

February 27

Commemoration of Our Venerable Father Procopios the Decapolitan, Confessor (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 7)

6. The voice of the holy Apostles has gone forth to the limits of the whole inhabited world. O Lord, glory to You!
5. You are truly the fragrance of the Word of God, O blessed Apostles: pour out upon me the fragrance of the Spirit.
4. You are citizens of the heavenly homeland: teach me to think heavenly thoughts and to speak words in keeping with the will of God.

For Procopios (Tone 4)

3. By virtue of creation, you were made in the image and likeness of God, O blessed father Procopios. You made every effort to preserve the dignity of the image by your piety, the purity of your soul, chastity, temperance in restraining the passions, perseverance in the true Faith, and the manner in which you observed the precepts of Christ.
2. You joined the confession of the Faith to the asceticism which you had first set out to practice, O Procopios. In both, you were well-pleasing to the Creator, who seeks nobility of soul and purity in all of us. You glorified the coming of our God in the flesh by bowing down before His sacred icon, which represents Him in His human condition.

1. O venerable father Procopios, by opposing the impious who rendered the Incarnation vain, you had to endure the torture of scourging, all types of vile mistreatment, sufferings in chains and imprisonment. Nevertheless, you affirmed the truth and thus inherited the Kingdom of Christ in ineffable joy and eternal light.
- 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

Your womb was able to encompass the God who can-not be encompassed by anything. In His love for mankind, He was made man like us, taking our human nature from you in order to divinize it. O all-holy one, do not despise my affliction, but come quickly: receive me and save me, delivering me from the cunning intentions of the Enemy.

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

READING

1.) Joel (3:12-21)

Thus says the Lord: Let the nations bestir themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. For there I will sit in judgment upon all the neighboring nations. Apply the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come and tread, for the wine press is full. The vats overflow, for great is their malice. Let noise be heard in the valley of judgment, for near is the day of the LORD in the valley of decision. Sun and moon are darkened, and the stars withhold their brightness. The LORD roars from Sion, and from Jerusalem raises His voice. The heavens and the earth quake, but the LORD is a refuge to His people, a stronghold to the men of Israel. Then shall you know that I, the LORD, am your God, dwelling on Sion, My holy mountain. Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall pass through her no more. And then, on that day, the mountains shall drip new wine, and the hills shall flow with

milk. And the channels of Judah shall flow with water. A fountain shall issue from the house of the LORD, to water the Valley of Shittim. Egypt shall be a waste, and Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, because they shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem for all generations. I will avenge their blood, and not leave it unpunished. The LORD dwells in Sion.

SECOND PROKIMENON [Ps. 130] (*Tone 6*)

Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and forever.

v. O Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor have my eyes been haughtily raised.

"Deign, O Lord..." Aitesis and blessing.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 3*)

1. The springtime of the Fast has dawned, the flower of repentance has begun to open. O brethren, let us cleanse ourselves from all impurity and sing to the Giver of Light: "Glory to You who alone are the Lover of Mankind!"

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. The springtime of the Fast has dawned... (*Repeat*)

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. Sustained by faith and strengthened by hope, Your martyrs were united in spirit by love for Your Cross. They vanquished the tyranny of the Enemy. Having received the crown of immortality, they now intercede for our souls together with the bodiless Angels.

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

O greatest of the saints, glory of the heavenly hosts, hymn of the apostles, fulfillment of the prophets' preaching: O Lady: receive our prayers and praises.

TROPARION OF PROCOPIOS (*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 Procopios. 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 8*)

O Pure Theotokos, Gate of Spiritual Life, save from dangers those who run to you with confidence to glorify your holy birth-giving for the salvation of our souls.