

July 11

Commemoration of the Holy and Illustrious

Great-Martyr Euphemia

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 6)

6. Having received the heavenly power of the Paraclete, the Apostles of Christ drove back the hordes of the enemy. They put the wise to shame and triumphed over kings, though they were unskilled and unlettered, fighting without shields or weapons, armed only with the Gospel. By the word of truth, they worked wonders and brought the nations to obedience to Christ; and they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
5. For love of You, the glorious Apostles renounced themselves and followed after You wholeheartedly. Taking up their cross in Your footsteps, in obedience to Your command, they abandoned the earth and received Heaven as their inheritance, bringing the nations to knowledge of You, O Lord. Having become Your companions forever, they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
4. Having spent my whole life in negligence, I have come to its end without bearing any fruit, carrying only the painful burden of my evil deeds, O God of all goodness. O Lover of Mankind, blot them out by the power of Your love. Grant me compunction and a saving conversion at the prayers of Your Apostles, O my God, whom I offer to You as intercessors together with the Woman who gave You birth.

For Euphemia (Tone 8)

3. O wondrous marvel! Euphemia, the lamb of the Lord, imitated Him in the pains of her martyrdom by voluntarily submitting to death. Now, although she lies in the tomb, by the power of the Spirit, she makes blood flow from her body. We who have recourse to this fountain for the healing of our souls, sing each day the praises of God.
2. Truly glorious martyr Euphemia, you endured the attacks of wild beasts, as did Daniel of old. By grace, you confronted the fire and laughed at its threat. Suffering all your torments, you receive the crown of victory that will never pass away. You joyfully went forth to the One you loved; thus we glorify you and call you blessed.
1. O wondrous Euphemia, the assembly of the holy fathers placed at the head of your coffin the Symbol of the Faith; you took the document into your hand, having faultlessly kept the faith, thus overthrowing all false doctrine and confounding the defenders of heresy. Thus, we glorify you and call you blessed.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

At the right hand of the Savior stands the virgin martyr, victorious in her struggles, clothed in the invincible mantle of her virtues, adorned with virginal purity, crowned with the blood of her combat. Having filled her lamp with the oil of gladness and cries out to Him: "I have run to the fragrance of Your perfume, O Christ my God; Your love has pierced me. Stay not far from me, O heavenly Bridegroom!" By her prayers, send Your great mercy down upon us, O all-powerful Lord!

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

Theotokion

O Virgin all-worthy of our praise: cast down the murderous power of the Enemy; change the sadness of your people into joy; accept us in your love, that, being saved, we may sing to you!

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 6*)

1. Once when Your Apostles were tossed about on their ship by a storm, they cried aloud: "Master save us, for we are perishing!" And now it is we who cry out: "We entreat You, O Savior, Lover of Mankind, deliver us from all danger!"

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 Lord, Your Apostles touched the very depths of the sea with their nets, then the very heights of the Kingdom by their teaching. By skill they were fishermen who searched the unsounded depths; by faith, they looked into Your infinite heart and preached Your timeless Son to the whole world. At their prayers and those of all Your saints, have mercy on us.

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. O Lord, Your Cross became an invincible weapon for the martyrs. Seeing the death approaching them, and foreseeing the life awaiting them, they were strengthened by their hope in You. At their intercession, have mercy on us.

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

Doxastikon

You who blossomed in virtues and were radiant in your thoughts, now bring a sweet fragrance to the hearts of believers. You rose in the East like a resplendent star and brought together the holy Fathers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. O illustrious Euphemia, ceaselessly intercede with the Lord that He may save our souls!

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

Theotokion

Hail, glory of the Apostles, joy of the Angels in Heaven!
Hail, pride of all and crown of the faithful, O spotless Virgin!

TROPARION OF EUPHEMIA (*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.

OR TROPARION OF EUPHEMIA (*Tone 3*)

You filled the Orthodox with joy and put to shame the supporters of error, O Euphemia, the beautiful virgin of Christ! You gave a seal of approval to the salutary doctrine of the Fourth Ecumenical Council. O glorious Martyr, intercede therefore with Christ God that He may grant us an abundance of 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 OF THURSDAY (*Tone 3*)

The prophets foretold, the apostles taught, the martyrs professed and we have believed that you are indeed the Theotokos. Wherefore we exalt your inexpressible birth-giving.