

The 18th Day of August

Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos; Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “With what crowns of praise”*

With what unworthy lips shall we praise and bless the Mother of God? /
She who is more honorable than all creation, /
And more holy, beyond compare than all the angels and the cherubīm; /
The unshakeable throne and dwelling place of the King Most High?
She who is the very salvation of the world /
And the Holy Place of God ///
Who richly grants great mercy to the faithful who celebrate her holy mememory.

What songs filled with wonder /
Did the apostles of the Word offer thee, O Virgin? /
As they stood ’round thy bier and cried aloud in amazement: /
Behold, the palace of the King is departing! /
Behold, the ark of holiness is raised on high! /
Open wide, ye gates, that the portal of God may enter into the joy of paradise ///
She who asks without ceasing for the world great mercy.

What spiritual songs shall we offer thee, O Most Holy one? /
For the whole world hath been sanctified by thy deathless falling asleep; /
Thou hast been translated to the heights of heaven above the earth /
There to perceive the beauty of the Almighty, /
And, as His Mother, to rejoice exceedingly, O most pure Virgin. /
Thou who art attended by the ranks of angels and by the souls of the righteous, ///
Join them to pray for peace for the world and great mercy.

And 3 stikhera of the Saints, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Revealing yourselves as perfect stones, O holy ones, /
Hewn in martyrdom and quarried in torments, /
You fashioned yourselves into a church of the Lord /
Casting down the temples and the worship of idolatriy. /
Therefore, we bless you as citizens of paradise ///
And as worthy offerings in the temple of heaven.

All who venerate the relics of the holy martyrs Florus and Laurus /
 Draw forth grace and receive enlightenment, /
Gladness and mercy, /
 For streams of healing and divine grace richly flow out from them; /
 And blessing the martyrs as being well-pleasing to the Lord ///
 We earnestly cry, O our God, glory to Thee

Enduring imprisonment in the pit /
 And being buried in the earth at the torturer's command /
 You were revealed to us as brightly shining stars /
 By Divine will and the action of the Holy Spirit, /
 Radiant with signs, wonders and gifts of healing ///
 O passion-bearing brothers and companions of the angels.

Glory..., in Tone 2

O holy zealots, /
 O Florus and Laurus, brethren in Christ, /
 Be honored with these fitting hymns of praise, /
 For you suffered greatly and achieved greatness, /
 For your confession of God you have received crowns of victory; /
Therefore, in heaven you now sing together with the angels /
 Earnestly entreating the Holy Trinity ///
 To grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

Now and ever..., in the same Tone:

Come, O ye people /
 And let us sing the praises of the pure and Most Holy Virgin /
 From whom the Word of the Father ineffably came forth incarnate. /
 Let us cry aloud and say: /
 Blessèd art thou among women and blessèd is thy womb that held Christ /
 Having delivered thy soul into His holy hands, ///
 Do thou, O most pure Lady, entreat Him for the salvation of our souls.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: To the melody, "O house of Ephratha...."

O ye choirs of heaven, raise a song, /
 For the Virgin Mother hath been presented today ///
 From the earth to heaven.

Verse: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness

The choir of the disciples hath assembled in glory /

From all the ends of the earth ///

To bury thy divine and incorrupt body, O maiden.

Verse: The Lord hath sworn to David a sure oath and will not change His mind.

Lift up, O ye gates of heaven! /

And behold as the gates that held the Highest One, /

The only Mother of God, approaches God in the Highest.

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

Come O ye people , /

And let us sing today unto Christ our God, a song of David: /

“The virgins that follow her.” he said, “shall be brought unto the King: /

With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought.” /

For she, through whom we have been made godlike, is of the seed of David; /

And gloriously and ineffably she commends herself into the hands of her

own Son and Master. /

Praising her as the Mother of God, we cry aloud and say: /

From all distress save us who confess thee, O Theotokos, ///

And grant our souls deliverance from all tribulations.

The Troparion of the Saints, in Tone 4:

O come all ye faithful /

And let us worthily praise the all-blessèd Florus and the most honored Laurus, /

For they have earnestly proclaimed the uncreated Trinity to all. /

For this they suffered unto the shedding of their blood /

And earned their most glorious crowns. /

O most wise and radiant brethren in Christ, ///

Pray Christ God that He may save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever.... the Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

In giving birth, thou didst preserve thy virginity, /

In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world. /

Thou wast translated into life, O Mother of Life, ///

And by thy prayers dost redeem our souls from death.

Matins

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Feast (twice); Glory..., that of the

Saints; Now and ever..., **that of the Feast** (*once*).

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”*

The whole universe is adorned today, /
With the immaterial glory of thy glorious memory ///
And spiritually cries out to thee: Rejoice, O Virgin, the boast of all Christians!

Glory..., now and ever.... (*Repeat*)

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 6: *To the melody, “The doors of compassion....”*

All the faithful praise thy falling asleep, O pure Lady, /
And we sing to thee, /
O thou who hast been translated from the earth, from life unto life, /
And is ever praying now in heaven to God, ///
For the deliverance of the human race.

Glory..., now and ever.... (*Repeat*)

The Canon

The Canon of the Martyrs, with 4 troparia, in Tone 8,

*Having the acrostic: “I praise in hymn the two beautiful martyrs,” the composition of Joseph.
— incomplete as of 7/10/2013*

After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 8: *To the melody
“As the first-fruits”*

The whole universe gloriously honors Florus and Laurus /
As pious victims and divinely wise martyrs for Christ. /
That we may we receive grace and mercy through their prayers /
And be delivered from every trial and tribulation ///
And from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 2:

Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos, /
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions; /
For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life ///
By the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.