

# May 9

## *D. Holy Prophet Isaiah*

Holy Prophet Isaiah, Son of Amoz, of royal origin, called to prophetic service with a special vision in the 17th year of the reign of Uzziah, was entirely devoted to this service and continued it for 60 years during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh. St. Isaiah died a martyr's death. By command of King Manasseh, he was sawn through with a wooden saw between two cedar boards in the year 710 before Christ. He the "Great and glorious Isaiah", "wonderful among the prophets", is considered the first of the four great prophets. By the clarity of his prophecies about the life and suffering of Jesus Christ, he is also called an Old Testament evangelist. Besides the gift of prophecy, Prophet Isaiah had a gift of wonderworking: during a siege of Jerusalem he through prayers directed water from Mount Zion and in this way revealed the famous Siloam stream in the Gospel. During the reign of Theodosius the Younger the relics of the holy prophet, originally placed at Siloam, were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the Temple of St. Lawrence in Blachernae.

### *Troparion, tone 2*

**The memory of your Prophet Isaiah is celebrated, O Lord,  
That we may pray to you: save our souls.**

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**Endowed with the gift of prophecy,  
O Prophet Martyr Isaiah, Herald of God,  
You explained to all the incarnation of the Lord,  
By loudly proclaiming the conclusion:  
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive in her womb.**

### *Holy Martyr Christopher*

He suffered during the reign of Decius in Lycia in about the year 250. "Struck with fire and wounds", the valorous martyr "strongly underwent the torment of illness, strengthened by the cross" and "confirmed by the might of Christ". After various torments, he was executed by the sword. The holy martyr was glorified for many wonders both during life and after death. His relics were transferred to Toledo, and then to the St. Denis Abbey in France.

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**Adorned with clothes of blood,  
You stood before the Lord, the King of Powers,  
Christopher ever-memorable:**

**From where you sang the Trisagion with awesome sweet-singing  
With the bodiless powers and martyrs:  
Therefore save your flock through your prayers.**

**✝** *Translation of the Honorable Relics of our Father among the Saints  
Nicholas the Wonderworker*

They were transferred from Myra to Bari in 1087, during the reign of Alexius Comnenus. The relics of the hierarch after his death were placed in Myra in Lycia and soon were glorified by the Lord with the grace of streaming healing myrrh. At the end of the Eleventh Century Lycia was wasted by the attacks of the Turk; the city of Myra also underwent these attacks. After a short time after the invasion of the barbarians St. Nicholas inspired a certain presbyter in a night vision in the city of Bari (in southern Italy) to transfer his relics from the city of Myra in Lycia. The inhabitants of Bari equipped a legation to Myra, which took the relics of the hierarch and transferred them on May 9 to the Church of St. John the Forerunner. Many wonders marked this transfer. After the passing of several years a magnificent temple was built in Bari, into which the relics of St. Nicholas were transferred and placed under the holy altar table where they now repose, working wonders for the benefit of the faithful (see December 6<sup>1</sup>).

*Troparion, tone 4*

**The bright festive day has come,  
The city of Bari rejoices,  
And the entire universe will exult in hymns and spiritual songs with them:  
For today is the sacred celebration  
Of the translation of the honorable and much healing relics  
Of the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas,  
Like the never setting sun shining with splendid rays,  
And dispersing the darkness of temptations and troubles,  
From those who faithfully sing:  
Save us great Nicholas.**

*Kontakion, tone 3*

**As a star goes from the East to the West,  
So go your relics, O Hierarch Nicholas,  
The sea was consecrated with your journey,  
And the city of Bari receives grace through you:  
For you revealed to us works  
Of a gracious, marvelous and merciful wonderworker.**

**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; 11:1, 2, 4, 3, 5-12; 3) Wis. 4:7-15. **Matins Gospel:** Jn. 10:1-9; sel. 35. **Epistle:** Heb. 13:1, 7-21; sel. 335. **Gospel:** Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

*Martyr Epimachus the New*, suffered in Alexandria in the year 250. Shortly before the death of Gordian, his relics were transferred to Rome and were placed there together with his relics in the catacombs of their name.

*Martyr Gordian*. After severe tortures by lead rods, he was executed by the sword in Rome in 362.



*Ven. Martyr Nicholas of Vounenis* suffered from the Avars near the city of Larissa in Thessaly.

### *Repose of the Ven. Shio (Simeon) of Mgvimevi*

Born in Syrian Antioch, a disciple of St. John of Zedazeni, together with him, by the command of God, they went Georgia to spread the faith in Christ and there labored in the fields of God and at the same time devoted themselves to the strictest ascetic efforts of monasticism. He lived in a cave, cut into a rock for him. Here the Grandee Evagrius, having been impressed by the wonderful asceticism of St. Shio, found him and asked him to make him his disciple. With the help of his disciple Ven. Shio built a monastery which attracted many monks and was called Mgvimevi (about 30 versts [about 20 miles] from Tiflis [Tbilisi]) after its founder. Ven. Shio died, knowing beforehand the hour of his death, in the Seventh Century. His holy relics until now serves as protection of the monastery, one of the few to have survived in the middle of often destroyed Georgia.



*Translation of the relics of the child Gabriel* from the Zabludovsky Dormition Monastery (now a parish church in the Belostoksky District, Grodno Province) in the Slutsky Monastery in 1775. See April 20.

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<sup>1</sup> On May 9, the day of Hierarch and Wonderworker Nicholas, the patron of those who sail, since 1891 the Holy Synod allowed a collection of offerings usually in the churches in the capital and ports of Russia for the use of the Russian Imperial Society for water rescue. At the present time, thanks to the greater outreach for the lofty Christian purpose of the society, the society has in various parts of our vast country more than 1,000 various saving establishments. But this figure is not enough for rendering assistance to a significant number living in poverty on the waters. External and internal movement on the waters is constantly developing, resulting in the increase and number of misfortunes with the courts and the people. It is necessary that the number of the saved also grow. But the increase in the means of the society is essentially important for the expansion of the activity of the society through the offerings of benefactors. That is why it is also desirable that pastors feed their flock to make feasible offerings for this sacred work.