and I am struck with wonder;

for the Delight of the life to come made His dwelling in you.

But fervently implore your Son and God, O immaculate Lady,//
that your people may be kept safe from harm!”

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.

And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://

“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Prophet Samuel, tone 2

We celebrate the memory
of Your prophet Samuel, O Lord;
through him we beseech You://

“Save our souls!”

Feast, tone 1

In giving birth you preserved your virginity.

In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

You were translated to life O Mother of Life,//

and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

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