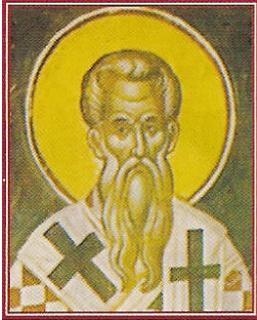


## July 4

### D. *Our Father among the Saints Andrew, Archbishop of Crete, the Jerusalemite*



Born in Damascus, he was mute up to the age of seven years and received the gift for speaking after partaking of the Holy Mysteries. At 14 years of age, "having begun to hate earthly sweets", he left the world for the ascetic way of life in the Jerusalem monastery of St. Sabbas. Having become glorified here for his reasoning and strict way of life, he was appointed secretary for the Jerusalem patriarchate. In 679 he traveled to the Sixth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople as the locum tenens of the patriarchal throne. Soon after the council he was ordained a deacon of the great St. Sophia Church and fulfilled the obedience of "feeder of the orphans". During the reign of Justinian II, St. Andrew was consecrated as the Archbishop of Crete. He died in 712.

St. Andrew is known as a preacher and church poet. "Hymnographer" and "adornment" "of the Church of Christ", St. Andrew wrote the Great Penitential Canon, read on the first week and on Thursday of the fifth week of the Great Fast, a canon for the Nativity of Christ, etc., a three ode canon for the Compline of Palm Sunday and for the first 4 days of Passion Week, the stichera for the Meeting of the Lord and others. The Holy Church, calling him "a pillar of Orthodoxy and a paradigm of chastity", witnesses that "all the faithful are satisfied with the goodness of his words and teachings".

#### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**Having clearly trumpeted divine sweet-singing,  
You were revealed a brightest lamp for the world,  
Shining with the light of the Trinity, O Venerable Andrew:  
Therefore let us cry to you:  
Do not cease praying for us all.**

**Epistle:** Heb. 8:3-6; sel. 318. **Gospel:** Mt. 7:12-21; sel. 21.

#### *Ven. Martha, Mother of St. Simeon of Wonder Mount*

St. Martha, mother St. Simeon of Wonder Mount who in the expression of the Holy Church is "the true lamp", "the second Samuel" "and intercessor of the eastern countries", reveals herself as a living paradigm of a true Christian mother, who attained the Kingdom of God amidst temporal cares and temptations. Born an Antiochian, "in love of the divine" from her young years she aspired to the monastic life, but her parents convinced her to marry. Soon her husband died and she had an only son and Martha devoted all her strength to his formation in

Christian virtues. Shunning "the temporal and corruptible" benefits, she personally displayed a paradigm of many virtues: she was meek, mild, distributed generous alms, visited the sick, whenever possible eased their suffering and from her means buried the dead, strictly observing the honor of widowhood and being of "one life with the wise virgins. Visiting her son during the time of his asceticism, St. Martha inspired him to not exalt himself through his ascetic efforts. "Continually pleasing God in prayer, vigils and mercifulness", she was informed a year beforehand of her death and was worthy of visions of edenic places of blessedness of the righteous. Ven. Martha died in 551 and was buried by the pillar of her son.

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Standing before the Lord in prayer,  
Offering songs and praise to the Immaculate Virgin Theotokos,  
O Pure Martha, you gave birth to a sacred child,  
The most wondrous Simeon, beacon to the entire world:  
With him ever pray for us all.**

*Hieromartyr Theodore, Bishop of Cyrene*

He suffered after being arrested for his faith in Christ in 310. The holy women baptized by him: Lucia [Lucy], Iarolia (Aroya [Aroia]) and Cyprilla also suffered with him and were beheaded by the sword.

*Martyrs Theodotus and Theodota*

St. Hyacinth (see July 3) in prison converted them to Christ. After his death by the command of Emperor Trajan they were also subjected to torture and then beheaded by the sword.

*Opening of the relics of Ven. Euthymius of Suzdal in 1507. See April 1.*

*Galatian Icon of the Mother of God*

It was found in Galata in Constantinople. An exact copy of it is by the Arbat Gate in the church of St. Tycho [Tikhon].

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0227-0228.  
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