

THE 1st DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR JUSTIN THE PHILOSOPHER
& THOSE WITH HIM
AT VESPERS

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

Spec. Mel.: “When from the Tree ...”:

When the ice of ignorance * assaulted all creation with hostility * and a multitude of idols were worshipped, * then did ye, O glorious martyrs, * abolish this with a zealous heart * and the fervor of divine faith, * manifestly shedding your blood * with love for Him Who shed His blood ** on the Cross.

When, at God’s behest, * ye set yourselves apart * for supra-natural struggles, * ignoring your corruptible bodies, * and strengthened by the power of the Most High, * ye were undaunted by the fire * or the cutting sword. * Wherefore, bending your necks before God, O blessed ones, ** ye accepted death with joy.

The valiant spiritual athletes * Peon, Valerian, Chariton and Charita, * the godly Justin, Euelpistus and the glorious Hierax, * ye who dyed your vesture in your divine blood * and arrayed yourselves therein together, * with the angels * ye now stand before Christ the King * and Master of all ** in the heavens.

But if Alleluia is to be chanted at Matins instead of “God is the Lord ...,” we sing first the following Stichera of the Theotokos, in the same melody:

Rejoice, O star of solar radiance! * Rejoice, O most immaculate one, cause of all good things! * Rejoice, thou who didst contain the uncontainable God, * and who hath budded forth the Grain of immortality! * Rejoice, O divine furrow, most splendid portal! * Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady, * mediatrix of good things, * who hast abolished the curse ** of our first parents!

O most pure one, joy of all who sorrow, * intercessor for the oppressed, * feeder of the hungry, comfort of travelers, * staff of the blind, visitation of the infirm, * protection and aid of those who labor, * helper of orphans, * thou art the Mother of God Most High. * Hasten thou, we pray thee, ** that thy servants may be saved.

Thou art the protection * and help of us Christians * and a mighty refuge, O Mother of God Most High. * Now, as ever, cease thou never * to pray with thy vigilant supplications, * that He save thy servants * from all evil circumstances; * for thee do all of us Christians have, with God, ** as our help and refuge.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in the same melody:

Truly we have acquired no other mighty refuge * and tower of strength, * no other unassailable rampart than thee, O most pure one. * To thee do we flee, and to thee do we cry out: * O Sovereign Lady, help us! * Let us not perish! * Show forth thy grace upon us, * the glory of thy might ** and the magnitude of thy tender compassion!

Stavrotheotokion: Beholding Thee nailed * to the Tree of the Cross. O Jesus, * she that kneweth not wedlock said weeping: * “O sweet Child, why hast Thou abandoned me * who alone gave birth to Thee, * O unapproachable Light of the beginningless Father? * Hasten Thou, and glorify Thyself, * that those who glorify Thy divine sufferings ** may receive divine glory!”

On the Aposticha, the Stichera from the Oktoechos.

Troparion of the holy martyrs, in Tone IV:

In their sufferings, Thy martyrs O Lord, * received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God; * for, possessed of Thy might, * they set at naught the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** By their supplications save Thou our souls.

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy martyrs, in Tone II:

ODE I

Irmos: Come, O ye people, * let us sing a song to Christ our God, * Who divided the sea, * and made a way for the nation * which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; * for He hath been glorified.

Adorned with the splendors of martyrdom, O martyrs, ye stand before the pure throne of the Master of all, granting release from our sins.

The pious champions of the truth, struggling with unity of mind before the tyrant's tribunal, cast down the devil's deception by the power of the Spirit.

With their wounds, stripes and sufferings the renowned great-martyrs purchased the kingdom of Christ, wherein they now live, wearing crowns.

Theotokion: Taking pity on the creation of Thy hands, O Thou Who art rich in mercy, Thou didst make Thine abode within the womb of the Virgin who knew not a man, and hast shown her to us as an intercessor.

ODE III

Irmos: O Lord, who didst slay sin upon the tree, * firmly establish us in Thee, * and in the hearts of us who hymn Thee * plant the fear of Thee.

Bearing the steadfastness of Christ in thy heart, O Justin, thou didst manfully oppose the interrogator who iniquitously commanded thee to commit unlawful things.

The holy choir, shining with divine radiance; the army of holy martyrs chosen by God; the holy assembly; having assembled now, have, with their bodies, vanquished the incorporeal foe.

The martyrs of great bravery, giving their bodies over to wounding, rejoiced, looking toward everlasting delight and the radiance and glory which is to come.

Theotokion: O light cloud of the Sun of glory, dispel the clouds of my soul and with light guide my mind, which hath been darkened by the blackness of evil.

Sessional Hymn of the holy martyrs, in Tone V:

Spec. Mel.: "The co-beginningless Word...":

With a loud voice let Justin and Chariton, Peon, Euelpistus and Charita, Hierax and Valerian, the radiant beacons illumining the ends of the earth with the beams of their struggles, be praised with faith, for they entreat Christ, that we be saved.

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

O fervent and invincible intercessor, * diligent and unashamed hope, * rampart, protection and haven * of those who have recourse to thee, * O pure Ever-virgin do thou, together with the angels, * entreat thy Son and God, ** that He grant peace, salvation and great mercy to the world.

Stavrotheotokion: Beholding Thee suspended on the Cross between two thieves of Thine own will, O Christ, Thy Mother, her womb rent asunder maternally, said: “O my sinless Son, how is it that Thou art unjustly nailed to the Cross like a malefactor, desiring to give life to the human race, in that Thou art compassionate?”

ODE IV

Irmos: I have heard report of Thy dispensation, O Lord, * and have glorified Thee * Who alone lovest mankind.

By their sufferings Justin, Chariton, Charita and Peon astonished the angelic ranks.

The valiant ones' bodies, broken with wounds, have won divine blessedness for themselves.

Like noetic embers ye burned up falsehood with the divine fire, O martyrs, and were shown to be beacons for the world.

The princes of darkness were terrified of the courage of the unbowed martyrs Euelpistus and Hierax.

Theotokion: O Virgin who received the fire of the Godhead within thy womb, deliver me from fire and torment.

ODE V

Irmos: O Lord, Bestower of light and Creator of the ages: * guide us in the light of Thy commandments, * for we know none other God than Thee.

Full of the divine Spirit, suffering mightily, with the torrents of thy blood thou didst choke the cruel wicked ones, O blessed Justin.

O Charita, namesake of grace, thou wast full of the grace of God; and manifestly disregarding thy womanly weakness, thou didst suffer lawfully and hast received glory.

Having graced thy soul with sacred confessions, thou didst blunt the malice of the ancient foe, O spiritual athlete Chariton, precious adornment of divine passion-bearers.

Theotokion: O pure one who hast given birth to Christ the Savior, Who became like mortals in the excess of His tender compassion, entreat Him as God, that He save thy servants.

ODE VI

Irmos: Whirled about in the abyss of sin, * I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Thy compassion: * Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Let us all glorify the memory of Justin and Chariton, Peon, Valerian and Charita, Hierax and Euelpistus.

Ye safely traversed the abyss of tortures with divine passage, O martyrs, and have reached the calm haven of the kingdom of Christ.

illuminating the honored firmament of the Church like fixed stars, ye enlighten the whole world with the brightness of your suffering.

Theotokion: O Lady, Birthgiver of God, deliver me from endless blindness, who am held fast by many sins and deserving of the fire of Gehenna.

Kontakion of the holy martyrs, in Tone II:

Adorned with the wisdom of thy divine words, * O Justin, * the whole Church of God doth illumine the world * with the radiance of thy life. * Having received a crown because of the out-pouring of thy blood, * standing with the angels before Christ, ** pray thou unceasingly on behalf of us all.

ODE VII

Irmos: The wise children did not adore the golden idol, * but went themselves into the flame and defied the pagan gods. * They prayed in the midst of the flame, * and an Angel bedewed them saying: * ‘The prayer of your lips hath been heard’.

Ye dried up the abyss of falsehood with the river of your blood, pouring forth torrents of miracles, and extinguishing the burning embers of evil passions, O martyrs, far those who ever cry out: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

With the fire of your love for the Godhead, O wise ones, with valiant mind ye burned up the tinder of evil; and, shining forth with the brightness of fire, ye have illumined the hearts of all who piously cry aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Adorned with the wisdom of God, through grace the wise Justin showed the wisdom of the Greeks to be foolish, convincing them to worship the Trinity and to cry out in an Orthodox manner: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion: O honored Virgin, pure and blessed one who knewest not wedlock, setting aright the fallen and the forgiveness of sinners: save me, the prodigal, who cry out to thy Son: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

ODE VIII

Irmos: God Who descended into the fiery furnace * with the Hebrew children, * and transformed the flame into dew, * do ye works hymn, * and supremely exalt as Lord throughout all ages.

Slowly tried in torments as in a fiery furnace, O passion-bearers of the Lord, ye shone forth truly with a luster greater than gold, crying out: Let us supremely exalt Christ throughout all ages!

Let Charita and Chariton be hymned with the wise Justin and Peon, the great Hierax and Valerian, who drove falsehood away by their suffering and have joined the choirs of the angels.

Led to life everlasting, O wise martyrs, with valiant resolve ye all bowed your necks beneath the sword with oneness of soul, offering yourselves to God as sacrifices.

Theotokion: **A**s a well-spring of Life, having given birth to the water of Life, O Virgin Theotokos, give drink to my soul, which hath withered under the flame of sin, that I may glorify thee throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: **G**od the Word, God of God, * Who by ineffable wisdom came to create Adam anew * after his grievous fall to corruption through eating * and Who took flesh beyond all telling from the Holy Virgin for our sake, * Him we faithful with one accord magnify in song.

Resplendent with divine glory, O valiant spiritual athletes, ye destroyed the wellspring of deception and shared in the sacred sufferings of Him Who for our sake assumed flesh; and ye rejoice with Him eternally in the heavens.

The angels truly marveled at the wisdom of Justin, the courage of Charita, the boldness of Chariton, the valiant struggle of Peon and Hierax, and Valerian's great endurance of tortures.

Gloriously mounting your blood as a divine chariot, O wise ones, ye joyously soared aloft to the heavens, and having there received crowns from the hand of the Bestower of life, ye pray unceasingly on behalf of us.

Theotokion: **O** pure Virgin who knewest not wedlock, who in a manner past all telling hast given birth to the Word without having known a man, rescue us from perils, from all misfortunes, from soul-corrupting harm and the passions, from everlasting flame and condemnation.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy martyrs, in Tone IV:

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Kontakion of Justin the holy martyr, in Tone II:

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