

The 19th Day of March

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria.

Vespers

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

Receiving the illumination of divine knowledge /
That enlightened the eyes of thy heart, O wise father, /
Thou didst abandon the darkness of delusion, /
And confessed Christ, the Lord of all,
Who assumed our flesh. /
Therefore, made strong by the power of the Holy Spirit, ///
Thou didst triumph over thy torments, O all-praised Chrysanthus.

The seductions of the enemy and the love of pleasure /
Were no more than a spider’s web to thee, /
And while standing in the darkness, amidst the filth of a prison /
Thou wast illumined with divine light and filled with a spiritual fragrance; /
And when a woman sought to ensnare thee ///
As the best groomsman, thou didst escort her chaste, as a bride to Christ.

Wounded with the sweetest love for the Creator, /
Thou didst utterly spurn thy former pagan delusions /
And entered into the bridal chamber of God /
Betrothing thyself to Him through bodily torment, /
O Daria, of glorious fame, /
Thou vessel of the Holy Spirit, ///
Champion of martyrs and adornment of virgins.

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

Take the sickness and weakness of my soul, /
O most-pure Virgin Mother of God, /
And transform them into strength and power, /
That I may accomplish the statutes of Christ, /
So that I may avoid the unbearable fire, /
And may inherit through thee ///
The eternal joys of heaven and everlasting life.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

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 beloved Son? ///
I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!”

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *[None is given in the Slav Menaion]*

Thy holy martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, 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

The Canon for the Holy Martyrs, Tone 4,

*having the acrostic: “I honor you, the golden flowers of the martyrs,”
the composition of Joseph.*

Ode 1

Irmos: *In days of old Israel crossed the depths of the Red Sea with dry-shod feet, and vanquished the power of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses’ arms upraised in the form of the Cross.*

Refrain: Holy martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, pray to God for us!

Adorned with a crown brighter than gold, O witness, and shining with the beauties of martyrdom, thou dost stand before the Master, praying for us who honor thee, O right wondrous one.

Wounded with the sweet desire for thy Creator, O martyr Chrysanthus, and disdaining all the beautiful things of this world, thou didst give all the strength of thy heart to Him whom thou didst earnestly desire.

Armed with faith, thou didst cast down the crafty one who tried to lead thee into deception through the pleasures of a woman; and didst remain a precious vessel of purity, O Chrysanthus.

Theotokion: **H**e who is unapproachable in His divine essence showed Himself to be

approachable, taking flesh from thee, O Virgin. And desiring Him, Daria suffered patiently, and was brought before Him as His bride.

Ode 3

Irmos: The Church rejoices in Thee, O Christ, and it cries aloud: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge, and confirmation!

Thou wast tried as gold by the fire of the emperor's torturers, O Chrysanthus, and didst bear the torments of the sufferings of Christ.

Abandoning the fables of the philosophers, thou didst fish with the nets of the disciples of Him who hath made thee wise, O Chrysanthus.

Thou didst follow thy husband, who escorted thee as a bride to Christ, O Daria most wise, thus exchanging the passions of earth for the love of the precious Faith.

Theotokion: Jesus, who was born of thy womb in the flesh, O Virgin, hath betrothed to Himself Daria, the pure martyr, to be His bride.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3: To the melody, "Awed by the beauty of virginity...."

Thou didst desire to attain to the utmost beauty /
And so, didst pass beyond the ranges of visible beauty; /
And by the beauty of thy truly golden words, O blessed Chrysanthus, /
Thou didst lead the glorious Daria, thy wife, to Christ. /
For this she endured great sufferings /
And put her torturer to shame. ///
With her, be mindful of us all who keep your memory with faith and love.

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

Beyond all human thought and understanding, /
Is the unapproachable dread mystery that God hath wrought in thee, /
O divinely joyous Sovereign Lady; /
For having conceived the infinite One in thy womb,
Thou didst give birth to Him clad in the flesh taken from thy most pure blood. /
Entreat Him who is thy Son, O most-pure Lady, ///
That our souls may be saved.

Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

Thou didst willingly endure a violent death by crucifixion, /
O only compassionate Lord. /
And she who gaveth birth to Thee was wounded, beholding Thee. /

By her supplications, take pity and save the world, /
O supremely good Lord and only Lover of mankind, ///
Who takest away the sins of the world.

Ode 4

Irmos: Beholding Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, lifted up upon the Cross, the Church stood rooted in place, and rightly it cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

The luminous rays of the Spirit and thy pure heart made thee radiant, O holy martyr, who earnestly cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

The Creator arrayed thee in a garment of incorruption woven of divine grace from on high, O blessed one, and He kept thy body undefiled, and adorned thee with a victor's crown.

Courageously didst thou didst abandon the pleasures of the flesh, delighting only in the incomparable beauty of God; and thus, thou didst complete the course of thy martyrdom.

Thou wast deified by partaking of a divinely wrought unity, O passion-bearer Daria, and, rejoicing, thou hast made thine abode in the mansions of heaven, as an undefiled bride of the Master of all creation.

Theotokion: The incomprehensible One who was incarnate of thee, O most-pure Lady, preserved thee as a virgin after birthgiving, even as thou wast before giving birth to Him; and He led the martyr Daria to be His bride.

Ode 5

Irmos: Thou hast come, O Lord, as a light into the world, a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to Thee with faith.

Being bound, still didst thou destroy the malice of the enemy, O blessed one, by keeping thy mind above all material things.

As a most holy lover of purity, O all-praised martyr, thou didst transform the ardent love of the maiden into love for the Lord.

Beholding the tyrant cast down and trampled underfoot, O most blessed martyr, thou didst joyously magnify the Master of all.

Theotokion: Who can describe thy mystery, O all-pure Lady? For, in a manner past all human understanding, hast thou given birth to God the Word as both God and man.

Ode 6

Irmos: I will sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord! The Church cries out to Thee, having been cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

The light of heaven surrounded and illumined thee as thou didst sing hymns of praise to the Master of all while imprisoned in the dark prison-cell, O ever-memorable Chrysanthus.

Having acquired thee, the glorious one, as a golden star by thine honored martyrdom, Rome hath been adorned by thy struggles and divine miracles, O martyr Chrysanthus.

Having passed through all manner of bodily suffering, thou didst present thyself before the most beautiful Word as being most glorious and beautiful, O martyr Daria, and didst wed thyself to Him.

Theotokion: The Virgin gaveth birth to Thee, the timeless Word, as a little Babe; and the maidens who follow after her, desiring to be with Thee, have been brought to Thee, the King of all, as Thy brides.

[No Kontakion of the martyrs is given in the Menaion]

Ode 7

Irmos: In the Persian furnace the youths, descendants of Abraham, burned with a love of piety rather than by the flames of fire, and they cried aloud saying: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Thou wast the golden flower of the martyrs, and the assembly of witnesses hath brought thee to Christ by thy divine words and miracles, O God-pleasing martyr. With them we now faithfully call thee blessed.

The Lord Jesus Himself illumined thee with radiant glory and divine fragrance, when thou wast imprisoned, naked, in a fetid cell, O blessed one; Him dost thou love with purity of heart and mind.

Christ sent to thee a wild lion to be the defender of thy virginity; and it warded off the ignoble attacks of the impious as thou didst cry aloud, O all-laudable Daria: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Theotokion: He, who in His divine essence, is uncircumscribed became circumscribed in the flesh, like us, within thy womb, O Virgin. Blessed art thou among women, O Lady, most-pure!

Ode 8

***Irmos:** Stretching forth his hands, Daniel the prophet closed the mouths of the lions in the pit; and the young lovers of piety, girded with strength, quenched the power of the fire crying out: Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!*

Opposing the vain adversary with a steadfast mind, O blessed martyr, thou didst endure the slashing of thy body; and though being burned with torches, thou didst remain untouched by their flames, O Chrysanthus; and like the three youths, thou didst cry aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Adorned by the wisdom of Christ, thou didst expose the insolence of the mindless torturers as being foolish, and put to shame the deceiver who had led our mother Eve astray, O wise one, ensnaring him by thy piety, and leading thy wife to God to be His bride, chosen for her faith in Him.

With unity of soul ye avoided carnal intercourse and revealed yourselves to be pure vessels of the Almighty; and borne now into the temple of heaven, O victorious martyrs, ye sing to Christ: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Having tamed the carnal passions by their faith in God, Chrysanthus and Daria reduced the fire of torments to ashes by the dew of the Spirit, and having received their crowns of life, they sing aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

***Theotokion:** God found thee like a rose amid the thorns of life, O most-pure Lady; and He made His abode within thy pure womb, thus filling the world with a mystical fragrance, and we all sing aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!*

Ode 9

***Irmos:** Christ, the Chief cornerstone not cut by human hands, who united two different natures was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. Therefore, with joy we magnify thee, O Theotokos!*

When thou didst utter thy divine prayer, O holy martyr, the army of God appeared before thee, delivering thee from the vile deception of the evil one. Although being slain by the sword, the martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria offered themselves as unblemished sacrifice to Him who, for our sake, was slaughtered like a Lamb.

You were seen to be like lambs in the midst of wild beasts, O glorious witnesses, preaching the incarnation of God who condescended to take our flesh upon Himself; and in a godly manner, ye were granted a painless end through your sufferings.

Today doth the city of Rome summon every city and land to celebrate your divine

MARTYRS CHRYSANTHUS AND DARIA

struggles and martyrdom, O holy ones, and doth offer them as a complete and immaterial banquet for all the faithful.

You bound yourselves to immeasurable glory, O martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria; and now ye stand before the almighty Word wearing your crowns of victory, praying on behalf of us who call you bless't.

Theotokion: **E**very heart and mind that doth ponder thine incomprehensible birthgiving doth tremble, O Maiden; for thou didst bear God the Word within thy womb, who through thee delivereth those who honor thee, from every danger, necessity, and harm.

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