

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Day of November

### Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Galácteon and his wife Epístemis.

#### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”***

**N**urtured on the milk of faith /  
And reaching maturity in the Lord, /  
Voluntarily, thou didst suffer many pains and torments /  
Becoming a perfect and acceptable sacrifice to Christ, /  
O richly bless’t with a sure and steadfast faith /  
Which thou didst surely receive from God. ///  
Thus thou didst attain to perfection, O Galácteon.

**P**rudently seeking the fount of goodness /  
And the summit of all desires, /  
O much-suffering martyr, /  
Thy soul and mind were illuminated by His Light /  
And thou didst soundly defeat the ancient serpent’s craft, ///  
O blessed Epístemis, divine glory of monastics.

**T**he whole world is brightly illuminated /  
By the ascent in the East /  
Of the two spiritual and radiant lights /  
Shimmering with the brilliance of their struggles /  
And the divine splendor of their healings. /  
So let us glorify Christ, who illuminates us all for their sake ///  
As we celebrate their most radiant festival.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone: *(and melody)***

**R**ejoice, O enlightenment of our souls, /  
Rejoice, forgiveness of sinners, /  
Rejoice, correction of the negligent, /  
Rejoice, O consolation, helper and joy of those in sorrow, /  
Rejoice, O gracious healer of infirm spirits, /  
Rejoice, O reconciliation with God and our intercessor ///  
Rejoice, pure Lady, who art holier beyond compare than the seraphim!

**Or this Stavrotheotokion:**

**B**eholding Thee, O Jesus, nailed to the Cross /

And accepting suffering of Thine own will, /  
The Virgin, Thy Mother, O Master, cried aloud: /  
“Woe is me, O my sweet Child! /  
How is it that Thou dost endure unjust wounding, /  
O Physician who healeth the infirmities of mankind ///  
And by Thy loving-kindness dost deliver all from corruption?”

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

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

**T**hy holy martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis, 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.

### **Matins**

*After the usual readings from the Psalter,  
Two Canons from the Octoechos, and this one of the holy Martyrs with 4 Troparia*

### **Ode 1**

#### **The Canon of the Martyrs, in Tone 8**

*having the acrostic: “Let us faithfully honor the chaste martyrs.”*

*Irmos: Let us sing a song to Him who overthrew the tyranny of Pharaoh into the sea and led his people over to dry land, let us sing to Christ our God: for He hath been glorified!*

*Refrain:* Holy Martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis pray to God for us!

**S**tanding now with joy before the life-creating Trinity, O all-blessed one, illumined with radiant lightning, do thou ask forgiveness for those who celebrate thy holy memory.

**H**aving set thy soul afire with the flame of Holy Spirit, thou didst consume the carnal passions by fasting and extinguished the fire of ungodliness with the streams of thy blood.

**H**aving set thy family, wealth, and power aside for the sake of Christ, thou didst take up thy cross, and with the blessed Epistemis, thy spouse, thou didst set out along the difficult monastic path in a God-pleasing manner, O ven’rable Galacteon,

*Theotokion:* **O** all-praised Lady Theotokos, helper of those in sorrow, and the salvation and hope of the hopeless: pray thou earnestly that we be delivered from all sorrows and misfortunes.

*Katavasia as prescribed by the Typicon.*

**Ode 3  
The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos: O Thou who established the heavens with wisdom and founded the earth upon the many waters, establish Thou me that I may extol thy glory, O Lord.*

**S**he who gave birth to thee, O Galacteon, brought thee forth from her barren womb as the daystar that dispelled the night of godlessness.

**S**trengthened by the purity of love, thou didst embark with thy spouse to live in virginity; and having suffered together under the writ of the law, O martyr Galacteon, you have both been glorified.

**B**ehold how a frail woman who, through divine revelation, learned all the trials of the torturers that would befall her before they took place. By this she cast down the arrogance of her tormenter.

*Theotokion: O* holy Maiden, who hast given birth to the Source of Life who hath destroyed all the power of death, grant that I may live who has been slain by my harmful passions.

*Katavasia.*

**The Sessional Hymn of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: To the melody, “Go quickly before ...”**

**H**aving adorned the visage of thy soul with fasting, /  
Thou dost enlighten the faithful with the rays of thy sufferings, O blessed  
Galacteon. /

Therefore, we piously celebrate thy holy and light-bearing memory with faith,  
And we cry aloud to thee: ///  
As thou hast boldness before God, pray now that our souls may be saved!

**Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 4:**

**T**hrough thy divine birthgiving, O pure one, /  
Thou didst renew the mortal nature of mankind /  
That was corrupted by the passions; /  
Thou didst raise us up from death to the life of incorruption. ///  
Therefore, we rightly bless thee, as thou didst foretell, O most-glorious Virgin.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**W**hen thou didst behold thy Son and God /  
O most immaculate Virgin, Mother of Christ God, /  
Crucified of His own will, /  
A sword pierced thy most holy soul. /  
Never cease to entreat Him, O blessèd Lady, ///  
That He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

#### **Ode 4** **The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos:* *The prophet perceived Thee with divine vision, O Word, when he foretold that Thou wast to become incarnate of the Theotokos alone, the Mountain overshadowed by the grace of God; and with awe, he glorified Thy power.*

**Y**e were truly reason-endowed sheep who chose to follow your Shepherd, the King of all, and now, O crown-bearing martyrs, you rejoice together with all the martyrs in the sheepfold of heaven.

**Y**e were truly an elect team, plowing the furrow of an honorable and valiant martyrdom; cultivating the grain which was laid up for you in the granaries of heaven.

**O** valiant martyrs, your noses, nails, hands, and finally your heads were cut off for the sake of Christ, and thus ye uprooted the delusions of impiety and were shown to be victors of the Faith.

*Theotokion:* **T**he tongues of mortals are unworthy to worthily praise thee O Theotokos, for thou art revealed as the refuge of Christians, O all immaculate and most pure Lady.

#### **Ode 5** **The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos:* *Rising early we cry to Thee, O Lord: Save us, for Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee.*

**H**aving nurtured thyself on fasting as with milk, O Galacteon, thou didst attain unto the perfect fullness of the suffering of Christ.

**T**aken up into the heavens to the resting-place of the saints, O Epistemis, thou dost now behold everything with an illumined mind.

**O** venerable martyrs, ye have attained to the habitation of the martyrs in the heavens and have obtained the glory of immortality.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou hast given birth in time to the Timeless One who became a mortal man, that He may save mankind, O most pure Lady.

**Ode 6**  
**The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos:* Grant me a robe of light, O Thou who clothes Thyself with light as with a garment, O greatly merciful Christ our God.

**H**aving achieved divine enlightenment ye attained a life of chastity, and were then perfectly united by being baptized by your blood, O spiritual warriors for the Faith.

**H**aving enlightened thy soul by the great act of fasting, thou didst teach it to be attain beauty with the light of suffering, O Galacteon.

**H**aving mounted the chariot of your blood, O martyrs, ye traversed the path and reached heaven, wherein ye now rest.

*Theotokion:* Thou gavest birth to the Son who is equal in honor with the Father, O thou who knewest not wedlock, and in a manner past understanding, didst thou nurture the Nurturer of all with thy milk.

*Katavasia.*

**The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 2:** *(to the melody: "Seeking the highest ....")*

You are numbered among the martyrs of Christ /  
Because you fought the good fight in many battles; /  
O Galacteon and thy faithful wife and companion-in-arms Epistemis, ///  
Intercede before the One and Undivided God, for the sake of our souls.

**Ode 7**  
**The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos:* An angel saved the three children in the thundering furnace by quenching the flames with dew. Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**O** Epistemis, wedded to the Word of God, thou didst smite with blindness the unbelievers who strove to strip thee naked, and didst show them to be children of the light when they repented.

**U**tterly refusing to sacrifice to inanimate gods, ye offered yourselves as honorable sacrifices to our true God, the Master of our souls, O holy martyrs.

**L**ed into the fire of torment, O wise martyr Galacteon, thou didst extinguish the flame of ungodliness with the torrents of thy blood, crying aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

*Theotokion:* Together with all the ranks of heaven on high, we who have been saved by thee cry aloud calling thee blessèd, O Maiden Birthgiver of God.

5 NOVEMBER

**Ode 8**  
**The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos: Bless the eternal King of glory before whom all the hosts of heaven tremble, O ye people, praise Him, O ye priests, praise and exalt Him throughout all ages!*

**B**eing equals in purity and equals in your fasting and suffering, O valorous spiritual soldiers, ye have received equal gifts from God.

**D**esiring to live the life of the angels, ye maintained your union in chastity, and rightly, you now joyously join chorus with them, O passion-bearing martyrs of the Lord.

**S**tanding courageously before the tribunal, O martyr, thou didst preach the one true God, and thereby destroyed the arrogance of the pagans.

*Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!*

*Theotokion: Come, O ye people, and let us praise the one Mother, who after giving birth remained a virgin, as the precious and most exalted throne of the Lord Most High.*

*We praise, bless, and worship the Lord singing and exalting Him throughout all ages!*

*Katavasia.*

**Ode 9**  
**The Canon of the Martyrs**

*Irmos: Moses the Lawgiver beheld a prophetic vision in the fire of the burning bush upon the mountain which prefigured thy birthgiving, O Ever-virgin, thou salvation of the faithful. Therefore we ceaselessly magnify thee with songs of praise.*

**T**hou hast been revealed as a tower of heaven, a foundation of the Church, a pillar of piety, and the confirmation and divine adornment of martyrs and ascetics, O divinely wise Galacteon.

**T**hou didst blossom like a rose amid the flowers of virginity, spreading thy fragrance like a lily in the valleys of martyrdom, O Epistemis, thou virgin martyr of the Lord.

**T**herefore, we call you both blessed, O holy martyrs, for being illumined with by the three-Sunned light of splendor, ye have now passed on to be in its presence, having been shown to be children of the Light.

**P**ray ye, O holy martyrs, that the Lord may grant enlightenment unto those who praise you with faith and love.

## MARTYR GALACTEON AND HIS WIFE EPISTEMIS

*Theotokion:* **T**hou art our sword and rampart, O Theotokos! Thou art the help of those who have recourse to thee! Therefore, we entreat thee now to pray that we may be delivered from all our enemies who seek to do us harm.

*Katavasia.*

### Liturgy

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

**T**hy holy martyrs Galacteon and Epistemis, 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.

#### **The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 2:**

**Y**ou are numbered among the martyrs of Christ /  
Because you fought the good fight in many battles; /  
O Galacteon and thy faithful wife and companion-in-arms Epistemis, ///  
Intercede before the One and Undivided God, for the sake of our souls.

RLE 10/29/2017 SDA  
UPDATED 11/9/2022 SDA  
10/25/2023 SDA