

October 5

Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Charitina

(5th Class)

VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera for Thursday (Tone 1)

6. O glorious Apostles of Christ, disciples called by our God, you are teachers of the whole world! Having found the Lord, the Mediator between God and men, you were united to Him and clearly proclaimed Him throughout the world as true God and true Man.
5. O most wise Apostles of Christ, by your prayers obtain wisdom of heart for me. You are truly initiates and dispensers of Wisdom who shed the light of the Paraclete. In that Fire, burn out the corruption from my heart; make me worthy to sing of you and call you blessed.
4. O Apostles, you have seen the Word of God! Enlighten my soul which has been darkened by the passions, for your divine teachings have illumined the very limits of the universe and drive out the darkness of idolatry. Intercede now that our souls be given peace and great mercy.

For Charitina (Tone 4)

3. Named for joy, you joyously departed to the bridal chamber of Heaven, where you found the life you desired, since you bravely endured the most painful torments when they tore out all your nails and teeth, O victorious Charitina, virgin and martyr of many struggles.

2. As you endured the breaking of your jaws, you broke the jaws of the lions, O martyr of many struggles. When you generously suffered the pulling out of your nails, you pulled out the frightening rumblings of error. When they cast you into the depths of the sea, you drowned all the perversity of the enemy.
1. After your blessed end, when you were cast into the sea, O glorious martyr Charitina, your father recovered your body. Filled with admiration, he cried out, "O sacred child, beloved daughter, the torments of martyrdom have filled you with beauty! You have fulfilled the promise of your name, which prefigured the grace of God for you."
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

In you, O spotless Bride of God is the harbor of salvation not battered by waves and the sweet tranquility which we desire, we who are tossed about on the sea of the pains and anguish of this life. Thus we all have recourse to you and cry aloud, "Do not cease to protect your servants!"

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 1*)

1. The harp of the Apostles is filled with sweet harmonious music as it is played by the Holy Spirit. It banished the mysteries and worship inspired by demons. As it sang of the one and only Lord, it delivered the people from the error of idolatry, teaching them to bow down in worship before the consubstantial Trinity.

- v. To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses; thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.
- 2. Let us praise with one accord the Apostles Peter and Paul, Luke, Matthew, Mark and John, Andrew, Thomas, Bartholomew, James, Philip and Simon. Let us direct our hymns of praise to the whole company of the Disciples!
- v. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.
- 3. O martyrs worthy of all praise, although the earth did not conceal your bodies in burial, heaven has welcomed you. The gates of Paradise were opened to you, and there you rejoice in the Tree of Life. Intercede with Christ that He grant our souls peace and great mercy!
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Virgin, most worthy of our hymns, Moses foresaw your mystery with his prophetic eyes: it was the bush which burned without being consumed; for the Fire of the Godhead did not burn your pure womb. Thus we entreat you, the Mother of our God, to grant peace to the world.

TROPARION OF CHARITINA (*Tone 4*)

Your ewe lamb, O Jesus, cries out to You in a loud voice: "O my Bridegroom, I long for You and I struggle in my quest for You! I am crucified with You and buried with You in Your Baptism. I suffer for Your sake in order to reign with You. I die for You in order to live with You." Accept her as an immaculate victim, since she is immolated for Your love. Through her intercession, O Merciful One, save our souls!

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 4*)

O Virgin Theotokos, we acknowledge that the Word of the Father, Christ our God, was incarnate of you, the only pure one, the only blessed one. Wherefore we sing to you a hymn of praise and we exalt you.