

THE 27th DAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR SYMEON, THE KINSMAN OF
CHRIST
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion.

And 3 for the holy hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

O Symeon, thou didst show thyself to be a most sacred priest, * a lawful athlete, * a true kinsman of the Creator, * a wondrous wonderworker, * a most radiant beacon, * a guide for the lost, * an immovable pillar of the honored Church, * an heir of the heavenly kingdom, ** and a peer of the angels.

Through bodily sufferings, * through all manner of most painful torment, * and manifold struggles * thou didst draw nigh unto the cross, * emulating Christ Who was crucified of His own will, * O most glorious hierarch. * Wherefore, rejoicing and celebrating thy holy memory, O Symeon, * we receive release from our offenses ** through thy supplications.

In a sacred manner * thou hast entered the celestial Church, * stained with blood in hallowed manner, O blessed one; * and thou standest before the Trinity, * shining richly with the effulgence emitted therefrom, * O most noetically rich hieromartyr. * Wherefore, O Symeon, celebrating today * thy radiant memorial, ** we illumine the senses of our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion in Tone IV:

Bedew my mind * with showers of the Most holy Spirit, O most pure one, * who ineffably gaveth birth unto Christ * the drop Who with His compassions washeth away * the countless iniquities of mankind; * dry up the upwelling of my passions, * and grant unto me a torrent * of ever-living nourishment, ** by thy supplications.

Stavrotheotokion: **B**eholding Thee * nailed to the Cross, O Lord, * the ewe-lamb Thy Mother marveled * and cried out: “What is this that I see, * O my Son most desired? * How hast Thou been rewarded * by the unfaithful and iniquitous assembly * which hath enjoyed Thy many miracles? ** Yet glory to Thine ineffable condescension, O Master!”

Troparion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone I:

In sacred manner do we praise thee, * O sacred hierarch Symeon, * as the kinsman of Christ * and a steadfast martyr * who destroyed deception and kept the Faith. * Wherefore, celebrating today thy most holy memory, * we receive forgiveness of sins ** through thy supplications.

AT MATINS

Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos; and that of the holy hieromartyr, with 6 Troparia, the composition of Joseph, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: I will sing unto Thee, O Lord my God, * for Thou hast led Thy people out of the bondage of Egypt, * and hast drowned in the waters * the chariots and the might of Pharaoh.

O sacred Symeon, standing, crowned, before the Master, ask thou forgiveness of sins for those who with love keep thy most sacred memory.

Provided with the Cross as a mast, O all-glorious hierarch, thou didst truly sail through the storm of deception, propelled by the waters of the Spirit.

With divine chrism did Christ, Who sprang forth from the tribe of Judah, anoint thee a priest for the people, O sacred Symeon, converser with the angels.

Theotokion: In that thou wast above all creation, O Virgin, thou didst conceive in thy womb the Creator and God of all and hast given birth to Him for the salvation of mankind.

ODE III

Irmos: The bow of the mighty hath waxed feeble * and the weak have girded themselves with strength: * therefore is my heart established * in the Lord.

Wholly deified at the behest of God, O sacred Symeon, thou didst become radiant, shining with the effulgence of martyrdom.

Thou didst shine forth like the dawn upon those in darkness, showing forth the Sun of righteousness Who shone forth upon all peoples from the cloud who is the Virgin Maiden.

Thou didst despise the pleasures of the world, O father, and didst become a magnificent adornment of hierarchs, and wast deemed worthy of heavenly glory by thy suffering.

Theotokion: The praises of the law have been wholly annulled within thee, O all-immaculate Birthgiver of God; for as is well known, God became a man through thee for our sake.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared ...":

The Church, having acquired the divinely eloquent Symeon as a great star, is enlightened, crying aloud: Rejoice, O honored leader of martyrs! (Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion in Tone IV:

Stretching forth thy most pure arms, * O Virgin and Mother * shelter those who put their trust in thee * and who call out to thy Son exclaiming: ** O Christ grant unto us all Thy great mercy.

Stavrotheotokion: Beholding thy Son lifted up upon the Tree, O most pure one, with thy maternal womb wounded with pain, thou didst piteously cry aloud: “Woe is me! How is it that Thou hast set, O my timeless Light?”

ODE IV

Irmos: For the sake of love for Thine image, * O compassionate One, * Thou didst ascend the cross * and the nations melted away. * For Thou, O Lover of mankind, * art my strength and my praise.

Performing the sacred rites, offering the un-bloody sacrifice to Him Who was sacrificed for thee, thou wast slaughtered like a lamb, and didst thereby bring thyself to Him, O divinely wise and most noetically rich apostle.

The mountains of ungodliness were reduced to dust in thy presence, O holy hierarch, and all the hills of the demons melted away when Christ strengthened thee.

O most blessed one thou who possessed a most exalted life, wast lifted up upon a tree, in accordance with thy desire, emulating the suffering of God Who hath raised up the world.

Theotokion: Foreseeing thy birthgiving, O most pure one, Habbakuk described thee beforehand as a mountain overshadowed, from whence our one God would come forth.

ODE V

Irmos: Do Thou O Lord send down upon us * Thine enlightenment, and free us * from the gloom of transgression, O Good One, * granting us Thy peace.

Of thine own will, O blessed one, didst thou commit thyself to be wholly consumed by the fire of martyrdom, and wast thereby mystically preserved as a sweet savor, O blessed Symeon.

Thou didst fervently commit thyself to suffer like an innocent lamb, emulating Christ Who suffered in the flesh for our sake and done away with the passions.

As a temple of the divine Spirit, O most wise one, by the power of thy prayers thou didst cast down the temples of the idols, guiding the lost to the Light.

Theotokion: On our behalf, O most pure Maiden, entreat Christ Who clothed Himself in material flesh through thy pure blood, restoring fallen mankind.

ODE VI

Irmos: Prefiguring Thy three-day burial * Prophet Jonah praying in the belly of the sea-monster cried aloud: * Deliver me from corruption * O Jesus Thou King of hosts.

Thou wast instructed most gloriously by the divine Effulgence Who guided thee toward the divine life, O most noetically rich apostle, and thereby thou hast been revealed to be full of ineffable understanding, O holy hierarch.

The Church of God rejoiceth, having thee, O Symeon, as another river issuing forth from Eden, filled to overflowing with the life-giving waters of the Spirit.

Thou didst sit upon thy lofty throne as a successor to James and one who shared in his ways, illumining thine episcopacy with martyrdom, O blessed one.

Theotokion: O Bride of God, heal thou the incurable sufferings of my soul, in that thou hast given birth for mankind's sake unto Christ Who hath healed our sufferings by His own passion.

Kontakion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared ...":

Today, the Church, possessing the divinely eloquent Symeon * as an exceeding great star, shineth, crying aloud: ** Rejoice, O honored crown of martyrs!

ODE VII

Irmos: Of old the Children of Abraham in Babylon * trampled down the flame of the furnace, * crying aloud with hymns: * O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

Ardently surrendering thy body to torture for Christ, thou wast not daunted, neither didst thou weaken, O wondrous one, crying aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Aflame with divine love, O most blessed one, thou wast stronger in mind than material fire, crying aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Thou wast lifted up upon a cross like the Master, O father, adorned with a comparable manner of suffering, wherefore thou chantest in gladness: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: O Virgin Maiden, Mother of God, thou wounding of the demons, goodly adornment of the angels and salvation of mankind: deliver my lowly soul from all the deceptions of the enemy.

ODE VIII

Irmos: He Who was nailed to the Cross in the flesh, * hath shown it to be a weapon for our salvation, * O ye children, exalt Christ our God throughout the ages.

Receiving all the splendor of the Comforter in thy pure heart, O Symeon, thou didst destroy the lightless darkness of the demons, illumining the faithful.

Having dried up the sea of grievous heresy with the streams of thy divine doctrines, thou hast watered every soul which produceth the grain of faith.

Thou wast shown to be a priest, O martyr, entering the temple of God with thy blood, where thou dost ever gaze upon the unblemished Lamb Who was slaughtered for thy sake.

Theotokion: That our race may hymn thee who art magnified with voices of thanksgiving, O Bride of God, protect and preserve us from all harm.

ODE IX

Irmos: Thy birthgiving was revealed to be incorrupt, * God came forth from thy womb, * and He appeared upon earth in mortal flesh * and dwelt among mankind; * Wherefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Thou wast shown to be a pillar of fire, O most blessed one, leading a new people out of the falsehood of Egypt, bringing them across to the land of divine promise, O most honored hieromartyr.

Thou didst have the dual names of Simon and Symeon, having theologized before the ungodly concerning the Word Who is of two natures, thus drawing nigh unto thy cross. Wherefore, assembling, we all call thee blessed.

Today the Church doth celebrate the memorial of thy feast, O Symeon, prayerfully honoring thee with the divine James whose cathedra thou didst receive, O sacred one.

Theotokion: With divine light illumine me, and show me to be a habitation of light, O Virgin, dispelling the darkness of my passions and the profound night of pleasures, O most pure Birthgiver of God.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone I:

In sacred manner do we praise thee, * O sacred hierarch Symeon, * as the kinsman of Christ * and a steadfast martyr * who destroyed deception and kept the Faith. * Wherefore, celebrating today thy most holy memory, * we receive forgiveness of sins ** through thy supplications.

Kontakion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

Today, the Church, possessing the divinely eloquent Symeon * as an exceeding great star, shineth, crying aloud: ** Rejoice, O honored crown of martyrs!

Prokeimenon, in Tone VIII: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * and their words unto the ends of the world.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS, § 131 (I COR. 4: 9-16)

Brethren: God hath set forth us, the apostles, last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling-place; And labor, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat, we are made as the filth of the world, and are the off scouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me, as I am of Christ.

Alleluia, in Tone I: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints.

Verse: God Who is glorified in the council of the saints.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW, §56 (13: 54-8)

At that time, Jesus came into His own country, and taught the people in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astounded, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren James, and Joses and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him, But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Communion Verse: Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.