

THE 15th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MARCH
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR AGAPIUS AND THE SIX
MARTYRS WITH HIM
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy martyrs, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “O most glorious wonder ...”:

O ye seven martyrs of Christ, * ye counted as naught the assaults of the torturers * and a violent death, * having readily and valiantly * hastened to battle and covered yourselves * with the glory of victory, * ye were numbered among all the righteous; * and glorifying you with them throughout the ages, ** we call you blessed.

O martyred athlete Agapius, * having loved the Well-spring of good things, * the Summit of desires, * thou didst make haste to drain the cup of martyrdom, * calling upon the divine name * of the living God. * O, thy courage! O, thine endurance, * whereby thou hast been manifestly deemed worthy ** to receive glory and splendor!

O most blessed martyrs, * ye gave yourselves over * to voluntary slaughter, * sanctifying the earth with your blood, * and enlightening the air with your passing. * And now ye live in the heavens, * ever praying for us * to the never-waning Light, ** O ye who are in the image of God.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VIII:

Troubled and in grief, * we beseech thee, O most pure one, * our intercessor: * Permit not thy servants to utterly perish; * but hasten to rescue us * from this present wrath and grief, * O divinely joyous, most holy and pure one. ** For thou art our bulwark and unassailable help.

Stavrotheotokion: Beholdings Thee O Lord Jesus, * nailed upon the cross and voluntarily accepting the passion, * the Virgin Mother cried aloud: * Woe is me, O my sweet Child! * how dost Thou wrongfully endure such wounds? * O compassionate Physician * and healer of the infirmities of mankind, * Thou hast redeemed all from corruption ** by Thy tender compassion.

AT MATINS

The Canon of the holy martyrs, the acrostic whereof is: "I offer hymnody to the seven martyrs," the composition of Joseph, in Tone VIII:

ODE I

Irmos: Let us sing a song unto the Lord, * who led His people through the Red Sea: * for He alone hath gloriously been glorified.

Dwelling in the habitations of heaven, O martyrs, grant enlightenment unto those who praise you on earth.

Ye were shown to be pillars of the Church, breaking down the ramparts of the madness of idolatry, O most valiant spiritual athletes of Christ.

Thou wast wounded with the love of the Master of all, for Whose sake thou didst go forth to die, O right wondrous martyr Agapius.

Theotokion: With the most dazzling Radiance which shone forth from thee, O Virgin, enlighten the eyes of my soul, that I may glorify thee.

ODE III

Irmos: There is none as holy as the Lord, * and none as righteous as our God, * Whom the whole of creation hymns: * There is none more righteous than Thee, O Lord.

Kindled by the fire of the love of Christ, thou didst extinguish the burning of the madness of idolatry with the streams of thy blood, O martyr Agapius. Wherefore, we call thee blessed.

Ye were shown to be swords cutting down myriads of demons with grace, O blessed ones; and now, rejoicing, ye have been united to the myriads of the noetic hosts.

Manfully completing the course of martyrdom, in setting aside the body ye attained the kingdom on high, wherein ye acquired life, O godly martyrs.

Theotokion: O Ever-virgin Mother, we have come to know the Creator Who manifested Himself in fleshly form through thy radiant womb, in the tender compassion of His mercy, unto us who hymn thee.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "He arose ...":

The seven-member choir of holy martyrs suffered mightily for the divine Trinity and destroyed multitudes of the noetic foe with grace; and they have been united to the myriads of the heavenly intelligences by the Spirit. By their supplications have pity on us, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion in Tone VIII:

O most holy Virgin, save us from every threat and wickedness of men; for thee do we have as our protection and aid, fleeing to thee, O Mother of God, and to our God Who was born of thee, entreat Him, that He deliver us from tribulations and sorrows.

Stavrotheotokion: Upon beholding the Lamb and Shepherd suspended upon the Cross, the unblemished ewe-lamb, cried aloud: “O my Child, what is this strange and unexpected sight? How can the Life of all be condemned to death like mortals? But rise Thou from the dead on the third day, O Word, as Thou didst say, that, rejoicing, I may glorify Thee!”

ODE IV

Irmos: From the overshadowed mountain, * from the only Theotokos, * the Prophet in divine vision * foresaw Thy coming in the flesh, O Word, * and with fear he glorified Thy power.

Loving Christ greatly, O Agapius, thou didst manfully emulate His sufferings, slaughtered voluntarily, like a lamb, O right wondrous great martyr.

Having given yourselves willingly over to the sword, O wise martyrs, with the sprinkling of your blood ye dyed your vesture, and therein arrayed, ye dwell in the heavens.

O, your fervent love for God, for the sake of which ye utterly denied yourselves! Accepting a violent death, ye have been deemed worthy of immortality.

Theotokion: O undefiled and pure one, thou didst receive Myrrh in thy womb: the Word Who purifieth the whole world of the stench of all sins. Wherefore, with faith we call thee blessed.

ODE V

Irmos: Thou hast enlightened * with the knowledge of God * the ends of the universe * that lay in the night of ignorance, * do Thou also, O Lord, illumine me * with the dawning of Thy love for mankind.

Loving in thine activity as well as in thy name, O glorious one, thou didst suffer for the love of Christ our God, the King of all.

Recruited into Christ’s army, ye trampled underfoot the edict of the cruel tyrant, O holy martyrs, destroying legions of demons.

Casting down the audacity of the iniquitous with sacred struggles, O martyrs of Christ, ye were crowned with a wreath of immortality.

Theotokion: O ye faithful, with divine hymnody let us bless the Theotokos, saying: Rejoice, O portal through which the Lord alone hath passed!

ODE VI

Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, * for many are mine iniquities; * lead me up from the abyss of evils I pray Thee, * for unto Thee have I cried, * and Thou hast hearkened unto me, * O God of my salvation.

Let us hymn the two Alexanders, the two Dionysiuses, the glorious Agapius, Timolaus and Romulus, who suffered mightily and waged war upon myriads of the enemy.

Pouring forth rivers of healings, O martyrs, in a godly manner ye cleanse mortals of the passions; wherefore, rejoicing, with faith we praise your valiant deeds.

Having completed the sacred contest lawfully, ye were lawfully crowned by the hand of the Omnipotent One, O ye seven martyrs, citizens of heaven, peers of the angels.

Theotokion: **O** all-immaculate Bride of God, who hast caused the gardens of ungodliness to wither up by thy birthgiving, uproot the enmity of the enemy which ever springeth up within me.

ODE VII

Irmos: **The Children of Judaea, * who of old came to dwell in Babylon, * trampled underfoot the flame of the furnace * through their faith in the Trinity, * as they sang: 'O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.'**

Willingly ye gave yourselves over to the slaughter, like lambs, undaunted by tortures, O all-praised passion-bearers, crying out with the spirit: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Illumined by the love of the Master of all, O martyr Agapius, thou didst bend thy neck beneath the sword and wast enrolled among the army of the martyrs, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Ye are seen to be a lamp with seven wicks in the house of the Lord, O glorious martyrs, illumining the world with the radiance of grace, and crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **O** all-immaculate one, loose me, who am bound by the bonds of unutterable transgressions, and grant showers of tears to me who chant unto Him Who shone forth from thee: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

ODE VIII

Irmos: **Glorified in the holy mountain, * the Lord revealed the mystery of the Ever-Virgin unto Moses * in the flames of the burning bush: * praise ye and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.**

O physicians of divers infirmities, who were shown by the indication of the Spirit, heal ye all our infirmities, that we may praise and glorify your divine memory.

Thou didst love God by Whom thou wast loved, O martyr; wherefore, O Agapius, He led thee, who finished the divine contest, into the mansions of heaven with thy fellow zealots.

Strengthened by the love of the Master, ye set at naught the oppression of the deceiver; and right gloriously adorned with trophies, O martyrs of the Lord, ye dwell in the resting-places of heaven.

Theotokion: **C**ure thou the passions of my heart, O thou who hast given birth unto the Well-spring of dispassion, and guide me to divine life, that I may glorify thee, the Mother of the Savior, throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: Saved by thee, O pure Virgin, * we confess thee to be truly the Theotokos, * and together with the choirs of the bodiless hosts * thee do we magnify.

Comely in the divine magnificence of martyrdom, ye stand before the Lord, and with Him, O passion-bearers, ye are ever glad.

Having parted from your bodies, O martyrs, the army of the angels have received you into the heavenly fold, unto the Light that waneth not.

O glorious martyrs, cease ye never to remind God of us who keep your sacred memory today.

Theotokion: O all-immaculate one, illumine with the light of repentance me who am darkened by negligence, that I may hymn and glorify thy mighty works.