

December 5

Commemoration of our Holy and God-bearing Father

Sabbas the Sanctified

(3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

[*First Kathisma: Blessed the man...*]

Stichera for Sabbas (Tone 5)

6. O Sabbas, Godly-father, similar to the angels, fellow citizen with the saints, associate of the prophets, co-heir with the apostles and martyrs: you dwell forever in that Light that does not fade. Illumined by its divine radiance, enlightened by the object of all your desire, remaining intimately at His side, you rejoice endlessly in the divine contemplation of His beauty. Pray to Christ; beg Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and great mercy.
5. O Sabbas, Godly-father, ... (*Repeat*)
4. O Blessed Father Sabbas, unquenchable light of temperance, dazzling beacon for monks, shining with the radiance of love, unshakable fortress of patience, pillar and support of the faithful who honor you, treasury of healing, true citizen of the desert: you have become a new Paradise, bringing forth divine fruit for the chosen. Pray to Christ; beg Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and great mercy.
3. O Blessed Father Sabbas ... (*Repeat*)
2. O Godly-minded Father Sabbas, you are a resplendent pillar of virtues, a beacon in the ocean of this life guiding the people to the safe harbor of God, a bulwark breaking the spirits of error, the pure voice of the Holy Spirit, the guide of monks, a just model of temperance,

the crown of humility in all things, a spring of joyful waters that gushes forth healing. Pray to Christ; beg Him to grant the Church harmony, peace and great mercy.

1. O Godly-minded Father Sabbas ... (*Repeat*)

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

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Faultlessly preserving the image of God within you and subjecting the disorderly passions to the spirit through asceticism, you have ascended as far as possible in the divine likeness. Valiantly dominating your nature, you struggled to submit the lower to the higher, making the flesh a servant of the spirit. Thus you have become a model for monks, a founder of hermitages, an instructor for prayerful hearts, a certain rule of virtue. Now in the heavens, all mirrors have been laid aside, O blessed Sabbas, and you clearly contemplate the Holy Trinity, interceding for the faithful who wholeheartedly honor you.

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

Theotokion

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) *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.

2) *Wisdom (5:15 - 6:3)*

But the just live forever, and in the Lord is their recompense, and the thought of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown, the beauteous diadem, from the hand of the Lord for He shall shelter them with His right hand, and protect them with His arm. He shall take His zeal for armor and He shall arm creation to requite the Enemy; He shall don justice for a breastplate and shall wear sure judgment for a helmet; He shall take invincible rectitude as a shield and whet His sudden anger for a sword, and the universe shall war with Him against the foolhardy.

Well-aimed shafts of lightning shall go forth and from the clouds as from a well-drawn bow shall leap to the mark; and as from His sling, wrathful hailstones shall be hurled.



The water of the sea shall be enraged against them and the streams shall abruptly overflow. A mighty wind shall confront them and a tempest winnow them out. Thus lawlessness shall lay the whole earth waste and evildoing overturn the thrones of potentates. Hear, therefore, kings, and understand; learn, you magistrates of the earth's expanse! Hearken, you who are in power over the multitude and lord it over throngs of peoples! Because authority was given you by the Lord and sovereignty by the Most High.

3) *Wisdom (4:7-15)*

But the just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported-snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul. For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with the elect.

LETE (*Tone 2*)

Having formed a company of spiritual athletes on earth, O holy Sabbas, you brought an end to the attack of the passions by the streams of your tears. All have come to know of your life inspired by God, like a divine and sacred ladder granting access to Heaven. Having brought forth the works of faith upon it, you use those fruits to heal the passions and maladies of all the faithful who cry aloud to

you: "Hail, O star which the dawn finds shining with golden light, O lamp and shepherd for monks! Hail, object of our hymns, the most beautiful son which the desert has produced, in whom the Church finds her firm support! Hail, supreme guide for those who wander! Hail, O you who lift up our spirits as you bring joy and rejoicing to all!

Let us honor holy Sabbas, for he was an angel in the flesh on earth, and a man of God in Heaven, the adornment of the world and the treasury of virtues, the glory of ascetics and their pride! Planted in the house of God, he has flourished like the just, as a cedar planted in the desert. He has increased the flock of the spiritual sheep of Christ in justice and holiness.

From infancy you practiced virtue, O holy Father, to the point of becoming an instrument of the Holy Spirit. Receiving from Him the power to work miracles, you led people to renounce the pleasures of earth. As you are now illumined even more with the light of God, O venerable father Sabbas, illumine also our hearts and minds!

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

You were filled with love for the goods that surpass all understanding, O divinely inspired Father, and renounced all the attractions of life here below. You were never seduced by the forbidden fruit as was Adam; rather by temperance you rejected the serpent and lived an angelic life. Now that you dwell in Heaven, O father Sabbas the Sanctified, you rejoice in the Tree of Life. You are the heavenly intercessor before God for those who celebrate your holy memory.

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

All my hope, I place in you, O Theotokos; keep me under the wings of your protection.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, O treasure sweetly perfumed by ascetic struggles! Taking up your Cross upon your shoulders, O blessed one, and dedicating yourself to Christ the Master, you turned away from all earthly and bodily cares, making your soul radiant with virtues in order to rise - as though on wings - to the love of the Lord. Standing before your holy relics, O holy Sabbas, we ask your prayers to obtain for the world the love of God and great mercy.

All: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

2. You lived in the world as a spark of the divine radiance, enkindled by the fire of the Spirit, O God-bearing father Sabbas. Shedding light on the souls of the faithful who have recourse to you, leading them to the never-fading Light, you have become a refreshing dew of divine grace sprinkled in the purifying furnace of the desert. Thus you were given the victor's crown by Christ, the Master of divine justice. O holy father, we ask you to intercede before Him to grant great mercy to our souls.

All: Happy the man who fears the Lord, who takes delight in all His commands.

3. Your life was a ladder reaching up to Heaven, upon which you mounted up to the heights, meriting union with Christ, your Master. O blessed Father, enlightened in your spirit by the radiance of Heaven, illuminated by its brilliance, you are equal to the angels in splendor. As you stand before God, O holy Father, ask Him to unite to you all the faithful celebrating your holy and divine memory, and to grant great mercy to the world.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

We honor you, O holy father Sabbas, as the spiritual guide for all monks, for you have taught us all to walk the straight path. Blessed are you who have served Christ and have trampled down the power of the Enemy. O companion of the angels, the just and the saints, intercede together with them before the Lord that He might have mercy on our souls.

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

Theotokion

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 us all the cleansing of sins, accept now our supplications and intercede for the salvation of us all.

TROPARION OF SABBAS *(Tone 8)*

Your abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom, and your deep sighings made your labor fruitful a hundredfold. You became a star shining over the world with miracles, holy father Sabbas. 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.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION *(Tone 8)*

O Good One, You were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion for us. You destroyed Death by Your death, and as God You made manifest the Resurrection. Turn not away from those You have made by Your hands. O Merciful One, show Your love to men and accept as our intercessor the Mother of God who gave birth to You. O our Savior, save a desperate people.