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READER'S TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pascha)

*Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic*

THE OPENING

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

*Reader:* Amen.

*Leader & Choir:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*thrice*)

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 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 THREE

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.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

For the Resurrection in Tone Three<sup>1</sup>

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

Thou didst banish Adam, our forefather, from Paradise, when he set at nought Thy commandment, O Christ; but Thou didst make the thief, who confessed Thee upon the Cross, to dwell therein, O Compassionate One, as he cried: Remember me, O Saviour, in Thy Kingdom.

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<sup>1</sup> Although these verses are marked as Resurrectional, those given in the Pentecostarion (shown here) appear to differ from the ones given in the Sunday Octoechos. This anomaly shows up both in the Romanian and the English (HTM) Pentecostarion.

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

Having risen from the dead, Thou didst raise us also from the passions by Thy Resurrection, O Lord; and Thou didst destroy all the might of death, O Saviour; for this cause we cry out in faith: Remember us also in Thy Kingdom.

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

By Thy three-day burial, as God Thou didst quicken and raise up with Thyself them that were dead in Hades; and since Thou art good, Thou didst cause incorruption to flow forth for us all, who with faith do ever cry out: Remember us also in Thy Kingdom.

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

When we sinned, Thou didst condemn us with the curse of death, O our Life-giver and Lord. And having suffered in Thy body, though Thou wast without sin, O Master, Thou didst quicken all mortals, who cry out: Remember us also in Thy Kingdom.

For the Paralytic Sunday in Tone Three<sup>2</sup>

*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.*

Of Thine own will Thou wast lifted up upon the Tree, and laid as one dead in the sepulchre, and having quickened together all them that were dead in Hades, O Christ, Thou didst raise them by Thy divine power.

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

When Hades met Thee below, O Compassionate One, it was embittered, and in haste it gave up them that it held in bonds, who with unceasing voices praise Thine awesome Resurrection, O Saviour.

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

When he that aforetime lay for many years upon a bed of affliction was made whole by Thy command, O Christ, he glorified and praised Thy compassion, O Giver of life.

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

He that sustaineth all things by His divine command is held in thine arms, O Virgin Theotokos, and since He is compassionate He doth rescue us from the enslaving hand of the evil one.

THE FESTAL EISODIKON

*Verse:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

*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 THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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 faith-fully didst follow Him, keeping His statutes and heeding His sacred laws, O august Mary Magdalene. Hence, as we today

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<sup>2</sup> These troparia are taken from the 6<sup>th</sup> Ode of Matins Canon, cf. Pentecostarion.

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 3

O chant unto our God, chant ye; chant unto our King, chant ye. (*Ps.46:6*) {*twice*}

*Verse:* Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing. (*Ps.46:1*)

O chant unto our God, chant ye; chant unto our King, chant ye.

#### SUNDAY APOSTOLOS:

*Reader:* The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles §23 (9:32-42)

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments, which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

#### ALLELUIA, IN TONE 3

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 1:* In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped, let me not be put to shame in the age to come. (*Ps.30:1a*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 2:* Be Thou unto me a God to defend me and a house of refuge to save me. (*Ps.30:2b*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### SUNDAY GOSPEL:

*Reader:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John § 14 (5:1-15)

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

*Reader:* At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him,

“Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your pallet, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet.” But he answered them, “The man who healed me said to me, ‘Take up your pallet, and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your pallet, and walk?’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

*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 PARALYTIC SUNDAY IN TONE THREE

*(Special melody: "On this day the Virgin...")*

As of old Thou didst raise up \* the paralytic, O Lord God, \* by Thy God-like care and might, \* raise up my soul which is palsied \* by diverse sins and transgressions \* and by unseemly \* deeds and acts, that, saved I may also cry out: \* O Compassionate Redeemer, \* O Christ God, glory \* to Thy dominion and might.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

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

*Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing  
the Refrain & Irmos of the 9<sup>th</sup> ode of the Paschal Canon,<sup>3</sup> in tone 1*

The Angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, Rejoice, O pure Vir-gin! Again I say: Rejoice; thy Son is risen from his three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people. Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, exult and be glad, O Sion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of thy Son.

### READINGS

#### SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water, because an Angel of the Lord came down to the pool at a certain season and troubled the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said to him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath. [From tyoos.org]

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#### OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER MICHAEL THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF SYNNA DA

Saint Michael the Confessor From his youth he longed for the monastic life and was sent by Patriarch Tarasius (784-806) to a monastery on the coast of the Black Sea. Saint Theophylactus (March 8), the future Bishop of Nicomedia also entered the monastery together with him.

At the monastery both monks engaged in spiritual struggles and were soon glorified by gifts from the Lord. Once, during a harvest, when the people were weakened by thirst, an empty metal vessel was filled with water by the prayer of the monks.

Patriarch Tarasius consecrated Saint Michael as bishop of the city of Synnada. Through his holy life and wisdom, Saint Michael won the love of believers, and the notice of the emperors Nicephorus I (802-811) and Michael I Rangabe (811-813). Saint Michael was present at the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicea in 787.

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<sup>3</sup> The Antiochian sources appoint instead of the Irmos ("Shine, shine...") the 1<sup>st</sup> Troparion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Matins Canon for the Theotokos (based on same Irmos): **With one voice, O Virgin, we the faithful call thee blessed. Rejoice, thou portal of the Lord; rejoice, thou living city; rejoice, thou through whom there has shone on us today the light of thy Son's Resurrection from the dead.**

When the Iconoclast heretic Leo the Armenian (813-820) assumed the throne, he began to expel Orthodox hierarchs from their Sees, appointing heretics in their place.

Saint Michael defended Orthodoxy, bravely opposing the heretics and denouncing their error. Leo the Armenian brought Saint Michael to trial, but not fearing torture he answered resolutely, "I venerate the holy icons of my Savior Jesus Christ and the All-Pure Virgin, His Mother, and all the saints, and it is to them I bow down. I shall not obey your decrees to remove icons from churches."

Leo then banished Saint Michael to the city of Eudokiada, where the confessor died about the year 821. The head of Saint Michael is preserved in the Great Lavra of Saint Athanasius on Mount Athos, and part of the relics are at the Ivéron monastery. [From oca.org]

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#### THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARER MARY THE WIFE OF CLEOPAS

Saint Mary, wife of Cleopas (or Clopas), is explicitly mentioned only in John 19:25, where she is among the women present at the Crucifixion of Jesus:

"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary [the wife] of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene."

She was also among the Myrrhbearing women, who on the morning of the Resurrection of Christ went to the tomb of Christ to anoint the body of Jesus, only to discover that He had risen as He foretold. Thus she was among the first witnesses of the Resurrection.

Eusebius of Caesarea, citing Hegesippus, records that "Cleopas was a brother of Joseph", which makes Mary of Cleopas a sister-in-law of Mary, the mother of Jesus. If this is true, as John 19:25 implies, she was the aunt of Jesus.

Little else is known of Saint Mary of Cleopas.

According to the local tradition of the island of Zakynthos, the village of Maries, a village named after both Mary Magdalene and Mary of Cleopas, is where Mary Magdalene first preached Christ crucified and risen to the locals while on her way to Rome, accompanied by Mary the wife of Cleopas. Tradition says their ship dropped anchor at Porto Vromi and Mary Magdalene and Mary of Cleopas came ashore to spread Christ's gospel. The footprint can still be seen on the rock. Today at Maries, Panagia Mariesotissa is the church of the village, standing below the village and housing an icon with miraculous properties.

A portion of her sacred relic is at the Monastery of Panagia Tourliani in Mykonos. [From Mystagogy]

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#### THE FINDING OF THE RELICS OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS LEONTIUS (LEONTY) THE WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF ROSTOV

The Chronicle of the Rostov Bishops says that St. Leonty of Rostov, who was one of the first bishops of Rostov, arrived in Rostov around 1051. In the Rostov land, inhabited at that time by miraculous tribes that had not yet been recognized as Russian baptismal tribes - the meri and Vepsians, Saint Leonty met fierce resistance from the pagans, expelling his two predecessors - Bishops Theodore and Hilarion. Prince Boris Vladimirovich, who helped the saints a lot in spreading Christianity among Finns, was killed back in 1015, and, having arrived at his Rostov chair, Saint Leonty turned out to be a lone fighter. He settled at the cathedral church and first of all engaged in the education of clergy. His messages to them have been preserved.

Despite the constant danger, St. Leonty zealously turned to Christ the Meryan population.

Once he was beaten by pagans and expelled from the city, but did not leave the spiritual flock entrusted to him and settled not far from Rostov, near the Brutovschina stream, where he built a small church of the Archangel Michael. The saint began to come to the children of local residents, attracted by his spiritual kindness. He attracted them to himself, treating them with kutia, that is, boiled wheat with honey, and at the same time he taught them the principles of the Christian faith and then baptized. Soon, the adult population reached out to the blessed archpastor and also received holy Baptism.

According to some information, Leontius, in addition to the Greek language, knew the Meryan language well and translated Christian texts into it.

But the hostility of the local population towards the enlightener grew. In 1073 (or 1077 according to others), he was killed by the Gentiles at the direction of the Arbues (Magi).

The body of the saint was buried in Rostov the Great in the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During a fire in 1160, the temple burned down, and, by order of Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky, in 1162 a stone cathedral was laid in place of the former. On May 23, 1164, when digging ditches, they found imperishable relics, they were transferred to a stone coffin and placed in the church of St. John the Evangelist.

In 1170, when the construction of a stone church in honor of the Most Holy Theotokos was completed, the coffin was transferred to this temple. When in troubled times Lithuania stole the tomb of the saint (1609), they managed to put his relics in the same temple, near the south wall of the chapel in his name.

During the restoration of the Rostov Assumption Cathedral in 1884 under the floor (in the dungeon) of the current chapel in the name of St. Leonty was discovered an ancient chapel in honor of this saint, in which on the south side there is a niche decorated with ancient frescoes with images of St. Leontius, the repose and acquisition of his relics; next to the wall image of st. Leonty, almost flush with the brick floor of the chapel, directly beneath the now existing silver crayfish of St. Leonty, a tomb, walled up in white stone, was discovered, in which, it is believed, the honest relics of St. Leonty.

Saint Leonty is among the first successors of the apostolic ministry of the Russian Church, following the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Princess Olga and the Great Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Vladimir. [From miscellaneous Russian sources]

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#### OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER EUPHROSYNE OF POLOTSK

Saint Euphrosyne, Abbess of Polotsk, was named Predslava in the world, and was the daughter of Prince George Vseslavich. From her childhood she was noted for her love of prayer and book learning. After turning down a proposal of marriage, Predslava received monastic tonsure with the name Euphrosyne. With the blessing of Bishop Elias of Polotsk, she began to live near the Sophia cathedral, where she occupied herself by the copying of books.

Around the year 1128 Bishop Elias entrusted the nun with the task of organizing a women's monastery. Setting out for Seltso, the site of the future monastery, the ascetic took only her holy books. At the newly constructed Savior-Transfiguration monastery the saint taught the girls to copy books, singing, sewing and other handicrafts.

Through her efforts, a cathedral was built in 1161, which survives to the present day. Saint Euphrosyne also founded a men's monastery dedicated to the Mother of God. Patriarch Luke of Constantinople sent a copy of the wonderworking Ephesus Icon of the Mother of God at her

request. Shortly before her death, Saint Euphrosyne journeyed on pilgrimage to the Holy Places with her nephew David and sister Eupraxia.

After venerating the holy things at Constantinople, she arrived in Jerusalem, where at the Russian monastery of the Most Holy Theotokos the Lord granted her a peaceful end on May 24, 1173.

In 1187 the body of the saint was transferred to the Kiev Caves monastery, and the relics were transferred to Polotsk in 1910 to the monastery she founded.

Saint Euphrosyne of Polotsk was glorified in the Russian Church as a patroness of women's monasticism. [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 Michael the Confessor, bishop of Synnada; Myrrh-bearer Mary, wife of Cleopas; Leontios the wonderworker, bishop of Rostov; and Euphrosinia of Polotsk, 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:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

*People:* ...bestowing life!