

THE 25th DAY OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
COMMEMORATION OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, TARASIOUS,
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy hierarch, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: “When from the Tree ...”:

Come, ye who love the divine * and who honor the spiritual, * and let us behold today the banquet * of the sweet savor of abstinence, * which Tarasious, the divine host, * hath noetically prepared for us by his immaterial virtues; * and let us all cry out without hesitation: * Pray thou, we entreat thee, ** that we obtain the forgiveness of our sins!

Truly revealing the Faith to the whole world, * O wise and eminent father, * thou didst inscribe it, * shaking off the defilement of heresy, * and establishing the comeliness of the Church, * following the teachings of the apostles of Christ. * Wherefore, with them we all cry out to thee: * O right laudable father, ** pray that our souls be saved!

Thou didst receive all of Christ, * and the blessedness of almsgiving, * which is love for the poor; * for richly pouring forth alms upon them, * thou hast received the promise of the merciful; * for mercy will cry out to be praised at the judgment. * Wherefore, thou didst depart unto life. * Pray thou, we beseech thee, ** that we obtain forgiveness of our sins.

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

The only uncontainable God, * Who became a man in His goodness, * didst thou bear in thy womb without restraint and confinement, * O most holy Bride of God. * Wherefore, I beseech thee: * Release me from the passions * which restrain and confine me, * that having traversed the straight and narrow path, ** I may attain unto that which leadeth to life, O Virgin.

Stavrotheotokion: **U**pon beholding the ripe Cluster, * Whom thou didst bear in thy womb without being tilled, * hanging upon the Tree, O pure one, * thou didst exclaim lamenting and crying aloud: * ‘I beseech Thee O my Child, * pour forth that sweetness * by which the drunkenness of the passions is taken away, * for my sake, O Benefactor, ** who didst bear Thee in Thy tender compassion!

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, * icon of meekness, and teacher of temperance; * wherefore, thou hast attained the heights through humility and riches through poverty; * O hierarch Tarasious our father, ** entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy hierarch, in Tone II:

ODE I

Irmos: Come, O ye people, * let us sing a song to Christ our God, * Who divided the sea, * and made a way for the nation * which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; * for He hath been glorified.

Deliver me from assault, captivity and bondage, and guide me to repentance, O Compassionate One, leading me quickly to Thy love.

Possessing streams of life in thy heart, O wise one, thou wast as a river of God filling the Church with thy teachings and watering its furrows, O father.

When thy precious head was anointed with the oil of the divine Spirit, O Tarasius, it flowed richly down upon thy beard, as upon the beard of Aaron, down to the hem of thy garment, like the dew of Hermon.

Theotokion: Isaiah crieth, O pure Virgin: “Behold, having seedlessly conceived the Angel of Great Counsel in thy womb, thou hast given birth to Him, O pure one, remaining a virgin even after giving birth!”

ODE III

Irmos: O Lord, who didst slay sin upon the tree, * firmly establish us in Thee, * and in the hearts of us who hymn Thee * plant the fear of Thee.

Thou wast the strengthening of all hearts through the bread of thy words, O holy hierarch; and noetically anointing our hearts with oil, thou hast gladdened them as with wine.

With the fervor of understanding and zeal of faith thou didst become eminent among the fathers, breaking the opposition of the heretics like the gates of Hades.

Lifting up thy venerable hands to God, thou didst ask for peace for thy flock. Wherefore, having ascended to thine inheritance on high, thou hast found rest.

Theotokion: Strange is the Offspring, and strange is the generation which hath been accomplished anew in the womb of the Virgin; He hath raised up from deception the nature which had been dragged down into corruption.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone III, Spec. Mel.: “Of the divine faith ...”:

Thou didst shine forth with the works of divine knowledge, illumining the Church with radiance; and slaying heresies with thy words, and emulating the hospitality of Abraham, thou didst pour forth love and caring for the poor, O father Tarasius. Entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy.

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

Thou wast the divine tabernacle of the Word, * O only most pure Virgin Mother * who surpassed the angels in purity. * By the divine waters of thy supplications * cleanse me who, more than all others, * have become dust, defiled by carnal transgressions; ** and grant me great mercy, O pure one.

Stavrotheotokion: **T**he unblemished ewe-lamb of the Word, * the incorrupt Virgin Mother, * beholding Him Who sprang forth from her without pain * suspended upon the Cross, cried out, maternally lamenting: * “Woe is me, O my Child! * How is it that Thou dost suffer willingly, * desiring to redeem mankind ** from the indignity of the passions?”

ODE IV

Irmos: **I** hymn Thee, O Lord, for I have heard report of Thee, * and I was afraid; * for Thou comest to me, seeking me who am lost. * Wherefore, I glorify Thy great condescension towards me, * O greatly Merciful One.

With the sweat of piety didst thou sow the word of God in the Church, reaping the grain of Orthodoxy, O Tarasius. In the land of the meek hast thou made thine abode, and with them rejoicest in gladness.

The fear of God of which Isaiah spake, O venerable one, didst thou receive within thee through the Spirit; giving birth thereunto for the Church. Thereby the offspring of heresy have been dashed to pieces on the rock of faith.

With the shedding of tears thou didst wash away defilement, O venerable one, and reaching the wellspring wherein the undiluted drink of everlasting sweetness gusheth forth, thou didst attain to thine ultimate desires.

Theotokion: **G**od the Word, having been conceived without seed in thy womb, O all-immaculate one, issueth forth unaltered in nature unto the human race; Him do thou ever entreat on behalf of thy servants, that our souls be saved from misfortunes.

ODE V

Irmos: **O** Lord, Bestower of light and Creator of the ages: * guide us in the light of Thy commandments, * for we know none other God than Thee.

With the power of thy words thou didst denounce the noetic diseases of the impious, and with the bonds of divine love bind thy flock, preserving it unharmed through hope and faith.

Going without food through abstinence, thou didst nourish thy soul with the bread of pure prayer, divine doctrine and exalted humility.

As a father thou didst weave the robe of the Church, O wise one, and Christ arrayed thee therein with honor for the sake of thy faith, as one shining forth in the splendor of Orthodox teaching.

Theotokion: **O** pure one, we all have thee as an intercessor, a mighty foundation of hope, support, shelter and rampart, and a bridge leading to the kingdom of heaven.

ODE VI

Irmos: **W**hirled about in the abyss of sin, * I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.

As sacrifice and victim thou didst submit thyself to God with faith, maintaining the fulfillment of His un-bloodied service.

Having now passed from earth to immaterial glory, O venerable one, by thine earnest supplication heal my soul which hath been defiled by material passions.

Thou didst cut away the thickness of the Scriptures with the profound paring-knife of thine intellect, O Tarasius, and wast the scribe's pen of the Church.

Theotokion: **T**hy birthgiving is cause for perplexity, for thou givest suck unto the Nourisher in a strange manner, and nuturest with milk the immaterial Creator Whom thou didst hold in thine arms.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone III,

Spec. Mel.: "Today the Virgin ...":

Having illumined the Church with Orthodox dogmas * and taught all to honor and bow down before the precious icon of Christ, * O blessed one, thou didst denounce the godless decree of the iconoclasts. * Wherefore, we cry out to thee: ** Rejoice, O wise father Tarasius!

ODE VII

Irmos: **W**hen the golden image was worshipped on the plain of Dura, * Thy three children spurned the impious command, * and, cast into the midst of the flame, * they were bedewed, and sang: * O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Thou hast been shown to be a cup of wisdom, full of the virtues; and having called the flock together by the preaching of thine exalted life, thou didst delight them, O divinely wise father, crying out with them: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Thou hast gone before us to the mansions of heaven and precious delights, and rejoicing with thy God thou art glad. Wherefore, honoring thee, O most blessed one, we cry aloud with boldness: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Thy loins girded about with the manliness of understanding, and arraying thyself in the life which leadeth to faith, O Tarasius, thou didst go up in haste to the banquet of the King most high, chanting: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **H**e Who was begotten without mother from the Father, cometh forth from thee without father; and, preserving thy purity inviolate, He hath shown thy birthgiving to be most pure and thy virginity to be undefiled; for in thee the law of birth-giving hath been made new.

ODE VIII

Irmos: **O**f old in the furnace of the holy children, * Thou didst prefigure Thy Mother, O Lord, * in the image of those who entered therein, * and rescued therefrom remained unconsumed. * Her who hath been revealed today do we hymn * unto the ends of the earth, * supremely exalting her throughout all ages.

Thou hast been shown to be like a morning cloud letting fall drops of rain and dew, O wise one, from the wealth of goodness thou hast amassed on earth; anointing the hearts of the hungry, as a brightly lit spiritual lamp.

Illumined with the light of thy works and the vesture of thy high priesthood, thou wast shown to be the key of chastity, the sustenance of abstinence, the teacher of true prayer, the way of repentance and the law of life.

O my soul, make time for repentance and bring forth the fruits of conversion, fearing the curse called down upon the barren fig tree, and the threat of being hewn down. Assuage Christ with the fruitfulness of the virtues.

Theotokion: Forget not the cries of thy servants, O dread intercessor, but by thy supplications rescue us from all tribulations and every threat; for thy maternal entreaty moveth God to relent.

ODE IX

Irmos: God the Word, God of God, * Who by ineffable wisdom came to create Adam anew * after his grievous fall to corruption through eating * and Who took flesh beyond all telling from the Holy Virgin for our sake, * Him we faithful with one accord magnify in song.

With the fire of abstinence thou didst put down the cunning and darts of the enemy, truly burning up the carnal wrath of the flesh with the burning coals of thy purity, O Tarasius, having been deemed worthy of the radiance thereof.

Making thine abode with the choirs of the patriarchs, with them thou chantest the angelic hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy is God the Begetter, the begotten Son, and the Spirit Who proceedeth without separation! O holy Trinity, glory to Thee!

We cry out to thee as to one who with Paul entered into the heights of heaven: O most blessed Tarasius, blessedness of God, confirmation of the Church, victory of the Orthodox, we pray thee: Grant cleansing unto us who honor thee with love.

Theotokion: The Son Who before all ages was beginningless with the Father, and Who hath ineffably become incarnate from thy pure blood, O most pure Mother, who knewest not wedlock, hath revealed Himself to us as the Sun, and, driving away the darkness, hath enlightened all things.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy hierarch, in Tone IV:

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