

February 8

**Seventh Day of the Encounter;
Commemoration of the Holy Great-martyr
Theodore (Stratilates) the Commander;
and of the Holy Prophet Zechariah
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for Theodore (Tone 5)

6. Hail, holy Theodore, soldier of Christ, who put to flight the battalions of the Enemy by the arms of Faith. O support of the faithful believers, who won the Kingdom of Heaven at the cost of many torments, you exult there now, divinized in your communion with God and radiant in the most pure light. Remember those who venerate your wondrous memory today and prostrate themselves in faith before your sacred relics. From them, for your faithful suppliants, there flow healing and great mercy.
5. Hail, venerable head of the martyr, outstanding relic, sacred treasure, beauty of the Church and destroyer of the Enemy! You are truly a gift of God, as your name signifies, a light-house beaming miracles over all, a strong pillar which could not be shaken by the blows of cruel punishments. You slew the dragon with the lance of your patient endurance. O invincible soldier Theodore, entreat Christ to grant our souls great mercy!
4. O martyr Theodore, you destroyed the idols by means of the Cross. You endured scourging, O blessed one; and on the tree to which you were tied, you patiently bore

slashing, beating and burning. You were lifted up on a Cross and pierced by arrows, which destroyed your eyes. Thus, we call you blessed, O Theodore, who fought the good fight and won the heavenly crown. Entreat Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

For Zechariah (Tone 8)

3. Resembling the angels in Heaven by your life on earth, you lived in communion with them, O prophet Zechariah. Through them, your spirit received lights which surpass understanding, the explanation of wondrous images, the revelation of great mysteries. You became a prophetic speaker and a source of spiritual renewal for all. Intercede for the salvation of our souls!
2. You appeared as an angel on earth and had the heavenly spirits as your companions. You received visions from on high. You were a lamp, radiating spiritual light. As the Psalmist said, you were a fruitful olive tree, anointing believers with the oil of God's deeds, O Zechariah. Intercede for the salvation of our souls.
1. According to your desire, you now taste divinization as a true prophet of God, O Zechariah. You experience the never-ending delights as you behold the inexpressible glory. Crowned in beauty, never cease to intercede for those who sing to you, for the salvation of our souls.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 5)

Today the venerable memory of the victorious athlete of Christ has shone forth more brightly than the dawn, ceaselessly enlightening the hearts of believers and driving away the clouds from our souls by the action

and grace of the Spirit. O friends of the martyrs, let us say to him, "Hail, blessed Theodore, gift given by God to believers! You perform a multitude of miracles for those who have recourse to you. Ceaselessly intercede before Christ that the faithful who celebrate your sacred memory may obtain eternal good things!"

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

Dogmatikon

The Ancient of Days, a young Child in the flesh, is presented to the Temple by the Virgin Mother, to fulfill the precept of the Law which He had given. Simeon received Him and cried aloud with joy, "Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word in peace: because my eyes have seen Your salvation!"

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 6*)

1. O Simeon, receive in your hands the Creator of all. O holy Elder, take into your arms Christ, whom the Virgin bore without seed for the joy of all mankind.

All: Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word in peace.

2. Come, let us all sing to the Author of the Law, our God, whom the angels serve with trembling, the one Benefactor who has given us His Law for the salvation of our souls!

All: A light of revelation for the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

3. Now You shall dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word in peace, delivering me from the bonds of

the flesh: for my eyes have seen You, O Christ, the Light existing from before all ages, which scatters the darkness of the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people, Israel!

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

O faithful, let us praise Theodore, whose name means "Gift of God." He has inherited blessedness. Let us rightly bless him, the noble great-martyr, the defender of all: for he intercedes for our souls before Christ our God.

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

Dogmatikon

He who rides on the Cherubim and is praised by the Seraphim is presented today to the holy Temple according to the Law. He lies in the arms of an old man and receives the offerings due to God: a pair of turtledoves, a symbol of the Church and of the new people chosen from among the Gentiles. The two doves indicate that He is the Head of both the Old and of the New Testaments. As for Simeon, when he saw what had been revealed come to pass, he received the Child and blessed the Virgin Mother of God, pointing out to her the pains she would suffer. He asked the Lord to be dismissed, and said, "Now You shall dismiss me, O Lord, as You have promised: for my eyes have seen You, the eternal Light, God, the Savior of the people called Christians!"

TROPARION OF THEODORE (*Tone 4*)

You became a brilliant general in the real armies of the King of Heaven, O Theodore the Triumphant! You fought courageously with the weapons of faith and put the legions

of demons to flight. Wherefore, we praise you with fervor at all times!

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

TROPARION OF ZECHARIAH (*Tone 2*)

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

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

TROPARION OF THE FEAST (*Tone 1*)

Hail, O full of grace, Virgin and Mother of God, from you has arisen the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who stand in darkness. You too, O just Elder Simeon, rejoice for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us resurrection.