

December 14

**Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs
Thyrces, Leucios and Callinicos of Asia Minor;
and of Philemon, Apollonios and Arrian of Alexandria
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for the martyrs (Tone 4)

6. Protecting you with the shield of faith, the Lord gave you the strength to fight the Enemy, O Thyrces, worthy of our praise. With the lance of your perseverance, you wounded him. You put his regiments to flight and received the crown of triumph, O victorious martyr.
5. Holy martyr Leucios, you manifested the whiteness of your soul, signified by your name, by the beauty of your witness and the purity of your body. Thus Christ has made you a radiant lamp, enlightening the whole world. Pray to Him to save from deadly perils the faithful who celebrate your venerable memory.
4. Victoriously you fought the good fight, O Callinicos. You were given the name signifying triumph, as though in foreknowledge of what was to come. You purified your soul like Leucios in the awesome splendor of the torments you endured. You mocked the impiety of the tyrants, scattering the dark shadows of error with the power of God.

3. The wondrous Thyrces, the wise Callinicos, and the illustrious Leucios confessed the eternal Trinity, while suffering with great constancy. Their cruel pains and the rigors of their torments and their triumph have won them the crown of conquerors. They are now fellow-citizens with the angels in Heaven.
2. The sublime Philemon, the blessed Arrian and the wise Apollonios extinguished the fires offered to idols by the streams of their own blood. They water the whole earth with the divine streams of the knowledge of God. Now they dry up the murky currents of the passions by raining down cures through their divine grace as victorious martyrs.
1. In the fields of the martyrs, beautiful flowers blossom, sending forth the divine fragrance of the Spirit to perfume the hearts of believers who celebrate each year the memory of their struggles, their combat and their blessed end. Because of it, the martyrs were filled with glory and now joyfully dwell in the unfading Light.
- 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 spotless dwelling-place of the great King, O Virgin worthy of all praise, I beg you to purify my soul stained with so many sins, making it an acceptable tabernacle for the Trinity. When your unworthy servant is saved, I shall magnify your power and your great mercy.

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 3*)

1. Your voice has gone forth over the whole world, O holy Apostles. You brought an end to idolatry and proclaimed the knowledge of the one true God. You fought the good fight, O blessed ones, and we sing and glorify your memory.

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. O holy Apostles, you kept the commandments of Christ faultlessly. Freely have you received, and freely have you given, for you heal the passions of our souls and bodies. By the confidence which you have in the presence of God, intercede on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.

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. Sustained by faith and strengthened by hope, Your martyrs were united in spirit by love for Your Cross. They vanquished the tyranny of the enemy. Having received the crown of immortality, they now intercede for our souls together with the bodiless Angels.

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

Theotokion

You are the joy of the divine Angels, the glory of the Apostles, the seal of the prophets, the protectress of believers and the way to salvation. O Virgin, we wish to bow down to honor you.

TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS (*Tone 4*)

Your martyrs, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of their struggles. Armed with Your strength, they have vanquished their persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through their supplications, O Christ God, 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.