

Month of January

THE 16TH DAY

Commemoration of Our Venerable Father Honoratus, Bishop of Arles & Abbot of Lérins

N.B.: This service may be celebrated in conjunction with the commemoration of the Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter (as provided below), or may replace that commemoration. If the latter option is chosen, the commemoration of the Chains of St. Peter is transferred to January 15th, or to some other date deemed appropriate by the rector or the ecclesiarch.

At Vespers

On “Lord, I have cried...”, 6 stichera: 3 of the Apostle Peter (see in the Menaion), and 3 of the venerable Honoratus, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: “Joy of the ranks of heaven...”—

Joy of the monastic ranks, mighty intercessor for all the Orthodox, O venerable hierarch Honoratus! Save us who draw nigh unto thee, and by thy earnest supplications move God to have mercy on us.

Having deadened the movements of the flesh and slain all carnal-mindedness, O holy Honoratus, thou didst ascend the virtues, reaching the heights of holiness, whence thou dost regard us with pity.

Full of humility, O Honoratus, for the salvation of many souls thou didst leave thy monastic retreat, assenting to hierarchal ordination; and guiding all entrusted to thy care, thou didst tend them in piety.

Glory...: Idiomelon of St. Peter (see in the Menaion)

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or stavrotheotokion (see in the Menaion)

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon of St. Peter (see in the Menaion)

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or stavrotheotokion (see in the Menaion)

Troparion of St. Peter (see in the Menaion)

Glory...: Troparion of the venerable Honoratus, in Tone IV—

Withdrawing to the solitude of the desert islands of Lérins, O venerable father Honoratus, thou didst shoulder the cross of the Gospel, meekly bearing the easy yoke of the Lord; and following Him most earnestly, thou didst show forth great purity of soul, for which cause many were drawn to thee. Wherefore, honoring thee with praises as is meet, with compunction we entreat thee: In thy supplications, O holy hierarch, beseech Christ God, that He have mercy on our souls.

Now & ever...: Theotokion.

At Matins

At “God is the Lord...”, troparion of St. Peter, twice; Glory..., that of the venerable Honoratus; Now & ever...: Theotokion.

One canon from the Octoechos, with 4 troparia, including the irmos, but omitting the martyrica; the canon of St. Peter, with 6 troparia; and that of the venerable Honoratus, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is “Render ye glory and honor to Honoratus”, in Tone II—

Ode I

Irmos: Traversing the impassable, uncommon path of the sea dryshod, Israel the

chosen cried aloud: Let us chant unto the Lord, for He hath been glorified!

Rejoice, ye chosen people of the God of Israel, and with the glorious Honoratus now cry aloud: Let us chant unto the Lord, for He hath been glorified!

Eternal and uncreated grace filled thy soul, O holy one, and drew thee to the one true Faith, crying: Let us chant unto the Lord, for He hath been glorified!

Not the Red Sea didst thou cross to the Desert of Sin, O saint, but the middle sea to a desert island, crying: Let us chant unto the Lord, for He hath been glorified!

Theotokion: Deliver us from slavery to the passions, O Lady, that having passed through a sea of trials, we may cry: Let us chant unto the Lord, for He hath been glorified!

Ode III

Irmos: The heavens of heavens, which declare Thy glory, O Savior, move the multitudes of the angels to sing Thy praise; and men chant: There is none holy save Thee, the God and Lord Who hath brought all things out of non-existence into existence!

Every angel of the hosts of heaven standeth in awe of thy great struggles and the virtues thou didst attain, O Honoratus, who with thy holy instructor Caprasius ever chantest with them: There is none holy save Thee, O our God and Lord!

Reviling all the soul-destroying passions, thou didst seek purity of soul and body above all, O holy one; wherefore, by fortitude and temperance thou didst attain true holiness, crying aloud: There is none holy save Thee, O our God and Lord!

Ye heavens of heavens that declare the glory of God, bear witness to the heights of virtue achieved by the venerable Honoratus, who shone forth the light of grace like a radiant star, crying: There is none holy save Thee, O our God and Lord!

Theotokion: Every angelic being of the bodiless ranks hymneth thee with exultation, O Queen of heaven, and for thy sake singeth unceasingly: There is none holy save Thee, the God and Lord Who hath brought all things out of non-existence into existence!

The kontakion of the Apostle is omitted after Ode III. Instead, we chant the kontakion of the venerable Honoratus, in Tone V—

Forsaking home and family, O venerable one, thou didst seek solitude in the desolate islands of the sea, and there didst struggle manfully against temptations, by prudence and great constancy in the virtues acquiring dispassion. Wherefore, as thou becamest an angel in the flesh, be thou ever mindful of those who honor thy memory, that with gladness we may cry out to thee: Rejoice, O Honoratus our father!

Ikos: Embracing the teachings of the Gospel and spurning the allurements of this corrupt world, O holy hierarch, thou didst hasten to Christ with zeal, afire with the grace that enlighteneth the ends of the world. Wherefore, honoring thee with reverence, we beseech thee most earnestly: Fill thou our souls with the radiance of the Spirit, that we may hymn thy struggles, ascetic labors, vigils and tears, and thy mortification of the flesh for the sake of the life of heaven, wherein thou now intercedest, O venerable one, for those who honor thy memory, crying: Rejoice, O Honoratus our father!

Sessional hymn of St. Peter (see in the Menaion)

Glory...: Sessional hymn of the venerable Honoratus, in the same tone (IV) and melody ("Having been lifted up...")—

O thou who wast drawn to the Truth by the grace of God, fill with grace those who honor thee as a true servant of Christ; and as thou didst calm the tumults afflicting

thy Church, so by thine entreaties still the tempest of errors that assaileth us, O Honoratus, that we may acquire the peace from on high.

Now & ever...: Theotokion or stavrotheotokion (see in the Menaion)

Ode IV

Irmos: He whom Thou didst call “the voice of one crying in the wilderness” heard Thy voice as Thou didst thunder over many waters, bearing witness to Thy Son. And, wholly filled with the Spirit which had come, he cried out: Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God!

Gladly didst thou leave the wilderness of the mountains of Esterel, at the counsel of the holy hierarch Leontius, O venerable one, crossing over the waters of the sea to the desert islands of Lérins, where in solitude thou didst ever hymn Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God.

Lérins, which in ages past was unfit for human habitation, thou didst rid of the malice of the demons that dwelt therein, O Honoratus, filling it with a multitude of monks, and bringing to it the brilliant radiance of the grace of Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God.

O Honoratus, in thine ascetic toils thou didst imitate John the Forerunner, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, withdrawing into desert places, where, filled with the Spirit, thou didst continually worship and make entreaty to Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God.

Theotokion: "Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace! The Lord is with thee!" Thus cried the great Archangel Gabriel, moved by the divine Spirit, in awe of the ineffable dispensation of God for His providential salvation of man: the incarnation of Christ, the Wisdom and Power of God.

Ode V

Irmos: O Christ my Savior, enlightenment of those who lie in darkness and salvation of the despairing: rising early unto Thee, O King of the world, may I be enlightened by Thy radiance, for I know none other God than Thee.

Ye who languish in the darkness of despair, be not dismayed, for as an intercessor ye have Honoratus, the feeder of the poor and needy, the protector of strangers and the helpless, the good disciple of the God of love.

Arles rejoiceth exceedingly in the memory of its holy hierarch; for in its time of woeful trials, he came to it, clad in the vesture of meekness and humility, and shining with the radiance of the grace of the God of love.

Never hath thy spiritual radiance dimmed, O holy hierarch, for with the multitude of thy venerable disciples thou shinest in the firmament of the Church like a brilliant constellation, full of the light of the God of love.

Theotokion: Darkness and despair cover our wretched souls, O Mistress, and the light of hope dieth within us; but enlighten us with divine radiance, we pray thee, O Queen of the angels, for we know none other God than thy Son.

Ode VI

Irmos: The great abyss of sin encompasseth me, and, imitating the prophet, I cry to thee: Lead me up from corruption, O Lord!

How sunk in the abyss of sin were the faithful of Arles, O saint; but they cried to thee: Lead us up from corruption, O saint!

O the great wounds inflicted on the Church of Arles, O holy hierarch! But thy

wondrous charity was a balm to them.

Not by force or worldly authority didst thou set thy city aright, O blessed one, but by thy godly prudence and discernment.

Theotokion: Over the ship of my soul billows of the passions break continually; and I cry out: Lead me up from corruption, O Lady!

Kontakion & ikos of the Apostle Peter (see in the Menaion)

Ode VII

Irmos: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers, Who of old didst extinguish the thunderous furnace and bedew the children with the outpouring of the Spirit.

Requesting of God that He not use thee to perform signs and wonders, O saint, thou didst burn with the fire of humility, extinguishing the flames of vainglory.

Thou wast a channel for the grace of the Holy Trinity, O Honoratus, for through thee have divers benefactions poured forth in abundance upon thy monastery.

O the joy of the poor, for whose needs thou didst care, O holy one! O the relief of the captives, whom thou didst ransom, delivering them from barbarian slavery!

Theotokion: Heated in the furnace of the passions, my soul withereth away, O Virgin; but pour forth upon me the dew of the Spirit, O Mother of the God of our fathers.

Ode VIII

Irmos: Refusing to obey the edict of the tyrant, the three venerable children were cast into the furnace, and confessed God, chanting: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

Obedient to the precepts of Christ, Honoratus showed himself to be a peacemaker, restoring concord among the faithful, chanting: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

Never didst thou serve Mammon, O holy hierarch, for what had been unlawfully amassed thou didst freely distribute, crying: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

On the isle of Lérins thou wast like a beacon, guiding to safe harbor those lost upon the sea of life, O holy one, who didst cry: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: Refusing to follow the precepts of God, I burn with the fire of sin and iniquity, O Queen; but quench it, that with thee I may cry: Bless the Lord, O ye works of the Lord!

Ode IX

Irmos: O ye faithful, with songs of hymnody let us all piously magnify the pure and all-pure Mother and Virgin as the Theotokos.

At the cherubic throne on high thou dost stand between the choirs of the holy hierarchs and the venerable, O Honoratus.

Thou joinest thine entreaties to those of the all-pure Theotokos, O saint of God, beseeching mercy for those who honor thee.

Unto thee, our merciful father and intercessor, do we earnestly pray: By thy supplications move Christ to have pity on us!

Theotokion: Singing hymns of jubilation to the all-pure Virgin Mother, with the holy Honoratus we confess her to be the Theotokos.

Exapostilarion of the Apostle Peter (see in the Menaion)

Glory...: Exapostilarion of the venerable Honoratus, in the same melody ("By the Spirit in the holy place...")—

Moved by the Holy Spirit, the venerable Honoratus filled the bleak islands with monastics struggling to work out their salvation in the fear of God; and having become a

high priest of the Lord, he pastured his reason-endowed flock upon the meadow of grace.

Theotokion (see in the Menaion)

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the Apostle Peter (see in the Menaion).

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or stavrotheotokion (see in the Menaion).

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 8 troparia, from Odes III and VI of the canon of the Apostle Peter.

Prokimenon, epistle, Alleluia, Gospel, and communion verse of the Apostle Peter (see in the Menaion).