

THE 23rd DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYR AGRIPPINA
AT VESPERS

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

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast given a sign ...”:

Rome putteth thee forward * as a blossoming rose of sweet fragrance, * perfuming the thoughts of the faithful * with the scent of the virtues, * ever dispelling the stench of the passions by grace, * O much-suffering Agrippina, * adornment of the martyrs, * confirmation of the Church, * boast of virgins ** and abyss of miracles.

Christ our God hath given unto Sicily, * thee, who suffered in Rome, * as riches beyond measure; * and having arrived there, O glorious martyr, * thou didst drive away evil multitudes of demons * by thine intercession. * Wherefore, we bless thee * and celebrate thy suffering today, ** O much-suffering Agrippina.

Bassa and Paula bore thee on their shoulders * at the command of Him Who upholdeth all things, * moving thee from place to place * and making a long journey over the deep, * working awesome miracles through divine grace, * O martyr Agrippina, * and having come to rest in the place * which God had appointed, ** thou didst become a place of rest for the heavy-laden, O all-praised one.

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 beam of solar brilliance, throne of the never-setting Sun, * who shone forth the true Sun! * Rejoice, mind radiant with divine splendors, * flash of lightning * illumining the ends of the earth, * true luster of gold, * most comely and all-immaculate one, * who hast shone forth upon the faithful ** the Light which waneth not.

Take away the defilement of my passion-plagued heart, * O all-hymned Theotokos, * and all the wounds and corruption thereof, * which come from sin, * do thou wash away, O pure one; * steady the wavering of my mind, * that I, thy wretched and unprofitable servant, * may magnify thy power ** and great assistance.

O most immaculate Virgin Mother, * transform the weakness and impotence of my soul * into might and power, * that with fear and love * I may do and observe the statutes of Christ, * and may escape the unbearable fire * and receive through thee * the inheritance of heaven and unsurpassed life, ** ever rejoicing.

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

Have compassion upon me, O Sovereign-Lady, * who am brought low by the assaults of the demons, * and have been cast down into the pit of destruction; * and set me firmly upon the rock of the virtues, * subduing the attacks of the enemy. * Vouchsafe that I may obey the commandments * of thy Son and our God, * that I may receive forgiveness ** on the Day of Judgment.

Stavrotheotokion: The most pure one, * beholding Christ, the lover of mankind, crucified, * His side pierced by a lance, * cried out, lamenting: * “What is this, O my Son? * How have these thankless people rewarded Thee * for the good things Thou hast done for them? * Dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved? ** I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!”

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Thy ewe-lamb Agrippina, O Jesus crieth out with a loud voice: * “Thee do I love, O my Bridegroom, * and, seeking Thee, I endure suffering. * In Thy baptism I am crucified and buried with Thee. * I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; * I die for Thee, that I may live with Thee. * Accept me, who with love sacrifice myself for Thee, * as an unblemished offering!” ** By her supplications, in that Thou art merciful, save Thou our souls.

AT MATINS

The Canon of the holy martyr, with the acrostic: “I praise Agrippina, the bride of Christ”, in Tone IV:

ODE I

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

With the effulgence of the grace which illumined thee from on high, drive away the gloom of mine ignorance, O martyr Agrippina, and by thy supplications grant me the grace to hymn thy wonders.

In the firmament of the Church of Christ thou hast truly shone forth more brightly than the sun, enlightening the ends of the earth with the beams of thy struggles and miracles.

Desiring the immortal Bridegroom, the Bestower of life, thou didst offer Him suffering as a gift, and thereby received the heavenly kingdom and an incorruptible crown, O glorious martyr.

Guided by the hand of thy Master, thou didst sail over the turbulent sea of ungodliness, O honored one; arriving at the harbor of heavenly radiance, O Agrippina blessed of God.

Theotokion: The Morning-star hath shone forth in the hearts of those who with faith honor thee, O most immaculate Mother of God; and Christ, the radiant Day Who shone forth from thy womb, hath dawned, O all-hymned one.

ODE III

Irmos: The bow of the mighty hath waxed feeble * and the weak have girded themselves with strength: * therefore is my heart established * in the Lord.

Beaten with staves, thou didst rejoice, thereby shattering the bones of ungodliness, and crying aloud: “Naught shall separate me from Thy love, O Christ!”

Thou wast stripped of thy garments, O martyr, but denounced the nakedness of the enemy; wherefore, Christ hath given unto thee a vesture of incorruption.

The mouths which iniquitously spake against thee were rightly stopped, O martyr of Christ, when thou didst proclaim the mighty works of the Savior.

In vain did the servant of ungodliness have thy body stretched out upon the ground, for thou didst have thy mind stretched forth unto the Master.

Theotokion: The words piously uttered by Isaiah have been fulfilled, for the Virgin hath given birth in the flesh to the Bestower of life and the Savior of our souls.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

Those who, being greatly deceived, worshiped stones, weighed down with stones, thee who confessed Christ, the invincible Rock; wherefore, when thou didst repose,

O glorious Agrippina, thou didst emit the radiance of most glorious miracles, enlightening the souls of us who praise thee.

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

O Bride of God who alone hast given birth unto the Creator of all, adorning mankind by thy birthgiving, deliver me from the snares of the alien one, and set me upon the rock of Christ's will, earnestly entreating Him to Whom thou gavest flesh.

Stavrotheotokion: **W**hen Thy most pure Mother beheld Thee uplifted upon the Cross, O Word of God she exclaimed, lamenting maternally: "What is this new and strange wonder, O my Son? How is it that Thou, the Life of all, dost taste of death desiring to bring life to the dead, in that Thou art compassionate?"

ODE IV

Irmos: **H**e who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

By an angel He Who doeth the will of those who fear Him released thee from bonds and imprisonment, O martyr, who destroyed all ungodliness with the bond of the love of Christ, thy Bridegroom.

Having died for the love of Him Who hath slain all the might of death, thou dost pour forth the grace of everlasting life healing those slain by the passions, O Agrippina, adornment of the martyrs of Christ.

Having surpassed all carnal love with the love of thy Bridegroom, thou wast steadfastly patient when painfully beaten, crying aloud: "The threat of tortures shall not separate me from Thy love, O Christ!"

Who can describe the courage of Bassa and the chaste Agrippina, who suffered in their desire for a blessed union with the Trinity? Through them the might of the idols was mightily shown to be enfeebled.

Theotokion: **T**he Virgin Queen, adorned with golden vesture, now standeth before the King, her Son, indisputably surpassing the glory of the angels, who cry: Glory to Thy power, O Christ!

ODE V

Irmos: **T**hou, O Lord, who camest into the world, * art my light, * a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance * those who sing Thy praises in faith.

The never-waning light which dwelt within thy body revealed thee to those who looked upon thee, emitting the radiance of miracles night and day.

Following the steps of the Shepherd, the unblemished ewe-lamb divinely offered herself unto Him as an immaculate sacrifice.

Possessed of a splendid intelligence and full of prophecy, O glorious Bassa, in the present thou wast deemed worthy to speak of the things of the future.

Theotokion: **H**eal thou the affliction of my soul, O Mother of God who hast given birth to the supremely good Word Who blesseth all.

ODE VI

Irmos: **T**he church crieth out unto Thee O Lord, * ‘I will sacrifice unto Thee with a voice of praise’ * having been cleansed of the blood of the demons’ * by the blood that for mercy’s sake flowed from Thy side.

Receiving the body of the holy martyr like a never-setting sun which shone forth from Rome, Sicily is delivered from the cruelty of the demons’ darkness.

The thrice-rich holy martyrs, who in the expectation of martyrdom died before death, valiantly bore thy life-bearing dead body away.

The weaponry of the enemy was of no effect against thee, for with the labor of thy glorious struggles, O Agrippina, thou didst cast down his pride like a city which lacketh a foundation.

A woman with an issue of blood was healed by touching thy body, and lepers who approached thee with faith were cleansed; and every other ailment fleeth when thy holy name is invoked, O martyr.

Theotokion: **N**ow accepting the words of Gabriel, O all-immaculate Virgin, we cry aloud: O only blessed Mother, O portal of the Sun of righteousness, Rejoice!

Kontakion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast appeared today ...”:

The radiant day of thy splendid struggles hath dawned, * whereon the divine Church, honoring them, * doth call all together with gladness to cry out to thee: * Rejoice, O virgin and martyr, ** most honored Agrippina!

ODE VII

Irmos: **T**hou didst save the children of Abraham in the fire * and slay the Chaldeans, * who unjustly entrapped the righteous ones. * O supremely hymned Lord, God of our fathers, * blessed art Thou.

Like a golden dove protected by the sword of the Cross, thou didst destroy the Moslems who drew nigh unto thy city at night, and thus saved the faithful from a vile death at their hands, O martyr.

Enduring multifarious tortures for the sake of Christ, O martyr, thou didst find delight therein, devoid of pain and death, crying aloud: O supremely hymned Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The wondrous priest, beholding thy wonders resplendent with miracles, magnified God, O Agrippina, and chanted in gladness: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Bearing thy body up firmly against the passions with steadfast intent, O virgin, thou didst never experience womanly weakness, crying out to the Master: O Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: **T**hou remainest a virgin even after giving birth, O thou who hast given birth unto God, and as a mother didst nourish Him Who sustaineth the world, O most immaculate one. To Him do we cry, chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

ODE VIII

Irmos: **The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.**

Night was seen to be like day by those who bore thy relics, O martyr. The place which received thee wast filled with all manner of sweet fragrance. The hordes of the demons were driven far away. And drops of healing have poured forth upon those who supremely exalt Christ throughout all ages.

Desiring the immortal Bridegroom, thou didst follow in His sweet footsteps, emulating His sufferings and death, O glorious martyr, and crying aloud: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

Possessed of unwavering faith, and lighting thy lamp with the oil of thy blood, O martyr, thou didst enter into the bridal-chamber, chanting hymns of heavenly joy: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

Desiring to behold the beauty of the Lord and to visit His temple, ascending on the chariot of thy blood thou didst reach Him, chanting: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages!

Theotokion: **T**he bush, which of old prefigured the strange mystery of thy birthgiving, remained unburnt, O most immaculate one; for thou hast given birth to the Fire of the Godhead, yet remained unconsumed, O Maiden. Wherefore, we hymn thee throughout all ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: **A cornerstone not cut by hand O Virgin, * was cut from thee the unhewn mountain: * even Christ, Who hath joined together the disparate natures; * therefore rejoicing we magnify thee, * O Theotokos.**

At the behest of Him Who createth all things, Agathonica, Bassa and Paula eagerly hastened to the goal of martyrdom, and as a company they have truly attained their uttermost desire.

Dwelling in the mansions of heaven, O virgin, gazing upon the beauties of things invisible, and receiving the effulgence of God, illumine those who hymn thee.

A wreath of grace hath been placed upon thy brow, O Agrippina, for thou didst finish the race and keep the faith intact, and the ranks of the righteous have received thee in beauty.

As thou standest with boldness before the Creator and Master, O martyr Agrippina, with all the saints from ages past ask thou forgiveness of sins for those who hymn thee, O good virgin.

Theotokion: O Virgin Mary, who as a mother didst bear in thine arms Him Who sustaineth all things: Deliver me from the hands of the adversary, that, saved, I may praise thy mighty works.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy martyr, in Tone IV:

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