

The 14th Day of July

Commemoration of the Holy Apostle Aquila (*pronounced A-keela*)
of the 70. On this day we also celebrate the Commemoration of the
Holy Martyrs Cyricus (*pronounced Kírikus*) **and Julitta**, transferred
from the 15th because of the Feast of St. Vladimir.

Vespers

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

Paul the Apostle and great luminary of the universe, /
Sent thee as a bright ray of light into the world, /
To enlighten those suffering the darkness of ignorance since the days of long ago, ///
With the radiance of thy words, O Aquila, wise in God. /

Richly illuminated by the brilliance of the Divine Spirit /
Thy pure heart revealed to all that it had truly seen the Light, /
And by this divine grace thou didst shatter the darkness of idolatry, ///
O Apostle Aquila, thou great preacher of the word of God.

Those who seek refuge at thy shrine, /
And beseech thee in faith /
Are delivered from every sorrow, misfortune, and infirmity, /
By thy holy intercessions and prayers before God, ///
O holy Apostle Aquila.

And 3 stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Though only a child, three-years old in body, /
Thou didst possess the maturity and mind of a man /
And didst valiantly shame the tyrant of a weak and unwise mind /
For when he threw thee down the steps of the tribunal, killing thee, /
Thou didst attain life in ageless eternity ///
Entering it adorned with thy blood, O holy martyr Kí-rikus, /

Like a fruitful vine watered by the Spirit /
Thou didst bring forth Cyricus from thy womb, O Julitta the glorious, /
Who then was sacrificed, crushed in the winepress of martyrdom, /
And together with him thou dost pour forth the wine of compunction, /
Bringing joy to the hearts of believers ///
Who with faith celebrate your holy memory.

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While bravely enduring great bodily torments /
And the tearing of the flesh, /
Thou didst endure a double martyrdom, O wondrous one, /
For with thine own eyes thou didst behold the death of thy son /
Thus, Julitta, thou wast given a double crown ///
By the Almighty Judge who grants His martyrs victory.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

Come, and let us all behold the most-glorious wonder, /
A three-year old child shames a murdering tyrant! /
Wondrously, he cries out to her who nursed him with her milk: /
Fear not, O mother, the torments inflicted by the ruler of this world ///
For Christ is the strength of those who believe in Him!

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody "On the third day...."

When the Virgin, Thy Pure Mother, /
Beheld Thee unjustly nailed to the Tree by lawless men /
Her womb, O Savior was wounded, ///
As Simeon had foretold.

The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, then:

Glory..., in Tone 8:

The three-year old proclaims the Trinity /
And gives strength to the mother who nursed him: /
Weep not, O mother, for the Creator sees us from on high ///
And He will save our souls!

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in Tone 8: To the melody, "What shall we call you, O saints?..."

"I cannot bear to look upon Thee, O my Child, /
Asleep in death upon the Tree, /
Who grantest life to all mankind, /
Imparting divine and saving life to those /
Who in ancient times fell into the sleep of perdition /
Through the fruit of transgression." ///
Cried the weeping Virgin, whom we magnify.

General Troparion of the Apostles, in Tone 3:

O holy apostle Aquila /
Intercede with our merciful God, /
That He may grant to our souls ///
The remission of our transgressions.

General Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Thy holy martyrs, Cyricus and Julitta, 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.

Morning Service

—incomplete as of 3/2019

After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Apostle, in Tone 4:

The Church has acquired thee as a brightly shining star, O glorious Aquila, /
Which illumines with the brightness of thy teachings ///
Us who in faith honor thy memory, O apostle of the Lord.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Carrying in her arms Cyricus, Julitta, the martyr of the Lord /
Cried out with joy as she courageously faced her sufferings: ///
Christ is the praise of the martyrs!

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