

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SEPTEMBER 24 PROTO-MARTYR THEKLA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES

COMMEMORATION OF THE WONDER-WORKING ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS OF THE MYRTLE TREE;
NEW-MARTYR AHMED; VENERABLE NICANDER OF PSKOV; VENERABLE SILOUAN OF ATHOS;
THE SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS OF ALASKA

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.

- *Now sing these apolytikia in the following order.*

APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEKLA IN TONE THREE

O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple ONLY IF St. Thekla is not the patron saint of your 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

God is wondrous among His saints. Bless ye God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:1-13)

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man comes.”

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual. The only remaining variable is the Koinonikon.*

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) IN TONE EIGHT

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

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose wonderworking icon of the Myrtle Tree we commemorate today—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 Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles; New-martyr Ahmed; Venerable Nicander of Pskov; Venerable Silouan of Athos; and all saints of Alaska, 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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