

THE 15th DAY OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLE ONESIMUS
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” these Stichera of the holy apostle, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Joy of the ranks of heaven ...”:

Celebrating with hymns today * the sacred memory of the divine apostle Onesimus, the martyr for God, * who was adopted by God through grace * for the sake of thy faith, * and begotten by the faith of Paul, ** let us praise him.

Naturally escaping the slavery of deception, * O wise one, * thou didst become a child of God * by grace, the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ, * joining the divine and all-praised disciples of Paul, ** O right profitable Onesimus.

Becoming a disciple of the Word * thanks to the divine and most praised Paul, * the preacher and apostle, O thrice-blessed Onesimus, * thou dost thrice receive from Christ a twofold crown: * adorned as a priest, as a preacher, ** and as a spiritual athlete, O all-famed one.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in the same melody:

With the staff of thine aid, O pure Theotokos, * drive away bestial passions from my wretched soul, * and guide me * peacefully unto life, * and number me among the holy flock ** of thy chosen sheep.

Stavrotheotokion: **U**pon beholding the Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, * the immaculate Virgin cried aloud, weeping: * “O my Child most sweet, * what is this new and most glorious sight? * How is it that Thou Who holdest all things in Thy hand ** hast been nailed to the Tree in the flesh?”

Troparion of the holy apostle, in Tone III:

O holy Apostle Onesimus * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy apostle, the acrostic whereof is: “Deliver me who am a slave to the passions, O blessed one”, the composition of Theophanes, in Tone VI:

ODE I

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

Illumined with the divine and radiant grace of the Savior, O blessed Onesimus, illumine my darkened soul, entreating Christ God Who is the Lover of mankind.

Enlightened by the radiant beams of Paul, O glorious and all-blessed one, thou didst easily escape the darkness of ignorance, uttering a hymn of thanksgiving unto Christ.

Thou wast shown to be a divine and sacred minister, O most blessed one, and, shining radiantly with the divine Spirit, thou didst go about everywhere, proclaiming Christ piously, O blessed of God.

Theotokion: Adorned with the beauty of the virtues, O pure Mother of God, thou didst ineffably conceive the true God Who hath illumined us with the divine virtues.

ODE III

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thou, * O Lord my God, * who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful O good One, * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

Thou didst put thy mouth to the fountain of divine waters, and, receiving a torrent of sweetness therefrom, O glorious one, thou hast washed the face of the honored Church.

Through partaking of noetic effulgence thou wast revealed to be most radiant, splendidly illumining the hearts of the faithful with lamps of piety and with the luminous beams of thy preaching.

By the bonds of Paul, thou wast released from the slavery of deception and honored with the freedom of grace; and becoming a son of God, thou wast shown to be an heir of God.

Theotokion: By deception hath the serpent held me in thrall from of old, having made me captive through deceit; but, having been released from slavery to him by thee, O Mother of God, I bless thee with hymns.

Sessional Hymn in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

Having been truly released from temporal slavery, O Onesimus, thou didst become a profitable vessel and slave of Christ God, and through the divine Word, freed those enslaved by the enemy, making them citizens of heaven. With them we glorify thy sacred memory with faith.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion in Tone IV:

By thy divine birthgiving, O pure one, * thou hast renewed the mortal nature of those born on earth, * which had become corrupt through the passions, * raising up all from death to a life of incorruption. * Wherefore, as is meet we all bless thee, ** O exceedingly glorious Virgin, as thou didst foretell.

Stavrotheotokion: Upon beholding Thee suspended upon the Cross, * O Word of God, * Thy most pure Mother exclaimed, lamenting maternally: * “What is this new and strange wonder, O my Son? * How is it that Thou, the Life of all, hast tasted death, * desiring to bring life to mortals, ** in so far as Thou art compassionate?”

ODE IV

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

Desiring to save all from the yoke of slavery, O blessed and divinely revealed one, the Lord ordained thee to perform the sacred mysteries of His honored Gospel.

Thou didst become a child of God through grace, proclaiming His only-begotten and ever-existing Word, Who hath most gloriously drawn nigh in the flesh unto those on earth.

Thou didst live as a hierarch, O all-wise one, with discourse of judgment and the divine anointing of the priesthood, and by enduring cruelties, became a martyr of God,

Theotokion: The Son Who by nature is beginningless and beyond time, hath of His own will received a beginning in time through the Virgin Maiden, intending to restore from corruption those who are subject to time.

ODE V

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recallesh us from the darkness of sin.

Soaring over the snares of the enemy with keenness of mind and purity of soul, O blessed one, thou wast borne aloft to the mansions of heaven, receiving wings of divine knowledge.

Thine apostle, O Good One, preached Thy coming in the flesh unto mankind, guiding the lost to true knowledge and illumining them with the radiance of faith.

Thou wast shown to be a most magnificent temple, O blessed Onesimus, having within thee, like a lamp-stand, the effulgence of divine grace, being formed through the activity of the divine Spirit.

Theotokion: By thy mediation and intercession, O Virgin, rent asunder the bonds of my sin; for thou art the hope of the despairing who have recourse with faith to thy divine protection.

ODE VI

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * O greatly Merciful One.

Called from heaven, O all-blessed one, and shining like the sun with the radiance of grace, thou didst emit beams imbued with goodly power dispelling from afar the darkness of ignorance. (Twice)

Thou didst splendidly denounce the corrupt and vile insolence of the iniquitous, O most honored hierarch of the Lord, truly proclaiming the divine teachings of piety.

Theotokion: Guilty of sin and grievously wounded, wretch that I am, I flee to thee, O merciful Mother of God, beseeching thee to cleanse the sores of my transgressions.

Kontakion of the holy apostle, in Tone IV:

Thou didst shine forth upon the whole world * like a beam, O blessed one, * shining with the rays of the most radiant Paul, * that sun who hath illumined the world. ** Wherefore, we honor thee, O glorious Onesimus.

ODE VII

Irmos: An Angel made the furnace bedew the holy Children. * But the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

O blessed Onesimus, through the purest hope thou didst receive a blessed end and imperishable immortality, rejoicing and chanting to Christ: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou. (Twice)

By thy steadfast wisdom, O divinely wise Onesimus, thou didst trample underfoot the machinations of deception, casting them down by the means of piety, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: As the all-immaculate Bride of God thou didst conceive the Word of God Who hath not been separated from the bosom of the Father, and Who was held in thine arms, O blessed Mother of God who knewest not wedlock.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Thou didst make flame bedew the holy children, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * Thee do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Joining chorus with the angels, O blessed Onesimus, and adorned with the crown of martyrdom thou standest in splendor before the throne of the Master, Whom we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Ministering to the apostle of God, O godly Onesimus, as a true preacher of Christ thou didst acquire the gift of performing ineffable miracles. Him do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Enriched with the grace of healings from the abundant well-spring of the Savior, thou hast bestowed it upon all. And submitting ourselves to His divine commandments, O blessed one, we supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Theotokion: **H**aving learned that the wonder of thy birthgiving is divine beyond comprehension, O all-holy, pure, and most immaculate Mother of God, we supremely exalt Thee throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: **I**t is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

Thou wast shown to be a radiant beacon, shining with the splendid rays of the spirit and illumining the ends of the world with the light of the knowledge of God, O blessed Onesimus. Wherefore, we magnify thee with the choirs of the apostles.

Adorned with a multitude of spiritual fruits, thou wast taken up, rejoicing, into the heavens, O divinely revealed one, and wast shown to be an honored apostle of Christ, a most wise hierarch, an invincible martyr, and a true preacher of things beyond understanding, O blessed of God.

Standing before the Master, ever intercede for those who hymn thee and praise thy festival, O Onesimus, who art ever illumined, ever most radiant, and ever wondrously shining forth.

Theotokion: **D**elivered by thy birthgiving from skin-clad mortality, the curse, corruption and death, the product of sin, O Mother of God who knewest not wedlock, I ever glorify thee with the armies of heaven.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy apostle, in Tone III:

O holy Apostle Onesimus * entreat the Merciful God * that He grant remission of sins ** unto our souls

Kontakion of the holy apostle, in Tone IV:

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