

The 14th Day of December

Martyrs Thýrsus, Leucius, Callínicus of Appolonia; Martyrs Apollonius, Philēmon, Arianus, and Theotychus of Alexandria.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

The wondrous Thýrsus, /
Divinely-wise Callínicus and Leucius, /
Confessed the uncreated Trinity /
While enduring most-cruel afflictions and torments with true courage. /
Being true champions, they received their crowns of victory, ///
And became co-citizens with the angels in paradise.

The great Philēmon, richly bless’t Arianus and wise Apollonius /
Extinguished the flames of paganism with the streams of their blood /
And watered the earth with the divine streams of the knowledge of God. /
And being our fervent defenders, /
They dried up the rivers of passions by divine grace ///
With the torrent of their healings.

The glorious martyrs blossomed /
Like the beautiful flowers of a garden, /
Giving out the divine fragrance of the Spirit /
Faithfully perfuming the thoughts of those honoring the memorial /
Of their sufferings, struggles and divine repose. /
Now they abide, ever rejoicing, ///
In the glow of the never-waning Light.

***Note:** But if we sing “Alleluia” at 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 Saint, in the same Tone and melody:*

Rain down upon me, O Lady, /
The flowing waters of thy mercy, /
And as thou art merciful, /
Give drink to my heart being consumed by the heat of my passions; /
And cause drops of compunction to fall upon me, O Maiden, /
That I may find consolation, I pray thee, ///
Together with those, who sincerely shed their tears.

Take pity on me, O Lady, /

For I am shaken by the assaults of demons /
About to be cast down into the pit of destruction; /
 But strengthen thou me on the rock of virtues /
 And destroy thou the counsels of mine enemies, /
 And vouchsafe that I may follow the precepts of thy Son and God /
 That I may receive the remission of my sins ///
 On the Day of Judgment.

I have fallen in among thieves and murderers /
 And have been stripped of my immaculate, heavenly garments /
 And by their pitiless assaults, I have been grievously wounded /
 And lie, barely alive, in a place of affliction: /
 Yet, I pray, come thou before me, ///
 Extend thy hand to me and raise me up, O Lady.

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

I lie on the bed of despendency, /
 And waste my life away in laziness, /
 I am terrified at the coming time of my end, /
 And of serpent, who like a lurking lion who will devour my feeble soul; /
 Yet, I pray, come thou to me before my end, ///
 And in thy graciousness raise me up, O Lady.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”

Beholding Christ, who loveth mankind, crucified, /
 His side pierced by a spear, /
 The all-pure one, cried aloud, lamenting: /
 “What is this, O my Son? /
 How have these thankless people rewarded Thee /
 For all the good things Thou hast done for them? /
 Dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most belovèd Son? ///
 I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!”

The Aposticha is from the Octoechos.

The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 1: (None given in the Menaion)

We beseech Thee, O Lord and Lover of man, /
 By the sufferings Thy saints endured for Thee, /

MARTYRS THYRSUS, LEUCIUS, CALLINICUS AND OTHERS.

To heal all our afflictions, ///

And deliver us from our transgressions.

Matins

—*incomplete as of 11/11/14*

Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “The steadfast....”*

O cham’pions of faith and piety /

You reviled the evil tormentor and denounced his thirst for your blood. /

You were fortified with the help of Christ /

And defeated his wrathful indignation. /

O Thyrsus, Leucius and Callinicus /

Pray together with those who suffered with you ///

That our souls may be saved.

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