

October 19

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Joel; and of the Holy Martyr Varus

(5th Class)

VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera for Joel (Tone 8)

6. Just as announced by the prophet Joel, under the inspiration of the Spirit, that same Spirit of God has been poured forth over us, the faithful, to reveal the manifestation of the divine mysteries: behold, those who have received the Power from on high now prophesy, enlightened by the splendor and grace of God.
5. Filled with the divine word, in the elevation of his spirit, transported by virtue to the heights of God, the wondrous Joel, that spring flowing from the house of the Lord, refreshes our souls and distills the sweetness which restores peace to our hearts.
4. By your prophetic power, O Joel, and the intimacy of your spirit with God, through which you contemplate what is seen in Heaven, make the Lord favorable to us who celebrate your memory with faith. Obtain for us the remission of our sins, a share in divine joy and great mercy.

For Varus (Tone 6)

3. Having beheld the exploits of the victorious martyrs, O Varus, you were filled with courage and hastened without fear of death nor of the punishments awaiting

you, to the arena to confess Christ who was made man for us. Cruelly torn by blows, you exult in the perfection of your spirit at the sight of the glory awaiting those who love God with their whole heart.

2. You beheld the destruction of your own flesh and blood, O courageous martyr Varus, and you endured it as though it were someone else who was suffering. Fastened to the tree, you patiently withstood being torn apart by the impious. You commended your spirit into the hands of God, amazing those who saw you by your unyielding fidelity. Thus we venerate you for your sublime deeds, for you overcame the persecutor by your pains.
1. After having embalmed you with spices, the wonderful Cleopatra buried you and built a church to celebrate your feast, O Varus, and to seek your prayers. You enrolled her son in the armies of Heaven, covering him with glory and joining him to the choir of saints. Permit us to enjoy the same lot, we the faithful who celebrate your feast, O illustrious martyr.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

More than any of the children of men, I alone, wretched as I am, have committed that which the tongue dare not speak nor the ears hear. Thus I entreat you, spotless Lady: grant me pardon, repentance, penance, tears and sighing, that in the contrition of my heart. I may cry aloud, "Have mercy on the sinner that I am, O Lord, and save me!"

“O Joyful Light...” Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 3*)

1. Your voice has gone forth over the whole world, O holy Apostles. You brought an end to idolatry and proclaimed the knowledge of the one true God. You fought the good fight, O blessed ones, and we sing and glorify your memory.
- v. To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses; thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.
2. O holy Apostles, you kept the commandments of Christ faultlessly. Freely have you received, and freely have you given, for you heal the passions of our souls and bodies. By the confidence which you have in the presence of God, intercede on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.
- v. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.
3. Sustained by faith and strengthened by hope, Your martyrs were united in spirit by love for Your Cross. They vanquished the tyranny of the enemy. Having received the crown of immortality, they now intercede for our souls together with the bodiless Angels.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

You are the joy of the divine Angels, the glory of the Apostles, the seal of the prophets, the protectress of believers and the way to salvation. O Virgin, we wish to bow down to honor you.

TROPARION OF JOEL (*Tone 2*)

We celebrate the memory of Your prophet Joel; and through him we implore You, O Lord: Save our souls.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

TROPARION OF VARUS (*Tone 4*)

Your martyr, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of his struggle. Armed with Your strength he has vanquished his persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through his supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 4*)

O Virgin Theotokos, we acknowledge that the Word of the Father, Christ our God, was incarnate of you, the only pure one, the only blessed one. Wherefore we sing to you a hymn of praise and we exalt you.