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SAINT GEORGE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.
The Holy Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily (Tone 4),

FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST WITH SYMEON

Before the beginning of the Holy Liturgy, the Priest, going forth before the Royal Doors, standing in the place where the candles have been placed for blessing, beginneth:

Priest: Glory to the holy, and consubstantial, and life-creating, and indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

O Heavenly King, * Comforter, Spirit of Truth, * Who art everywhere present * and fillest all things, * Treasury of good things * and Giver of life: * Come and dwell in us,* and cleanse us of all impurity, * and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *Thrice.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory; of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Then, the people chant the troparion and kontakion of the feast:

Troparion of the Meeting of the Lord, in Tone I —

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, * for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, * enlightening those in darkness. * Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, * as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, * Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord, in Tone I —

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, * and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet, * by anticipation didst even now save us, O Christ God. * But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth, * and strengthen Orthodox Christians * whom Thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

And the Priest readeth this Prayer:

O holy Master, omnipotent Father, preëternal God, Who hast created all things out of nothingness and by Thy command, through the work of the bees, hast brought this fashioning of candles to completion, and hast fulfilled the entreaty of the righteous Symeon on this present day: We humbly beseech Thee, that at the invocation of Thy most holy name, through the supplication of the blessed and Ever-virgin Mary, whose feast is now reverently celebrate, and through the prayers of all Thy saints, Thou mayest bless and sanctify these candles, whether prepared on land or on the waves, for the needs of the people, unto the health of their souls and bodies. And hearkening from Thy holy heaven and from the throne of Thy majesty unto the cries of Thy people, who desire to bear these candles with honour and, chanting, to glorify Thee, be Thou merciful. For all who cry aloud to Thee hast Thou redeemed by the precious blood of Thy Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, with Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

And the Priest readeth this Prayer:

O omnipotent and preëternal God, Who on this day didst set Thine only-begotten Son in the arms of the holy Symeon, in Thy holy temple: We call upon Thy loving-kindness, that these candles which we, Thy servants, receive unto the majesty of Thy name, and desire to bear, Thou be well-pleased to bless and sanctify, that they may burn with the light of Thy heavenly blessing, and that we who offer them unto Thee, the Lord our God, may be vouchsafed worthily to stand in the holy temple of Thy glory, alight with the holy fire of Thy love most sweet. For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory — to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit — now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

And the Priest readeth this Prayer:

O Lord Jesus Christ, true Light, enlightening every man who cometh into the world: Pour forth Thy blessing upon these candles, and sanctify them with the light of Thy grace, and be Thou pleased, O merciful One, that, as these candles, set alight with visible light, drive away the gloom of night, so may it be with our hearts, which burn with invisible light. Illumined with the radiance of the Holy Spirit, may they escape the blindness of all sins, that with a purified spiritual eye, we may see those things which are well-pleasing for Thee and conducive to our salvation; that when we have overcome the dark tribulations of this world, we may be counted worthy to attain unto never-ending light. For Thou art our Saviour, and we send up glory unto Thee, and Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and

ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Chanters: Lord, have mercy.

And the Priest readeth this Prayer:

O omnipotent and preëternal God, Who didst command Thy servant Moses to prepare a most pure mixture of oil in the lamps which burned before Thy face: Mercifully pour forth the grace of Thy blessing upon these candles, that they may emit radiance upon the people, so by Thy gift of the effulgence of the Holy Spirit may come to dwell within our minds, through Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honour, and worship, with Thee, the unoriginate Father, and the Spirit, unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Chanters: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads unto the Lord.

Chanters: To Thee, O Lord.

And the Priest readeth this Prayer:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who on this very day didst manifest Thyself among men in the essence of our flesh, presented by Thy parents in the temple; and Whom the reverent elder Symeon, illumined by the light of Thy Spirit, recognised, received, and blessed: O Merciful one, grant that, enlightened and taught by the grace of the same Holy Spirit, we may truly recognise and faithfully love Thee, to Whom is due all glory, honour, and worship, with the unoriginate Father, and the Holy Spirit, forever.

People: Amen.

The Priest then censeth the candles thrice and sprinkleth them with holy water, saying:

These candles are blessed and sanctified through the sprinkling of this sacred water: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The festal dismissal is then intoned.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our hope, glory to Thee.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, Who for our salvation deigned to be carried in the arms of Righteous Symeon: through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; and Saint(s) N.(N.) (*to whom the church is dedicated*); and Saint(s) N.(N) (*of the day*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

People: Amen.

Then the Priest distributeth the candles, and the people sing or read: 'Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...' in full.

THE PRAYER OF ST SYMEON

People: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, * according to Thy word, * for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, * which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; * a light of revelation for the Gentiles, * and the glory of Thy people Israel.

After the Prayer of St Symeon, the following sticheron is chanted in Tone VII: :

Adorn thy chamber, O Sion, * and receive Christ the King! * Greet Mary, the portal of heaven, * for she hath been shown to be the throne of the cherubim. * She beareth the King of glory. * The Virgin is the cloud of light, * bearing in the flesh the Son Who hath existed before the morning star. * Him did Symeon, receiving Him in his arms, * proclaim to the people as the Master of life and death, * the Saviour of the world.

And after this sticheron is completed, the Holy Liturgy is begun.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion of the Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, * for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, * enlightening those in darkness. * Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, * as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, * Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord (Tone 1)

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, * and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet, * by anticipation didst even now save us, O Christ God. * But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth, * and strengthen Orthodox Christians * whom Thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, * and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, * the women disciples of the Lord * spake to the apostles exultantly: * Death is despoiled * and Christ God is risen, * granting to the world great mercy.

Glory... Both now...

Kontakion of the Resurrection (Tone 4)

My Saviour and Redeemer * hath, as God, raised up the earthborn from the grave and from their fetters, * and He hath broken the gates of hades, * and, as Master, * hath risen on the third day.

Prokeimenon, Song of the Theotokos, in Tone III

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone, the Song of the Theotokos:

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Chanters: My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: *Stichos:* For He hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Chanters: My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Reader: My soul doth magnify the Lord:

Chanters: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

**The Reading from the
Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul o the Hebrews,
§316 [7:7-17]**

Brethren: Beyond all contradiction, the lesser is blessed by the greater. And here men who die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And, as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was yet in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met Abraham. If therefore perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And this is yet far more evident when there ariseth another priest according to the similitude of Melchizedek, who is made not according to the law of a carnal commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifieth: 'Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'

**First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy,
§285a [I Timothy 4:9-15]**

My son Timothy: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in manner of living, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Until I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all.

Alleluia, Song of Symeon, in Tone VIII

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: Alleluia in the Eighth Tone:

Chanters: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *Stichos:* Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word.

Chanters: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *Stichos:* A Light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Chanters: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**The Reading from the
Holy Gospel according to Luke,
§7 [2:22-40]**

At that time, the parents of the child Jesus brought him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord: 'Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord'), and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord: 'A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.' And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Symeon, and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him after the custom of the law, then he took Him up in his arms, and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared

before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.’ And Joseph and His mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of Him. And Symeon blessed them and said unto Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’ And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years. She departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she, coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.

Holy Gospel according to Luke,
§94 [19:1-10]

At that time, Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus, who He was, but could not for the press of the crowd, because he was short in stature. And he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said unto him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide at thy house.’ And he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying that He had gone to be the guest of a man who was a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said unto the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore to him fourfold.’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘This day is salvation come to this house, in that he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.’

Communion Verse: I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. (*Psalm 115:4*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Troparion of the Meeting of the Lord (*Tone 1*)

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, * for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, * enlightening those in darkness. * Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, * as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, * Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord (*Tone 1*)

Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb by Thy birth, * and didst bless Symeon’s hands as was meet, * by anticipation didst even now save us, O Christ God. * But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth, * and strengthen Orthodox Christians * whom Thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.