

THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE  
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR THEODOTUS,  
BISHOP OF ANCYRA  
AT VESPERS

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

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

**W**ith joyful heart and steadfast resolve, O martyr, \* thou didst truly brave the torments, \* undaunted by the pangs of the torturers \* or a violent death; \* wherefore, having contended lawfully, \*\* thou hast been crowned with splendor, O Theodotus.

**B**y the testing of thy flesh \* thou didst wound the adversary, O blessed one, \* piercing their hearts with thy rebukes; \* and with the drops of thy blood \* which thou didst shed \*\* thou didst utterly dry up torrents of ungodliness, O most blessed one.

**B**urned steadily with torches \* and thy back lacerated with stripes, \* thou didst endure, O martyr, crying aloud: \* “Nothing shall ever separate me from the love of Christ, \* neither death, nor life, \*\* nor any other torment!”

But if Alleluia is to be chanted at Matins instead of “God is the Lord ...,” we sing first the following Stichera of the Theotokos, in the same melody:

**B**eset by hopeless falls, \* yet having thee alone as an intercessor, O pure Virgin, \* we cry out in thanksgiving: \* Cleanse us, O most holy Bride of God, \* for thou art the refuge of the world \*\* and the help of our race!

**W**ith the rod of thine intercession, O pure Birthgiver of God, \* quickly drive the bestial passions away \* from my wretched soul, \* governing my life in peace, \* that I may be reckoned among the holy flock \*\* of thy chosen sheep.

**S**inking in the deep of sins, \* yet fleeing to the calm harbor \* of thy most pure supplication, O Birthgiver of God, \* I cry unto thee: \* Save me, O most immaculate one, \*\* extending thy mighty right hand to thy servant!

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

**H**aving stumbled headlong through my corrupt character, \* I lay prostrate, O Virgin, yet I flee to thy serenity. \* Deliver me from the storm of the adversary \* and from multifarious temptations, \* that I may unceasingly hymn thy grace, \*\* O ever-virgin Mother and Theotokos.

**Stavrotheotokion:** **S**tanding at the foot of the Cross \* of thy Son and God, \* and looking upon His long-suffering, O pure Mother, \* weeping, thou didst say: “Woe is me, O my sweetest Child! \* How is it that Thou sufferest these things unjustly, O Word of God, \*\* that Thou mayest save mankind?”

**Troparion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone IV:**

**A**s thou didst share in the ways of the apostles \* and didst occupy their throne, \* thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, \* O divinely inspired one. \* Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, \* thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, \*\* O Hieromartyr Theodotus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

## AT MATINS

Canon of the holy hieromartyr, the acrostic whereof is “Thou wast truly the gift of God, O blessed one,” the composition of Joseph, 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.

The noetic Sun, showing thee to be a divinely shining star in the heights of His Church, O blessed one, illumined all the earth with the radiance of thy sufferings.

Inclined toward God from the years of thy youth, O Theodotus, thou didst manifestly illumine thy soul with divinely bestowed virtues, and hast adorned the world with thine honored sufferings.

Seeing the nets of the deceiver spread out upon the earth, the glorious martyr passed through them all, making the souls of the pious steadfast through his teachings and grace.

**Theotokion:** Bowing down the heavens in His surpassing tender compassion, the Son of God descended and became incarnate of thee, O pure one, saving mankind from the beguilement of the serpent.

### 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.

Ever gazing upon God with noetic eyes, O ever-memorable martyr, thou didst not feel the wounds inflicted upon thy body when wounded in every part.

Thou wast in nowise shaken by the onset of pangs, O martyr, nor by the allurements of the iniquitous ones, but stood immovably on the hard rock of the Faith of Christ, O glorious Theodotus.

Though he inflicted many wounds upon thy body, the persecutor was unable to weaken the resolve of thy soul, O blessed one, having been made steadfast by the divine love of the Savior.

**Theotokion:** The divinely eloquent choir of the prophets, perceiving from afar the profound mystery wrought in thee, O most pure Bride of God, with many and varied cries proclaimed thee to be the pure Mother of God.

Sessional Hymn of the hieromartyr, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior ...”:

O blessed Theodotus, thou wast truly a star of great radiance, illumining creation with gifts of miracles and sacred sufferings; wherefore, celebrating thy resplendent memorial today, we magnify Christ in gladness of heart.

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

**O** pure Virgin Theotokos who knewest not wedlock, thou sole intercessor and protection of the faithful: from tribulations, sorrows and cruel circumstances deliver all who place their trust in thee, O Maiden, and save our souls by thy divine supplications.

**Stavrotheotokion:** **U**pon seeing the Lamb and Shepherd hanging dead upon the Tree, \* the unblemished ewe-lamb, cried aloud, weeping \* and exclaiming maternally: \* “How is it that Thou dost willingly endure abasement and sufferings \* which surpass all telling, \*\* O my Son, and supremely good God?”

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.**

**W**ith the wisdom of thy words and the grace of thy deeds thou didst manifestly put to shame the prince of darkness, O Theodotus, and gain victory over him, having struggled gloriously.

**W**ith the fire of thy sufferings thou didst manifestly consume the delusion of polytheism, O martyr, and having mystically lighted thyself with the Holy Spirit like a lamp, thou hast enlightened the whole world.

**T**hy sides mightily lacerated and truly covered all over with cruel wounds, thou wast revealed to be unshaken in mind because of thy faith, O glorious and ever-memorable one.

**Theotokion:** **P**reserving thee incorrupt after giving birth as thou wast before birthgiving, O Virgin, the Creator made His abode within thy womb, restoring those who had become corrupt through many sins.

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 recalleth us from the darkness of sin.**

**P**rotected by a divine force, O wise martyr, thou didst manifestly endure the onslaughts of the iniquitous ones through thy patience, suffering the affliction of tortures and burning.

**P**reaching the word of piety, O divinely wise martyr, thou didst journey far on paths of travel, and didst turn to the Light those led astray by the darkness of vanity.

**L**ike a lamb thou wast suspended upon a tree, O martyr, and endured maiming with iron blades as though thou wast without a body, stripping away the coarseness of mortality, O blessed one.

**Theotokion:** **O** pure Virgin, of thy pure blood thou truly hast given birth to the incarnate Word of the Father in two perfect natures but a single Hypostasis, O divinely joyous one.

### ODE VI

**Irmos:** **B**ehold 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.

**W**ith thy sacred discourses thou didst prepare the pure women for the contest, O martyr, and bringing down the enemy with manly exertions, they have woven crowns of incorruption.

**P**rotecting thy soul with the might of the Spirit, by thine endurance of wounds thou didst cast down the spirits of evil, O right wondrous one, receiving from God a crown of victory.

**W**ith the drops of thy blood, O martyr of Christ, thou didst quench the flame of the idols; and with the dew of thy pangs thou didst moisten the souls of the pious, delivering them from the flame of deception.

**Theotokion:** **H**e Who is God of every and all created things, noetic and visible, truly made His abode within thy womb, and assumed flesh, edifying all mankind, O Ever-virgin.

### ODE VII

**Irmos:** **A**n 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.

**W**ith the fire of thy pangs, O divinely blessed one, thou didst quench the burning of the idols; and in the torrents of thy blood, drown the incorporeal foe, O Theodotus, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**T**hou didst offer thyself to the Judge of thy contest like incense of a sweet savor, O wise one, annulling fetid deception by divine grace; wherefore, thou dost chant with joy: O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou!

**P**reserving thy words, the holy Fortus gave thee over to the God-bearing Fortunus for the construction of an honorable temple for the cleansing of all the pious and the preservation of men's souls, O martyr Theodotus.

**Theotokion:** **O** Virgin Mother, thou hast given birth unto Him Who beareth a single hypostasis, yet manifestly hath two wills and essential characteristics; for He Who became incarnate for our sake is both God and man.

### ODE VIII

**Irmos:** **T**hou 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.

**A**n unshakable tower, an unbreakable rampart, an invincible bulwark, a foundation of the Faith, a divine gift, a champion of piety, and a destroyer of deception wast thou shown to be, O passion-bearer.

**S**teered by divine grace, O most wise one, thou didst traverse the great deep of torments and, rejoicing, attain unto the calm harbors of the heavenly kingdom, O glorious one.

**D**irecting thy steps and feet to Christ, the God and Lord of all, thou didst give thy spirit into His hands, O thrice-blessed martyr and passion-bearer Theodotus.

**Theotokion:** **T**he language of the rhetors cannot describe the unfathomable depth of thy mystery, for, in a manner past all telling, thou hast given birth to the Word of God for the salvation of all, O most pure Virgin.

### 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.

**T**hat thou mightest receive heavenly glory, O passion-bearer, rejoicing, thou didst spurn visible glory; and committing thyself to tortures with divine resolve, thou wast undaunted by the prospect of tortures and bitter death; wherefore, having struggled, thou hast been crowned with the martyrs.

**T**hou didst show thyself to be the pure temple of the Trinity, erected by godly deeds and adorned with the brilliance of splendid sufferings, O most noetically rich Theodotus; wherefore, with the divine power of the Comforter thou didst manifestly demolish the demonic temples of the graven images.

**T**hou wast revealed to be a mountain exuding divine sweetness, a wellspring of miracles, an abyss of divine gifts, and a radiant stream of the Holy Spirit giving drink to men's souls, drowning the passions, and winning joy for all who hymn thee with piety, O glorious martyr.

**Theotokion:** **A**t the cry of the angel thou didst conceive the Word Who is without beginning, Who took noetic and animate flesh of thy pure blood, O all-pure Virgin, and cast down the incorporeal foe, saving all who confess thee to be the true Theotokos.

### AT LITURGY

#### Troparion of the holy hieromartyr, in Tone IV:

**A**s thou didst share in the ways of the apostles \* and didst occupy their throne, \* thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, \* O divinely inspired one. \* Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, \* thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood, \*\* O Hieromartyr Theodotus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.