

February 6

**Fifth Day of the Encounter; Commemoration of Our Holy
Father Bukolos, Bishop of Smyrna;
Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints, Photios
the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople and Confessor
(3rd Class)**

GREAT VESPERS

[First Kathisma: Blessed the man...]

Stichera for the Feast (Tone 1)

10. The Creator of all and our Redeemer was presented in the Temple by the Virgin Mary. Receiving Him with joy, the Elder cried aloud, "Now You shall dismiss Your servant in peace, according to Your good will, O God of all goodness!"
9. The Creator of all... (*Repeat*)
8. Simeon, receiving in his arms from the Virgin the Savior, the One who had been begotten before all ages, cried aloud, "Today the ends of the earth have seen Your glory enlightening them! Now You shall dismiss Your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen You, the God of all goodness!"
7. Carrying in his arms the Savior who was born in these latter times for the salvation of mankind, Simeon cried aloud with joy, "I have seen the Light of the Gentiles and the Glory of Israel! Now let me depart from this world to You, according to Your word, O Lord!"

For Bukolos (Tone 6)

6. You were radiant with the light of divine virtues, O holy father, Bukolos. As a lamp, you were mystically placed on the lampstand of the Church of God in order to give light to all by your sacred teaching.

5. The Holy Spirit has sanctified you, O God-bearing father Bukolos. Through you, He grants holiness, light and salvation to the faithful who draw near to You.
4. Preaching the extreme goodness of our God, you made the people pass from evil to good, leading them wisely, as a sacred hierarch, to the Savior and Benefactor.

For Photios (Tone 4)

3. With inspired chants, let us acclaim the great Photios of holy fame! He is the praiseworthy instrument of the grace of God, the holy harp of the Comforter, the steadfast and most divine pillar of the sacred Faith, the brave warrior and champion of the Orthodox, the great teacher and hierarch, the supremely blessed herald of true doctrine, the staff and boast of the Church of God.
2. With one voice, all you Orthodox, chant with sacred and hallowed hymns, praising blessed Photios, the most illustrious, the light of the whole inhabited earth, the preacher of fiery voice and far-famed hierarch of the Church, the most excellent man of God, the divine high priest, the wise pastor and guide of Christ's flock, the brilliant shepherd of Constantinople, the first in rank among patriarchs.
1. By a lawless decree, O holy one, you were torn from your faithful flock and suffered grievously for the Faith, O radiant hierarch, most glorious, blessed Photios of great renown, firm foundation of the Church, steadfast pillar of piety. Hence we honor you with all zeal, O initiate and teacher, wise in the doctrine of Orthodoxy and far-famed herald of grace and truth.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

Come, all you faithful, let us piously acclaim the most wondrous Photios, the hierarch and friend of the Lord.

For, filled with apostolic teaching, and having proved a dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit through his virtuous life, he drove away the wolves far from the fold of the Catholic Church by his doctrine. Having set forth most clearly the Orthodox Faith, he has shone forth as a pillar and champion of piety. Since, after death, he stands even nearer to Christ, he intercedes unceasingly for our souls.

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

Dogmatikon (Tone 5)

"Search the Scriptures," said Christ our God in His Gospel. There we shall see our God being born, and wrapped in swaddling clothes; we shall find Him feeding on milk, being circumcised, being carried in Simeon's arms, appearing in the world as a real Man - no imagination or dream, but solid reality. Wherefore, we cry out to Him and say, "O God who exists from eternity glory to You!"

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of the day.

READINGS

1) *Proverbs (10:7,6; 3:13-16; 8:6,34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23; 15:4)*

The memory of the just will be blessed. Blessings are for the head of the just. Happy the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding! For her profit is better than profit in silver, and better than gold is her revenue. She is more precious than corals, and none of your choice possessions can compare with her.

Give heed! for noble things I speak; honesty opens my lips. Yes, the truth my mouth recounts. So now, O children, listen to me; instruction and wisdom do not reject! Happy the man who obeys me, and happy those who keep my ways. Happy is the man watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts. For he who finds me finds life, and wins

favor from the LORD. To you, O men, I call; my appeal is to the children of men. I, Wisdom, dwell with experience, and judicious knowledge I attain. Mine are counsel and advice. Mine is strength; I am understanding. Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me find me. You simple ones, gain resource, you fools, gain sense. Sincere are all the words of my mouth. All of them are plain to the man of intelligence, and right to those who attain knowledge. Give heed! for noble things I speak; honesty opens my lips. Yes, the truth my mouth recounts, but the wickedness my lips abhor. Sincere are all the words of my mouth, no one of them is wily or crooked; All of them are plain to the man of intelligence, and right to those who attain knowledge. For I teach you the truth, so that your hope might be placed in the Lord and that you might be filled with His Spirit.

2) *Proverbs (10:30 11:12)*

The mouth of the just yields wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the just know how to please, but the mouth of the wicked, how to pervert. False scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a full weight is his delight. When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom. The honesty of the upright guides them; the faithless are ruined by their duplicity. Wealth is useless on the day of wrath, but virtue saves from death. The honest man's virtue makes his way straight, but by his wickedness the wicked man falls. The virtue of the upright saves them, but the faithless are caught in their own intrigue. When a wicked man dies his hope perishes, and what is expected from strength comes to naught. The just man escapes trouble, and the wicked man falls into it in his stead. With his mouth the impious man would ruin his neighbor, but through their knowledge the just make their escape. When the just prosper, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. Through the blessing of the

righteous the city is exalted, but through the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown. He who reviles his neighbor has no sense, but the intelligent man keeps silent.

3) *Wisdom (4: 7-14)*

Thus says the Lord: 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. For His grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and He visits His chosen ones.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Rejoice, O all-lauded hierarch of Christ! Rejoice, adornment of the Fathers and Patriarchs! Both action and contemplation clothed your soul in their light, for you were a dwelling of unceasing prayer, a temple of gentleness, and the great treasury of blessed virtue; a keeper of wisdom everlasting and a far-shining sun of discernment in the things of God, a mansion of peace and divine grace, the abode of a two-fold love for both your God and your neighbor, a delightful palace of humility. Entreat Christ the Savior to grant great mercy and forgiveness to our souls.

All: My mouth speaks wisdom and my heart exults with understanding.

2. Rejoice, canon of true hierarchs and priests, the foremost teacher and instructor most glorious, the mouth of theologians of Christ God's one, holy Church; you were illustrious in words and doctrine, O shepherd of great renown, the Apostles' true peer in life, eloquent preacher cutting heresy's webs in half like a two-edged sword sharp with truth and the grace of God, instrument of sweet melody and mind truly heavenly, most steadfast pillar of Christ's Church, the strength and boast of the pious flock. Entreat Christ the Savior that great mercy and forgiveness be granted to our souls.

All: The just man's mouth utters wisdom.

3. Rejoice, venerable boast of all priests! Rejoice, O beauty of bishops and patriarchs, the Church's unshaken pillar and firm foundation and rock, hallowed spring of doctrine filling all with truth, exact rule of holy Faith, wise expounder of mysteries, Photios our father, blessed staff and support of the truth, man of excellence, bright with splendor most glorious, mortal attaining Heaven's heights and angel dwelling on earth, light of the Orthodox faithful, ax hewing down grievous heresy. Cease not to entreat Christ on behalf of those who honor and praise your memory.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

The imperial city fittingly glories in the holy hierarch Photios as a royal gift, a resounding trumpet proclaiming the truths of salvation to the ends of the earth and calling all to join in praise of God. Let us therefore cry aloud to him, "You were named for light and gifted in speech: entreat Christ our God to save our souls!"

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

Dogmatikon (Tone 2)

Today Simeon takes in his arms the Lord of Glory whom Moses saw of old in darkness, when on Mount Sinai he received the tablets of the Law. This is He who spoke through the prophets; He is the Creator of the Law. This is He whom David announced; He is awesome to all, yet rich in mercy and love.

TROPARION OF BUKOLOS *(Tone 4)*

O father and hierarch Bukolos, 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.

OR TROPARION OF BUKOLOS *(Tone 4)*

You once shone with the radiance of the virtues; then the one who had reclined on the breast of the Lord summoned you to draw near to the divine Light. As a divinely inspired hierarch, you guided the sheep of your flock to the pastures of the truth. Ceaselessly intercede before Christ, O Bukolos, for those who honor you.

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

TROPARION OF PHOTIOS *(Tone 4)*

Being of the same mind as the Apostles and a teacher of the whole world, O Photios, intercede with the Master of all that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to 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.