

**Vesper Propers, October 31, 2021**  
**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

**The holy priest-martyr Theodore Romzha.** Born in Veliky Bychkiv in Carpatho-Russia in 1911, he came from a poor family and exhibited a vocation to the priesthood. Sent to Rome for studies, he was ordained in 1937 and sent to the country parish of Berzovo. In 1939, he was called to the seminary at Uzhhorod and taught there until 1944. In 1944, despite his youth, he was ordained bishop for the Mukachevo Eparchy. During the Soviet Army's occupation of Carpatho-Russia, he was tireless in his care for his flock and in his defense of the rights of the Byzantine Catholic Church. On October 27, 1947, he was severely wounded in a staged accident. He was taken to the hospital in Mukachevo, where he was subsequently poisoned, and died. (1947)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 82), stichera 10-5.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Let the watchman count on daybreak,  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

**Stichera of the holy priest-martyr Theodore - Tone 4 samohlasen**

4

I love you, O Lord, you are my strength! You are my strong-hold,  
my re - fuge! The - odore took this verse to his heart, lived and  
died in the light of this word. Lord! feed us as you fed him,  
who fed his people on the Bread for which an - gels yearn and who now

with the Seraphim in glo-ry cries out: Ho - ly and thrice-ho-ly is  
our God, the Lov - er of us all.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

③


The cords of death com-passed him a-bout but his cries to God reached God's ears.  
Hell bent its sword to claim a shep - herd- smite the shep - herd and  
scat - ter the sheep- but lay - ing down his own life  
the shepherd Theodore defeated Hell's dark de - sign. To - geth - er with the  
martyrs he sings the vic - t'ry song: Ho - ly and thrice-ho-ly is our God,  
the Lov - er of us all.

**Cantor:**  
(on 2)


Praise the Lord all the nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples.

**Psalm 116**


②




From the depths I cried out to the Lord, from the temple he heard my voice!




The-odore makes David's words his own, calling out from the temple on high:



I once served the Mys-ter-ies. Now I see clearly the Lord, whose face



I dim-ly glimpsed. I lost my life for the Lord's sake and so I found it!




Ho-ly and thrice-ho-ly is our God, the Lov-er of us all.

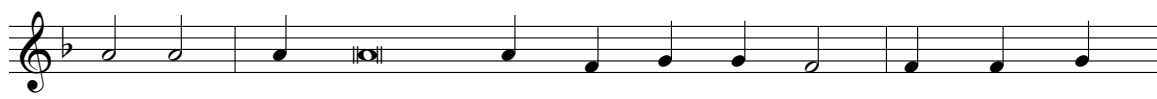
**Cantor:**  
(on 1)

Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
he is faithful forever.

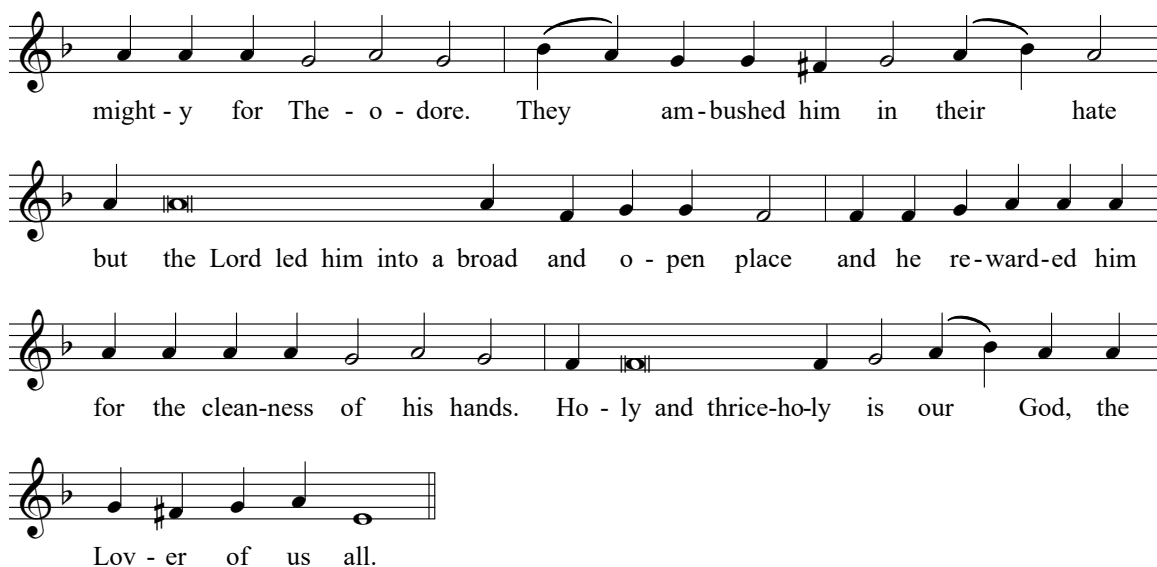
①



My God reached from on high, he took me, drew me out of man-y



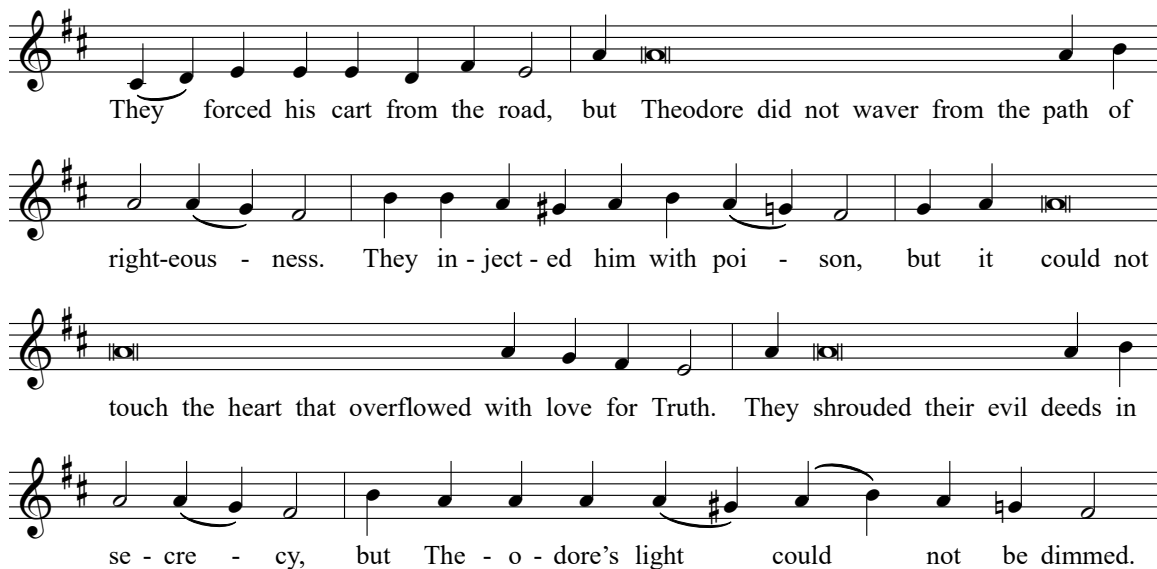
wa-ters. Those who hated truth and u-ni-ty all seemed too



might - y for The - o - dore. They am - bused him in their hate  
 but the Lord led him into a broad and o - pen place and he re - ward - ed him  
 for the clean - ness of his hands. Ho - ly and thrice - ho - ly is our God, the  
 Lov - er of us all.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...now and ever...

**Doxastikon of the holy priest-martyr Theodore - Tone 6 samohlasen**



They forced his cart from the road, but Theodore did not waver from the path of  
 right - eous - ness. They in - ject - ed him with poi - son, but it could not  
 touch the heart that overflowed with love for Truth. They shrouded their evil deeds in  
 se - cre - cy, but The - o - dore's light could not be dimmed.

Your mar - tyr, O Lord, is our Church-'s boast! Through his ho - ly prayers,  
save our souls.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 87)*

**Readings:** II Kings 2: 9 - 14  
Isaiah 26: 7 - 13  
Sirach 2: 1 - 6

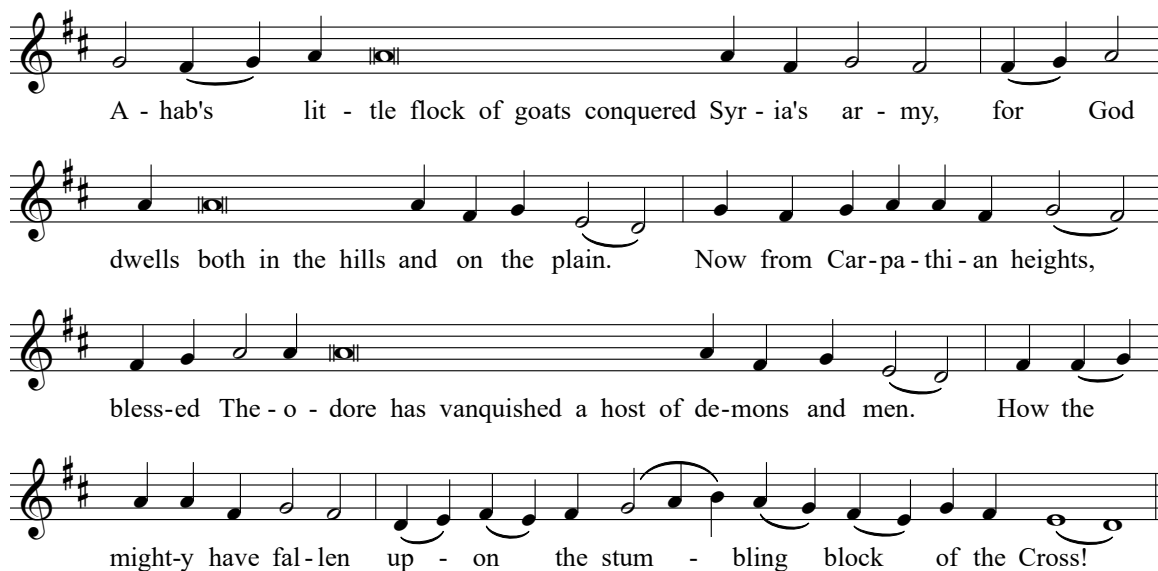
### Hymns of the Litija

*Tone 4 Bolhar*

①  
You of-fered up the sac - ri - fice of praise, O The - o - dore, fa - ther  
and bish - op, then you, your-self, were of - fered up as a ra - tion - al  
sac - - - ri - fice, O mar - tyr, pat - terned af - ter the Lord,  
who was for us both priest and vic - - - tim.

**Cantor:** (Tone 7) Glory...

**Doxastikon - Tone 7 samohlasen**



A - hab's lit - tle flock of goats conquered Syr - ia's ar - my, for God  
dwells both in the hills and on the plain. Now from Car-pa-thi-an heights,  
bless-ed The - o - dore has vanquished a host of de-mons and men. How the  
might-y have fal-len up - on the stum - bling block of the Cross!

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion**



All of us hasten to take refuge in you, O La-dy; and we cry out to you:  
O The - o - to - kos, you are our on - ly hope; de - liv - er us from our  
count-less sins, and save our souls.

*Litany of the Litija, p 116.*

## Aposticha

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 88), concluding with*

**Cantor:** (Tone 5) Glory...

**Aposticha doxastikon of the holy priest-martyr Theodore - Tone 5 samohlasen**

If you suf - fer for your Faith, said The - o - dore: then be grate - ful to God!  
For he is offering to you the crown of mar - tyr - dom. We sing to  
the twice-crowned pas - tor, crowned as bish - op and wreathed as mar - tyr,  
ask - ing him to be - seech the Lord for us: for the Lord is  
good, and he loves us all.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

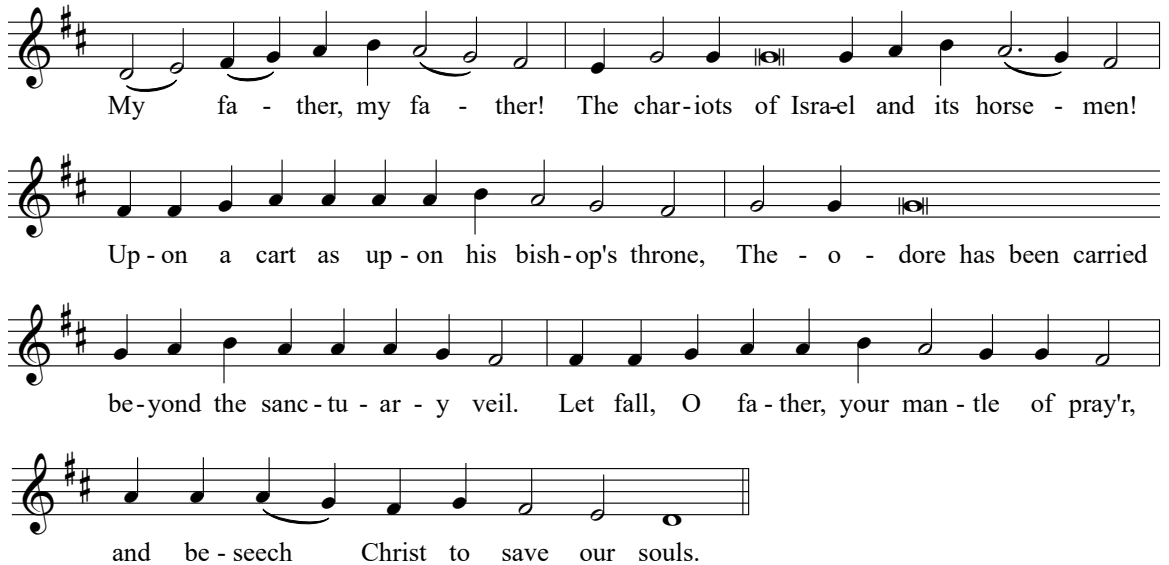
*Aposticha theotokion in the same tone (Tone 5, p. 79).*

## Troparia

*Troparion of the Resurrection, in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 91).*

**Cantor:** (Tone 5) Glory...

**Troparion of the holy priest-martyr Theodore - Resurrection Tone 4**



My fa - ther, my fa - ther! The char-iots of Isra-el and its horse - men!  
Up - on a cart as up - on his bish-op's throne, The - o - dore has been carried  
be-yond the sanc - tu - ar - y veil. Let fall, O fa - ther, your man - tle of pray'r,  
and be - seech Christ to save our souls.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

*Festal theotokion in the same tone (Tone 4, p. 68).*