

The 16th Day of April

Holy Virgin Martyrs Agapia, Irene and Chionia at Illyria.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

When you cast down the godless assaults of spiritual deception /
Through courageous wisdom and the power of the Cross /
You presented to Christ your pure virginity /
And your most-wondrous martyrdom, /
O precious virgins, /
Therefore the whole Church of Christ ///
Celebrates your holy, light-bearing, and honored memory.

The assemblies of the blessed angels /
Were amazed at the suffering of Chionia, /
And the struggles of Agapia /
And the invincibility of Irene: /
At how the courage of the virgin martyrs, /
Destroyed the unseen enemy, /
As they received their crowns of victory from the hands of the Giver of Life.

Having finished your course in the flames /
You extinguished the flames of vanity with the fire of wisdom /
And preserved alight the flame of your spiritual lamps /
And with Christ you entered into the heavenly bridal-chamber. /
You burned up the passions with the sparks of your wondrous deeds /
And by your martyrdom, O passion-bearers ///
You destroyed the armies of the demons.

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

Shower my thoughts with the dew of the Most Holy Spirit, /
O most pure Mother of Christ, /
Who in His boundless compassion, /
Cleansed the multitude of our transgressions with a drop of dew. /
Dry up the source of my passions, /
And through thy prayers, O Lady, ///
Vouchsafe that I may ever drink at the stream of life.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:

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Seeing Thee the Lamb and Shepherd on the tree, /
The ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented, /
And as a mother cried out to Thee: /
“O desired Son, how art Thou hung on the Tree of the Cross, /
O Longsuffering One? /
How art Thy hands and feet nailed by the transgressors, O Word? /
How dost Thou shed Thy Blood, O Master?

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

We beseech Thee, O Lord and Lover of mankind, /
By the sufferings Thy saints endured for Thee, /
To heal all our afflictions, ///
And deliver us from our transgressions.

Matins

The Canon of the Martyrs, in Tone 8,
the composition of Joseph — incomplete as of 2/2014

The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Arming your souls with the power of faith, /
O Agapia, Chióna and Irene, /
You led a multitude to Christ, O blessed ones /
And clad in robes woven with the purple of your blood ///
You rejoice now with the angels.

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