

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON FIRST SATURDAY IN GREAT LENT
MIRACLE OF THE KOLYVA BY THEODORE THE SOLIDER ('TYRO')**
*(A BOWL OF KOLYVA IS PLACED ON A TABLE BEFORE THE ICON OF THE MASTER
ON THE ICONOSTASIS.)*

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. THEODORE THE SOLDIER IN TONE TWO

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

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

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Theodore)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

THE GOSPEL

(For the First Saturday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:23-3:5)

At that time, Jesus was going through the grain-fields; and as they made their way His disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And He said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; so the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Again Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. And they watched Him, to see whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come here." And He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. And He looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch it out," and his hand was restored.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues with the following variables.*

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR SATURDAYS IN TONE EIGHT

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just. Alleluia.

- *Following "Blessed be the Name of the Lord," the clergy gather around the table that holds the kolyva (boiled wheat) and offers the following prayer.*

THE PRAYER OF THE KOLYVA

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, Who hast brought all things to perfection through Thy Word and hast commanded the earth to bring forth all manner of fruits for our enjoyment and food, Who through grain and vegetables hast made the Three Holy Children and Daniel fairer than the Babylonians who lived in luxury: Do Thou Thyself, O all-good King, bless this grain and fruit, and sanctify those who shall partake of them, for they have been offered by Thy servants to Thy glory, in honor and memory of the Great-Martyr Theodore, and for a memorial to those who have fallen asleep in the true Orthodox faith. Grant, O good One, to those who have prepared this offering and who keep this memorial, all their petitions that are for their salvation, and count them worth to rejoice in Thine eternal blessings, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-Martyr Theodore the Soldier, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all Thy saints. For Thou it is Who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

- *The clergy return to the sanctuary, and the priest offers the Dismissal.*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Theodore the Soldier ('Tyro'), whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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