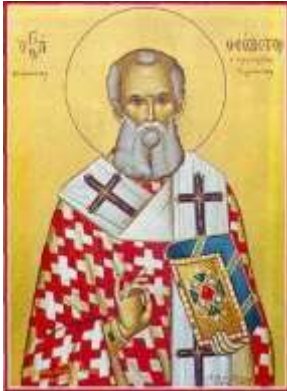


THE HOLY BISHOP-MARTYR THEODOTUS OF CYRENE

11th Day of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast – March 2

Because of his wisdom and kindness, Theodotus was elected to the episcopacy and governed the Church of God with love and zeal. When the persecution of Christians began during the reign of the wicked Emperor Licinius, this godly man was brought to trial and put through many tortures. When the torturer Sabinus advised him to deny Christ and to bow down before pagan idols and to worship them, Theodotus replied, *"If you knew the goodness of my God in Whom I hope, that because of these temporary sufferings, will make me worthy of eternal life, you also would wish to suffer in the same manner as I."* The torturers began to strike his body with nails, and he prayed to God with gratitude. Thinking his end was near, Theodotus counseled and taught the Christians who were assembled around him. By the Providence of God, the Emperor Constantine at that time proclaimed freedom to Christians and ordered that all who were sentenced be released for the sake of Christ. And so, this saint was freed and returned to his prior position in Kyrenia. As tortured as he was, Theodotus lived for several more years. After that, he found repose in the Lord, Whom he faithfully served and for Whom he suffered. In the year 302 A.D. his earthly life ended and was translated to the mansions of our Lord.



TROPARION (Tone 4)

You shared in their power and sat on the throne of the apostles * O divinely inspired bishop-martyr Theodotus. * You realized the joy of contemplation. * You carried out the preaching of the truth even to the shedding of your blood! * Beg Christ our God to save our souls!

KONDAKION (Tone 3)

You dried up the sea of false belief, * and smashed the guile of the vicious idolatry by the true faith, * Having become a heavenly holocaust, * you feed the whole world on miracles. * O sanctifying Father Theodotus, * beg Christ our God to have mercy on us!

PROKIMENON (pew book page 384 - Tone 7)

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

v. Sing to the Lord a new song of praise * in the assembly of the faithful.

ALLELUIA (pew book page 384 - Tone 7)

v. Your priests will be clothed with righteousness * and Your saints will rejoice.

v. The Lord has chosen Sion * He prefers her for His dwelling

COMMUNION HYMN (pew book page 385)

(same melody as the Cherubic Hymn)

The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear.

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'ivyj 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.