

6 July / 19 July Venerable Father Sisoës the Great

At Vespers

At "Lord, I have cried...", these stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast granted a sign..."

Thine all-festive commemoration / hath radiantly shone forth like the sun, O venerable one, / illumining the thoughts of the faithful / with the splendor of thy wonders / and enlightening them with the rays / of thy virtuous works, O all-blessed one. / Wherefore, celebrating it, we joyously honor and faithfully bless thee, / thou boast of monks.

Thou didst live as an earthly angel, / O thou who art most rich, / and didst lay waste to thy body as though it belonged to another, / ever divinely instructing thyself with vigils and the remembrance of death, O father, / and growing through great ascents / to thine ultimate desire. / Wherefore, thou hast truly drawn nigh / unto perfection itself.

A wonder past comprehension / took place at the time of thy repose, / O wondrous one of venerable wisdom, / when a choir of saints suddenly stood before thee, O father; / for thy countenance shone like the sun, O wise one, / revealing thy luminous form / and the purity of thy soul, / assuring all / of what manner of repose thou didst receive.

Glory...: in Tone VIII

We honor thee as the instructor of a multitude of monks, O Sisoës our father; for, following thy steps, we have truly learned how to walk the straight path. Blessed art thou who didst labor for Christ, and didst denounce the power of the enemy: thou conversor with angels and companion of the venerable and the righteous. With them do thou entreat the Lord, that He have mercy upon our souls!

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion

The unblemished heifer, beholding her Bullock hanging upon the Tree, nailed there of His own will, cried out, lamenting piteously: "Woe is me, O my most beloved Child! What hath the thankless synagogue of the Jews rendered unto Thee, wishing to leave me bereft of Thee, O my most Beloved?"

Troparion, in Tone I

Thou wast shown to be a desert-dweller, an angel in the body and a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing father Sisoës. Having received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, thou dost heal the infirm and the souls of those who have recourse unto thee in faith. Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength! Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee! Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee!

At Matins
Canon, in Tone VIII
Ode I

Irmos: Let us chant unto the Lord, Who led His people across the Red Sea, for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.

By thy prayers enliven me who am slain by the passions, O father, interceding with great boldness now before the Life of the living.

Rejecting the love of the flesh, O father, with divine desire thou didst follow after Him Who crieth out to thee with love, O blessed Sisoës.

Accepting the immaterial radiance within thy heart, O father, thou wast illumined and didst drive away the gloom of all the passions.

Theotokion: O all-immaculate one who gavest birth unto the Savior, the Tranquility of all: save me who am tempest-tossed by the storm of all the passions.

Ode III

Irmos: Thou art the confirmation of those who have recourse to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light of the benighted; and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

Mightily didst thou subject thy flesh to thy mind, O venerable one, and didst show thy soul to be free from slavery to the passions.

With thy pangs thou didst plough well the furrow of thy soul; O wise and venerable one, and didst grow the grain of dispassion and miracles.

Thou wast clad in the mortality of Christ, the Bestower of life, O venerable one, and didst follow in His steps. Wherefore, He giveth thee the grace to raise up the dead.

Theotokion: O pure one, we hymn thee as a place of sanctification and the noetic table which received Christ the Bread, the Life of all.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV

Thou didst adorn thy life with abstinence; and, having mortified thy members, didst triumph over the onslaughts of the passions, O blessed Sisoës, and didst pass over to everlasting life in God, as a worthy heir to His kingdom. Wherefore, cease thou never to pray that our souls be saved.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion

O pure Ever-virgin, thou fervent and invincible intercessor, renowned and unashamed hope, thou rampart, shelter and haven for those who have recourse unto thee: with the angels beseech thy Son and God, that He grant peace to the world, salvation and great mercy.

Or this Stavrotheotokion

By the Cross of thy Son, O thou who art full of the grace of God, the deception of idolatry hath been wholly put to shame, and the might of the demons hath been trampled down. Wherefore, as is meet, we, the faithful, ever hymn and bless thee; and confessing thee to be in truth the Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Ode IV

Irmos: I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have understood Thy works, and have glorified Thy divinity.

With a rain of grace, O father, thou hast poured forth rivers of wonders, cleansing from defilement those who with faith have recourse unto thee, O blessed one.

Having thoroughly cleansed thy soul with all-night entreaties and day-long standings, O venerable one, thou didst show it to be a dwelling-place of the Trinity.

In flight thou didst betake thyself to the desert places, O father, waiting upon Him Who saved thee from faint-heartedness and affliction.

Theotokion: Habbakuk of old foresaw thee to be an unquarried mountain, O all-immaculate one, whence God appeared Who hath renewed us who are corrupted.

Ode V

Irmos: Rising at dawn, we cry out to Thee: Save us, O Lord! For Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee!

As a temple of the three-Sunned Godhead, thou didst cast down the passions of thy soul as though they were graven images.

Having slain the wisdom of thy flesh, O God-bearer, thou didst raise up the dead through the activity of the Spirit.

Thou wast shown to be a dispeller of unclean spirits, O father; for thou wast a pure abode of the Holy Spirit.

Theotokion: As thou gavest birth unto the never-setting Sun, O Theotokos, enlighten me who am wholly darkened by the passions.

Ode VI

Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, for many are my transgressions; and lead me up from the abyss of evils, I pray: for to Thee have I cried, and Thou hast hearkened unto me, O God of my salvation.

Thou didst escape being destroyed by the noetic whale, O father, having acquired abstinence, prayer, unfeigned love, mighty humility and steadfast love for Christ.

Our mighty God directed thy steps toward Himself and manifestly gaveth thee the strength to trample down serpents and crush the heads of scorpions, O all-blessed God bearer.

By thine inclination towards God, thou didst manifestly become a god, becoming light by thine all-embracing love for the Lord, O God-bearing father, thou earthly angel and heavenly man.

Theotokion: O Mary, thou pure vessel of virginity: cleanse thou my mind of the darkness of the passions, and fill my heart with grace and righteousness, O all-immaculate one.

Kontakion, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared today..."

Having struggled, thou wast seen to be an angel on the earth, O venerable one, ever illumining the thoughts of the faithful with divine signs. Wherefore, we honor thee with faith, O Sisoës.

Ode VII

Irmos: Boldly, the Hebrew children trampled down the flame in the furnace, and transformed the fire into dew, crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, forever!

With a pure mind thou didst receive all the radiance of the Spirit, and didst become a beacon for those who cry out with faith: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, forever! *Twice*

With the divine fire of abstinence didst thou utterly consume the tinder of sin, and thou didst pass over into the noetic light, crying out: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God, forever!

Theotokion: O Mother of the Savior: save me who am held fast in the abyss of transgressions, and rescue me from all the malice of the enemy, that, saved, I may magnify thine aid.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Madly, did the Chaldean tyrant heat the furnace sevenfold for the pious children; but, seeing them saved by a higher Power, he cried out to the Creator and Deliverer: Ye children bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Abiding in unceasing prayers and entreaties, thou didst drive the gloom of the passions from thy soul, and didst cleanse thy mind's eye. Wherefore, thou wast vouchsafed to behold the future prophetically, O Sisoës, piously crying aloud: Ye people, exalt the Lord supremely forever!

Like an angel didst thou dwell in thy body, O venerable one and thou didst vanquish legions of the adversary. Wherefore, with gladness, O father, thou hast made thine abode in immaterial life, where the ranks of the angels dwell, and with them thou dost cry out: Hymn the Lord, ye priests; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

By thy sacred prayers unto God cleanse thou my soul, which hath dried up through the passions, and deliver me from the captivity which holdeth me fast, O God-bearing father, that I may cry out in a pure manner: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Theotokion: Sanctified by the Spirit, thou didst receive the Creator of human nature into thy womb, and didst ineffably give birth unto Him, O pure Maiden. Lauding Him unceasingly, we chant: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Ode IX

Irmos: Every ear hath been struck with awe at the ineffable condescension of God; for the Most High, of His own will, cameth down even to the flesh, becoming man through the Virgin's womb. Wherefore, O ye faithful, let us magnify the all-pure Theotokos!

An awesome wonder took place at the very moment of thy repose; for thy countenance shone forth more brightly than the sun, and choirs of angels arrived to receive thy soul and bear it to the three-Sunned Light.

Delighting in divine beauties, and deified in partaking thereof, illumined with the radiant splendors which issue forth therefrom, O blessed one, by thine entreaties deliver from the dark destruction of the passions those who faithfully honor thy light-bearing memory, O wise one.

Abstaining from all evil, O father, thou wast righteous, blameless, venerable, guileless, and obedient unto God in thy holiness. Wherefore, the Trinity abode within thy heart, in Whom thou now dost radiantly delight, O right wondrous one.

Theotokion: There is no salvation for me because of my deeds, O all-immaculate one; for, having trodden the wrong path, I have been filled with darkness. But as thou didst shine forth upon us light from the Light, enlighten and save me, and disdain me not who am cruelly perishing