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READER'S TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

(32nd Sunday after Pentecost)

The Holy Apostle Timothy of the 70

The Righteous Martyr Anastasius the Persian

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 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 SEVEN

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 Seven

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

Fair to look upon and good for food was the fruit that killed me; while Christ is the Tree of life. Eating Thereof I die not but cry aloud with the thief: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

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

Lifted upon the Cross, Thou Who art compassionate, hast blotted out the handwriting of Adam's sin in days of old, and Thou hast saved from error all the whole line of mortal men. Therefore we sing Thy praises, O Benefactor and Lord.

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

Thou hast nailed our sins upon the Cross, O Christ Who art compassionate, and by Thy death hast Thou put death to death, raising the dead from the dead. Therefore we venerate Thy holy Resurrection.

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

The serpent once emptied his poison into the ears of Eve; while Christ on the wood of the Cross poured the sweetness of life unto the world. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

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.

In the tomb wast Thou laid as mortal, O Christ, the Life of all and Thou hast burst asunder the chains of hell and risen the third day in glory as mighty, Thou hast enlightened all. Glory to Thy Rising.

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

The Lord rose from the dead on the third day and gave His own peace to the disciples. And He blessed them and sent them forth saying: Lead ye all men into my Kingdom.

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

The Father is Light, the Son and Word is Light, Light is the Holy Spirit. But the Light is One in Three for God is One in three Persons, one nature and sovereignty, being unsevered, unconfused and pre-eternal.

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

As Thou Thyself knowest, Thou hast conceived on earth and in the flesh the Son and Word of the Father, O Theotokos, Therefore, O Virgin Mother, those who have been made godlike through Thee, cry to Thee: Hail! Thou Hope of Christians.

THE SUNDAY EISODIKON

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

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

Apolytikia:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE IN TONE FOUR

Since thou hadst been instructed in uprightness thoroughly and wast vigilant in all things, thou wast clothed with a good conscience as befitteth one holy. Thou didst draw from the Chosen Vessel ineffable mysteries; and having kept the Faith, thou didst finish the course, O Hieromartyr and Apostle Timothy. Intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANASTASIOS THE PERSIAN IN TONE FOUR

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee * received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. * For since he possessed Thy strength, he

cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. * O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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 7

The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. (*Ps.28:11*)
{*twice*}

Verse: Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord the sons of rams; bring unto the Lord glory and honour. (*Ps.28:1*)

The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

SUNDAY APOSTOLOS (32ND SUNDAY):

Reader: The reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy §285a (4:9-15).

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

ALLELUIA, IN TONE 7

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse 1: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and chant unto Thy name, O Most High. (*Ps.91:1*)

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse 2: To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night. (*Ps.91:2a*)

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

SUNDAY GOSPEL (15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE):

Reader: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke §94 (19:1-10).

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

Reader: At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must

stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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 SEVEN

No longer will the dominion of death be able to keep men captive; for Christ hath descended, destroying and dispelling the powers' thereof. Hades is bound; the Prophets rejoice with one accord, saying: A Savior hath come for them that have faith. Come forth, ye faithful, for the Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF ST. TIMOTHY AND ST. ANASTASIOS IN TONE ONE

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

With hymns let us, the faithful, sing Timothy's praises * as Paul's divine disciple and faithful companion; * with him let us also laud Anastasius the godly-wise, * who shone forth with splendor like a star out of Persia * and doth drive away from us our bodily sickness * and spiritual maladies.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

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 TIMOTHY, DISCIPLE OF SAINT PAUL.

The Apostle Timothy, who was from Lystra of Lycaonia, was born of a Greek (that is, pagan) father and a Jewish mother; his mother's name was Eunice, and his grandmother's name was Lois (II Tim. 1:5). He became the disciple of the Apostle Paul when the latter first preached there, and he followed him during the whole period of the Apostle's preaching. Afterwards, he was consecrated by him as first Bishop of the Church in Ephesus. Under the supervision of John the Evangelist, who governed all the churches in Asia, he completed his life as a martyr in the year 97, when he was stoned to death by the heathen, because, as some surmise, he opposed the festival held in honor of Artemis (Diana). The Apostle Paul's First and Second Epistles to Timothy were written to him. [From tyoos.org]

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THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS MARTYR ANASTASIUS OF PERSIA

Saint Anastasius was a Persian by race, the son of a Magus, and a soldier in the Persian army, in the days of Chosroës II, King of Persia, and Heraclius, Emperor of New Rome. The Saint's Persian name was Magundat. When Chosroës captured Jerusalem in the year 614 and took the Precious Cross away captive, Magundat heard the report of the miracles that came to pass through the Wood of our salvation. Being of a prudent mind, perplexed that an instrument of torture should be so highly honored by the Christians, yet seized with longing to learn their Faith, he diligently sought out instruction in the whole divine dispensation of Christ, His Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection; when he learned what he sought to know, his soul was filled with wonder and joy. Withdrawing to the Holy City, he was baptized by Saint Modestus, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and became a monk, receiving the new name of Anastasius. As he read the lives of the Saints and the accounts of the holy Martyrs, his heart was kindled with love for them to such a degree that he prayed to be counted worthy of a martyric end like unto theirs. Finally, unable to contain his longing, he left his monastery and, encountering certain Persian Magi at Caesarea, he rebuked them for their delusion. Since Palestine was still held in the captivity of the Persians, he was taken before the Persian ruler, questioned, beaten, and imprisoned. He was then taken with other captives to Persia, where, after many tortures, refusing to espouse again the error of his fathers, he was hanged up by one hand, strangled with a noose, and beheaded. The translation of his holy relics is celebrated on the 24th of this month. [From tyoos.org]

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OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER JOSEPH THE SANCTIFIED OF CRETE (+1511)

Our Venerable Father Joseph the Sanctified, surnamed Samakos, was born and raised in Crete. He came into the world a short time before the destruction of Constantinople, around the year

1440, from pious and God-fearing parents in a village called Keramoi. Most people believe that Keramoi is today's small village of Azokeramos, which is found at the easternmost end of the province of Siteia that is distinguished even today by the piety of its people.

His good parents brought him up with the pure milk of godliness and educated him with the beginning of wisdom, which is the fear of God. So, from a young age he learnt holy writ and filled his soul with holy zeal running like a thirsty deer to the revered Monastery of Panagia Akroteriane, which is found in the region close to his village and which at that time was in full spiritual bloom. This Patriarchal Stavropegial (under the direct auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate) Monastery, exists today, unfortunately more as a tourist attraction than an actual monastery, known since the last years of Turkish occupation as the Monastery of Toplou. Under the protection of the Akroteriane Mistress (the Theotokos), he fed his soul with the solid food of the neptic tradition (ascetic fathers) and learnt to fight the invisible war against the three-headed monster: flesh - worldliness - the devil. He was initiated into the sweetest secrets of pure prayer and God-loving loquacity, filling his heart with divine love for Christ. When he at last reached a suitable age and with the blessing of his Spiritual Father he left the monastery and went to Handaka (today's Heraklion). This was the Great Castle where there was the small Monastery dedicated to St. John the Theologian, a Metochion (subsidiary) of the Monastery Panagia Akroteriane at Siteia, at an area called Dermata. Today the Church of the Holy Trinity stands at that spot. There he put himself under the direction of the Geronda (Spiritual Father or Abbot) of that monastery.

Being next to his holy Geronda and with blessed in the Holy Spirit obedience, he started the ascetic endeavors and fasting, the hardships and discipline of the body for the taming of the old man (sinful nature), and gradually became a clean and roomy vessel, ready to accommodate the Grace of God. When his pious parents slept in the Lord, he distributed his inheritance to the poor according to the words of the Lord: "If you want to be perfect, go and sell your belongings and give the money to the poor; you will then have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me" (Matt. 19:21). He then bid the world and its pleasures farewell and offered his whole self to Christ, wearing the holy habit of a monk.

With the angelic habit of monasticism, with great and honest struggle and patience he attracted upon himself Divine Grace, which blessed his efforts and tears, and increased in the field of his soul the flowers and trees of the holy evangelical virtues he cultivated there. Decorated thus with these Christ-imitating virtues he stood apart within the monastic brotherhood and, despite his youthfulness, he had arrived at spiritual heights as if he were a white-haired elder. He was, as is said in these circumstances, a paedariogeron or young-elder. All respected and esteemed him seeing his spiritual progress, his virtue and his Godly wisdom and prudence. Therefore, very soon, with the exhortation of his Elder, he received the grace of Priesthood. He put on the holy epitachelion (stole) and was established as a minister and steward of God's Mysteries.

When his affectionate Geronda peacefully passed away, the holy Fr. Joseph executed his duties and orders to the letter, with every piety and care as a devoted son. At the same time he increased his holy zeal and any talents and charismata he had been given by God and cultivated them with an even more sense of honor and self-respect. He lived his monastic life as a bodiless angel, having in his mind exclusively the thought of how to please the Lord everywhere and always. He pushed himself with hardship, he attended his emotions very carefully, he purified his body, he kept his tongue from any evil words, he prayed unceasingly and always had the memory of death to bridle the human passions and distance the danger of sin. At the same time he honorably

cultivated the charisma of the holy Priesthood, pastoring the logical sheep of Christ with love and self-denial, comforting, supporting, advising, teaching, reprimanding, according to circumstance. He especially took utmost care to cultivate love, practicing charity and brotherly love.

His priestly conscience was never tainted with the smear of greed, and whatever philotima (gifts of money) were given to him by the faithful he distributed to the poor. Indeed not only the money but even the Prospora (oblation bread) that were left over from the Liturgy he gave away not keeping even the basic needs for his own sustenance. He was totally poor for Christ, absolutely faithful to the monastic rule of total poverty!

At one time, it is said, he had distributed the Prospora to the poor in advance forgetting to keep one for the Liturgy. When the time came for Liturgy, his helper sadly informed him that there was no Prospora. St. Joseph was not fazed but replied to his helper that God would provide Prospora for the Eucharist, and then started to pray. In this way Abraham had at one time replied to his son Isaac's question in regard to the lamb that was to be sacrificed: "God will provide the sacrificial lamb, my child!" (Gen. 21:8). Truly God did provide a ram in a bush called savek, which Abraham sacrificed, instead of Isaac. Similarly now God provides for the Prospora at the bloodless sacrifice by a miracle! The server had barely entered the holy Sanctuary when he found a heap of warm well-baked Prospora ready for the Liturgy! You see, our God, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever!" (Heb. 13:8). Thus He acts accordingly to the petition and the needs of His saints.

The whole life of the humble Hieromonk (Priest-monk) Joseph was a Christ-life. His thoughts were Christ-thoughts and his feelings were Christ-feelings. Whatever was his was first Christ's then his, his own soul was Christ's firstly then his. To him everything everywhere was Christ the Lord! In this way his life was the life of Christ extended through him to his times, which is the life of the incarnate Divine Word, the Theanthropos (Godman) Jesus, who became man so as to present and offer us, as a man, His divine life (see "Together With All the Saints: Man and God-man", p 80-81, by Archimandrite Justin Popovich).

But because Christ said to his followers "you will have affliction in the world" (John 16:33), in other words - "the world will make you suffer", Venerable Joseph was allowed to be tested. One day some vulgar-mannered Jews from the Great Castle, acting polite and courteous, offered him a cup of wine as he passed by their way seemingly to offer hospitality but in reality to mock him. He graciously accepted it, he blessed it with the sign of the cross, being a priest, drank a little for love and wished them the best, thanked them and poured the rest back into the container from which it came. They on the other hand considered this blessing of St Joseph an offensive insult. They fell upon him and insulted him in a vulgar and barbarous way dragging him by force to the courthouse of the Duke, where they accused him of insult against their religion. The man of God though was justified by the impartial judge and his accusers went away, thoroughly ashamed and embarrassed.

Blessed Joseph lived 71 years on this earth. He came, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to be clothed with Christ (through his constant prayer and extensive sacramental life on the one hand, and with the systematic cultivation of the evangelical virtues together with his imitation - according to his ability - of the Lord within the angelic monastic community on the other). He was filled completely by the Grace of the God-man Christ and was transfigured gradually into a God-bearing and God-like human, into a perfect man according to the prototype of Christ (see p. 97 of Justin Popovich's previously referred book). In this kind of condition the calling of the Lord for the eternal life and kingdom found him on the 22nd of January 1511. Thus his death was a holy

sleep in the Lord. It was a pascha, and a passing over from corruption and vanity to immortality and eternity. From this valley of tears, to the place of never ending joy, where the pure sound of those who always feast and have happiness singing with delight the "Glory to You O Lord" is found! He passed from the Egypt of death to the Land of Promise (the eternal Life and Kingdom of the All-holy Triadic God).

Many miracles and signs followed the sleep (death) of Hieromonk Joseph. Many persons saw holy visions again and again. Thus a few years later his venerable body was exhumed and was found to be incorrupt and whole, giving off a divine aroma, which gave great joy to those who venerated it. In conjunction to this were many miracles, especially healings of illnesses and sicknesses for many who approached and venerated in faith and piety. This is indeed proof that God in His great goodness and loving kindness, can be touched or partaken through His uncreated divine energies as the Holy Fathers, divinely inspired, teach us. For what else but participation, not only spiritual but physical, in these divine energies, is witnessed by the incorruption, the aroma, and the miracles which are done by the holy relics of the Saint. Glorified, therefore, is the mostpraised and worshipful Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit! Which God is great as our God?

When the impious Agarenes (Muslims), by God's allowance because of our sins, invaded the island of Crete in 1669, a pious priest called Antonios Armakis, intending to protect the holy relics of the Saint from the impure hands of the God-hated barbarians, took it with him and escaped to Zakynthos. There he placed it on the 29th of August that year in the Convent of St. John of Mantinea, in the region called Xerovounia (Dry-hills). From there, in 1915 it was transferred to the Church of the Pantocratora in the suburb Gaitani of Zakynthos City, where it is still treasured today whole and complete. This is where pious people come and venerate the relics and receive spiritual support and divine blessing and where supernatural miracles happen at certain times according to the faith of those who approach.

At the birthplace of the Saint, Azokeramos of Siteia, a domed church was built in his memory, which celebrates its feast on the 22nd of January, and many people gather from Siteia and the surrounding towns. I personally, as the former Vicar-General and Preacher of the local Diocese there, was deemed worthy to liturgize on many occasions speaking the praises of the Saint for the glory of God and our spiritual edification and salvation. Also in the newly built tri-naved Basilica of St. George, the southern nave was dedicated to the Venerable Joseph, where the faithful come to be comforted by their Sanctified (as they simply call him) compatriot. In the city of Heraklion, at the parish Church of the Holy Trinity, which stands on the spot of the Saint's Monastery, the memory of Venerable Joseph is also celebrated with great solemnity. In Zakynthos they tend to celebrate the placing of his relics there on the 29th of August, when they take the holy relics in procession through the streets of Gaitani.

May the grace of the Venerable Saint protect both Crete that begot him, Zakynthos that keeps his relics and every faithful and saint-loving person, from every want and affliction. Amen. [From Mystagogy]

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 Timothy; Venerable-martyr Anastasios the Persian; and Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete, 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.