

# August 27

## *F. Our Ven. Father Poemen the Great*

Born in Egypt, he with his two brothers, "wanting the angelic way of life", left for one of the Egyptian monasteries and were tonsured there. Together with him were his eldest brother Anoub and his youngest, his name unknown. Once their mother wanted to see her children and came to the monastery, but they hid in the cells and did not come out to her. Finally, after waiting for a long time and the tears of the mother, Poemen approached the door and explained to her that if she wishes to see them in the future life then she should not search for an appointment with them in this world. The mother wished to see them there in the heavens, and consoled by such hope departed from the door, not having seen her children. Poemen spent his time in strict fasting and prayerful asceticism. "Having been brought up to abstain from milk", he, according to the Church, attained such height of virtue that he came "to perfect impassivity". The governor of the province wished to see the strict ascetic, but Poemen, "protecting his humility" and not wishing to break his silence, ordered to tell the messenger not to have the governor come to him. So ran "a rumor in the world" that the strict ascetic, being afraid to lose humility, ran into arrogance. Meanwhile his glory as a strict ascetic grew. Being weighed down by this glory and fleeing from the reverence of people, Poemen left the monastery and wandered about in different places for a few years. Returning to the Egyptian desert, he continued strict asceticism unto his death, not refusing to lead the monks in the spiritual life. "Pointing out the path of life", Poemen gave answers full of wisdom to all those coming to him, many of which handed down were kept in the writings to the present day. Not only young and inexperienced monks in spiritual life, but also those experienced in asceticism found the needed answer and understanding in Poemen. Having become glorified in the holiness of his life and the deep edification of his teachings, the great desert dweller died in about the year 450.

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**Enlightened by your asceticism, O Venerable Father,  
Today we place your holy memory.  
This gladdens the souls of the pious,  
O our Venerable Godly-wise Father Poemen.**

### *Ven. Poemen of Palestine*

Born in Gaza, he practiced asceticism in the Rouba Desert (*near the Dead Sea*) in Palestine during the reign of Emperor Maurice. Living in a cave, he ate only roots and went naked winter and summer. The venerable one died, being eaten by animals about which he earlier received a revelation from the Lord.

*Ven. Sabbas of Benephalia.* The time and place of his life are unknown.

*St. Liberius, Pope of Rome*

Elevated to the Holy See after Julius in 352, he revealed himself a zealous defender of Orthodoxy from the Arian heresy. He suffered for this in Beroea, Thrace. Having come back from there, St. Liberius continued his zealous activity for the benefit of Orthodoxy and died in peace in the year 366.

*St. Hosius the Confessor, Bishop of Cordova*

He was born in Cordova, Spain, in which he occupied the episcopal cathedra for more than 60 years. He was one of the closest advisers of Emperor Constantine the Great who inclined to the calling of the First Ecumenical Council. St. Hosius was first to sign the decisions of this council. During the reign of the Emperor Constantius, he was imprisoned in the city of Sirmium for his zealous defense of Orthodoxy and of St. Athanasius of Alexandria. After returning from his imprisonment he peacefully managed his flock until his very death in the year 359.

*Hieromartyr Kuksha and the Ven. Poemen of the Caves, the Faster*

Both practiced asceticism as monks in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves. The Ven. Kuksha was the enlightener and preacher of the Gospel among the pagan Viaticians, living near the Oka River. During his preaching he performed many signs and miracles. He died as a martyr, killed by the pagans in 1113. There is a tradition that St. Kuksha suffered in vicinity of the city of Mtsensk. On the same day with him St. Poemen died in the Monastery of the Caves. St. Poemen led a rather strict life of fasting and was granted the fertile gifts of healing and insight for his asceticism. The relics of Saint Kuksha and Poemen are in the St. Anthony cave.

*Martyr Anthusa*, was thrown into a deep artesian well for her faith in Christ. In regard to others she is called the New, but when she practiced asceticism is not known.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0299-0300  
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