

Service to St Theodore of Tarsus

(suitable for use at the shrine or a commemoration)

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

O Heavenly King, Tone 6

Choir: O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell in us, and cleanse us from all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion Prayers

The Deacon censures the Icon and the Priests and People

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and for 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 God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

Priest: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

God is the Lord, Tone 8

Deacon: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: I shall not die, but live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Troparion of the saint, Tone 8

As a compatriot of the pre-eminent Paul and a scion of Tarsus, O Theodore,/ bestowed upon the West by God thou didst traverse afar,/ proclaiming the peerless Gospel of Christ among the Angles and Saxons./

Wherefore, having received thee as a gift divine and great,
we cry out in thanksgiving to the Lord on high:
Truly wondrous art Thou, O Saviour,
in Thy holy bishop and in all the saints!

Troparion to the Theotokos, Tone 4

Having found Thee to be an unassailable Wall /
and a fountain of miracles, /
O Most pure Theotokos, /
Thy servants subdue all attacks of enemies; /
Wherefore we pray to Thee: /
Grant peace to our land and to our home /
and to our souls great mercy.

Canon, Tone 3

The acrostic is Christ made thee a gift to us, O Theodore

Ode 1

Irmos: By a staff Israel of old crossed the cloven sea as though on dry land, /
for, moving in the form of the Cross, it manifestly prepared a way. /
Wherefore, let us sing in praise to our wondrous God,
for He hath been glorified.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Come, let us praise the wondrous Theodore, the compatriot of Paul and scion of
Cilicia, who for many in England manifestly prepared the way to heaven, singing
praise to our wondrous God, for He hath been glorified.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Having fled the assaults of the Moslems on thy native land, O venerable one, thou
didst find a safe spiritual refuge in the Niridian Monastery, where thou didst chant
in praise to our wondrous God, for He hath been glorified.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Renowned for thy piety and knowledge, O saint, thou wast fittingly chosen to
succeed the holy Deusdedit in the see of Canterbury; wherefore, with him thou
singest to our wondrous God, for He hath been glorified.

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto
the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: In everlasting glory dost thou reign on high,
O most pure and blessed Virgin Theotokos, /
and the supreme spiritual intelligences pay thee fitting homage, /
for thou gavest birth unto our wondrous God,
Who is glorified above all.

Ode 3

Irmos: O Thou Who founded the earth upon its firmament/
and established the heavens with might,
make steadfast all of us who praise Thee with faith.
Hallowed was the sea by thy passage, O Theodore, gift of God, /
and hallowed likewise was the earth of Gaul,
when thou madest thy way unto thy new flock.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Tireless were thine apostolic labours, O holy bishop, when thou didst visit all the
churches of England, making steadfast all who praised God with faith.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Morality and discipline didst thou restore, O most glorious one, and thou didst everywhere establish the paschal reckoning of the holy Council of Nicæa.

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Above the firmament is thine abode, O Theotokos, /
for thou standest in glory at the right hand of thy Son, /
by thy pleas aiding those who praise thee.

Sessional hymn, Tone I: Special Melody.: Thy tomb, O Saviour

Extracting the venom of the Monothelite heresy like a skilled physician, O Saviour, /

Theodore ably applied the healing poultice of Orthodoxy, /
proclaiming Thy divinity and manhood to all the people, and crying: /

We glorify Christ, the Destroyer of death, /

and we bow down before Him, our one God.

Ode 4

Irmos: Thou hast shown us constant love, O Lord, /
for Thou didst give Thine only-begotten Son over to death for us. /
Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry to Thee: /
Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Declaring the great truths of the Sacred Scriptures, O holy one, thou didst therewith arm the Christians of England with the keen weaponry of piety; and they cried: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Ever in awe of the majesty of creation, O divinely wise one, with godly understanding thou didst most diligently impart knowledge, that all might cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Thou wast blessed among peace-makers, O God-bearer; for by thine authority alone thou didst pacify warring Christians; wherefore, in thanksgiving they cried: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Habbakuk in prophecy proclaimed that thy Son hath established a mighty love of His strength, O Bride of God; /
wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry unto Him: /
Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode 5

Irmos: Raise me up who sing in darkness, O my Benefactor; /
lighten the darkness of my soul with the light of Thy countenance, O Thou Who lovest mankind; /
and grant me Thy peace, as Thou once did to the elder, O Immutable One.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Even those who once sat in spiritual darkness and shadow didst thou teach to sing the splendid hymns of the Church, which the holy bishop Gregory devised and bequeathed unto Christians, O Theodore who art most rich.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Effulgent with the radiance of the countenance of Christ Who loveth mankind, with the radiance of the Spirit thou didst illumine the English people, enlightening their darkness and bringing peace to their benighted souls, O saint.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Angles derived great profit from thy sacred ministrations, O holy bishop, and Saxons cast their spiritual gloom from off themselves; for through thee, O hallowed Theodore, were their souls filled with divine radiance.

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Glory dawned from thy pure womb, O Virgin Mother,/
shedding light upon us who sleep in darkness;/
wherefore, rejoicing, we wake unto the Sun of righteousness.

Ode 6

Irmos: O Thou Who lovest mankind, disdain not those who have reached the end of time,/
and are assailed with destruction by the threefold billows of perils, yet cry:/
O Saviour, save us, as Thou didst save the prophet from the sea monster.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

In thine arch-pastoral oversight thou didst faithfully lead the life of thy sheep up out of corruption unto the Lord, O Theodore; for they were perishing in the depths of the raging sea of evils, and the floods thereof encompassed them.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Foundering under the assault of the threefold billows of afflictions, the faithful of England well nigh perished in the uttermost abyss and the womb of Hades; but thy cry came unto the Lord, and He saved thy flock from dire perils.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

The Christians of these latter times are likewise assailed by grave trials and temptations, and many observe vain and false things and have abandoned mercy for themselves; but we cry unto thee: Save us by thy supplications, O saint.

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: To the cry of our desperation do thou hearken, O Lady Mother of God,/
for, beset by perils, we are engulfed in the abyss;/
but pray thou to thy merciful Son:/
O Saviour, save these my servants,/
as Thou didst save the prophet from the sea monster!

Kontakion Tone I: Special Melody: *When the stone had been sealed*

As primate of the English Church thou didst tend well thy spiritual flock, /
repelling the assaults of the spiritual wolf with the sling of the Orthodox Faith and the staff of sound doctrine./

Wherefore, we ever cry out to thee, O Theodore, gift of God: /

Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength! /

Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee! /

Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee!

Ode 7

Irmos: Proud was the tyrant; yet he was as a plaything for the children; /
for, trampling underfoot the flame heated sevenfold, they sang: /
Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Obedience and all the monastic virtues didst thou embody, O all-glorious Theodore, wherefore thou didst trample pride and vainglory underfoot, quenching the flame of the passions.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Unto the youth of England didst thou impart sacred knowledge, O saint, that, trampling ignorance underfoot, they might sing: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Surrounding thyself with men of holiness, O holy Theodore, thou wast like a diamond of great brilliance in a crown of priceless gems, crying: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O immaculate Maiden, though we have sinned and transgressed in departing from the Son,
beseech Him to spurn us not, that we may sing to Him:
Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Ode 8

Irmos: In Babylon, the children, enduring to worship the living God, paid no heed to the musical instruments;
and, standing in the midst of the flame, they sang a hymn divine, saying: /
Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Thou didst fight the good fight; thou didst finish thy course, and, worshipping the living God, didst keep well the Holy Faith, O Theodore; wherefore, thou dost admonish us, saying: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Having been vigilant in all things, O holy Theodore, thou didst endure afflictions in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, and therein making full proof of thy ministry, thou didst cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Endless praises dost thou chant unto the Most High with the ranks of angels and the choirs of the saints in the heavenly habitations, O Theodore, gift of God, crying aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: O thy supernal beauty! O the beautiful sound of thine incomparable voice,
wherewith thou intercedest on high with thy Son and God for us sinners, who sing the hymn divine:
Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Ode 9

The Deacon censes the Icon and the Priests and People

Irmos: The Assyrian flame was a figure of thee, O Virgin Mother Mary;
for the flame of the Godhead, dwelling within thee, O pure one,
preserved thy womb unconsumed.
Wherefore, Christ, Who was brought into the temple in Thine arms,
hath restored us who magnify Thy birth-giving.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Departing from Cilicia in the East, O Theodore, thou madest thy way into the West, where thou didst preserve well the flock entrusted to thy vigilant care; wherefore, as thou hast great boldness before Christ, in thine prayers beg that East and West be again united in spirit and in Truth.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Out of the blasphemies of our age deliver us, O saint of God, for as the Apostle foretold, we are verily beset by the unholy, who, though they assume the guise of godliness, deny the power thereof. By thine aid help us to turn away from such, who are reprobates concerning the Holy Faith.

Refrain: Holy Hierarch Father Theodore, pray to God for us.

Rightly hast thou received from the righteous Judge the crown of righteousness laid up for those who love His appearing, O righteous Theodore; for at all times and seasons thou didst diligently reprove, rebuke and exhort thy flock with all long-suffering and sound doctrine.

Refrain: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion: Elder Symeon blessed thee, O all-holy Theotokos, /
when thou broughtest the pre-eternal Babe to the Temple to be dedicated to God./
And he prophesied truly, for the men of all ages to come,/
that thy Child would be a sign which shall be spoken against./
Wherefore, we magnify thy birth-giving.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and prosperity for the servants of God, and that the days of their lives may be multiplied.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop (N) and for all Orthodox hierarchs in this land ,
.....

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst hearken unto the voice of our supplication and prayers, and have mercy on Thy servants through Thy grace and compassion, and fulfil all of their petitions, pardon all their transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary; let their prayers and alms be acceptable before the Throne of Thy dominion, and protect them from all enemies visible and invisible, from every temptation, harm and sorrow, and deliver them from ailments, and grant them health and length of days: let us all say, O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord have mercy. (3)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer to Jesus Christ

Priest: Thou who at every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified; O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to

the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer to God the Father

Priest: O God, the Lord of hosts, and Author of all creation, who in Thine ineffable tender mercy hast sent down Thine Only-begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our kind, and through His Holy Cross hast torn up the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness: do Thou, O Master, who lovest mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of Thee, and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Thy love, that ever gazing upon Thee, guided by Thy light and beholding Thee, the eternal Light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks unto Thee, the Father without beginning, together with Thine Only-begotten Son and Thy most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: To the Most Holy Theotokos let us pray!

Choir: Most Holy Theotokos save us!

Prayer to the Virgin Mary

Priest: O Most Blessed Queen, Theotokos: our hope, Guardian of orphans, Intercessor for strangers, Joy of the sorrowful, Protectress of the wronged; Thou seest our misfortunes, Thou seest our afflictions! Help us, for we are infirm; lead us, for we are strangers, and beseech God to absolve our offences, for we have no other help beside Thee, no other Intercessor, nor a good Consoler, except Thee, O Theotokos! Do Thou preserve and protect us unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Choir: More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious than the Seraphim. Without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope: Glory to Thee!

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy (3). Father, give the blessing!

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercession of His Most pure Mother, of the holy glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John, whose Nativity we celebrate at this time, of the holy glorious Apostles Peter and Paul, Founders of the Church of Antioch, to whom this Holy Monastery was dedicated, of Simon the Zealot and Aristobulus, Apostles of Britain, of our Holy Fathers Gregory the Great and Augustine of Canterbury Apostles of the English, of our Holy Fathers Archbishops of Canterbury in Orthodox times: Laurence, Mellitus, Deusdedit, Dunstan, Aethelheard, Alphege the Martyr, and Theodore of Tarsus, to whom we dedicate this day, of George the Great Martyr, of Botolph of Iken, of Helen Equal to the Apostles, Patrons of our parishes, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.