

August 14

F. Forefeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos

These excerpts are from the church hymns for this day. "Acclaiming the Feast of Exodus in anticipation", "let us praise the honorable repose of the Mother of God": "For the Mother of God, the Golden ark, now prepares to pass over from earth to heaven", and, "For tomorrow the Queen of all, bound for the mansions of Heaven, commits her soul into the hands of the Son". Singing "the Forefeast" hymns and "celebrating the all-splendid memory of your honored Dormition", "Coming to the tomb of the Virgin let us faithful begin striving to offer up divine incense", "at Her divine burial with one mind with the heavenly hosts" "let us sing a hymn at her burial".

Troparion, tone 4

**People, dance with joy and fervently clap your hands.
And with love assemble today and sing with jubilation.
For the Mother of God prepares to rise in glory,
Gloriously going up from earth to heaven. //
For we ever glorify Her in hymns as the Theotokos.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**In your glorious memory the whole universe,
With an immaterial and motley spirit
With gladness wisely hymn you: //
Rejoice, O Virgin, the praise of Christians.**

Note: If the Forefeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos falls on a Sunday, we also sing the entire service of the Forefeast, with the Resurrection and the prophet's service, Vespers and Matins, and at the Liturgy, as it was appointed for the Forefeast of the Transfiguration of Christ. Precisely at Matins, the Sessional Hymn (Katavasia): *You are more spacious*; after the entrance we sing the Resurrection Troparion and the Forefeast Troparion, and the Troparion of the temple saint; likewise the Resurrection Kontakion; "Glory..." Kontakion of the temple saint;" and then "the Kontakion of the Forefeast.

From August 14 to 23, the Sessional Hymn (Katavasia): *You are more spacious in divine glory.*

The Holy Prophet of Micah



Sixth of the 12 minor prophets, he was from the root of Judah, out of the city Moresheth (south of Jerusalem), and did his prophetic service during the reign of the kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (about 700 years B.C.). "Having explained the incomprehensible", he predicted the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem and, "shining rays of the divine life" he died in peace. Due to a special revelation his relics were found in Baraphsatia during the reign of Theodosius the Great.

Translation of the honorable relics of the Venerable Theodosius of the Kiev Caves

The relics of the Venerable Theodosius were translated in 1091, from the cave in which he was buried to the great church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, where they were placed in the vestibule on the right side. During the invasion of the Mongols, the relics of St. Theodosius were placed for protection in a hidden place near the western doors of the great church, where even now they repose.

Hieromartyr Marcellus, Bishop of Apamea

He was born on the island of Cyprus. By-passing a high civil position, he surprised everyone by the purity of his life, meekness, mercy and eloquent speech. Having become a monk, St. Marcellus was tonsured in the Syrian Desert, from where because of his holy life he was elected bishop of Apamea. In this rank he with special zeal propagated the holy faith and destroyed paganism. For destroying pagan temples he was burnt by the pagans in about the year 389.

The Bringing in of the Precious Cross to the Palace (i. e. Royal) from the Temple of St. Sophia. See August 1.

Martyr Ursicius, suffered for Christ in Nicomedia during the reign of the Emperor Maximian.

Martyr Simeon of Trebizond

For his unwillingness to convert to Islam, after imprisonment and torture, the Turks hanged him in 1653 in Constantinople.

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