

October 26

**Commemoration of the Holy and Glorious Great-Martyr
Demetrios of Thessalonica, the Myrrh-Gusher;
and of the Great Earthquake in Constantinople
(3rd Class)**

GREAT VESPERS

[First Kathisma: Blessed the man...]

Stichera for Demetrios (Tone 4)

6. How truly wonderful that today there is joy in Heaven and on earth in memory of the martyr Demetrios. The angels crown him with songs of praise, and men address their hymns to him for the good fight and sublime deeds through which he brought about the fall of the enemy by the victory of Christ.
5. How truly wonderful that, by the radiance of his miracles, Demetrios continues to shine like the sun to the very limits of the universe. He is enlightened by the never-setting Sun and rejoices in the never-ending Light. By his splendor, the darkness of barbarism is kept afar, sicknesses are healed and the demons are overcome.
4. How truly wonderful that, when the thrice-blessed martyr Demetrios was pierced by lances for Christ, he became a two-edged sword which truly brings down the pride of the enemy and overcomes the arrogance of the demons. Let us sing to him, "Protect us who glorify your sacred memory, O Demetrios!"
3. You are truly a pillar of piety, grounded securely on the rock of Faith, untouched by trials, unshakable in danger.

In the midst of the storm on the sea of fury, the waves of godlessness which dashed against you were not able to break your invincible will. For you preferred to shine with the crown of martyrdom.

2. Imitating the life-giving Passion by your suffering, O victorious Demetrios, you received from Christ the power to work miracles. You save those who have recourse to you, delivering them from countless perils by the boldness which you possess before Christ, in whose presence you now stand, filled with glory.
1. Streaming with your own blood, O Demetrios, you were offered to the life-giving Christ, who had poured out His own precious blood for you. He gave you a share in His glory, making you an heir of His Kingdom, for you triumphed in your combat with the evil one and frustrated all his terrible temptations.

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

(Tone 6) Today the universal celebration of the martyr assembles us. Come, then, O feast-lovers, let us rejoice in his memory in a brilliant manner as we say, "Hail, O you who tore the robe of error by faith and were clothed with the courage of the Spirit! Hail, O you who overcame the intrigues of the impious with the strength given you by the one, true God! Hail, O you who were pierced by lances in your body, as the blessed Savior was in His Passion! O Demetrios, treasure of victorious athletes, entreat Him to deliver us from visible and invisible enemies and to grant salvation to our souls!"

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

Who would not call you blessed? Who would not sing a hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail, O Virgin most holy? The Only-begotten Son Himself, begotten of the Father before all ages, was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure! And for our sake, He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man. He is not divided into two persons; He is understood to have two natures without commixtion or confusion. O noble and blessed Woman, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

READINGS

1) *Isaiah (63:15-64:4,7-8)*

Lord, look down from Heaven and regard us from Your holy and glorious palace! Where is Your zealous care and Your might, Your surge of pity and Your mercy? O Lord, hold not back, for You are our father. Were Abraham not to know us, nor Israel to acknowledge us, You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer You are named forever. Why do You let us wander, O LORD, from Your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear You not? Return for the sake of Your servants, the tribes of Your heritage. Why have the wicked invaded Your holy place, why have our enemies trampled Your sanctuary? Too long have we been like those You do not rule, who do not bear Your name. Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before You, like wax before the fire. And the fire shall burn up our enemies; and Your name shall be made known among the adversaries. At Your presence, the nations shall



be troubled, at the sight of Your works; and the mountains shall quake before You. From of old, we have not known nor have our eyes seen any God but You, and Your works which you perform for those who await Your mercy and are mindful of Your ways. Yet, O LORD, You are our father; we are the clay and You the potter: we are all the work of Your hands. Be not so very angry, LORD, keep not our guilt forever in mind; look upon us, who are all Your people.

2) *Jeremiah (2:1-12)*

Thus says the LORD: I remember the devotion of your youth, how you loved Me as a bride, following Me in the desert, in a land unsown. Sacred to the LORD was Israel, the first fruits of His harvest. Should anyone presume to partake of them, evil would befall him, says the LORD. Listen to the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob! All you clans of the house of Israel, thus says the LORD: What fault did your fathers find in Me that they withdrew from Me, went after empty idols, and became empty themselves? They did not ask, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us through the desert, through a land of wastes and gullies, through a land of drought and darkness, through a land which no one crosses, where no man dwells?" When I brought you into the garden land to eat its goodly fruits, you entered and defiled My land, you made My heritage loathsome. The priests asked not, "Where is the LORD?" Those who dealt with the law knew Me not: the shepherds rebelled against Me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after useless idols. Therefore will I yet accuse you, says the LORD, and even your children's children I will accuse. Pass over to the coast of the Kittim and see, send to



Kedar and carefully inquire. Where has the like of this been done? Does any other nation change its gods? Yet they are not gods at all! But My people have changed their glory for useless things. Be amazed at this, O heavens, and shudder with sheer horror, says the LORD.

3) *Wisdom (3:1-9)*

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself. As gold in the furnace, He proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble. They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love. Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with the elect.

LETE (*Tone 1*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O city of Thessalonica! Exult and dance with joy, O you who were the home of the glorious athlete Demetrios, that witness to the truth, whom you possess as a treasure in your midst. Rejoice in his miracles, at the sight of his healing! Behold him who repels the assaults of the pagans; and in thanksgiving, say to the Savior, "O Lord, glory to You!"

With divine hymns, let us make this day shine, singing of the deeds of the great-martyr Demetrios. As we acclaim him, he becomes present among us. Having withstood the attacks of the tyrants with courage, he sets out wholeheartedly to the arena. Then, bearing the prize of victory, he entreats the Lord to save our souls!

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

(Tone 2)

O holy martyr Demetrios, Christ our God has placed your spirit in the mansions of Heaven! You were a defender of the Holy Trinity; and like an unbreakable diamond, you fought the good fight in the arena. Pierced by a lance in your side, in imitation of Him who was stretched out upon the Tree for the salvation of the whole world, you received the power to work miracles, to fill mankind with abundant healing. Thus, celebrating your holy dormition today, we fittingly glorify the Lord who has glorified you.

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

Behold the great mystery! The marvels we contemplate force me to proclaim the Divinity, without denying the humanity: for, in His love for us, Emmanuel has opened the gates of nature without breaking the seals of virginity, since He is God. He came forth from His Mother's womb, as He had entered at the Annunciation; just as He was conceived, so was He born. Without pain He entered; ineffably has He come forth, according to the prophecy which said: This gate shall remain sealed. It is not to be opened for anyone to enter by it; since the Lord, the God of Israel, has passed through, bringing us great mercy!"

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. When the earth trembled in fear of You, O Lord, the hills and mountains were moved. As You look upon us with eyes of compassion, do not rebuke us in Your wrath. Take pity in the work of Your hands; deliver us from the terrible threat of earthquakes in Your goodness and love for mankind.
- v. You made the earth quiver and quake; You heal foundations, for it is shaken.
2. (*Tone 6*) Awesome are You, O Lord, and who can bear Your just anger? Who can entreat You, who can call upon You, O God of goodness, on behalf of a sinful and despairing people? The heavenly choirs, the angels, powers, principalities, thrones, dominations, cherubim and seraphim sing to You for us: "Holy, holy, holy are You, O Lord: turn not away from the work of Your hands; but in the compassion of Your heart, save Your endangered people!"
- v. He looks upon the earth and makes it quake; He touches the mountains and they smoke.
3. Because of their sins, the people of Nineveh heard talk of the threat of an earthquake. But by the sign of Jonah arising from the whale, they were saved through repentance. As You listened then in compassion to the cries of Your people, the children and the beasts, so too have compassion now on us, whom You chastise, and take pity on us by virtue of Your third-day Resurrection.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

(Tone 8) O glorious Demetrios, your divine and pure soul now has its abode in the heavenly Jerusalem, whose walls are in the hands of the invisible God, as the icons portray. But this wondrous temple here below possesses your venerable body, which has suffered much, this inviolate treasury of miracles, by which afflictions are healed. We come to it to seek your cures. Keep, then, the city which magnifies you, O holy martyr, free from all attacks of the enemy, by the boldness which you possess before Christ who has glorified you.

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

O Virgin who knew not carnal union, O you who ineffably carried God in the flesh, O Mother of almighty God, O Woman without stain: accept the prayers of your servants. O you who obtain for all of us the cleansing of sin: accept now our supplications and intercede for the salvation of us all.

TROPARION OF DEMETRIOS *(Tone 3)*

O victorious Demetrios, you were given to the world as a powerful protector against dangers and an invincible soldier of Christ. As you inspired Nestor to overcome the pride of Lyaios, so intercede with Christ God that He may grant us His great mercy.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE EARTHQUAKE *(Tone 8)*

O Christ our God, who look upon the earth, and it quakes: deliver us from the dreadful menace of earthquakes, and send down upon us Your abundant mercy through the intercession of the Mother of God, for You are the only Lover of Mankind.