

June 20

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Methodios of Patara, Bishop of Olympos and Tyre (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 3)

6. At the prayers of Your divine Apostles, O Lover of Mankind, the only compassionate One, grant peace to Your people and save from all danger the faithful who sing to You and bow down in worship before You.
5. O eye-witnesses of God, deliver me from the arrows of the evil one. Sprinkle the refreshing dew of the Spirit upon my soul which is melting away under the scorching heat of sin, O divine Apostles who fill me with your blessings.
4. Your divine voice has truly gone forth over the whole world; and it has brought light to the nations that lay in darkness. O divine Apostles of the Lord, you have offered as incense to God those who have come to acknowledge Him.

For Methodios (Tone 4)

3. Your memorial radiantly dawns for us, O bishop Methodios, bringing us a model for salvation. Thus today we sing to you, celebrating your struggles and the good fight you fought, through which you vanquished the Enemy despite his clever treachery. You now joyfully bear the crown of victory.

2. By your words, you gave light to the whole Church; and by the light of your struggles, O divine hierarch, you scattered the darkness of the many false gods. Now you dwell forever in the light of the never-setting Sun. Wherefore, radiant with faith, we celebrate today your resplendent festivity.
1. Dying your priestly vestment with the purple of your own blood, you enter jubilantly clothed in it into the Holy of Holies. There you behold the divine splendor of the Trinity, clearly initiated into the mysteries which surpass our understanding, as you are wholly divinized.
- 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

All-pure Palace of the great King, O Virgin all worthy of our hymns: I entreat you to purify my spirit, stained by so many sins. Make it an acceptable dwelling-place for the Trinity, that I, your unworthy servant, may be saved, magnifying your power and 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 METHODIOS (*Tone 4*)

Sharer in the Apostles' way of life and successor on their thrones, inspired by God, you found ascetical effort as the means to contemplation. And so, dispensing rightly the word of truth, you fought for the faith unto the shedding of your blood, O hieromartyr Methodios. Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of 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.

OR TROPARION OF METHODIOS (*Tone 1*)

Your blood cries out from the earth like that of Abel, O wise hierarch, for you clearly preached the divine Incarnation. Thus, like an excellent shepherd, you drove away heresies, like wolves, from the fold, O Methodios, guardian of the Faith.

- 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 1*)

You have borne the fire of the Godhead without being burned; you have given birth to the Lord, the Source of Life, O Theotokos and Woman full of grace! Save those who exalt you.