

**THE 2nd DAY OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY PROPHET HABBAKUK
AT VESPERS**

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy prophet, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

The wondrous Habbakuk, * having received the effulgence of the Spirit, * became wholly divine; * and, seeing the dishonesty of the judges * and their unjust judgment, * he was displeased, * exhibiting the rightness of the justice of Christ the Master * with divine love and fervent thought, ** and he burned as one justly angered.

Standing on divine watch, * the honored Habbakuk * heard the ineffable mystery * of Thy coming unto us, O Christ, * and he most openly prophesied * the proclamation of Thee, * foreseeing the most wise apostles as steeds * roiling the sea ** of the many nations of the gentiles.

Rejoicing in the Lord God thy Savior, * O divinely eloquent and glorious one, * and filled with gladness, * receiving the effulgence of heavenly radiance, * and noetically illumined * with deifying light, * by thy supplications deliver from perils and misfortunes * those who with faith celebrate ** thy most festive memory.

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

With the showers of the Holy Spirit * bedew thou my mind, O most pure one, * who hast given birth to Christ, * the infinite Drop of rain * Who with His compassions doth wash away * the iniquities of mortals. * Dry up the well-spring of my passions, * and grant unto me a torrent of sweetness ** by thine ever-vivifying prayer.

I have been cast down beneath the ground, * slain by my sins * and my passions, spiritual and bodily; * wherefore, I am covered by the darkness of despair. * But raise me up now * to life incorruptible, * guiding me to the homeland on high, * where the voice of those who keep festival is heard, ** and where the light of Thy countenance shines, O Christ.

O pure one, who held within thy womb the uncontainable God * Who, in His love for mankind, became a man * and received from thee our nature, * manifestly deifying it: * Disdain me not, * who now am afflicted! * But quickly take pity on me, * and free me from all the malice ** and harm of the evil one.

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

Tens of thousands of times have I promised * to repent of mine offenses, O most pure one, * yet the cherished habits of mine evil ways * will not depart from me; * wherefore, I cry unto thee * and fall down, praying: * O Lady, rescue me from such tyranny, * guiding me to things that are higher, ** which are nigh unto salvation.

Stavrotheotokion, in the same melody:

Upon beholding Thee, the Lamb and Shepherd, upon the Tree, * the ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee * lamented and maternally cried aloud to Thee: * “O my Son most desired, * How is it that Thou art suspended upon the Tree of the Cross, * O Long-suffering One? * How have Thy hands and feet * been pierced with nails by the iniquitous, O Word! ** And how hast Thou shed Thy blood, O Master?

Troparion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Celebrating the memory of Thy Prophet Habbakuk, O Lord, * through him we entreat Thee: ** Save Thou our souls!

AT MATINS

Both canons from the Oktoechos, and one of the holy prophet.

ODE I

Canon of the holy prophet, the acrostic whereof is: “I hymn thee, O blessed Prophet Habbakuk,” the composition of Theophanes, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I hymn 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.

Make me wise, O Lord my God, that I may hymn Thy divine Prophet Habbakuk, and illumine my heart with Thy grace O Good One.

“How long, O Lord, will I cry unto Thee, and Thou wilt not hearken?” said the prophet “Wherefore hast Thou shown me the injustice of the judges?”

By thine entreaties, O prophet, deliver from misfortunes and cruel circumstances, those who piously celebrate thine honored memory.

Theotokion: **W**hen the fullness of time drew nigh, our holy God appeared from thee, O Theotokos, becoming a man, that He might save 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.

Raised on high by elevating thy gaze unto God, and illumined by the effulgence emanating from Him, thou didst foresee the form of things to come, O thou divinely revealed one.

Possessing every virtue, and hating all wickedness of mind, O all-blessed one; thou didst justly revile the iniquitous.

As one pure, O right wondrous one, and entrusted with speech by the Holy Spirit, thou didst clearly prophesy the fulfillment of things to come.

Theotokion: **O** all-pure one, thou hast been revealed to be the mountain overshadowed by the virtues, from whence the Master hath issued forth as a servant, to free mankind from slavery.

Sessional Hymn; in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Having been lifted up ...”:

Thou didst stand on divine watch, O blessed and divinely inspired Habbakuk, and with the eyes of prophecy perceived the coming of God; wherefore, thou didst cry out with fear: O Lord, I have heard of Thy dread coming, and I hymn Thee, Who hast willed to bear the flesh of clay which Thou didst receive from the Virgin!

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

O Theotokos, fleeing to thy divine protection after God, * I humbly fall down and beseech thee: * Have mercy, O most pure one, * for my sins have submerged my being, * and trembling O Lady, I fear the torments to come, * O pure one, entreat thy Son, ** that I may be delivered from them.

Stavrotheotokion: **S**he who in latter times gave birth to Thee in the flesh, * O Christ Who wast begotten of the beginningless Father, * when she saw Thee hanging upon the Cross, cried out: * “Woe is me, O Jesus most beloved! * How is it that Thou Who art worshipped as God by the angels, * art now crucified by iniquitous men? ** I hymn Thee, O Long-suffering One!”

ODE IV

Irmos: **P**roclaiming the advent of Thine appearance on earth, O Christ God, * the prophet cried aloud with gladness: * **Glory to Thy power, O Lord!**

Thou wast shown to be radiant in virtue O divinely inspired one, and announced the never-waning Light. To Him do we now cry out with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

The most radiant grace of the Spirit, dwelling abundantly within thee, O all-wise one, made thee a prophet announcing the Savior unto all.

Instructed by hearing of the Almighty, O wondrous one, thou wast seized with reverent fear, and, understanding His words, thou wast filled with awe.

Theotokion: **T**he Word Who is equally everlasting with the Father described thee O Virgin, as the ark of witness, truly containing the Bread of life.

ODE V

Irmos: **O** Thou Who hast caused the light to shine, * who hast made bright the dawn and revealed the day; * glory be to Thee, glory be to Thee, * **O Jesus Thou Son of God.**

The honored Church doth now see the Sun lifted up upon the Tree, as Thou didst foretell, O most sacred Habbakuk.

Giving wings to thy mind, thou didst stand watch, O most noetically rich prophet, perceiving the advent of the Lord.

“I rejoice aloud in God my Savior and am glad!” didst thou cry aloud, O wise and all-blessed Habbakuk.

Theotokion: **W**eighed down by the fetters of my many transgressions, I flee to thee, O Lady Theotokos. Save me, thou boast of the faithful!

ODE VI

Irmos: **P**refiguring Thy three-day burial * **P**rophet Jonah praying in the belly of the sea-monster cried aloud: * **D**eliver me from corruption * **O** Jesus Thou King of hosts.

God incarnate hath come from the south as thou didst foretell, O thrice blessed Habbakuk, and, radiantly enlightened by Him, thou hast illumined the world with light.

O God, by the supplications of the honored and divinely wise Habbakuk illumine the souls of those who hymn Thee, for by divine inspiration Thou didst enlighten his mind.

Thine announcement and the power of thy divine words passed over all the ends of the earth, O divinely eloquent one, prophesying to us the divine advent of the Word.

Theotokion: O Virgin, thou hast given birth to the Son, Who is consubstantial with the Father, is clearly understood to be with Him Who begat Him outside time, and Who in the latter times assumed flesh.

Kontakion of the holy prophet, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “To thee, the champion leader ...”:

Having announced to the world God's coming forth from the south, from the Virgin, * standing on divine watch O divinely eloquent Habbakuk, * thou didst receive report from the radiant angel: * and proclaimed the resurrection of Christ to the world. * Wherefore, in gladness we cry out to thee: ** Rejoice, O splendid adornment of the prophets!

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.

Taught understanding which transcendeth all telling, and prophesying concerning the abundantly radiant lamp, O blessed one, thou dost now cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Christ, Whom thou didst glorify, hath given thee thrice-radiant effulgence and a share in never-waning glory, for thou didst cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: Among all generations thou hast been revealed to be the blessed Virgin Mother who, in a manner past understanding, hast given birth to the incarnate Word; wherefore, we hymn thee, O pure one.

ODE VIII

Irmos: O all ye works of God and all creation, * bless ye the Lord, * ye venerable and humble of spirit * chant ye and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages

Illumined with the light of the threefold Sun, O most excellent one, thou wast deemed worthy of divine and supra-natural visions, crying aloud: Supremely exalt God throughout all ages!

Drinking from the torrent of sweetness, full of immaterial vision, partaking of the glory and eminence of the prophets, rejoicing, thou dost hymn God throughout the ages.

O divine and honored is the comeliness of the Prophet Habbakuk! For, joining chorus with the angelic hosts, rejoicing he hymneth Christ throughout the ages.

Theotokion: **T**hou wast truly shown to be the Mother of Him Who shone forth from the Father before all ages; for thou alone wast more holy than all others. Thee, the pure one, do we supremely exalt throughout the ages!

ODE IX

Irmos: **T**hy 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.

Thy memory shineth forth, O prophet, emitting the radiant effulgence of thy divine eloquence, thy mystic teachings and prophecies, for those who honor thee, O most blessed Habbakuk.

Having preached the Lord of glory and clearly foretold His advent from the holy Virgin, O divinely blessed Habbakuk, thou wast filled with gladness, seeing it come to pass.

All the prophets rejoice in gladness on this thy joyous day, O divinely wise one, sharing in thy joy and divine glory. And, praying with them, save those who hymn thee.

Theotokion: **W**ith the sprinkling of thy compassions, O pure maiden, wash away the defilement of my soul, and unceasingly cause torrents of tears to pour forth in me, staunching the torrents of my passions.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy prophet, in Tone II:

Celebrating the memory of Thy Prophet Habbakuk, O Lord, * through him we entreat Thee: ** Save Thou our souls!

Kontakion of the holy prophet, in Tone VIII:

Having announced to the world God's coming forth from the south, from the Virgin, * standing on divine watch O divinely eloquent Habbakuk, * thou didst receive report from the radiant angel, and proclaimed the resurrection of Christ to the world. * Wherefore, in gladness we cry out to thee: ** Rejoice, O splendid adornment of the prophets!