

THE 10th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JULY
COMMEMORATION OF THE 45 HOLY MARTYRS OF NICOPOLIS OF ARMENIA
AT VESPERS

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

Spec. Mel.: “O all-praised martyrs ...”:

O all-praised martyrs, * crushed by stones * ye did not deny Christ the Rock, * but, having won the victory by grace, * ye rejoice with the choirs of the angels. * Pray ye with them, * that our souls be granted ** peace and great mercy.

O right victorious martyrs * who were imprisoned together in dungeons, * as preservers of the commandments of God; * and tormented by thirst ye received dew from heaven, * which cooled you spiritually. * Wherefore, pray ye, * that our souls be granted ** peace and great mercy.

O invincible martyrs, * desiring the true life * which ever endureth, * rejoicing, ye endured * an unjust death by the sword of the iniquitous; * and now ye rejoice with the martyrs. * Pray ye with them, that our souls be granted ** peace and great mercy.

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

O all-hymned Lady, * the hope and confirmation of the faithful, * our refuge and help, we beseech thee: * from every misfortune preserve thy servants * who with faith worship thine Offspring. * Him do thou entreat, * that He grant unto our souls ** peace and great mercy.

Stavrotheotokion: **T**he Sovereign Lady, the unblemished ewe-lamb, * beholding her Lamb upon the Cross, * bereft of form and comeliness, * lamenting, said: “Woe is me! * Whither hath Thy comeliness gone, O most Sweet One? * Where is Thy splendor? Where is the brilliant grace * of Thine image, ** O my Son most beloved?”

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 tormenters and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. ** Through their supplications save Thou our souls.

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy martyrs, the acrostic whereof is:

“I hymn the divinely crowned regiment of martyrs”, in Tone V:

ODE I

Irmos: Unto God the Savior * Who made His people pass dryshod through the sea, * but drowned Pharaoh with all his host, * unto Him alone let us sing: * For He hath been glorified.

With godly wisdom, O ye faithful, let us hymn the warriors and spiritual athletes of Christ as destroyers of deception and splendid conquerors, chanting unto God a hymn of victory, for He hath been glorified.

Struggling splendidly upon the earth, the spiritual athletes endured torments and have received crowns in the heavens, chanting together the hymn of victory: For He hath been glorified!

Bound together by faith and unity of soul, ye turned away from deception and were shown to be crowned victors, chanting together the hymn of victory: For He hath been glorified!

Theotokion: O most pure Mother of God, unceasingly entreat God, Who became incarnate from thee, yet was not separated from the bosom of His Father, that He save those whom He hath fashioned from every evil circumstance.

ODE III

Irmos: By the power of Thy Cross, O Christ, * do Thou make steadfast mine understanding, * that I may hymn and glorify ** Thy saving Ascension.

Adorned with the understanding of Christ, O warriors, ye drowned the iniquitous foe in the outpourings of your blood.

Having given your bodies over to bitter and cruel tortures, O right laudable martyrs, through faith ye have received a divine inheritance.

Broken by the stones which were cast at you at the command of the tyrant, O ye spiritual athletes, ye mightily preserved the dominion of the right Faith.

Theotokion: With the martyrs, O pure one, unceasingly entreat Him Who issued forth from thy womb, that He deliver those who hymn thee from the deception of the devil, O all-immaculate one.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: “Having been lifted up ...”:

Crushed by stones, cut asunder by swords, burned with fire and cast into water, the valiant warriors of Christ, contending well, utterly drowned the wicked foe in the streams of their blood; and they were manifestly shown to be crowned. Wherefore, they are honored and faithfully glorified.

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

He that sitteth upon the throne of the cherubim * and abideth in the bosom of the Father * doth sit in thy womb as upon a throne, O Lady; * for, being truly God incarnate, * He reigneth over all nations, * and with understanding we now chant to Him. * Him do thou also entreat, ** that thy servants be saved.

Stavrotheotokion: **S**he who in the latter days * gave birth in the flesh unto Thee O Christ, * Who wast begotten of the beginningless Father, * upon seeing Thee hanging upon the Cross, cried aloud: * “Woe is me, O Jesus, most beloved Christ! * How is it that Thou Who art glorified as God by the angels * dost now consent to be crucified by iniquitous men O my Son? ** I hymn Thee, O Thou Long-suffering One!”

ODE IV

Irmos: **I** have heard the report of the mighty deed * of Thy Cross, O Lord, * how Paradise was opened thereby, and I cried: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Strengthened by the grace of the Savior, the choir of the spiritual athletes vanquished the God-hating enemy with the God-loving ways to which they cleaved.

O divinely summoned regiment of spiritual athletes of Christ, ye conquered the multitude of the impious opponents of God, chanting: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Beholding the light unapproachable while languishing in prison, the spiritual athletes destroyed the darkness of the idolatrous delusion of polytheism, strengthened by the power of God.

Theotokion: **T**he power of the Most High overshadowed thee, O Virgin, and made of thee a garden of paradise, which had in its midst the Tree of life, the Lord and Mediator.

ODE V

Irmos: **W**aking at dawn, * we cry unto Thee, O Lord: * Save us, for Thou art our God; * we know none other besides Thee.

Nurtured by the words of the Holy Spirit, the martyrs abolished irrational idolatry.

The athletes were luminous stars and flowers of the Faith emitting sweet fragrance.

Ye were shown to be a field of the Most High, O saints, harvested by the scythe of torture, O all-praised ones.

Theotokion: **O** Theotokos, cease thou never to beseech Him Whom thou didst bear, that He save the souls of us who earnestly hymn thee.

ODE VI

Irmos: **T**he abyss hath encompassed me, * the sea monster hath become my grave; * but I cried unto Thee, * the Lover of mankind, ** and Thy right hand saved me, O Lord.

In gladness the martyrs cried aloud: “Take Thou our souls into Thy hands, O Master Who lovest mankind, and grant them rest; for Thee alone, Who art greatly merciful, do we love.”

The choir of Thy martyrs came to share the habitations of the angels; for, having finished their race, they now pray that our souls be saved.

O divinely chosen choir of martyrs, ye glory of the martyrs, beauty of the martyrs, earnestly pray that all who have recourse to you may be saved.

Theotokion: What words can recount the wonder of thy seedless conception, O most immaculate one? For Thou didst conceive God Who hath come for us in His loving-kindness.

Kontakion of the holy martyrs, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “As first-fruits ...”:

For the sake of Christ, O martyrs, ye endured many torments. * Ye set at naught all of idolatrous polytheism * and destroyed all the ungodliness of every falsehood, * trampling them down by the power of Christ. ** And ye teach us all to chant openly, with faith: Alleluia!

ODE VII

Irmos: The children were saved * in the burning furnace, * chanting: Blessed art Thou * O God of our fathers.

In the furnace, O Christ, Thy spiritual athletes cried aloud: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Illumined with the light of the Trinity, the spiritual athletes surrendered their souls with gladness, chanting: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Standing before God with gladness, O ye crowned spiritual athletes, pray ye to Him on our behalf.

Theotokion: We entreat thee as our salvation, O Theotokos: beseech Him Who was incarnate from thee, on our behalf.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Unto God the Son, Who was begotten of the Father before the ages * and was incarnate of a Virgin Mother in these last times, * give praise, O ye priests, ** and supremely exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.

The petition of us, the faithful, shall rest with the martyrs, and we shall share in their inheritance, hymning Christ and supremely exalting Him throughout the ages.

With heartfelt joy the choir of the steadfast spiritual athletes received crowns from Christ in a godly manner; hymning Him with splendor and exalting Him throughout the ages.

Stained with the streams of your blood, O right laudable ones, ye reign forever with Christ in the heavens, chanting with piety and supremely exalting Him throughout the ages.

Theotokion: **T**hou hast been shown to be more exalted than the cherubim, O pure Theotokos, having borne in thy womb Him Who sitteth upon them. With the incorporeal ones we of earth also glorify and supremely exalt Him throughout the ages.

ODE IX

Irmos: **O** thou who art God's Mother transcending mind and word, * who ineffably in time hast given birth unto the Timeless One, * thee do we the faithful * with one accord magnify.

O most glorious martyrs, pray ye for the salvation of all, standing before Christ, for Whose sake ye endured tortures.

With mighty power ye brought down the fortress of deception, O invincible ones; and now ye have been deemed worthy to dwell with the angels in the mansions of heaven.

Having vanquished the tyrant with the ways of lawful martyrdom, O most honorable ones, ye have received crowns of righteousness.

Theotokion: **R**ejoice, O Theotokos, Mother of Christ God, to Whom thou hast given birth! With the martyrs pray thou that remission of sins be given to those who hymn thee with faith.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the holy martyrs, in Tone IV:

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