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READER'S TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020  
(19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke<sup>1</sup>)  
*The holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke*

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

*People:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

*Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON: PSALM 102

*Reader:* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgement for all them

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<sup>1</sup> Strictly speaking, Sunday October 18, 2020 would normally correspond to 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. However, the Gospel for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke was read a week ago (the Sunday of the Fathers of 7<sup>th</sup> Council), so today we go back to the Gospel for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke. (NOTE: There are other Sundays when the Gospels are rearranged, as explained in Father Daniel's Typikon Notes.) SPECIAL NOTE FOR TODAY: An additional Apostolos & Gospel for St. Luke are appointed for this day. In Slavic & Romanian rubrics, they would be read **together** with the Sunday Lectionary. However, as the Greeks & Antiochians only have one reading, today only those for St. Luke are used.

that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered, neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*And again:* Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name; blessed art Thou, O Lord.

#### THE SECOND ANTIPHON: PSALM 145

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my be-ing. Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish. Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein, Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry. The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen; the Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes. He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy. The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Sion, unto generation and generation.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### THE HYMN OF JUSTINIAN

*Choir:* Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art im-mortal, who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled down death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

#### THE BEATITUDES IN TONE TWO

In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

For the Resurrection in Tone Two

*Verse 10: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

We offer Thee the voice of the thief and cry aloud to Thee: Remember us, O Saviour in Thy Kingdom.

*Verse 9: Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

We bring Thee the Cross for the forgiveness of offences. For us hast Thou accepted it, O Lover of mankind.

*Verse 8: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

We venerate, O Master, Thy tomb and Thy rising, through which Thou hast delivered the world from corruption, O Lover of mankind.

*Verse 7: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

By Thy death, O Lord, death has been swallowed up, and by Thy Resurrection, Saviour, has the world been saved.

*Verse 6: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.*

Those sleeping in darkness have seen Thee, the Light, and they have risen out of the nethermost parts of hell, O Christ.

*Verse 5: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Risen from the tomb Thou hast met the women bearing myrrh and told the disciples to proclaim Thy Rising.

For St. Luke<sup>2</sup> in Tone Eight

*Verse 4: Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Thy Gospel, O divinely speaking Luke, setteth before us the Dayspring from on high, which hath visited us men.

*Verse 3: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in the heavens.*

Accomplishing an act of truly divine inspiration, O excellent Luke, with all godliness thou didst record in writing the Acts of the Apostles.

*Verse 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

The blessed Paul plaited the first-fruits of laudation for thee, and set forth thy praises in his Epistles.

*Verse 1: Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Saved through thee, all the generations of men now call thee blessed, as thou didst prophesy, O immaculate Virgin.

THE SUNDAY EISODIKON

*Verse:* O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

*Choir:* Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Apolytikia:*

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST IN TONE THREE

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<sup>2</sup> Troparia from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ode of the Mattins Canon (cf. St. Sabbas Typikon).

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with the merciful God, to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE IN TONE ONE

(\*\**The soldiers standing guard*\*\*)

When Christ God had been born for our sakes from the Virgin, thou faithfully didst follow Him, keeping His statutes and heeding His sacred laws, O august Mary Magdalene. Hence, as we today observe thy holy remembrance, we receive the loosing of our sins and transgressions through thy holy prayer(s) for us.

THE TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

THE APOSTOLOS & THE GOSPEL

PROKEIMENON, IN TONE 8

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. (*Ps.18:4*)  
{*twice*}

*Verse:* The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands. (*Ps.18:1*)

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

APOSTOLOS FOR ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST:

*Reader:* The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. §260-261 (4:5-11, 14-18)

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. Tychicus will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord.” I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

ALLELUIA, TONE 1

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 1:* The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints. (*Ps.88:5*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 2:* God Who is glorified in the council of the saints is great and terrible towards all that are round about Him. (*Ps.88:7*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL FOR ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

*Reader:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke §51 (10:16-21)

*Choir:* Glory the Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee.

*Reader:* The Lord said, “He who hears you hears Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.” The Seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Thy Name!” And Jesus said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the spirit and said, “I thank Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was Thy gracious will.”

*Choir:* Glory the Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee.

*Then we sing the following, in tone 6*

*Choir:* Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

- Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
- Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

*Verse: Come unto Him, and be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed.*

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

The choir of Holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly hosts praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

*Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets;

And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

*Leader:* Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

*All:* Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

*Kontakia:*

KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE TWO

*(\*\*Thou soughtest the heights\*\*)*

Arisen art Thou, \* Almighty Saviour, from the tomb; \* as Hades beheld, \* he trembled at the miracle; \* and the dead arose, and creation, seeing this, doth rejoice with Thee; \* and as Adam also is glad, \* the world, O my Saviour, praiseth Thee forever.

KONTAKION OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST IN TONE FOUR

*(\*\*On this day Thou hast appeared\*\*)*

Thou with Paul didst shine thy light \* upon the whole world, \* since thou wast a genuine \* disciple of the Word of God. \* And thou didst drive out the gloom far hence \* when thou didst write the divine Gospel of Christ God.

SEASONAL KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant: O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

*Leader:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Thy good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say:

*Choir:* One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

PSALM 33

*Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is

good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

#### THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is truly meet and right to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honourable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

#### READING(S)

##### THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the

holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church “into all truth” (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of Saint Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of Saint Luke’s relics for the saint’s empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of Saint Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skelton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in Saint Luke’s original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

Saint Luke is also commemorated on April 22. [From oca.org]

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#### THE HOLY MARTYR MARINUS THE ELDER OF ANAZARBUS

The Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus was from Cilicia (Asia Minor). For his confession of faith in Christ the Elder was subjected to fierce beatings, and then killed on the orders of Lysias, governor of Tarsus, during the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). [From oca.org]

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#### THE RIGHTEOUS SYMEON, THEODORE, AND EUPHROSZYNE, WHO FOUNDED THE MONASTERY OF THE GREAT CAVE IN THE PELOPONNESUS

The sacred and historic Monastery of the Great Cave in the martyric and much-suffering region of Kalavryta is three hours distant from the city by foot or fifteen minutes by automobile. It is a palace built by God to which, like clouds and like doves with nestlings, crowds of the faithful come in order to worship the image of the all-holy and grace-filled countenance of our Mistress and Queen of all, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, which was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist, and to seek the grace of the Mother of God. This monastery is that blessed land which scatters abroad spiritual perfumes and scents of heavenly sweetness, because it possesses this treasure of great price.

For this reason, every soul which loves God longs to apprehend in every way this beautiful religious monument which is an unfailed fountain of consolation and strength. Furthermore, for all those who approach with faith, there results a refreshment of soul, joy of the heart, illumination of the eyes, sweetness for the mouth, help for the helpless, deliverance for those in need, guidance for the fortunate, and establishment of the virtuous.

The blessed fathers Symeon and Theodore, who discovered the holy icon, were brothers according to the flesh. They were born, according to the Synaxarion, at the beginning of the fourth century in Thessalonika, the bride of the Thermaic Gulf and the capital of martyric Macedonia.

It is also argued they lived in the ninth century<sup>3</sup> however, since the details of their life only seem to fit with this time period.

They had the good fortune to be the children of a pious and holy family, which was diligent to rear them with all care and planted in them divine love and an inclination to strive continually for perfection and the exercise of the virtues. Since they had been educated in a manner pleasing to God and had acquired the character of the first man Adam, they subjected completely the carnal and earthly will to the knowledge and commandments of Christ. They studied rhetoric, philosophy, and poetry but principally applied themselves to understand the doctrine of theology. They succeeded in forming in themselves the figure of the ideal Christian who combines harmoniously in his life religion and virtue. Their principal goal was how to become pleasing to God and to gain Him. The angelic life of the monks of the desert aroused and literally enraptured within them the desire to abandon all worldly dreams of vanity and withdrew to the desert. Looking only to the true and eternal life, they were clothed with the habit of the monastic and angelic life.

Desiring greatly that spiritual mount where ascends and stands he "whose hands are innocent and is pure of heart", they ascended in the beginning Mt. Olympus where they remained a good time. From there they went to Mt. Ossa and later reached beautiful Mt. Pelion, thus "running with patience" that good race which they had entered. Living in continual prayer and study of the divine words and looking only to "Jesus, the author and finisher of our Faith", they became temples of the Holy Spirit and most pure abodes of God. They also never ceased to glorify the Mother of our Lord, the immaculate Theotokos, whom they invoked as an intercessor to her only-begotten Son and God for the sake of themselves and the world.

After they had exercised themselves in the contest for virtue in the aforementioned mountains for a long time, they then visited Mt. Athos where they came to know many illumined hesychasts and men of the desert. From these unique, living figures of perfection they gathered many elements useful for the life according to God. Later, being urged on by longing for the divine, they travelled to worship those places where God walked, Jerusalem and Mt. Tabor.

They travelled to and venerated all the places where the feet of the God-Man, our Savior, walked and where were accomplished the mysteries of universal salvation. Moreover, they travelled to Sinai, that mountain walked upon by God, and where "the Lord spake" to Moses the God-seer "face to face as one speaks to his own friend". They kissed there with tears in their eyes the holy earth of that mystic bush that burned yet was not consumed prefiguring the great mystery of God's dispensation. They visited all the shrines that exist in those places which are tokens of God's manifestations there, conversed with venerable elders in the desert round about, and so experienced indescribable joy. Finally, after they had returned by divine command to Jerusalem, they received the great office of the priesthood from the most sacred Maximus, bishop of the Holy City Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup>

While the blessed pair were living there, each one separately was deemed worthy to see the same vision in a dream and to receive from above the same divine and sweet command. The

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<sup>3</sup> A historical study published in 1985 by Panselinos Editions of Mt. Athos, titled *The Thessalonian Saints Symeon and Theodore, First Dwellers of Athos and Patrons of All Greece*, written by El. Anagnostaki and the Hieromonk Justin, places the birth and activity of the Saints in the ninth century, during the Iconoclast Controversy. There is no record of the Monastery before this time as well, and it would still place them as the first recorded monastics of Mount Athos. However, there may be some sort of tradition that did originate in the fourth century, or, as is sometimes the case, the Synaxarion may have confused the lives of these two Saints with someone else.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Maximus III of Jerusalem (333-348). The naming of Bishop Maximus is one argument that supports the fourth century date for these Saints.

Queen of Heaven, Mary the Mother of God, appeared unto them, crowned with divine glory and splendor and escorted by the apostles Paul, Andrew, and Luke. They ordered the brothers to go to Achaia to find the icon of the Virgin Mary sculpted in relief by the Evangelist Luke, and which, by the goodwill and grace of her Son, is an exact likeness of her divine countenance. When the brothers awoke, they narrated everything to the most sacred Maximus. After glorifying God, they departed from Jerusalem for Achaia, which had been spiritually sown, watered, and cultivated evangelically by those same three venerable and divine men, the holy Apostles Paul, Andrew and Luke. [From Mystagogy]

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#### THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS GABRIEL AND KYRMIDOLES OF EGYPT (+ 1522)

Gabriel and Kyrmidoles were born and raised in Egypt during the reigns of Sultan Selim I (1512-1520) and his son Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566). Both young men had wealthy and pious parents, and received a good education.

The two Christian brothers lived in Cairo next to a mosque, and were secretaries to some very high government officials. One day they were accused before Emir Haer Mek of Egypt by some neighbors, mostly out of envy, of being in the habit of throwing their garbage against the wall of the mosque next door to them. The Muslims considered this to be a great dishonor and insult to Islam.

Hearing this, the Emir sent soldiers to bring the two brothers before him. Though they were young and handsome, they were very firm in their adherence to their Orthodox Christian faith when the Emir began to flatter them and question them about their faith. Their answers enraged the Muslim soldiers present, so they demanded they convert to Islam. To this the brothers replied: "We will not deny the faith we received from our forefathers, but we will remain unshaken and very firm in it until the end. We find your religion disgraceful and turn away from it as false and fruitless."

As the brothers were being questioned by the judge, who flattered them at first and then threatened them with torture and death if they did not convert, their mother came to see them. But when the Muslims noticed her, they fell upon her and tore her clothing, then they gave her a thorough beating. When the brothers saw this, they stood up and rebuked the judge for the injustice, and informed him that they were ready to die in the name of Christ.

When one of the Muslims heard this, he became so angry that he took out a knife and stabbed Kyrmidoles in the chest, while someone else kicked him to the ground and beat him. After this an Arab took a large stone and dropped it on his head, then they plucked out his eyes. In this way Kyrmidoles delivered his soul to the Lord. Immediately after this, Gabriel was thrown to the ground and one of the soldiers severed his right shoulder, then he proceeded to cut off his head.

The Muslim soldiers then took the bodies of the Holy Martyrs to a place called Himer Ilgumen (that is, Soldier's Tents) where they lit a large fire and threw the bodies into it. It took more than two days for their bodies to be reduced to ashes, and their remains were sold to Christians. Gabriel's skull, which survived, was initially sold by a soldier in secret to a Christian goldsmith named Elias, the son of Mufra. He in turn gave the skull to Patriarch Joachim of Alexandria (1487-1567). Later the skull was buried with much ceremony at the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo.

A Divine Office to the Saints can be found in codex 379 of the Patriarchal Library in Cairo. [From Mystagogy]

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## SAINT PETER OF CETINJE

Saint Peter was born in Njegushi, Montenegro on April 1, 1747. He was tonsured a monk and ordained to the diaconate when he was only seventeen. He accompanied his uncle Bishop Basil to Russia the following year in order to study there. His uncle died within a year after arriving in Russia, and so Peter was obliged to return to Montenegro.

The young deacon was ordained to the holy priesthood, and was later elevated to the rank of archimandrite. Saint Peter assisted Metropolitan Sava in the administration of the diocese until that hierarch died in 1781. Saint Peter seemed the logical choice to succeed him.

As Metropolitan of Montenegro, Saint Peter also became the secular leader (governor) of the Montenegrans Serbs. For the rest of his life he devoted himself to promoting peace and unity among warring tribes and clans, and to helping his flock rise above petty quarrels and animosity at a difficult time in their history.

Saint Peter also defended his nation against the onslaught of enemies. He successfully opposed Napoleon's army at Dalmatia, and took part in the first Serbian uprising against the Turks.

Although he enjoyed a certain prominence as the archpastor and governor of the Serbs, Saint Peter continued to live as a simple monk in a small cell where he lived in asceticism. He fasted, prayed, and read books in French, Italian and Russian in order to increase his knowledge of Orthodox doctrine and secular culture. While he was strict with himself, the holy bishop was merciful toward others.

Saint Peter contributed to the welfare of his country through his good works. As a bishop he promoted love and peace. As governor he never sentenced a criminal to death.

Saint Peter, the Metropolitan and governor of Cetinje and all Montenegro, fell asleep in the Lord on October 18, 1830. He was succeeded by his nephew Bishop Peter II (Njegos).

Saint Peter's holy and grace-filled relics were uncovered in 1834. They were found incorrupt and streaming with myrrh, and still rest in the monastery at Cetinje. He is honored as a powerful intercessor for his people, and for the whole Church. [From oca.org]

### THE LITTLE DISMISSAL

*The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:*

*Leader:* Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

*All:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

*Leader:* O Thou Who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Luke; Martyr Marinos the Elder at Anazarbos; Venerable Theodore, Simeon and Euphrosyne, founders of the Monastery of the Great Cave in the Peloponnesus; New-martyrs Gabriel and Kyrmidoles of Egypt; and Venerable Peter of Cetinje, whose memory we celebrate today,* and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

*Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*All:* Amen.