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READER'S TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026  
(32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

***Our Fathers among the Saints Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria***

*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 being. 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 immortal, 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.

For the Resurrection in Tone Seven

*Verse 12: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Comely to behold and good for eating was the fruit that slew me. Christ is the Tree of Life, and eating thereof, I shall not die; but I cry out with the thief: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

*Verse 11: Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

When Thou wast raised up on the Cross, O Compassionate One, Thou didst blot out the handwriting that was against Adam for the sin of old, and Thou didst save the whole race of mortals from error. Wherefore, we praise Thee, O Benefactor and Lord.

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

Thou didst nail our sins to the Cross, O Compassionate One, and by Thy death, O Christ, Thou didst put death to death; and Thou didst raise from the dead them that had died. Wherefore, we worship Thine august Resurrection.

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

The serpent once poured forth venom into the ears of Eve. But Christ, while upon the Tree of the Cross, poured forth the sweetness of life for the world. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

For St. Athanasius<sup>1</sup> in Tone Eight

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

When thou hadst purged thy soul and body of every defilement, O all-blessed Athanasius, thou wast shown to be a temple worthy of God. Therefore, the fulness of the Trinity took up its rest in thee, O initiate of sacred mysteries.

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

When thou hadst purged thy soul and body of every defilement, O all-blessed Athanasius, thou wast shown to be a temple worthy of God. Therefore, the fulness of the Trinity took up its rest in thee, O initiate of sacred mysteries.

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

The grace of the Comforter, finding thy soul cleansed of the passions as it desired, showed its evident energies therein and made thee a far-shining luminary for the world, O Father.

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

As a hierarch thou wast manifestly revealed as a rule for the hierarchy, thy life as an example of diligence, thy teaching as a pattern of divine vision, and thy doctrine was true theology.

For St. Cyril,<sup>2</sup> in Tone Four

*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.*

With tongs the Seraph gave the live coal to the Prophet, but thou with thy hands givest the Church of Christ the purification enkindled of the divine Fire, O initiate of sacred mysteries.

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

Thou didst not like Samson smite alien tribes on thy borders, but all the alien teachings of the heterodox, O Cyril, and thou gavest the dominion to the Orthodox.

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

Presiding over the God-chosen Council, O Father, thou didst truly destroy the ill-minded and Christ-opposing audacity of Nestorius; for thou wast roused with zeal in behalf of the true Mother of God.

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

Through thy childbirth thou enlightenest the uttermost parts of the earth, O Virgin Birthgiver of God; for thou alone from the beginning of the world wast so pure as to conceive the Sun of Righteousness.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Troparia from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ode of the Matins Canon of St. Athanasius.

<sup>2</sup> Troparia & Theotokion from 6<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Matins canon of St. Cyril

*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 SS. ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL IN TONE THREE

*(\*\*Thy confession\*\*)*

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, \* ye quenched every false belief and teaching \* and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. \* And since ye made all things rich with true piety, \* greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, \* Athanasius and wise Cyril, ye justly found Christ God, \* Who through your prayers doth grant Great Mercy unto all.

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 4

*(Song of Three Youths)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages. *{twice}*

*Verse:* For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages.

APOSTOLOS FOR THE SAINTS:

*Reader:* The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews §334 (13:7-16).

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

## ALLELUIA IN TONE 4

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 1:* O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us the work which Thou hadst wrought in their days, in the days of old. (*Ps.43:1*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 2:* The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. (*Ps.33:17*)*b*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### GOSPEL FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE:

*Reader:* The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke §85 (17:12-19).

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

*Reader:* At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

*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 SS. ATHANASIOUS AND CYRIL IN TONE FOUR

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

Great high priests of piety \* and noble champions \* of the holy Church of Christ, \* keep and preserve all those who chant: \* O most compassionate Lord, do Thou \* graciously save those who faithfully honour Thee.

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)

##### OUR FATHERS AMONG THE SAINTS ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA

In the half-century after the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea in 325, if there was one man whom the Arians feared and hated more intensely than any other, as being able to lay bare the whole error of their teaching, and to marshal, even from exile or hiding, the beleaguered forces of the Orthodox, it was Saint Athanasius the Great. This blazing lamp of Orthodoxy, which imperial power and heretics' plots could not quench when he shone upon the lampstand, nor find when he was hid by the people and monks of Egypt, was born in Alexandria about the year 296. He received an excellent training in Greek letters and especially in the sacred Scriptures, of which he shows an exceptional knowledge in his writings. Even as a young man he had a remarkable depth of theological understanding; he was only about twenty years old when he wrote his treatise On the Incarnation. Saint Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, brought him up in piety, ordained him his deacon, and, after deposing Arius for his blasphemy against the Divinity of the Son of God, took Athanasius to the First Council in Nicaea in 325; Saint Athanasius was to spend the remainder of his life laboring in defense of this holy Council. In 326, before his death, Alexander appointed Athanasius his successor.

In 325, Arius had been condemned by the Council of Nicaea; yet through Arius' hypocritical confession of Orthodox belief, Saint Constantine the Great was persuaded by Arius' supporters that he should be received back into the communion of the Church. But Athanasius, knowing well the perverseness of his mind, and the disease of heresy lurking in his heart, refused communion with Arius. The heresiarch's followers then began framing false charges against Athanasius; finally Saint Constantine the Great, misled by grave charges of the Saint's misconduct – which were completely false – had him exiled to Tribes (Treves) in Gaul in 336. When Saint

Constantine was succeeded by his three sons Constantine II, Constans, and Constantius, in 337, Saint Athanasius returned to Alexandria in triumph. But his enemies found an ally in Constantius, Emperor of the East; Saint Athanasius' second exile was spent in Rome. It was ended when Constans prevailed with threats upon his brother Constantius to restore Athanasius (see also Nov. 6). For ten years Saint Athanasius strengthened Orthodoxy throughout Egypt, visiting the whole country and encouraging all, clergy, monastics, and layfolk, being loved by all as a father. But after Constans' death in 350, Constantius became sole Emperor, and Athanasius was again in danger. In the evening of February 8, 356, General Syrianus with more than five thousand soldiers surrounded the church in which Athanasius was serving, and broke open the doors. Athanasius' clergy begged him to leave, but the good shepherd commanded that all the flock should withdraw first; and only when he was assured of their safety, he also, protected by divine grace, passed through the midst of the soldiers and disappeared into the deserts of Egypt, where for some six years he eluded the soldiers and spies sent after him.

When Julian the Apostate succeeded Constantius in 361, Athanasius returned again, but only for a few months. Because Athanasius had converted many pagans, and the priests of the idols in Egypt wrote to Julian that if Athanasius remained, idolatry would perish in Egypt, the heathen Emperor ordered not Athanasius' exile, but his death. Athanasius took ship up the Nile. When he learned that his imperial pursuers were following him, he had his men turn back, and as his boat passed that of his pursuers, they asked him if he had seen Athanasius. "He is not far," he answered. After returning to Alexandria for a while, he fled again to the Thebaïd until Julian's death in 363. Saint Athanasius suffered his fifth and last exile under Valens in 365, which only lasted four months because Valens, fearing a sedition among the Egyptians for their beloved Archbishop, revoked his edict in February, 366.

The great Athanasius passed the remaining seven years of his life in peace. Of his forty-seven years as Patriarch, he had spent some seventeen in exiles. Shining from the height of his throne like a radiant evening star, and enlightening the Orthodox with the brilliance of his words for yet a little while, this much-suffering champion inclined toward the sunset of his life, and, in the year 373, took his rest from his lengthy sufferings, but not before another luminary of the truth, Basil the Great, had risen in the East, being consecrated Archbishop of Caesarea in 370. Besides all his other achievements, Saint Athanasius wrote the life of Saint Anthony the Great, with whom he spent time in his youth; ordained Saint Frumentius first Bishop of Ethiopia; and in his Paschal Encyclical for the year 367 set forth the books of the Old and New Testaments accepted by the Church as canonical. Saint Gregory the Theologian, in his Oration On the Great Athanasius, said he was "Angelic in appearance, more angelic in mind; . . . rebuking with the tenderness of a father, praising with the dignity of a ruler . . . Everything was harmonious, as an air upon a single lyre, and in the same key; his life, his teaching, his struggles, his dangers, his return, and his conduct after his return . . . he treated so mildly and gently those who had injured him, that even they themselves, if I may say so, did not find his restoration distasteful."

Saint Cyril was also from Alexandria, born about the year 376, the nephew of Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who also instructed the Saint in his youth. Having first spent much time with the monks in Nitria, he later became the successor to his uncle's throne in 412. In 429, when Cyril heard tidings of the teachings of the new Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, he began attempting through private letters to bring Nestorius to renounce his heretical teachings about the Incarnation; and when the heresiarch did not repent, Saint Cyril, together with Pope Celestine of Rome, led the Orthodox opposition to his error. Saint Cyril presided over the Third Ecumenical



Council of the 200 holy Fathers in the year 431, who gathered in Ephesus under Saint Theodosius the Younger. At this Council, by his most wise words he put to shame and convicted the impious doctrine of Nestorius, who, although he was in town, refused to appear before Cyril. Saint Cyril, besides overthrowing the error of Nestorius, has left to the Church full commentaries on the Gospels of Luke and John. Having shepherded the Church of Christ for thirty-two years, he reposed in 444. [From tyoos.org]

*Optional readings (if these commemorations are included in the Dismissal)*

THE HOLY MARTYRS THEODULA OF ANAZARBUS AND THOSE WITH HER: BOËTHUS AND HEL-LADIUS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PRISON, AND EVAGRIUS AND MACARIUS

In the days of Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (286-305), there was sent to Anazarbus, a city of Cilicia, a governor named Pelagius in order to punish the Christians there. Saint Theodouli was from this city of Anazarbus, which was later named Diocaesarea and Caesaraugusta, and now is called Ak Isar or Ak Serai by the Turks. This Saint was apprehended as a Christian, and stood before the judgement seat of Pelagius. Confessing Christ as the true God before everyone, she was suspended by the hair of her head on cypress wood. They then wounded her breasts with burning skewers. Because the Saint said to the governor, "Where are your gods? Show me them that I may honor them as much as I have the strength to," for this reason they took her down and sent her to the temple of the idol of Hadrian, which was very famous in that area.

The Saint entered the temple, prayed to the true God, and merely by her breath the statue of Hadrian immediately fell and was divided into three parts. Going outside, she said to the governor, "Enter within and help your god Hadrian, for he fell to the ground and was smashed." The governor ran and entered the temple, and seeing Hadrian divided into pieces on the ground, he mourned and was enraged. When this reached the ears of the emperor, he immediately sent the first commander, who was in the royal palace there in Anazarbus, that he might examine if this thing was true, so that Pelagius would be thrown to the beasts in order to be devoured. When Pelagius found out about this, he fell down before Saint Theodouli, and begged her with tears to pray to God for the smashed statue of his god to become whole again, and to put it back in place where it was, promising her that if this took place, he also would believe in Christ and become a Christian.

The Saint then prayed, and immediately the smashed idol became whole, and she restored it to its place. The commander sent by the emperor found it complete, and he returned to the emperor to deliver the news. The emperor ordered Pelagius through letters, that he was first to punish the Saint with various punishments, and then deliver her over to a bitter death. Pelagius therefore ordered to tear up the flesh of the Saint with burning skewers. Because the Saint did not completely regard the torments, the miserable and thrice-unhappy one became enraged, and did not know what to do. Then Elladios, a court clerk standing there, said to Pelagius: "Give me the authority, and if I can't persuade her to sacrifice to the idol of Hadrian, behead me." He was immediately given the authority to do as he wished.

He had five nails made, two of which were driven into the ears of the Saint, one was embedded into her forehead, and the other two were thrust into her breasts. Having been pierced by all of them, the Saint lifted the eyes of her intellect to heaven, and she prayed to God to be given patience, that she may suffer the insufferable torment. Shortly after this, the Saint was given the patience she asked for. When the court clerk saw the Saint's great patience and brave-heartedness, and how she considered that bitter torment as nothing, he reflected on the fact that if he

was unable to persuade the Saint to deny Christ, his life would be in danger. He therefore invited the Saint to his house, and begged her to sacrifice with him to the idols. When the Saint beheld his fear, she prayed for him to God. She then taught him with her divine words, and persuaded him to become a Christian.

The next day the court clerk stood before Pelagius together with the Saint, and said to him: "I was not able to persuade the servant of the true God and change her from the straight and good path on which she walks. Instead she changed me, and liberated me from the darkness of ignorance in which I was found until now. She illumined the noetic eyes of my soul with her divine words, and brought me to my Lord Jesus Christ, the true God." When Pelagius heard this, he was inflamed with rage, and ordered that his head be cut off, and his body thrown into the sea. In this way the blessed Elladios completed his martyrdom, on the twenty-fourth of the month of January. It was then ordered for the Saint to be placed inside a burning furnace, in which she was preserved unharmed, and she prayed from within, and glorified God.

The bewildered governor then shouted aloud: "What shall I do with this woman who defies death!" One of those who stood nearby, whose name was Boethos, said: "Deliver her to me, O governor, for I am not senseless and ignorant like the court clerk, that I may persuade her." The ruler delivered the Saint to him. Boethos took the Martyr to his house, and he also received her words and teachings, and he was altered with a divine alteration, like the court clerk. Therefore the next day he stood before the governor with the Saint, and said to him: "I came to reveal to you, O governor, a matter concerning myself. Know that I also confess Christ as true God, and the hopes of my promises appear vain and empty to me. It is far better to appear untrue so that I may have a portion with Christ, rather than be true and gain the fire of gehenna. You also, O governor, should thank the true God, who redeemed you from death, and believe in Him, as you promised. Not only did you not do this, but you appear ungrateful, and your benefactor Theodouli you delivered to insufferable torments." When Boethos said these things, Pelagius ordered that his honorable head be cut off.

He then ordered for the Saint to be stretched upon a burning rack, on which was poured pitch, oil and wax in order to intensify the heat. And Boethos, having completed his martyrdom, departed to the Lord, while Theodouli prayed as she ascended onto the rack. When the rack received her, not a few coals scattered and burned most of those who stood nearby. Thus they put the Saint in prison. The next day a great furnace was lit, and the Saint was placed therein, together with Evagrius and Makarios and many other Saints. There they all together received a blessed martyric end, and unfading crowns from the Lord. [From Mystagogy]

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OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS MAXIMUS OF SERBIA, ARCHBISHOP OF WALLACHIA

Saint Maximus the New was the son of King Stephen of Serbia (December 10). He became a monk at Manasija, but had to flee into a mountainous region of Romania because of the Moslems. He was consecrated as Metropolitan of Wallachia. After a life of great spiritual endeavors, he fell asleep in the Lord on January 18, 1516 in a monastery he had founded. [From oca.org]

### THE 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 our Fathers among the saints Athanasius and Cyril, patriarchs of Alexandria; ((Martyr Theodoula of Anazarbus and her companions; and Maximos, the Serbian ruler)), 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.