

December 7

Commemoration of our father among the saints

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for Ambrose (Tone 1)

6. You adorned the office of consular governor by your virtues, then received by divine inspiration the episcopal throne; in both honors you were the faithful steward of the grace of God; and thus you obtained a double crown, O holy Ambrose.
5. By abstinence, works and countless vigils of prayer throughout the night and fervent intercessions you purified your soul and body, O holy father. Like the apostles, you became a chosen vessel of our God, filled with divine charisms.
4. As Nathan did for David, you boldly reproached the Christian Emperor for his sin against God, O blessed Ambrose, and you publicly excommunicated him from the Holy Mysteries. Then having submitted him to penance and corrected him, you restored him to your flock.

(Tone 5)

3. O venerable father Ambrose, you were a harp pouring forth the saving melodies of teachings in keeping with the true faith; you captivated the souls of the believers, a melodious Zither of the divine Paraclete, an instrument played by the breath of God, a noble trumpet of the Church, a clear spring pouring forth divine charisms,



purifying the stains of the passions. Pray to Christ, asking Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and great mercy.

2. O blessed father Ambrose, you took part in the Council of the God-bearing Fathers, preaching the Only-begotten Son made flesh in two natures, born for us from the unwedded Virgin, consubstantial with the Father, sharing His nature and eternity. With the force of the Spirit, you refuted the impious mouthings of Arius. Pray to Christ, asking Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and great mercy.
1. O wondrous father Ambrose, finding your soul purified and acceptable, the grace of the Holy Spirit took up its dwelling in you as an unfading Light, whose energy remained in you to chase away the spirits of error at all times. You heal the ills and sufferings of those who have recourse to you in the simplicity of their hearts, celebrating your light-bearing memory. Pray to Christ, asking Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and 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.

Theotokion

To what shall I compare you, my soul, for you sink deeper and deeper each day, ceaselessly adding more blows to your wounds so that you are one gaping sore! For you do not think of the Judge who is to come, before Whom you will appear to receive the recompense of your acts. But repent; prostrate yourself before the Virgin and cry out, "All-pure Lady, do not despise your



servant because of my offenses against the compassionate God, who was born of you for the salvation of mankind in the great tenderness of His heart!"

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O Savior, You exalted the names of Your chief Apostles throughout the whole world: they were instructed in the ineffable mysteries of heaven; they became a source of healing for those on earth; their shadow alone was enough to heal the sick. The first wonderworker was once a fisherman; the second, who explained the divine mysteries of grace, was chosen from the Jews. At their prayers, O compassionate God, grant us Your great mercy.

All: 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. Assailed unjustly on every side, we take refuge in You, O God of truth, and call out to You with the words of Your Disciples: "Save us, O Lord, for we are perishing!" We entreat You to show our enemies that You protect Your people and save them from all danger. At the prayers of Your Apostles, pardon the multitude of our sins in Your great goodness: O Lord and Master, glory to You!

All: 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. Great is the glory which you acquired through your faith. You not only overcame the enemy in your sufferings, but you still cast out devils and heal the sick, O physicians of souls and bodies. O holy martyrs, intercede with God that He have mercy on our souls.

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

Theotokion

Gracious Virgin, who protect those who in faith flee under your powerful arm, we have none other to plead for us before God but you in time of adversity and tribulation. We sinners stoop down under the weight of our sins. Mother of God, the Most High, we bend our knees to you and beseech you: deliver your servants from all kinds of trouble.

TROPARION OF AMBROSE (*Tone 4*)

O father and hierarch Ambrose, the holiness of your life has set you before your flock as a rule of faith, an example of meekness and a teacher of self-restraint. Wherefore you acquired greatness through humility and spiritual wealth through poverty. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

- 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 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.