

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of November**

**The holy Martyrs, Bishop Acepsimas (pronounced: Aképsimas), Priest Joseph, and Aithálas the deacon, of Persia; and the dedication of the Church of the Greatmartyr George in Lydda, where his precious body was placed to repose.**

### **Vespers**

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:**

**3 stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”***

**O** most glorious wonder! /

Magnificent Aképsimas, minister to the martyrs, /

Today is crowned with a garland of hymns, /

For he offers up his suffering martyrdom in honor of God /

Thus covering in wounds the bodiless foe. /

Oh, how to receive this abundance of grace! /

By his prayers save our souls, O Christ, ///

As Thou art merciful.

**O** most glorious wonder! /

Joseph shone forth from Persia like a star /

And by the Spirit ruined the abomination of sorcery, /

And extinguished the fiery oblations to idols /

By the streams of his blood. /

Oh, the strength which casts down demons! /

By his prayers save our souls, O Christ, ///

As Thou art merciful.

**O** most glorious wonder! /

Aithálas revealed himself a champion /

And a worthy namesake of martyrdom. /

Being cut by the sword he blossomed forth as a flowering garden /

Thus put to death he entered into life. /

Oh, the strength of the nature which endured! /

By his prayers save our souls, O Christ, ///

As Thou art merciful.

**And 3 stichera of Saint George, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”***

**O** passion-bearing George, converser with the angels /

And companion of the martyrs, /

An abiding refuge for those in sorrow: /  
Be thou for me a calm haven as I travel upon the sea of life /  
And steer my life like a pilot, I beseech thee. ///  
That with faith unfailing I may bless thy divine accomplishments.

**P**reserve me as I sail upon the sea /  
And when traveling on land , /  
In the night when I am sleeping /  
And enlighten my mind when I am awake, O George, /  
And instruct me to do the will of the Lord, /  
That I may find forgiveness in the Day of Judgment /  
For the things I have done throughout my life, ///  
By running to thy protection, O glorious one.

**B**eing clad in the armor of faith /  
The shield of grace and the spear of the Cross /  
Thou wast invincible to thine enemies, O George. /  
And as a divine, valiant warrior, having conquered the armies of demons, /  
Thou didst rejoice with the angles, ///  
Keeping, sanctifying and saving the faithful calling to thee.

### **Glory..., Tone 6:**

**O** greatmartyr and warrior George, /  
Rightly didst thou bear thy name /  
For taking upon thy shoulders the Cross of Christ, /  
Thou didst cultivate the land made barren by the deceit of the devil. /  
And uprooting the thorns of idolatry /  
Thou didst plant the vine of the Orthodox Faith. /  
Therefore healings gush forth upon the faithful throughout the universe /  
Revealing thee as a righteous steward of the Trinity. ///  
Pray then, we entreat thee, for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone, or the Stavrotheotokion: To the melody, "On the third day...."**

**B**eholding our Life hanging on the Tree, /  
The all-pure Theotokos cried aloud /  
With maternal sorrow: /  
"My Son and my God, ///  
Save those who with love sing to Thee.

HIEORMARTYR ACEPSIMAS AND THE OTHERS;  
DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GREATMARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA.

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.*

**The Aposticha from the Octoechos.**

**Glory..., of the Martyrs, in Tone 6: (the composition of Ephraim)**

**Y**our suffering for Christ /  
Which shone mystically in thrice-radiant unity of mind /  
Was the image of the ineffable Trinity /  
Who in Persia preserved the three youths unharmed in the furnace. /  
For they would not deny God , but braved the flames /  
And like them you did not think to forego death, /  
Not regretting your love for Christ; /  
But like the Fourth Who was seen in the flames bedewing the three, /  
So Christ, One of the Trinity, was revealed to you /  
And He received you in a place of refreshment. ///  
O Aképsimas, Aithálas and Joseph, pray for our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or the Stavrotheotokion: To the melody, “On the third day....”**

**B**eholding Thee crucified, O Christ /  
She who gave Thee birth cried ot to Thee: /  
“What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /  
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///  
Dost Thou die on the Tree?”

**The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:**

**T**hy martyrs Aképsimas, Aithálas and Joseph, O Lord /  
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God /  
For having Thy strength they laid low their enemies /  
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///  
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Glory..., the Troparion of Saint George, in the Same Tone:**

**A**s thou art the liberator of captives /  
A defender of the needy, /  
A physician of the infirm and champion of kings, /  
O victory-bearer, Greatmartyr George, ///  
Pray Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.**

**Matins**

**One Canon from the Octoechos, with 6 Troparia including the Irmos; and the Canon to the Martyrs, with 4 Troparia, in Tone 4; and the Canon of the Greatmartyr George, with 4 Troparia, also in Tone 4.**

— incomplete as of 9/13/13

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Seeking the highest....”***

**O** Holy Aképsimas, thou didst serve the Holy Mysteries faithfully /  
And didst thyself become an acceptable oblation; /  
While partaking of the Cup of Christ /  
Along with thy companions ///  
Do not cease to intercede for us all.

**Ikos:** Who among the faithful can offer hymns worthy of *Aképsimas* the Hierarch, the lamp of Christ? For he overthrew the delusion of idols and shamed the craftiness of demons by the mighty power of Christ God, the Savior; and praying ceaselessly for us all, he instructs us to piously worship the Most-holy Trinity, honoring the divinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

**The Sessional Hymn of the Martyrs, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “Of wisdom....”***

**L**et us praise with hymns of faith /  
Joseph of great renown and *Aképsimas*, the destroyer of spiritual delusions, /  
And with them Aithálas, the glorious and invincible sufferer,  
For truly they are brightly shining stars /  
Which scorched the arrogance of the Persians, /  
For they did not sacrifice to the sun nor give hon-or to fire. /  
Therefore, let us cry out to them with love: ///  
Beseech Christ God to grant remission of sins to us who lovingly celebrate  
your holy memory

**Glory..., of Saint George, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”***

**C**oming to hate the armies of men, O martyr /  
Thou didst come to desire glory in heaven /  
And didst endure great suffering and a cruel death. /  
Therefore, celebrating on this day thy holy memory ///  
We offer praise to Christ, O thrice-blessed George.

HIEORMARTYR ACEPSIMAS AND THE OTHERS;  
DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GREATMARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion:**

All-holy Virgin, the hope of all Christians, /  
Thou gavest birth to God in a manner past speech and understanding, /  
Ceaselessly implore Him in behalf of those who offer hymns to thee /  
That He may grant remission of sins ///  
And that we may correct the course of our lives, who with faith and love glorify thee.

**Or the Stavrotheotokion: (in the Same Tone)**

As she beheld her Lamb and Shepherd dead upon the Tree, /  
The unblemished Ewe-lamb, cried aloud with a mother's sorrow: /  
How can I endure Thy voluntary suffering, O my Son, /  
And Thy surpassing condescension, O Most-gracious God?

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of Saint George, in Tone 8: To the melody,  
“O victorious leader....”**

**We** the faithful who take refuge under thy ready and powerful protection /  
Implore thee, O victorious martyr of Christ /  
To deliver from all dangers and evils all those who honor thee ///  
So that we may sing to thee: Rejoice, O Greatmartyr George!

**Ikos:** Thou didst reveal thyself to be among the great intercessors on the earth, O most-pleasing friend of the Lord. For thou dost ever shield with thy protection the faithful people seeking salvation, O glorious one. Therefore with faith and love we cry out to thee: Rejoice, thou by whom the world is enlightened! Rejoice, thou by whom armies are enlightened! Rejoice, deliverance of the faithful from bondage! Rejoice, quick defender of those in prison! Rejoice, thou high ground of defense for those who fervently hasten to thee in faith! Rejoice, enrichment of those who love thee, and the gladness of those in sorrow! Rejoice, thou who art the defense of kings! Rejoice, for thou grantest victories in battles! Rejoice, shining star guiding those who are on the seas! Rejoice, resolution of all enmity! Rejoice, thou shelter for all the faithful! Rejoice, thou by whom the Creator Himself is praised! Rejoice, O Holy Greatmartyr George!

**The Exapostilarion of the Martyrs:**

**Thou** didst bear, as one outside the body, such unbearable torments, O all-praised *Aképsimas*, the glory of priests, together with the wondrous Joseph and glorious Aithálas, the deacon, all initiates of the mysteries [of Christ], that even the bodiless angels themselves are amazed at the sufferings you endured.

**Glory..., that of St. George:**

**T**hou didst quench the flames of delusion with the streams of thy blood, O blessed one utterly destroying tormentor's fury, thus glorifying Christ, O Martyr George. Therefore thou hast received the crown of incorruption and life from the right hand of the Most-high.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion.**

**I** have no hope for salvation, O Virgin, for badly I have fallen into the depths of sin, and now I await the threat of fearful torments and the fate of the goats in the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. But take pity on me before the Day of Judgment, for thou art my fervent mediatrix, O Mother of God.

**The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and this sticheron of the Martyrs, in Tone 2:**

*Verse:* The righteous cried and the Lord heard them.

**H**aving resolutely suffered for Christ, O pious Saints, /  
You shamed the fury of your tormentors /  
And cast down into the abyss the arrogance of idols, /  
O Aképsimas, Aithálas and Joseph. /  
Now you are rejoicing in the heavens, O crown-bearing martyrs, ///  
Ever praying on behalf of our souls.

**Glory..., of Saint George, in Tone 4: (the composition of the Studite)**

**L**et us, spiritually, O brethren, /  
Praise the diamond-like endurance of the martyr George /  
Who was forged in the furnace for the sake of Christ /  
Formed in infirmities, and sharpened by torments /  
Whose body, corrupt by nature, was laid waste by torture. /  
For in death he defeated the very corruption of nature ///  
And fulfilled his longing desire to be with Christ God, the Savior of our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone, or this Stavrotheotokion: To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs...."**

**W**hen she beheld her Lamb upon the Cross, /  
The unblemished ewe-lamb, the immaculate Lady, /  
Cried ot in maternal amazement: /  
'O my belovèd Son /  
What is this sight I now behold? /  
How hath this ungrateful assembly who delighted in Thy many miracles /

HIEORMARTYR ACEPSIMAS AND THE OTHERS;  
DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GREATMARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA.

Now repaid Thee? ///

Yet do I praise Thine ineffable condescension, O Master!’

**Liturgy**

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:** The Lord has shown the wonders of His will / to the saints who are in His land. *Verse:* I keep the Lord always before me; for He is at my right hand, and I shall not be moved.

**The Epistle:** (233) Ephesians 6:10-16

**Alleluia, in Tone 4:** The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and He delivered them from all their troubles. *Verse:* Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

**The Gospel:** (106) Luke 21:12-19

**Communion Hymn:** Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

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