

The 4th Day of August
The Seven Holy Youths (Seven Sleepers) of Ephesus.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Come, and let us ever praise the memory /
Of the seven-circled light /
Which shone upon the seven worthy youths, /
And let us cry out to Christ, Who hath so crowned them: /
Through their prayers, grant peace to our lives, ///
O Lord, our Redeemer.

The seven godly youths /
Who were dead according to the laws of nature /
Truly rose together, as if from sleep, surpassing nature. /
O most awesome wonder! /
For three hundred and seventy-two years ///
They had slept in a cave as if they were dead!

Let us now praise the divine Iamblicus, /
Maximillian, Martinian and John, /
Antoninus and Dionysius, /
For they ever pray for us, /
And with them, let us piously praise ///
Exacustodian the wise.

Note: *But if we sing “Alleluia” at the Matins instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos are sung at Vespers, at “Lord I call,” before the above stichera of the Saints, in the same Tone and melody:*

Most glorified art thou from generation to generation, /
O Virgin Mother and Maiden, Mary the Mother of God, /
The intercessor for the world, /
Thou gavest birth in the flesh to the Son of the Unoriginate Father /
Truly of One Essence with the Spirit. ///
Pray to Him that we may be saved

We who are hopelessly possessed by sins, O pure one, /
Have thee alone as our intercessor, O Virgin. /
And we gratefully cry out to thee: /
Cleanse us, O most holy bride of God. /

4 AUGUST

For thou, art the refuge of the world ///
And the defender of the race of mankind.

Tossed about by the storm of my sins, /
I flee to the calm haven of thy prayers, O Mother of God, /
And I cry out to thee: /
Stretch out thy mighty right hand to me, thy servant ///
And save me, O most pure one!

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Armed with the staff of thy protection, O most pure Mother of God, /
Drive away the beastly passions of mine accursèd soul; /
And direct my life in peace ///
And number me among thy chosen flock of sheep.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

Standing before the Cross of thy Son and God, /
And beholding His long-suffering,
O pure Mother, thou didst cry out weeping: /
Woe is me, O my Child most sweet! /
What are these things which Thou dost suffer unjustly, ///
O Word of God, that Thou mightest save mankind?’

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of Martyrs, or this one of the Saints, in Tone 4:

O great miracle of faith, /
The seven holy youths remained in a cave /
As if in a royal palace /
And died without corruption. /
After a long time they arose as from sleep, /
Confirming the resurrection of all mankind. ///
Through their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us.

Matins

**Both Canons from the Octoechos, and that of the Saints,
with 4 Troparia, in Tone 2:**

— incomplete as of 6/10/2013

THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS OF EPHEBUS

Kontakion of the Saints, in Tone 4:

Surning the corruption of this world /
And accepting the gifts of incorruption, /
Though the seven youths died they were not touched by corruption; /
And they arose after many years thus burying the unbelief of the wicked. ///
Therefore, let us the faithful praise them as we glorify Christ.

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