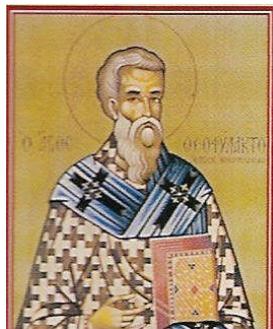


March 8

C. Ven. Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia



At first he was a monk. Knowing his virtuous life, St. Tarasius (see February 25) installed him as the bishop of Nicomedia. As a bishop Theophylactus built temples, hospices and hospitals, helped all the poor and unfortunate, ministered to the sick and leprous and personally washed their wounds. During the time of troubles of iconoclasm, during the reign of Leo the Armenian, St. Theophylactus "was an unshaken pillar of the church, undaunted by the temptations of heretical snares", and for this he was exiled to a prison in the city of Strobilos in Asia Minor. Here he, undergoing "many sorrows and long-term imprisonment", languished for 30 years up to his death which followed about the year 845. About the year 847 his relics were transferred to Nicomedia.

Kontakion, tone 2

You were revealed a shining lamp to the ends of the world,

O Hierarch Theophylactus:

You preached that the Word is of the same essence as the Father and the Spirit,

You explained this to the Fathers of the Council,

You were revealed as pleasing to the Trinity:

Standing before Him, pray unceasingly for us all.

Ven. Dometius died in peace.

Hieromartyr Theodoret

He was presbyter and guardian of sacred objects and clerical robes of the cathedral temple in the city of Antioch, which was noted for its expensive adornments and rich church utensils. In the reign of Julian the Apostate, during the destruction of this temple by his uncle the prefect, St. Theodoret hid the church valuables and refused to give them out. The predators, after long torture, beheaded St. Theodoret. Some of the torturers of St. Theodoret, struck by his patience, accepted Christ and were thrown into the sea.

Apostle Hermas of the 70

He was bishop in the city of Philippopolis [Plovdiv] and died as a martyr (Rom. 16:14). See January 4, May 31 and November 5.

Repose of Ven. Lazarus of Murman [Murmansk]

Born a Greek, a Constantinopolitan monk, he was sent by his bishop to Novgorod to write Novgorodian holy icons. Having fulfilled this assignment, he remained in Novgorod. Within four years he went to Onega to preach to the Lapps and the Chudians. He underwent much sorrow and many troubles from the wild inhabitants of that country (Lapland and Chudia), but the Lord protected the life of the righteous man. The apostolic labors of Ven. Lazarus were crowned with success: the grace of God touched the hardened hearts of the Lapps and the Chudians and some of them, seeing the lofty asceticism and gentleness of Ven. Lazarus, accepted holy baptism. His apostolic labors were crowned with success. On Mucha (Murman) Island he built a church in the name of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Soon monks began to flow to him and the venerable ones constructed another church in the name of Lazarus, the Friend of God, which formed the foundation of the Murmansk [Murman] Monastery (see Olonets Diocese) where the venerable one was the rector before his death, which followed at a very old age in 1391. His relics are in a hidden place behind the altar of the Forerunner Church.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0105.
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