

# Our Venerable Father Procopius, Confessor

8<sup>th</sup> Day of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast — February 27

This saint was from Decapolis [Ten Cities] surrounding the Sea of Galilee for which he was called "Decapolite." In his youth, he devoted himself to a life of asceticism and accomplished all prescribed efforts, by which the heart is purified and the spirit elevated to God. When a persecution began by the nefarious Emperor Leo Isaurian regarding icons, Procopius rose up in defense of icons showing that the veneration of icons is not idolatry; for Christians know that honoring icons they do not either bow down or honor lifeless material but rather honor living saints who are depicted on the icons. Because of that, Procopius was arrested, brutally tortured, flogged and scrapped with an iron brush. When the wicked Emperor Leo was slain in the body, [for he had lost his soul earlier], icons were restored in the churches and Procopius returned to his monastery where he spent the remainder of his days in peace. In old age, he was translated into the kingdom of God where he gazes with joy upon the living angels and saints, whose images on icons he honored on earth. He died peacefully in the ninth century.

## **Troparion of Procopius (Tone 8)**

You irrigated the desert with your tears, \* and you bore fruit a hundred-fold from your heart. \* You were a light to the world radiating miracles! \* Beg Christ to save our souls Father Procopius!

## **Kondakion of Procopius (Tone 4)**

Today the Church finds another day-star, \* which disperses the fog of evil's glory. \* She venerates you heavenly mystic \* most glorious Procopius.

## **Prokimenon of a Confessor (Tone 7 – pew book page 402)**

Let the faithful rejoice in glory shout for joy and take their rest

*Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise \* in the assembly of the faithful.*

## **Alleluia (Tone 6 – pew book page 403)**

*Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord \* and greatly delights in His commands.*

*Verse: His posterity will be mighty \* upon the earth.*

## **Communion Hymn (pew book page 403)**

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous ones \* praise from the upright is fitting.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Concluding Hymn sung once by Priest; twice by people*

**Having suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
have mercy on us!**

**Preterp'ivj za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas!**

# **Daily Prayer During The Great Fast**

**(February 20 through March 31)**

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, and Hope of all on land and of those far away at sea; You have established these holy days of fasting by Your law and the prophets as a way for our mortification and repentance. At the proper time, You manifested Yourself in the flesh on this earth, and by Your fast of forty days and nights, You sanctified the practice of fasting and commanded us to follow Your example. As a merciful and gracious God, enable us to continue these holy days of The Great Fast with perfect repentance, with humility instead of hypocrisy, with fervent prayer, with hunger and thirst, with frequent prostrations, and with a contrite heart. Enable us, also, to complete this time of The Great Fast without fault and with a pure conscience, keeping our faith intact and achieving victory over sin. Send an angel of peace to watch over our lives, to protect us from all snares of our enemies, and to assist us in the performance of good deeds. Strengthen us by Your power so that we may accomplish the spiritual works of The Great Fast. Then, with our passions in control and our souls and bodies properly cleansed, we will be worthy to partake, without condemnation, of Your most pure Body and Your most precious and life-giving Blood. For You are the merciful and gracious Lover of Mankind, Who came down to earth to save all; and we give glory to You (+) and to Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Gracious, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.