

August 14

Forefeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos; Commemoration of the holy prophet Micah (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 4)

6. To the sound of cymbals, let us intone canticles of praise as a prelude to the feast of farewell. Let us lift up our voices to sing a wondrous hymn near the sepulcher. For the Mother of God, that golden Ark, is now preparing to pass from earth to the heights of Heaven, to a new life in divine splendor.
5. Gather together from the ends of the earth in a wondrous fashion, O holy Apostles: for the living City of the One who rules the whole world will soon rise in glory to Heaven, to exult as Queen at the side of her Son. For her divine burial, sing a farewell hymn with one heart in union with the heavenly hosts.
4. O procession of holy priests, all princes and kings, choirs of virgins, make haste now; gather with all the people to sing near the tomb. The Queen of all is keeping vigil before the heavenly gates to hand over her spirit into the hands of her Son.

For Micah (Tone 4)

3. You foretold that the teachings of the Savior would be established higher than the mountains, like a peak that can be seen from all sides. Thus, O blessed Micah, you revealed the sublime knowledge of God to which, in a desire for the faith, many nations would come and take refuge, so as to be instructed in the ways of the Lord and find salvation for all ages.

2. O divine prophet Micah, with your lips inspired by God, you predicted that from Bethlehem would come forth a Prince who would bring peace to His people. His origin is from of old, from ancient times. Now that we have seen your prophecy fulfilled, we glorify Him who spoke through your mouth.
1. O venerable prophet, you dwell forever near the throne of God in a merited joy, contemplating His glory and rejoicing in divine delights, filled with spiritual exultation. Keep watch over those who now in faith celebrate your memory, delivering them from all danger by your constant prayers.
- 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

O pure and most holy Virgin, the choirs of angels in Heaven and the race of mankind on earth sing the praises of your glorious Dormition, for you have become the Mother of the Creator of All, Christ our God. We beg you to intercede constantly for us, for we have placed our hope in you next to God, O most glorious and ever-Virgin Mother of God.

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O wondrous marvel! O new event! How can the Virgin who bore Life now be subjected to death? How can the tomb now receive her?

All: Go up, O Lord, into Your resting place, You and the Ark of Your majesty.

2. Exult with joy, all mankind! Behold, the Virgin, the daughter of Adam, passes from earth to heaven.

All: The Lord has sworn an oath to David and He will not repent.

3. Allow me to see in spirit on her funeral bed the Virgin surrounded wondrously by the choir of Apostles, singing of her passing.

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

She who is higher than the heavens and more glorious than the Cherubim, she who is held in greater honor than all creation, she who by reason of her surpassing purity became the receiver of the everlasting Essence, today commends her most pure soul into the hands of her Son. With her, all things are filled with joy, and she bestows great mercy upon us.

TROPARION OF MICAH (*Tone 2*)

We celebrate the memory of Your prophet Micah; and through him we implore You, O Lord: 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.

TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST (*Tone 4*)

O peoples, dance with joy and clap your hands with fervor; gather today in eagerness and jubilation and sing with glee, for the Mother of God is about to rise in glory, going up from the earth into Heaven. It is to her we always sing hymns of praise, for she is the Mother of God.