

November 20

Forefeast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos

From the church hymns for this day: "The pre-eternal Council of the Pre-eternal God comes in fulfillment of Her coming to be brought up in the holy of holies in the house of the Word". "This holy mount of God with lighted lamps enters the holy place". "Come, O faithful, let us assemble to honor with hymns the divine bride and Mother of the Creator, and let us go forth, bearing lamps with the virgins, to meet her in the temple as she enters the holy place", and "let us bring them as a fitting gift for her on the Forefeast". "Praise, O Virgins, prepare the feast, O Mothers, give glory to God, O people, bless, O Priests, the Most Pure Mother of God", "as the Intercessor for the human race".

Troparion, tone 4

**Now Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow
By bringing her fruit, the only ever virgin.
She leaves her in the temple of the Lord,
Thus fulfilling her prayers with the one who is the temple of God the Word //
And an immaculate Mother.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**All the universe is filled with joy today,
Crying out on the celebrated feast of the Theotokos //
This is the heavenly tabernacle.**

Refer to the Chapter in the Typikon and Menaion: If the Forefeast falls on a Sunday.

The statement of the Rubrics (Ustav) for November 20: "the Epistle of the day and the next day is by the selection (zachalo)", should be understood in the sense, "that the Epistle of the day ", i.e. assigned for November 20 according to the order is read", and "the next day" i.e. the Epistle assigned for the following day. The festal reading is according to the selection (zachalo); "also of the saint, according to the Hebrews, selection 318" (Tserkovnyi Vestnik (Church Messenger) 1892, 22).

Our Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite



Born in the city of Irenopolis, Isauria, he from his youth practiced monasticism. Being an example of abstinence, he was the guide for the Venerable John (see Apr. 18). Enlightening "the world with his teaching" and challenging the "thinking" of "those of evil beliefs", he was granted the gift of wonderworking from the Lord within his lifetime. During the time of persecution against the holy icons he was in Constantinople and here again accused the heretics of their errors. He died about the year 820 in Constantinople.

Kontakion, tone 3

**The Church knows you to be a bright sun, beautiful with virtues,
Enlightening all with the rays of healings, O Saint of Christ.
Therefore we celebrate your precious memory,
And we honor your struggles,
O All-blessed most wise Father Gregory.**

Our Father Proclus among the Saints, Archbishop of Constantinople

The disciple of St. John Chrysostom, he was bishop of Cyzicus, and in 434 was elected Archbishop of Constantinople. During his rule the relics of St. John Chrysostom were translated to Constantinople (see Jan 27). During his episcopate there was a terrible earthquake in Constantinople during which one adolescent, lifted to the heavens, heard the song of the angels: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One" (see September 25). He died in the year 447.

Troparion, tone 4

**You who are strengthened by the fear of the Lord,
The divine beginning of wisdom.
You have gone up from there in sacred ascension
In the teaching of Chrysostom.
And you were worthy of the bishop's throne by your pure deeds,
Being a paradigm of the apostolic rule,
For you lived not for yourself but for Christ and your flock.
Therefore having abided in the incorruptible apostolic life,
O Hierarch Proclus:
Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Today the most honorable city
Celebrates worthily your honorable repose,
O wise father of fathers Proclus.**

Epistle: Heb. 7:26-28, 8:1-2; sel. 318. **Gospel:** John 10:9-16; sel. 36.

Martyrs Eustathius, Thespesius and Anatolius, Blood Brothers

Born in Gangra, they were taught the Christian faith by St. Lucian, an Antiochian presbyter. St. Eustathius was a deacon. All were beheaded for Christ in Nicaea in the year 312.

Martyr Dasius, suffered for Christ in the city of Durostorum (in Silistria) during the reign of Maximinian. Chosen to make an offering to the pagan god Kronos, Saint Dasius declared himself a Christian and after various tortures was beheaded.

Martyrs Azades the Eunuch, Sasonius, Thecla, Anna, martyrs: Nerses, Joseph his disciple, John, Saverius, Isaac and Hypatius, Persian bishops, and many other martyrs suffered for Christ in Persia during the reign of Shapur II in the year 343. Saints Nerses and Joseph after being tortured were beheaded. St. John, Bishop of Seleucia, was killed by the order of the son of Shapur. St. Saverius died in prison. St. Isaac was stoned to death. An apostate presbyter strangled St. Azades. Other martyrs were beheaded.

Theoctistus the Confessor, holding the title of patrician, died during the reign of Empress Theodora Augusta (see Feb. 11).

Martyrs Bautha and Denakhysa, were beheaded in Persia in 343 together with Hieromartyr Nerses.

The Olonetz icon of the Mother of God

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 419-20
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