

# Venerables Hilarion the Younger & Stephen, the Wonder-Worker

37<sup>th</sup> Day of the Holy & Great 40 Days Fast — March 28

**St. Hilarion** was the abbot of a monastery of Pelekete, near Hellespont. He glowed as the sun with the spirit of God, healed people and expelled evil spirits. This man of God suffered at the time when Leo the Armenian began the Iconoclastic persecution. With forty of his monks, Hilarion was sent into exile near Ephesus and died there in prison and took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ in 754 A.D. **St Stephen** the Confessor, Hegumen of Triglia Monastery, suffered under the iconoclast emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820). From a young age, the holy ascetic dedicated his life to God and received monastic tonsure. He later became head of the Triglia monastery near Constantinople. When persecution again began against holy icons, the saintly Huguemen was summoned for questioning, and they tried to force him to sign a document rejecting the veneration of icons. St Stephen steadfastly refused to betray true worship and he boldly denounced the emperor for his impiety. They subjected the saint to cruel torments, after which they sent him to prison in the year 815. Weakened and sick, the holy Confessor Stephen soon died in prison from his sufferings.

## **Troparion of Venerables** (Tone 8 – pew book page 378)

God of our fathers You always deal with us in Your kindness. \* Take not Your mercy away from us, \* but through the prayers of Fathers Hilarion an Stephen guide our life in peace.

## **Kondakion of Venerables** (Tone 5)

Having glowed like the sun your memory gives joy to the faithful. \* It disperses the darkness and casts out passion. \* Shelter and guard us who honor this precious memory from all life's trials, \* O honorable Hilarion, O blessed Stephen!

## **Prokimenon of Venerables** (Tone 7 – pew book page 377)

Precious in the eyes of the Lord \* is the death of His faithful.

*Verse: What can I return to the Lord \* for all He has given me?*

## **Alleluia of Venerables** (Tone 6 - pew book page 377)

*Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord \* and greatly delights in His commands.*

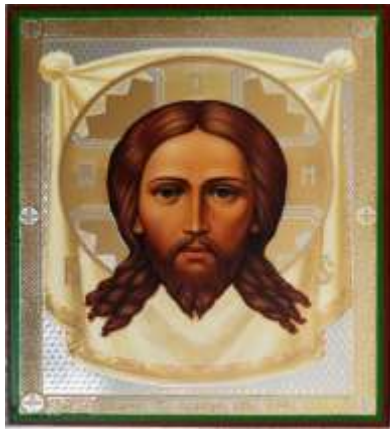
*Verse: His posterity will be mighty \* upon the earth.*

## **Communion Hymn of Venerables** (pew book page 377)

The just man will be remembered forever; \* evil news he will not fear.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Concluding Hymn sung once by Priest; twice by people*

**Having suffered the Passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!  
Preterp'ivyj za nas Strasti, Isuse Christe, Syne Bozij, pomiluj nas!**



## **Daily Prayer During The Great Fast**

**(February 20 through March 31)**

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, and Hope of all on land and of those far away at sea; You have established these holy days of fasting by Your law and the prophets as a way for our mortification and repentance. At the proper time, You manifested Yourself in the flesh on this earth, and by Your fast of forty days and nights, You sanctified the practice of fasting and commanded us to follow Your example. As a merciful and gracious God, enable us to continue these holy days of The Great Fast with perfect repentance, with humility instead of hypocrisy, with fervent prayer, with hunger and thirst, with frequent prostrations, and with a contrite heart. Enable us, also, to complete this time of The Great Fast without fault and with a pure conscience, keeping our faith intact and achieving victory over sin. Send an angel of peace to watch over our lives, to protect us from all snares of our enemies, and to assist us in the performance of good deeds. Strengthen us by Your power so that we may accomplish the spiritual works of The Great Fast. Then, with our passions in control and our souls and bodies properly cleansed, we will be worthy to partake, without condemnation, of Your most pure Body and Your most precious and life-giving Blood. For You are the merciful and gracious Lover of Mankind, Who came down to earth to save all; and we give glory to You (+) and to Your Eternal Father, and Your All-Holy, Gracious, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.