

November 23

Third Day of the Feast;
Commemoration of our Fathers among the Saints
Amphilochios, Bishop of Iconium,
and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum in Sicily
(5th Class, 7th Tone, 2nd Eothinon)

ORTHROS

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 7*) [Twice]

You destroyed Death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Thief! You changed the weeping of the Myrrhbearers and commanded Your Apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy!

TROPARION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS (*Tone 4*)

Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God and the announcement of the salvation of men. In the Temple of God, the Virgin is seen openly, foretelling to all the coming of Christ. Wherefore, let us cry out to her in a loud voice: "Hail, O fulfillment of the Creator's plan!"

SESSIONAL HYMNS (*Tone 7*)

Our Life was laid in a tomb and a seal was set on the stone at the door. The soldiers kept guard before Christ as though keeping watch before a sleeping King. The angels glorified Him as the Immortal God, while the holy women cried aloud: "The Lord has risen, granting great mercy to the world!"

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

By Your burial for three days, You have despoiled the power of Death. By Your life-giving Resurrection, You have raised up the human race from the dust of the tomb. O Christ our God, Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

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

(*Tone 1*)

The fruit of the righteous Joachim and Ann is brought as an offering to God in the holy sanctuary; it is she who sustains our life, and she

is a young child in the flesh. She receives the blessing of Zechariah the priest. Let all of us in faith call her blessed, for she is the Mother of the Lord.

HYPACOI (*Tone 7*)

O Christ God, who assumed our likeness and suffered crucifixion in Your body, save me through Your Resurrection, for You are the Lover of Mankind!

KONDAKION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 7*)

No longer can Death hold sway over the human race: for Christ has gone down to Hades and crushed Death and shattered its might. It has been made powerless, wherefore the prophets rejoice! The Savior appeared to the faithful and said: "Come into the Resurrection!"

IKOS (*Tone 7*)

Today the nether world, Hades and Death tremble at the presence of One of the Trinity! The earth quakes, and the gatekeepers of Hades are seized by fear at seeing You. The whole creation rejoices together with the prophets, singing a hymn of victory to honor You, our God and our Redeemer, who trample down the power of Death. Let us cry aloud with happiness and rejoicing to our King: "Behold the Tree which restores Adam and his descendants to Paradise! O faithful, come into the Resurrection!"

SYNAXARION

On November 23, we commemorate our father among the Saints, Amphilochios, Bishop of Iconium.

Although he left his humble remains behind in the earth, Amphilochios lives on after death. By his work, he unravels the webs spun by the Enemy. The Saint fell asleep in peace on the twenty-third.

On the same day, we commemorate our father among the Saints, Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum.

For the divine Word who rules all things, Agrigentum is bid farewell by Gregory, its pastor.

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

EXAPOSTILARIA (*Tone 2*)

~Seeing the stone rolled away from the tomb, the myrrh-bearing women exulted with joy. They drew near and saw a young man seated there who said: "Behold, Christ is risen! Tell Peter and the Disciples of the Lord that they are to go to the mountain in Galilee! There He will appear to You as He said to His friends!"

~In faith let us praise Mary, the child of God, whom long ago the assembly of prophets foretold, speaking of her as the vessel of manna and Aaron's rod, tablet of the Law and uncut mountain. For she is led today into the Holy of Holies, there to be brought up for the Lord.

~On the day of Your conception, Lord, an Angel greeted the Virgin, telling her to rejoice. On the day of Your Resurrection, an Angel came to roll away the stone from Your glorious sepulcher. In place of sadness, the first brought a promise of joy. In place of death, the second proclaimed You as the Giver of Life, magnifying Your Resurrection in the presence of the women and Your Disciples.

PRAISES *Stichera of the Resurrection* (*Tone 7*)

8. Christ has risen from the dead, shattering the chains of Death; proclaim great joy upon earth; and in the heavens, praise the glory of God!
7. Now that we have seen the Resurrection of Christ, let us adore the all-holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One!
6. Ceaselessly let us worship the Resurrection of Christ! It is He who has saved us from our sins! Holy is the Lord Jesus who has shown us the Resurrection!
5. What can we offer to the Lord for all the good He has done for us? To save us, God dwelt among men. The Word was made flesh for our fallen nature and pitched His tent among us. To our ingratitude, the Benefactor responded. To our captivity, the Redeemer descended. To those who lay in darkness, the Sun of Justice, who could not suffer, rose upon the Cross. To dark Hades came the Light. To Death came He who is Life. And to those who are mortals came the Resurrection! Let us cry aloud to Him: O our God, glory to You!

Stichera for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 2)

4. The wall of separation has been torn down by the Entrance of the venerable Mother of God, and we below are now united to those above.
3. The wall of separation has been... *(Repeat)*
- v. She is led to the King with her maiden companions.
2. In the midst of enkindled lamps, the choirs of maidens sang a divine canticle as they escorted toward the Temple of God the only all-spotless Virgin.
- v. They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the Temple of the King.
1. O Zechariah, receive into the interior of the Temple, into the very Holy of Holies, the Holy One who dwells among the Holy: the Mother of God.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 2)

Bearing their spices, Mary and her companions wondered how they could remove the stone. But they saw that the stone had already been removed; and an Angel of God appeared to them, bringing peace to their troubled souls: for he told them: "The Lord Jesus has risen! Bring the Good News to the Disciples, His heralds, that they should go to Galilee. There they shall see Him, risen from the dead, the Lord and Giver of Life."

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

Theotokion from the Orthros booklet

You are truly most blessed, O Virgin Mother of God: through the One who was incarnate of you, Hades was chained, Adam revived, the curse wiped out, Eve set free, Death put to death, and we ourselves were brought back to life. That is why we cry out in praise: "Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who find in this Your good pleasure: glory to You!"