

# June 14

## *Holy Prophet Elisha*



He lived in the Ninth Century before Christ and was the son of Shafat, of the Reubenites, from the village of Abel-meholah (near the Jordan). Being the disciple of the Prophet Elijah he received from him the mantle (outer clothing) of the prophetic gift. Elisha labored for more than 65 years during the reigns of six kings of Israel (from Ahaz to Joash [Jehoash]). He spoke the truth fearlessly to impious kings, accusing them of impurity and an inclination towards idolatry. He was a strong guardian of his people, distinguished with the power of the spirit, firm faith and deep insight. He was relevant to his time during the maximum development of the ancient institution known as "the sons of the prophets", in which young people under the direction of the prophets were already nurtured in wisdom through their experience and the activity of the famous prophets. He died at a very old age in Samaria during the reign of King Jehoash. He "both worked wonders in his way of life and did amazing deeds in his way of death". Julian the Apostate ordered his relics, which reposed in Samaria and were able to raise the dead by touching, together with the relics of Prophet Obadiah and John the Forerunner burned. But the faithful kept the remains from the fire and some of them were transferred to Alexandria. His life and wonders are described in the 3rd and 4th Books of Kings.

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**An angel in the flesh, the foundation of prophets,  
The second forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
The glorious Elijah sending grace from above upon Elisha,  
To dispel sickness, and to cleanse lepers:  
And therefore to bring healing to those who honor him.**

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**You were revealed a Prophet of God,  
Receiving augmented grace truly worthy of you,  
For you were contemporary with Elijah, O Blessed Elisha:  
Pray unceasingly with him to Christ God for us all.**

**Epistle:** Jas 5:10-20; sel. 58. **Gospel:** Lk 4:22-30; sel. 14.

### *Our Father among the Saints Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Born in the city of Syracuse, the son of noble parents, after completing his education and influenced by a conversation with a monk, he accepted monasticism

in a monastery in Henolakkos on the island of Chios. During the reign of Emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast, when called to Constantinople, "accusing those blotting out the icons of Christ", he declared himself a venerator of the holy icons and for this was sentenced to torture. They slapped his cheeks, broke his teeth and fractured his jaw so that the ugly scars of his bloody seal of baptism remained with him the rest of his life<sup>1</sup>. After this he was imprisoned on the island of Antigone, where he languished for 7 years. Elevated to the patriarchal see by the Empress Theodora, St. Methodius, "having obtained the zealously of Elijah", "became an advocate for the Orthodox people". He presided over the Council of Constantinople of 842, which decided to annually celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy. St. Methodius died in peace on June 14, 846, leaving a legacy of the Office of Orthodoxy, canons for those converting to the faith, 3 Offices for Marriage and some church hymns and treatises.

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**You practiced asceticism on earth as if fleshless, O Methodius,  
And you inherited heaven for explaining the veneration of icons to the end.  
Although you continued laboring more for the sick,  
You did not stop boldly accusing those blotting out the icons of Christ.**

*Ven. Niphon of Athos*

From the village of Lukovo, in the province of Argirocastro [Gjinokaster], the son of a priest, brought up in a monastery, he would not long be a priest in his native land and left for Mt. Athos where, having settled in a cave he devoted himself to the asceticism of a silent life and received from God the gifts of insight and the power to heal the infirm. He died at a very old age and knew beforehand his end on June 14, 1330.

*Rest of the right-believing Prince Mstislav George*

Mstislav, in baptism George, was the son of the Great Prince Rostislav. In 1179 he was unanimously elected prince by the Novgorodians and soon was universally loved for his courage and nobility of character. Struck with an unexpected illness, he died in peace on June 14, 1180. His relics repose in the Novgorod Sofia cathedral.

*Ven. Elisha of Sumsk* was an ascetic of the Solovki Monastery in the 15th century.

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<sup>1</sup> To cover this scar, St. Methodius cut his "klobuk" at the shoulders and tied its ends at the chin. Those leading the monastic life, in memory of the suffering of the holy patriarch, also began cutting their klobuks in the same way. Since this time it became the custom for the klobuk to have cuts or "lappets".