

August 22

**Eight day of the Dormition;
Commemoration of the holy martyr Agathonicos
and his companions
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Because of the Leavetaking of the Domination on August 23, we sing the Office of Sts. Irenaeus and Luppus today.

Stichera for Agathonicos (Tone 4)

6. Seeking the original Beauty, the Splendor which surpasses all understanding, O Agathonicos, you joyously advanced to your noble sufferings. Struggling with the Enemy, you bravely cast him down and radiantly wove for yourself the crown of victory. Thus, before the Lover of Mankind, you intercede forever for those who sing to your name.
5. Adorned with the wisdom of God, you poured forth the words of life, correcting the foolish, reproofing tyrants, calming the storms of the many idols and granting to the faithful the strength to remain in the grace of God. Thus, enduring the most cruel torments, you entered into the Kingdom on high, wearing your crown.
4. Still bathed in your own blood, shed in your faithful combat, you appeared before the Master as a victim of pleasing fragrance, a pure sacrifice, an acceptable holocaust, a holy offering, a perfect and spotless oblation. By your prayers, you can protect the whole Church of Christ in peace, O martyr Agathonicos.

For Luppus (Tone 4)

3. Through the fervor of the Holy Spirit, the blessed and holy Luppus brought an end to the bitter cold of the many idols; pierced by a sword, he poured out streams of healing and shed grace like dew upon parched souls. O friends of the martyrs, let us celebrate him as a wondrous intercessor and a fervent defender.
2. You hurled the pagan idols into the depths of the waters and amazed those godless men who beheld the wonders you worked by your faith, O blessed martyr. In the midst of them you received a divine outpouring from on high, while in the midst of the angels, God magnified you as a true martyr, a pure jewel.
1. In trying to overcome you, your enemies were torn apart by one another, and they were pierced by the very arrows they aimed at you. They cut down a tree, thinking they were felling you, blind as they were, O blessed martyr; for you were under the protection of the Lord for whom you had chosen to suffer, O companion of the angels, who intercede for us.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 1)

Your name was well chosen, a name of splendid conquerors, O Agathonicos of many combats. Pierced by love of your God, rejecting the error of the tyrant and the falsehood of the idols, you passed to a better life in a wondrous manner. On this day of your radiant memorial, by the boldness which you have before God, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

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

Theotokion (Tone 1)

It was right that the eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word should see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, even the final mystery

concerning her. Thus they might be witnesses not only to the Ascension of the Savior, but also to the Translation of her who gave Him birth. Assembled from all parts by the power of God, they came to Sion, and sped on her way to Heaven the Virgin who is higher than the Cherubim. We also venerate her, for she intercedes for our souls.

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of the day.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. The assembly of the disciples has gathered together to bury the Mother of God. By a sign from the all-powerful Lord, they have come from the ends of the earth.

All: Go up, O Lord, into Your resting place, You and the Ark of Your majesty.

2. The Virgin Queen, the Bride of God, the glory of the elect, the jewel of virginity, is translated from this world to her Son.

All: The Lord has sworn an oath to David, and He will not repent.

3. In a wondrous manner, the choir of disciples is assembled from the ends of the earth to bury your pure body.

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

Doxastikon (*Tone 8*)

Having received a name signifying wondrous treasures, O martyr Agathonikos, you consecrated yourself as a temple to the King of All. Having fought the good fight, you overthrew the power of the terrible Belial. Carrying off the prize, the crown of victory, you stand before God in the heights of Heaven. Do not cease to intercede before Him for those who honor you, O jewel of the martyrs!

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

Theotokion

Today the choirs of virgins form an honor guard in spirit around the funeral bed of the Theotokos. Wishing to escort her, the souls of the Just and Holy Ones come to honor the Mother of the King. The former now bear their purity in place of myrrh; the latter bear their virtues and spiritual hymns. It is fitting that the Theotokos, as a Queen, be accompanied by a royal escort, radiant with virtue. With them, let us also bear the purity of our lives and go forth to bury the Mother of our God, uniting our voices to call her blessed in hymns and spiritual canticles.

TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS (*Tone 4*)

Your martyrs, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of their struggle. 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,

TROPARION OF IRENAEUS (*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 Irenaeus. Intercede with Christ God, for the salvation of our souls.

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

TROPARION OF THE DORMITION (*Tone 1*)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity; and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death.