

The 11th Day of September

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos; the Commemoration of our Venerable Mother Theodora of Alexandria; and the Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Autonomus. Also, the Translation of the Relics of our Venerable Fathers Sergius and Herman, Wonderworkers of Valaam, from Novgorod back to their monastery in Valaam, whose service is found on June 28th; and the Commemoration of our Venerable Father, Siluan, the Athonite, whose service is found following this. — incomplete

Note: The service of **St. Autonomus** is transferred to this day because of the Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Theotokos which takes place tomorrow.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of St. Theodora, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Being a woman in a woman’s body, /
Wearing the clothes of a man, /
Thou didst live among men accomplishing all their labors, /
Restraining the passions and causing the lusts of the flesh to wither away /
Through thy fasting and constant prayer, ///
And thy holy and ceaseless contemplation of God, O mother Theodora.

The sun which sets beneath the rim of the earth /
Never saw thee committing a sin, /
And the Lord, who knoweth the hearts of all and seeth all hidden things /
Knew thee to be steadfast and illumined the eyes of thy heart /
With the light of repentance. /
Therefore, thou didst strive to please Him through the rigors of abstinence, ///
And the perfection of the virtues, O Theodora.

Aware of the traps set for thee by the enemy, /
Thou didst love the child whose father thou wast accused to be, /
And didst nurture him with paternal kindness, O glorious mother, /
Enduring the undeserved censure of men with true piety. ///
Therefore, we celebrate thine honorable feast, O Theodora.

And 3 stichera to Hieromartyr Autonomus, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Shining with the light of the virtues /
And adorned with the beauty of godliness /

Thou wast a most pious hierarch, /
And like a radiant sun, thou didst travel across the world /
Everywhere planting the seeds of faith through thy preaching, /
And cutting down false teachings with the scythe of thy tongue, ///
O divine preacher and hierarch Autonomus.

Thou didst courageously endure great suffering, /
Willingly enduring painful wounds and sores, /
And being buried under a mountain of rocks, O Autonomus, /
Thou didst make them into a stairway leading to heaven /
Which thou didst ascend to God, wearing thy crown, /
Where thou didst join the ranks of the angels, ///
Ever praying for the world.

Thy vestments were radiant with the grace of the Holy Spirit /
And with the blood of thy martyrdom, /
Thus thou didst enter in the Holy of Holies on-High where stood Jesus, the King, /
And thou didst received from God thy crown of victory ///
In the presence of those who shed their blood for Him

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast in Tone 4: *In the usual melody*

As foretold by the angel /
Today hast thou come forth, O Virgin, /
The all-holy offspring of righteous Joachim and Anne. /
Thou art a heaven and the throne of God, /
And a vessel of purity, /
Proclaiming joy to all the world, /
O protectress of our life. /
Thou dost destroy the curse and givest blessing in its place, /
Therefore on this feast of thy birth, O Maiden called by God, ///
Intercede that our souls be given peace and great mercy.

Or the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.

At the Apostikha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "O House of Ephratha..."*

Thou didst weep tears from the depths of thy soul /
Desiring children and lamenting thy childlessness, ///
Then thou gavest birth to a babe — the boast of the whole human race.

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Let us honor with voices of praise /
The nativity of the Most Holy Virgin ///
Through whom the entire world is renewed

Verse: The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

Rejoice, O wise, eloquent, and holy prophets /
For the holy Virgin is born ///
Through whom shall come the Salvation of the world.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 4: *the composition of Germanus*

Today let Anne, barren and childless, /
Clap her hands with joy. /
Let all things on earth put on their bright array; /
Let kings dance and let priests sing glad hymns of blessing; /
Let the whole world keep the feast. /
For lo, the Queen, the spotless bride of the Father /
Hath blossomed from the root of Jesse. /
No more shall women bear children in sorrow: /
For joy has put forth its flower, and the Life of mankind hath come to dwell in
the world. /
No more are the gifts of Joachim turned away: /
For the lament of Ann is changed to joy. /
'Let Israel, the chosen, rejoice with me', she says: /
'For behold, the Lord hath given me the living chamber of His divine glory, ///
Unto the joy and gladness of us all and the salvation of our souls.'

The Troparion of the Venerable Theodora, in Tone 8:

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O mother, /
For thou didst take up thy cross and follow Christ /
By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away /
But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal ///
Therefore thy spirit, O holy Theodora, rejoices with the angels.

Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

Thy nativity, O Virgin Theotokos, /
Hath brought joy to all the world! /
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /

Hath shone from thee, O Theotokos; /
By annulling the curse /
He bestowed the blessing: ///
By destroying death He hath granted us eternal life.

Matins

The Canon of the Feast, with 6 Troparia including the Irmos,
and the Canons of both Saints with 4 Troparia each

Incomplete as of 7/2016

After the Third Ode:

The Kontakion of the Venerable Theodora, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "Seeking the highest...."*

Praying for the forgiveness of thy sin /
Thou didst spend thy bodily strength in fasting and abstinence /
And thy nights in continual vigils before God. ///
Thus thou didst receive forgiveness and become an example of repentance for us all.

And the Kontakion of the Martyr, in same Tone: *(and melody)*

O holy hieromartyr Autonomus, /
Thou didst faithfully serve the holy Mysteries /
And didst thyself become a holy sacrifice /
By partaking fully of the Cup of Christ. /
Cease not to intercede for us, ///
O glorious beacon of light for all the world./

After the Sixth Ode:

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, /
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; /
Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. /
And we, thy people, are freed from the bondage of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: ///
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.