

August 16

c.  Translation of the Image "Not-made-by-hands" of our Lord Jesus Christ, called the towel ¹⁾, from Edessa to Constantinople



During the earthly life of the Lord Jesus the glory of His wonders reached the city of Edessa, beyond the Euphrates River. The prince of this city, named Abgar, suffering from leprosy, sent to the Savior a certain painter Ananias with a letter in which he asked the Lord to come to him and to heal him. At the same time Abgar charged Ananias to paint an image of Christ. The Lord promised to send to the prince one of His disciples. Nevertheless the efforts of Ananias to write an image of Christ remained in vain. Then the Lord wiped his face on a towel and on it was a wonderful imprint of His divine face. Abgar in awe accepted the image of Christ "not made by hands" and immediately recovered from leprosy. During the reign of Constantine Porphyrogenitus, in 944, this image was brought to Constantinople on August 16, on which day they established a festival for it. There is a tradition that during the time of the crusaders victory over Byzantium this image was sent by them to Venice, but the ship, which carried it, sunk in the waves of Sea of Marmara. ²⁾).

Troparion, tone 2

**We venerate your most pure icon, loving Lord,
As we ask pardon of our offences, Christ God.
For by your own choice you were well pleased
To ascend the Cross in the flesh,
To deliver from the slavery of the enemy those whom you had fashioned;
Therefore with thanksgiving we cry to you:
You have filled all things with joy, our Savior,
By coming to save the world.**

(Text: © Archimandrite Ephrem)

Kontakion, tone 2

**O indescribable Word of the Father,
In Your inexpressible and divine dispensation towards man,
Knowing the truthfulness of Your incarnation,
And the unwritten, but divinely written victorious image //
We honor it with veneration.**

Paramoegas: Deut. 4:1, 6-7, 9-15. 2) Deut. 5:1-7, 9-10, 23-26, 28; 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 18. 3) 3 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30. **Matins Gospel and for the Lit.:** Luke 9:51-56; 10:22-24; sel. 48. **Epistle:** 2 Cor. 3:4-11; sel. 173.

✙ If the temple is of the Image Not Made by Hands, or the rector wishes, we do a Vigil. Note the Chapter in the Ustav and Menaion: If the Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the Image Not Made by Hands falls on a Sunday, except for the temple. See: If the Afterfeast of the Dormition falls on Saturday. See the Chapter in the Ustav and Menaion: If the Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos falls on Sunday, except for the Feast of the Image Not Made by Hands.

Holy Martyr Diomedes the Physician

He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia and was engaged in treating patients in Nicaea, enlightening them with the medicine of the Christian Faith. When the Emperor Diocletian learned about his educational activity, he ordered that St. Diomedes be executed in Nicomedia. But on the way to the place of execution the martyr died. The warriors, who were escorting him, severed his head and brought it to the emperor. For this they were punished with the loss of sight, which again they wonderfully recovered when they took the head to St. Diomedes and put it on his body.

This saint is called on in prayers of the sacrament of Holy Unction.

We sing the service for St. Diomedes at Compline.

Ven. Cherimon, who was tonsured in the Skete Hermitage in Egypt and died at the end of the Fourth Century.

The Image Not Made by Hands on a Ceramic (i.e. on a brick or a tile).

The Emperor Nicephorus Phocas in 965 brought to Constantinople an Image of the Savior Not Made by Hands on a tile from Hierapolis when Ananias, carrying the image from Abgar, hid this image in tiles outside of Hierapolis.

Venerable Martyr Nicodemus of Meteora, was tonsured in Thessaly and died as a martyr in 1551.

Martyr Stamatius

Born in Volos (in Thessaly), slandered in order to get him to accept Islam, he courageously confessed himself a Christian and for this the Turks beheaded him in Constantinople in 1680.

Ven. Joachim of Osogovsk

Born in Bulgaria, he was tonsured a hermit on Mount Osogovsk, at the River Skupishche. After long charitable ascetical efforts, Ven. Joachim died at the beginning of the Twelfth Century. Subsequently a monastery, in which his relics were placed, was built on the place of his ascetical efforts. The relics were discovered to be incorruptible.

Notes:

1) In the nimbus on this and other icons of the Savior Slavonic letters are ordinarily located: o, ū, n, in place of the Greek: ó (masculine gender) ω and ν (ὦν - a participle from εἶμι), and means: "He who is", "existing One", "eternal".

2) This feast, counting the feasts on August 1 and 6, the people call the third feast of the Savior. In some places it is called "The Savior on canvas".

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0287-8
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