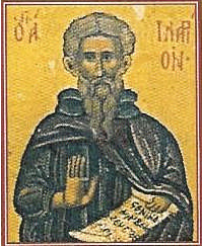


# October 21

*G. † Our Ven. Father Hilarion the Great*



He was born in Palestine, near Gaza City, studied the sciences and was baptized in Alexandria. When he was 15 years old, Hilarion heard about Ven. Anthony the Great and admiring "Anthony's spiritually divine, virtuous way of life" went to him. Having returned home with a blessing from Ven. Anthony, Hilarion found that his parents died and, "despising all worldly pleasures", distributed all his remaining inherited estate to the poor and in a certain deserted place was devoted entirely to prayer and abstinence. St. Hilarion struggled a lot with unclean thoughts, who confused his mind and inflamed his body; but he exhausted his body with work and drove away these thoughts by prayer and meditation on God. The holy hermit suffered much from demons and more than once while standing in prayer heard the crying of children, sobbing of women, roaring of lions and other wild animals, awful noises and confusion presented by the demons. But he did not fear the "demonic traps" and through fervent prayer conquered the "gloomy enemy powers". Once, robbers set upon the holy ascetic, but he by the power of his word convinced them to leave their vice and to lead a good life. Soon all of Palestine heard about the holy hermit's life and many began to come to him for healing of body and soul, but others wished to save their soul under his direction. With his blessing many monasteries were built in Palestine, and going from one monastery to another, he established a strict ascetic paradigm of life in them, having become the same kind of trainer for those seeking salvation in Palestine as Ven. Anthony Great was in Egypt. "From youth bearing the fulfillment of wisdom", being "meek in soul and body", having adorned himself "with wings of passionlessness" and "having destroyed the flesh of subtlety", Ven. Hilarion became known for the gift of working wonders and converted many pagans to Christ. Toward the end of his life he visited monasteries in various places. He died on the island of Cyprus in year 371 or 372.

*Kontakion, tone 3*

**Having come together today let us praise you in songs  
As a never-waning lamp, an intelligent sun:  
For you shone on those in the darkness of ignorance,  
Lifting all up to divine heights, O Hilarion:  
Therefore let us cry out:  
Rejoice, O Father, Foundation of all fasters.**

**Epistle** 2 Cor. 9:6-11; sel. 188. **Gospel:** see Jan. 17.

*† Translation of the Relics of Our Ven. Father Hilarion, Bishop of Meglin*

Ven. Hilarion was a famous Constantinopolitan Greek, but, leaving worldly cares, accepted monasticism. He was "meek and humble to all", imitating "the humble Publican", "merciful to the needy" and "often prayed all night without sleep". About 1134 because of his virtuous life, he was consecrated Bishop of Meglin. As bishop he worked for the eradication of various heresies among his flock and "after much sweat and illness" died in peace in 1164. His relics were translated from Meglin to Tirnovo [Trnovo] in 1206. The Holy Church praises him as "the praise of bishops, the adornment of all priests, the continuous prayer book to God and the source of the most wonderful miracles", "brightest lamp of the church, and wisest teacher in the land of Meglin and the finest nurturer of all Russians".

*Troparion, tone 3*

**Having been revealed the wonder of advice,  
You radiated the virtues of God,  
You guarded the monastic choirs,  
You cleansed the hierarchical seats,  
You have never doubted the downfall of heretics,  
You raised up churches of Christ, Venerable Hilarion,  
Having died as if sleeping,  
Your body is seen to be whole and incorrupt  
And granted healing to the sick from various infirmities and banished demons:  
For this reason we ask you to pray to save our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 3*

**Your memory was revealed as light-bearing, O Hierarchy,  
Having overcome much depression,  
Having shone with the light of divine gifts,  
And having invited all to joy,  
You received blessing from God, O Hilarion  
And you were a monk of high rank.**

**His Synaxis is done where his relics lay and where his temple is.**

*Martyrs Dasius, Gaius and Zoticus*, ministers in the palace of Emperor Diocletian in Nicomedia were drowned in the sea in 303 for their faith in Christ.

*Ven. Philotheus*

Born in Chrysopolis [Uskudar], Macedonia, he practiced asceticism as a monk on Mt. Athos where he spent his life in the ascetics of fasting, prayer and strict silence. His relics are on Mt. Athos. The time of his asceticism is not known.

*Martyr John the Peloponnesian*

Born in the settlement of Geraki, Greece, he was sold as a child into slavery to one Thessalian Turk, who for a long time tortured the adolescent because he was unwilling to accept Islam, and finally killed him with a dagger [yataghan] in 1773.

*Ven. Theophilus and James of Omuch*

At first they practiced asceticism on the island of Konev, and then founded the Dormition Monastery on the Omuch River in which both died in about 1412. Their relics are in a hidden place in the former monastery, now parish church of the village St. Theophilus Hermitage, St. Petersburg Province.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0382-0384.  
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