

July 21



A. Our Ven. Father Simeon, Fool-for-Christ, and John, his Co-faster

They accepted monasticism in Jerusalem where they went to venerate the holy places. Then they inseparably practiced asceticism for 28 years near the Dead Sea. The Ven. Simeon then left for Emesa, where he also began to act the fool for Christ. He was glorified with the gift of insight and working wonders. The Ven. Simeon died in peace about the year 590. After a short time the Ven. John also died in the desert. In the church hymns, the Ven. Simeon "humble in mind, merciful and God-loving, and filled with love", "humble and meek, just like an angel walking on the earth, and possessing the heavenly way of life".

Kontakion, tone 2

**In the flesh you were revealed as bodiless,
And shone forth as the most serene benefactor.
Let us praise the equal to the angels and God-bearing Simeon,
And with him the ever-memorable John in faith and love,
For unceasingly praying to the Lord for us all.**

Holy Prophet Ezekiel

Born in Sarira, he was the son of the priest Buzi. Together with Jehoiachin, King of the Judah he was led as a captive to Babylon and there he settled on the shore of the river Chebar where he prophesied for 27 years. For his prophetic service he was called in a wonderful vision by a divine man, who was sitting on a mysterious throne, supported by the heads of four winged animals. The gift of prophecy was perceived by Ezekiel through the eating of a book scroll on which there was an inscription "lamentation and mourning and woe". St. Ezekiel predicted the fall of Judah, the return of the Jews from captivity, the rebuilding of the temple and Jerusalem, the appearance of the Messiah and the opening of His kingdom. The prophecies of St. Ezekiel are distinguished by a richness of mysterious symbols and visions which had a stronger effect on the people unaffected by simple

homiletic speeches. According to tradition, St. Ezekiel was killed by one of the Judaic princes because of his condemnation of idolatry. The Jews assert that his body was buried in the village Nahor, near Baghdad. St. Ezekiel left the book of prophecy consisting of 48 chapters.

Kontakion, tone 4

**O Wondrous Ezekiel,
You were revealed a prophet of God,
Proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord,
The Lamb and Creator,
The Son of God who has ever revealed himself.**

Ven. Onuphrius the Recluse of the Caves was an ascetic of the 12th century. His relics openly rest in the St. Anthony caves in Kiev.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0251a
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