

24, SEPTEMBER, 2017.

16-th. SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

TONE-7.

AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS. SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF HOLY CROSS.
SAINT THEODORA OF ALEXANDRIA.

24. ВЕРЕСЕНЬ. 2017.

16-та. НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ П'ЯТИДЕСЯТНИЦІ.

ГОЛОС 7-ий.

ПІСЛЯСВЯТО РІЗДВО ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ. НЕДІЛЯ ПЕРЕД ВОЗДВИЖЕННЯ ХРЕСТА.

ПРЕПОДОБНОЇ МАТЕРІ НАШОЇ ФЕОДОРИ ОЛЕКСАНДРІЙСЬКОЇ



The Lord likened the Kingdom of Heaven to ten virgins, which is most evidently true of the ten holy women renowned in the Church for having led the ascetic life disguised in monasteries of men. Saint Theodora, who lived in Alexandria in the reign of the Emperor Zeno (474-91), is one of these women. She was married to a devout and respectable man called Paphnutius, but one day, led on by the devil, she committed adultery. No sooner had she sinned than she was so afflicted in conscience that she dared not return home, but felt a burning desire to do penance without delay. So, dressing as a man and calling herself Theodore, she asked to be admitted as a novice in a neighbouring monastery. The Abbot, supposing her to be a eunuch, and seeing how eager she was to set out on the path of repentance, straightway accepted her and clothed her in the angelic Habit.

For the space of two years, Saint Theodora showed an ardent zeal in the performance of every ascetic labour, doing the most menial tasks, and spending the nights in tears and fervent prayers to the Lord to forgive her sin, and to restore in her the grace of chastity. Her manner of life edified the brethren but greatly angered the devil who saw his prey escaping him. But this wolfish enemy of the good would not acknowledge himself defeated and he made use of some jealous monks to put it about that the youthful Theodore had committed fornication with a woman of a nearby village. They even brought his reputed child to the gate of the monastery. Theodore was silent before her accusers. She did not want to reveal her true identity and took what happened as a chastisement willed by God. She was expelled from the monastery for seven years, and took the child with her as if it were her own. She settled in a little hut not far off, in extreme poverty, until, at the completion of her years of exclusion, she was allowed to rejoin the brethren.

She brought the child with her, teaching him how to acquire the holy evangelic virtues and unceasing prayer, so that he truly became her son according to the Spirit. When she had given him a final word of admonishment, she fell asleep in peace. At that moment the Abbot saw in a vision a woman clothed in shining raiment taken up into the air to join the choir of the Righteous and of the Saints. Then they all wept as they realized how far they had been mistaken in her and glorified God who had wrought so great a wonder.

Source: The Synaxarion: The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church. Volume One, Introduction, September, October. Holy Convent of The

TROPAR OF SUNDAY IN TONE-7. You destroyed death by Your Cross. You opened paradise to the thief. You changed the Myrrh-Bearers weeping and commanded Your apostles to proclaim that You are risen, O Christ God, granting the world great mercy.

TROPAR OF NATIVITY IN TONE - 4. Your nativity, O Theotokos, has brought joy to the whole universe. The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone forth from You, annulling the curse, and giving a blessing. He has abolished death and granted us eternal Life.

TROPAR OF THE TEMPLE (ST. ELIA) IN TONE - 4. An angel incarnate, the foundation of prophets and second forerunner of the coming of Christ, glorious Elias sent grace from on high to Elisha to cast out sickness and cleanse lepers. Therefore he pours forth healing for all who honour him.

TROPAR OF SAINT THEODORA IN TONE - 8. In you, O mother, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved; for, accepting your cross, you did follow after Christ; and, praying, you did learn to disdain the flesh, for you did transcend it, and to take care of your soul, for it is immortal. Wherefore, your soul does rejoice with angels, O venerable Theodora.

KONDAK OF SUNDAY IN TONE-7. The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended shattering and destroying its power. Hades is bound while the prophets rejoice in harmony. The Saviour has come to those who believe, saying; come forth you faithful, unto the resurrection.

Annunciation of Our Lady, Ormylia (Chalkidike), 1998.

ТРОПАР НЕДІЛЬНИЙ НА ГОЛОС 7-ий.
Зруйнував єси хрестом Твоїм смерть, відкрив
Ти розбійнику рай, мирносицям плач
змінив, і апостолам проповідувати повелів
єси, що воскрес, Христе Боже, даючи світові
велику милість.

ТРОПАР РІЗДВО НА ГОЛОС 4-ий. Різдво
Твоє, Богородице Діво, радість звістило всій
вселенній, з Тебе бо засяло Сонце Правди,
Христос Бог наш, і знявши прокляття, Він дав
благословення і, знищивши смерть, дарував
нам життя вічне

ТРОПАР ХРАМУ (СВ. ІЛЛІ) НА ГОЛОС 4-ий.
У тілі ангел, пророків основа, другий
предтеча пришествия Христового - Ілля
славний, з висоти послав Єлісеєві благодать
недуги відганяти і прокажених очищати. Тому
і всім, що почитають його, зливає зцілення.

ТРОПАР СВЯТОЇ ФЕОДОРИ НА ГОЛОС 8-ий.
На тобі, мати, бачимо здійсненим спасіння
образ, тому що ти, узявши хрест, пішла за
Христом і життям своїм учила не шкодувати
тіло, тому що його нестане, а піклуватися про
душу, тому що вона безсмертна, і тепер
разом із ангелами радіє, преподобна
Феодоро, дух твій.

КОНДАК НЕДІЛЬНИЙ НА ГОЛОС 7-ий.
Влада смерті не може вже тримати людей, бо
зійшов Христос, сокрушаючи і знищуючи сили
її. Ад вже переможений. Пророки
одностайно радуються. Явився Спас сущим у
вірі, промовляючи, Виходьте, вірні, до
воскресіння.

KONDAK OF TEMPLE (ST. ELIA) IN TONE - 2.

O greatly renowned Prophet Elias, who foresaw the great deeds of our God; you stopped the rains of heaven by your command. Intercede for us with the only Lover of mankind.

GLORY to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

KONDAK IN TONE - 2. Laying waste to your body through fasting, you did entreat the Creator with vigils of prayer because of your sin, that receiving full forgiveness, you may also receive remission, having come to know the path of repentance.

NOW AND FOREVER and to the ages of ages, Amen.

KONDAK IN TONE - 2. Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, Adam and Eve from the corruption of death, by your holy nativity, O Immaculate One. Your people, redeemed from the guilt of sin, celebrate by crying out to You: The barren woman gives birth to the Mother of God, the Nourisher of our Life.

READER : “ **ПРОКИМЕН** IN TONE-6. O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.”

CHOIR : “ O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.”

READER : “ O Lord, to You will I call. O my God, be not silent unto me.”

CHOIR : “ O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.”

READER : “ **АНОТHER ПРОКИМЕН** IN TONE-4. God is wonderful in His Saints, the God of Israel.”

CHOIR : “ God is wonderful in His Saints, the God of Israel.”

КОНДАК ХРАМУ (СВ. ІЛЛІ) НА ГОЛОС 2-ий.

Пророче і провидче великих діл Бога нашого, Ілля великоіменитий, вистуванням твоїм ти зупиняв і водоточні хмари. Моли за нас Єдиного Чоловіколюбця.

СЛАВА Отцю і Сину і Святому Духові.

КОНДАК НА ГОЛОС 2-ий. Тіло своє постами вгамувавши, невпинними молитвами Творця ублагала, щоб дарував Він тобі повне за гріх твій, і, відчувши, що від гріха звільнена, шляхом покаяння ти пішла. **І НИНІ** і повсякчас і на віки вічні, Амінь.

КОНДАК НА ГОЛОС 2-ий. Яким і Анна з неслави бездітності, та Адам і Єва від тління смерті визволилися, Пречиста, у святім різдві Твоїм. Його святкують люди Твої, з провини гріховної визволившись, коли взивають до Тебе, Неплідна народжує Богородицю і кормительку життя нашого.

ЧИТ. : “ **ПРОКИМЕН** НА ГОЛОС 6-ий. Спаси, Господи, людей Твоїх і благослови насліддя Твоє.” **ХОР.** : “ Спаси, Господи, людей Твоїх і благослови насліддя Твоє.”

ЧИТ. : “ **СТИХ:** До Тебе, Господи, взиваю, Боже мій, не мовчи передо мною.” **ХОР.** : “ Спаси, Господи, людей Твоїх і благослови насліддя Твоє.”

ЧИТ. : “ **ПРОКИМЕН** НА ГОЛОС 4-ий. Дивний Бог у святих Своїх, Бог Ізраїлів.” **ХОР.** : “ Дивний Бог у святих Своїх, Бог Ізраїлів.”

THE EPISTLE: Galatians 6 : 11 - 18.

¹¹ See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! ¹² As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁸ Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

11 Corinthians. 6 : 1 - 10.

⁶ We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. ⁴ But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, ⁵ in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, ⁸ by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; ⁹ as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

READER : “ ALLELUIA IN TONE-1. I have raised
up one chosen out of My people. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ АЛИЛУЯ НА ГОЛОС 1-ий. Підніс Я
вибраного з народу Мого. Аلیلія.”

ХОР. : “ Аلیلія, Аلیلія, Аلیلія

READER : “ For My Hand shall defend him and
My Arm will strengthen him. Alleluia.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ Рука Моя помагатиме його і
рам'я Моє укріпить його. Аلیلія

ХОР. : “ Аلیلія, Аلیلія, Аلیلія

READER : “ ALLELUIA IN TONE-1. With patience have I waited patiently for the Lord; and He was attentive to me and listened to my supplication.”

CHOIR : “ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

ЧИТ. ; “ АЛИЛУЯ НА ГОЛОС 1-ий. Терплячи, потерпів перед Господом, і зважив на мене, і ислухав молитву мою. Алилүя.”

ХОР. : “ Алилүя, Алилүя, Алилүя.”

GOSPEL: John 3 : 13 - 17.

¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Matthew 25 : 14 - 30.

¹⁴ “For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’

²³ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’

²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY WORTHY..." Magnify,
O my soul, the most glorious nativity of the
Mother of God.

IRMOS, IN TONE – 8. Virginitiy is alien to
motherhood and childbearing is strange to
virgins. Yet, in You, O Theotokos, both are
found. Therefore with all the nations of the
earth we unceasingly magnify You.

ЗАДОСТОЙНИК : Величай, душе моя,
преславне народження Божої Матері.
ІРМОС, ГОЛ. 8 – ий. Чуже матерям дівство
і дивне дівам дітородження, на Тобі,
Богородице, обоє звершилися. Тим то ми, всі
народи землі, безустанно Тебе величаємо.

COMMUNION VERSE: " Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia." " The
righteous man shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia."

ПРИЧАСНИЙ. " Хвалить Господа з небес, хвалить його в небі. Аلیلія." " В пам'ять вічну буде
праведник, лихої слави він не убоїться. Аلیلія."

Basic Orthodoxy: Key Words of the Faith (Light & Life Publishing Co.)

Anthony M. Coniaris

Unworthy Servants

Jesus points this out forcefully to us in Luke 17:10 where He says that no matter how much good we do, we are unworthy servants:

"So you also, when you have done all that is commanded of you, say, 'We are unworthy servants: we have done only what is our duty.'"

Thus, when we have done all that Christ asks of us, we have done nothing to be proud of. The wonder of it all is that God condescends to take us into partnership with Himself. (John 13:13-16)

Christ in the Liturgical Year

So much of Christ did the Church place in the liturgical year that we could say that the liturgical year is Christ Himself, coming to us constantly to offer the great gift of His kingdom by grace through faith. [Our Church year began September 14] Through the liturgical year the Church tires to overcome our tendency to forget, truly transforming *chronos*, calendar time, into *kairos*, the time of our salvation. Thus, the liturgical year becomes the sanctification of time so that in the words of St. Paul, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Every day, every week, every month, every year.

Take My Yoke Upon You

Jesus says, "Come unto Me, take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me..." so that He may walk beside us under the same yoke to help us carry the heavy burden of life.