

November 2

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Akindinos, Pegasios, Aptonios, Elpidophor, and Anempodisios

(5th Class)

VESPERS

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

Stichera for Thursday (Tone 5)

6. O Apostles, you are like sharpened arrows sent forth throughout the whole world by the Mighty One. You swiftly and wisely blunted all the terrible fiery darts of the demons as you banished idolatry and taught the faith to all. You made them sheep of the flock of Christ our God, the true Chief Shepherd, who sent you forth, O blessed ones, into the midst of wolves, so that you could tame their fierceness by means of the Faith.
5. Disciples of the Incarnate Word, who dwelt among men in the greatness of His love and truly assumed their nature in order to deify it, you wisely followed in His divine footsteps. You imitated His poverty, counting all things as loss. Renouncing even a second tunic, you took neither a staff nor traveling bag on your way; and now, O glorious Apostles, you rejoice in your inheritance of the treasures of Heaven.
4. By your intercession before the Lord, O blessed Apostles, deliver us from the storm of temptations, the fatal babbling of unholy heresies, the evil intent of the demons, the cruelty of wicked men, tempests and



storms, the gnashing of teeth and every other punishment. Entreat Him that by our abstinence and labors, we may acquire the reward of virtue, the inheritance of the Kingdom and great mercy!

For the Martyrs (Tone 4)

3. Let us sing of the assembly of the five martyrs, those valiant athletes, those fervent defenders, who each obtains gifts for the faithful in keeping with his name: Anempodisios brings freedom from the passions; Elpidophor, hope for future goods; Aptonios, an abundance of heavenly treasures; Pegasios, a fountain which never runs dry; and Akindinos, the removal of all danger.
2. Neither danger nor hunger, life nor death, neither fire nor the boiling water of the cauldrons, neither the jaws of beasts nor yawning pits, could separate your generous constancy from the love of Christ. Ceaselessly lifting up your eyes to Him, and desiring nothing else but Him, you put the Enemy to flight.
1. In the delights which you enjoy and the light with which you are filled as heirs of eternal life, grant help to the faithful who take refuge in you. Deliver them from bondage, from captivity, from all evils and from all danger, through the boldness which you have before God; show the compassion which you have in true imitation of Christ.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Today the radiant choir of five martyrs comes together as resplendent stars to enlighten believers and invites them to rejoice. They are servants of the mystic Sun, by



which the erroneous beliefs of the Persians were abolished; for they guided to the Faith those who had venerated the visible sun and had bowed down before fire. As athletes and martyrs, they filled their cup to the very brim and made an oblation of their blood, poured out for Christ. They exhort us who love the Faith. They say, "Come to the celebration of our triumph! Behold the crowns with which we are honored; for Christ, the Truth, has declared that he who perseveres to the end will be saved! Thus, wear a crown with us, and we shall intercede for you before the Lord!"

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

O Lady, whose womb has contained the Infinite, snatch me from the belly of the monster of sin; save me from the strong storms of temptations; rescue me from the winds of transgressions; dry up the sea of my iniquities. By your divine covenant, stop the attacks which the demons launch against me, that I may ceaselessly be able to glorify you as ever-blessed. O spotless Virgin!

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O disciples of the Savior, witnesses of the mysteries of Christ, You proclaimed the One who cannot be seen and who has no beginning, as you said: "In the beginning was the Word!" You were not created before the Angels; nor were you taught by men, but by the Wisdom from on high. Therefore, since you have confidence, we entreat you to intercede for our souls in the presence of the Lord.

All: 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. In melodious hymns, let us sing to the Apostles of the Lord: armed with the Cross, they brought an end to the error of idolatry and are seen to wear the crown of victory. At their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord!

All: 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. In your unshakable resolve, you never denied Christ, O holy martyrs, as you endured the most terrible torments. You triumphed over the arrogance of the tyrants and kept the faith, whole and entire, as you passed from earth to Heaven. By the confidence you have in the presence of God, pray that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 2)

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, O feast-lovers, on this day on which we celebrate the memorial of the martyrs! Come, let us sing their praises, acclaiming them as we say, "Hail, Akindinos and Pegasios, Anempodisios, Elpidephor and Aptonios, who eclipsed into the abyss the error of idolatry and clearly proclaimed Christ as Lord in the arena. O blessed athletes and martyrs of



multiple sufferings, ceaselessly intercede before Him on behalf of our souls!

All: now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion

All my hope I place in you, O Theotokos: keep me under the wings of your protection.

TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS (*Tone 2*)

O victorious witnesses of the Lord, blessed is the earth that received your blood, and holy are the places that preserve your relics. You have vanquished the Enemy in battle and proclaimed Christ with courage. We beg you to intercede with Him who is all good, that He may 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 2*)

O Theotokos and Virgin forever, through you we have been made to share the divine nature: you have given birth for us to the Incarnate God. Wherefore we all exalt you with great devotion.