

June 15

B. *Holy Prophet Amos*

Born in Tekoa of Judahite roots, he was the third of the Minor Prophets and prophesied during the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah and Jeroboam II, king of Israel. According to tradition, the Prophet Amos died from being hit between the eyes with a cane during his exile from Bethel by the command of Jeroboam. In his prophesies, by the way, Amos severely accused evil rich men, reproaching them for the magnificence of their houses, exquisite food and luxurious furniture; accused judges in afflicting the innocent, in the sale of the poor into slavery; reproached the people for their evil deeds, slavery, vices, disobedience to prophets, serving "stupid idols", vanity of unlawful worship services and for the superstition of rites with which people, in their error, thought they were offering praise to the Lord.

Kontakion, tone 4

**O Prophet, your splendid heart having been purified by the spirit,
O glorious Amos, receiving the gift of prophecy from on high,
You cried with a loud voice to the nations:
This is our God, and there is none beside Him.**

✙ Our Father among the Saints Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow and of all Russia

St. Jonah was born near Soligalich and when he was 12 years old he left for one of the near monasteries. From here he transferred to the Simonov Monastery, Moscow. Here he was a strict guardian of monastic Ustavi [Typikons], for which he underwent persecution.

In 1431 for his virtuous life and firm knowledge of church teaching St. Jonah was installed as the Bishop of Ryazan.

In 1433 St. Jonah was elected metropolitan of all Russia, but after a long series of obstacles he was blessed for this position only in 1443 by the Council of Russian Archpastors, by the example of the times Iaroslav and Iziaslav. St. Jonah was a zealous and wise shepherd. He truly fed the Christian pastorate, teaching it the faith, piety and promoted the spread of the teaching of Christ among the infidels. He loved his native Russia and did much good for her.

In 1451 the great prince, leaving Moscow to gather armies against the Nogai Hordes, entrusted the protection of the capital to Jonah and the boyars. According to contemporary witnesses, when the Nogai Hordes were attacking Moscow they burned down its suburb, Jonah, defending the Kremlin, did a cross procession along the walls of the Kremlin amid the smoke and heat from the fires, and the wind driving the flames toward the Kremlin suddenly ceased.

St. Jonah very much promoted the strengthening of the young state, preserved the country from conflicts among the princes, tried for the establishment of general peace and the submission of all to one great prince. He also worked hard for the advantage of the Church. Many temples were adorned from the offerings of the bishop. Respected monasteries received gifts from him. Many of the needy were fed from bounties of the bishop.

He cared for the elimination of the errors of the Unia and encouraged the Orthodox (especially in the southwest) undergoing hardship of persecution for the faith.

For his holy life he became worthy of the gift of clairvoyance and through his prayers healed those with difficult illnesses. St. Jonah died on March 31, 1461. His relics, found incorrupt on May 27 1472, repose in the northwest corner of the Moscow Dormition Cathedral.

He left 35 epistles. These were simple, without a lot of rhetoric; from the precepts of the fathers concerning contemporary needs (see Mar 31).

Troparion, tone 4

**Having dedicated your whole life from your youth to the Lord,
You were a paradigm of virtue in prayers, labor and fasting:
Wherefore God having seen your good intentions,
Raised you up as high priest and shepherd of His church:
Therefore even after your repose,
Your honorable body was preserved whole and incorrupt,
O Hierarch Jonah, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**As you have subjected yourself to the Lord from childhood O Wise One,
Suppressing your body through fasting and vigils:
Therefore your vessel is pure,
And you were revealed the home of the All-holy Spirit:
Therefore the church arranged you to be a bishop and shepherd of His Church,
Whom as the good shepherd you departed to the Lord whom you loved:
Therefore we pray to you,
Remember us, who faithfully honor your holy memory,
That we may cry out to you:
Rejoice, O All-honorable Hierarch Father Jonah.**

**His Synaxis is done where his relics lie and where his temple exists;
everywhere there is the Polyeleon.**

Paramoia: 1) Pr. 10:7, 6; 3:13-16, 8:6, 34, 35, 4, 12, 14; 17:5-9; 1:23; 15:4;
2) Pr. 10:31-32; 11:2; 10:2; 11:7, 19; 13:2, 9; 15:2; 14:33; 22:12; 17:24; Wis. 6:12-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 13, 18, 21; 9:1-5, 10, 11, 14; 3) Pr. 29: 2; Wis. 4:1, 14; 6:11, 17, 18, 21-23; 7:15, 16, 21, 22, 26-29; 10:9, 10, 12; 7:30; 2:1, 10-17; 19 22; 15:1,

16:13, 8; Pr. 3:34. **Matins Gospel:** Jn. 10:1-9; sel. 35. **Epistle:** Heb. 7:26-28; 8:1-2; sel. 318. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

Martyrs Vitus, Modestus and Crescentia

St. Vitus, the 12 year old son of a wealthy pagan in Sicily, being accused of Christianity, was sentenced to torture during the reign of Diocletian. The father of Vitus took his son and at first caressed him, and then threatened him to renounce Christ. Seeing the unshakable firmness of the holy youth, his father already decided to kill him, but the elder Modestus, tutor of Vitus, and Crescentia, his nurse, took the holy youth and hid with them in Lucania, Italy. Even here the persecutors of Christians were opened, the holy martyrs were arraigned in Rome where they again underwent torture and ended this torture in Lucania. The relics of St. Vitus are in Prague. (See May 16).

Martyr Dulas

Born in Cilicia, in the beginning of the 4th century during the persecutions of Christians, he was arrested and subjected to severe torture: they beat him with canes, burned him on a heated iron lattice, planed his body with sharp iron, broke his jaw and broke his shins. From these wounds he died on the way to Tarsus where he was being taken for more torture.

Ven. Jerome [Hieronymus] of Strido

He was born in 330 in the city of Strido within the territory of Dalmatia and Pannonia of pious and wealthy parents. Seeking an education, he visited Rome (having studied classical wisdom here), Gaul and other places. Having experienced the shallowness of secular life, he went to the east in 373 and in Antioch he accepted the vocation of a priest and began the labor of translation and explanation of Holy Scripture, while leading herewith the strict life of a hermit. During a visit to Constantinople, he heard St. Gregory the Theologian and translated the Commentaries of Origen on the books of the Prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Having returned to Rome in 382, through his labors and asceticism he acquired a group of admirers and through his teaching contributed much to the correction of the morals of effeminate Rome. Having again settled in Palestine in 385, in a nearby cave in Bethlehem, he completed his translation of Holy Scripture into Latin and wrote his commentary on the New Testament, having studied the Hebrew and Chaldean languages for this purpose. He died on September 30, 420. In 642 his relics were transferred from Bethlehem to Rome and placed in the Santa Maria Maggiore Church. It is not known where these relics are now. His honorable hand is in the church of his name in Rome.

Ven. Dulas, Passion-bearer of Egypt

A monk of the Egyptian monasteries who became glorified for his unusual meekness and gentleness, he endured humiliation and slander from all the brethren and, finally, was accused of stealing church vessels and other crimes, was deposed from his monastic profession and subjected to torture. Within 3 days, after the opening slander, the righteous man peacefully died.

Holy Right-believing Prince Lazarus of the Serbs

A member of the boyar family of Hrbeljanovic, brought up in the court of King Dushan, in 1371 proclaimed as the prince of All Serbia, St. Lazarus worked hard at building up the ruined, exhausted and afflicted country, cared a lot about the Christian enlightenment of his people and the building of temples of God. He constructed the Ravanica ("Zaduzhbina [founder]") Monastery about 1380. During the war with the Turks Lazarus received 16 wounds, and by order of Sultan Bayazid was taken captive and beheaded on June 15, 1389. His body, buried in a temple of the Pristina Diocese and shown to be incorrupt, was transferred to the Ravanica monastery. But after the destruction of the monastery by the Mohammedans in 1683, was transferred to one of the monasteries on Mount Frushka called the New Ravanica.

Translation of the Relics of St. Theodore Sicyon, Bishop of Anastasiopolis

The relics of St. Theodore (see Apr. 22) were transferred from Galatia to Constantinople not later than the 9th century.

Ven. Ortisius [Orsiesius] of Tabennesiotes

Most zealous disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great and because of his monastic asceticism Ven. Pachomius appointed him administrator of the Khenoboski cenoby. After the death of his guide he became the rector of the Tabennesiotes monks. After long and wise leadership of the monks, he peacefully died in 380.

Blessed Augustine, Bishop of Hippo



Born in Tagaste [Souk-Ahras] in Africa and although Blessed Augustine was nurtured by his pious mother Monica, he poorly followed her precepts in youth. Studying judicial rhetoric in Carthage, he led an unfocused life and, seeking satisfaction to his questions of the soul and not finding answers to these, he passed from one philosophical teaching to another. Having completed his education, he taught rhetoric, at first in his native land but then in Mediolanum

(Milan). Here under the direction of St. Ambrose, having been familiar with the Holy Scripture and struck with the height of his teaching, he was baptized, distributed all his estate to the poor, accepted monasticism and he spent 3 years in solitude and strict asceticism. In 391 Valerius, Bishop of Hippo, ordained him a presbyter. In 395 he became a coadjutor to Bishop Valerius, and after the death Valerius he took his place. During the 35 years of his episcopate he was a most zealous shepherd that was evident in his oral and written struggles against the false doctrines of Donatists, Manicheists and Pelagians. For all this he was called "the great teacher" and "blessed". He died at the age of 76 in 430. Especially remarkable of the many writings of Augustine are: Confessions, 17 books against the Pelagians, City of God and Christian Science (a hermeneutic-homiletical manual).

Murder of Ven. Gregory and Cassian of Avnezh

Ven. Gregory and his teacher, Ven. Stephen Makhreshch (see July 14), were the founders of the Avnezh monastery near the Sukhona River (Vologda Province, Totma District), but after the removal of Stephen he was its Hegumen. The wealthy land owner Constantine, who generously assisted the monastery, accepted monasticism with the name Cassian and was its cellarer. In 1392 the Avnezh monastery was destroyed by the Viatka Tartars, and Venerable Gregory and Cassian were killed by them. Their relics were opened in 1524 and repose in a hidden place in the former monastic but now parish temple.

St. Ephraim, Patriarch of Serbia

The son of a priest with an inclination towards monasticism and having secretly left the home of his parents, he began to live as a hermit. After ascetic struggles on Athos, during the time of military threats, he transferred to the Serbian Iviron Monastery Iviron where he also was elected Hegumen. Patriarch Sabbas III summoned him to the patriarchy, having appointed him for ascetic efforts in a cave kellia. After the death of the patriarch on October 13, 1376 St. Ephraim was elected patriarch, although through deep humility he long refused the honor. The marvelous ascetic, gentle as an angel, died at the age of 88. His relics repose in the patriarchal church in Serbia.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0206-0209.
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