

October 19

**Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Joel;
and of the Holy Martyr Varus**
(5th Class, 2nd Tone, 8th Eothinon)

ORTHROS

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 2*)

When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You put Hades to death by the splendor of Your Divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly Powers cried out to You: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

TROPARION OF JOEL (*Tone 2*)

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

TROPARION OF VARUS (*Tone 4*)

Your martyr, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of his struggle. Armed with Your strength he has vanquished his persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through his supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION (*Tone 4*)

The mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels has been revealed through you, O Theotokos, to those on earth: for God took flesh in a union without commixture, and willingly took up the Cross by which He elevated the first man, and saved our souls from death.

SESSIONAL HYMNS (*Tone 2*)

The noble Joseph, took down from the Tree Your spotless Body and wrapped it in pure linen with spices, and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day, You arose, O Lord, and bestowed great mercy on the world!

v. Arise, O Lord my God; lift up Your mighty hand, and never forget Your poor.

The angel stood by the tomb and cried to the myrrhbearing women: "Myrrh is proper for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself free from corruption! Cry out then, 'The Lord is risen and has bestowed great mercy on the world!'"

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Virgin and all-glorious Theotokos, we sing to you a hymn of praise, for Hades has been destroyed by your Son's Cross, death has been put to death, and we the dead have been made to rise and become worthy of life. We have obtained Paradise, the original bliss! Wherefore, we glorify you by giving thanks to Christ our God, for He alone is almighty and all-merciful.

HYPACOI (*Tone 2*)

O Christ God, after Your Passion, the women came to Your tomb to embalm Your body. Arriving there, they were dazzled at the sight of the angels who declared to them: "The Lord is risen, bestowing great mercy upon the world!"

KONDAKION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 2*)

Almighty Savior, You are risen from the tomb! At the sight of this miracle, Hades is filled with fear, the dead rise up, the whole creation rejoices with You, Adam exults, and the universe exalts You forever, O Savior!

IKOS (*Tone 2*)

O Light of those in darkness, You are the Resurrection of all! You bring life to mankind, raising up the faithful with You. O Savior, You despoiled the Kingdom of Death! O Word, You shattered the gates of Hades! Mankind marvels at the sight of this wonder, and every creature rejoices in Your Resurrection. O Lover of Mankind, we all glorify and celebrate Your condescension; and the universe exalts You forever, O Savior!

SYNTAXARION

On October 19, we commemorate the holy prophet Joel.

He who denounced passions on earth, the prophet Joel, leaves the earth; and in a place that transcends it, he finds his destiny. On the nineteenth, the tomb receives him.

On the same day, we commemorate the holy martyr Varus and his companions.

"Alas for me!" cries the prince of darkness, as he sees Varus patiently suffering such horrors.

By the prayers of Your saints, O our God, take pity on us and save us.
Amen.

EXAPOSTILARIA (*Tone 2*)

~Seeing the two Angels within the tomb, Mary was struck with fear. Not recognizing Christ, she questioned Him as though He were the gardener: "Where have you placed the body of Jesus?" But as He called her name, she recognized Him as her Savior. He then said, "Do not touch Me, but tell My brethren that I am ascending to My Father!"

~O Virgin, You ineffably gave birth to One of the Holy Trinity in one Person, but with two natures and two wills. Ceaselessly entreat Him that the faithful who honor you be delivered from every attack of the enemy. In you we find our refuge, O Lady Theotokos!

PRAISES *Stichera of the Resurrection* (*Tone 2*)

8. Everything that has breath and all creation glorify You, O Lord, for You have destroyed Death by Your Cross. You manifested Your Resurrection from among the dead to the whole world, for You are the true Lover of Mankind!
7. Let the Pharisees explain how the soldiers lost the King over whom they stood watch! Let them tell why the stone could not hold back the Rock of Life! Let them either produce the body or worship the risen Lord with us and say: "O Savior who have filled us all with Your mercy, glory to You!"
6. Rejoice, O nations and be glad! An angel was seated on the stone that had once sealed the tomb, proclaiming Good News to us as he said: "Christ, the Savior of the world, has risen from the dead! His sweet scent has filled the universe! Rejoice, O nations and be glad!"
5. On the day of Your conception, Lord, an angel greeted the woman full of grace, saying, "Hail!". On the day of Your Resurrection, an angel rolls away the stone from Your glorious sepulcher. In place of sadness and death, the first angel brought us promises of joy, the second proclaimed the Lord as the Giver of Life! Thus we sing to You: "O Benefactor of all, glory to You!"

Stichera of Anatolios the Patriarch

4. The holy women sprinkled myrrh and tears upon Your tomb; then their mouths were filled with joy as they proclaimed: "The Lord has risen!"
3. O nations and peoples, sing praise to Christ our God, for He willed to suffer for our sake upon the Cross and to remain for three days in the tomb. Bow down in worship before His Resurrection from the dead, which has brought light to all the ends of the earth.
2. O Christ, You willingly accepted crucifixion and the tomb. You triumphed over Death, rising in glory as our God and Savior, granting to the world eternal life and great mercy.
1. The unbelievers who sealed the tomb have provided us with an even greater wonder, as the guards know well. They should cry aloud, "Christ has risen from the tomb!" But they were told to say that, while they slept, the Disciples came and stole Him away. But who would ever steal a body, especially one disrobed? Truly, in His divine power, Christ is risen, leaving the seals unbroken and His burial shroud in the tomb. He has trampled down death, granting the human race eternal life and great mercy.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

Mary's fervent tears were not shed in vain, for she was made worthy to hear the Angel's words, and then to see You, O Jesus. But as a weak person who thought only in an earthly way, O Christ, she was told that she could not touch You. But she is sent as a herald of the Good News to the Disciples to proclaim Your ascension to Your inheritance with the Father. O Master and Lord, grant that we, like her, may meet You face to face.

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

Theotokion from the Orthros booklet

You are truly most blessed...