

October 3

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 2)

6. O Apostles of God, you were seen to be heralds of the Word who appeared on earth. You revealed His salvation to all. You gathered all the nations to lead them to the Faith as you destroyed the strongholds of error. Thus you have rightly received the honors and crowns of victory, O blessed ones!
5. Truly the multitude of Angels in the heights of Heaven celebrated and rejoiced as they saw the divine Apostles boldly and firmly proclaiming the incarnation of the Lord as they said: "Behold, this is our God, who existed before all ages! He has willed to take flesh and become one of us, He who shares the same throne as the Father and the same glory with the Holy Spirit!"
4. O fishermen of the whole world, hasten to free my soul which has been captured by the hook and lures of the enemy. Save me from the danger which I am experiencing in my despair. Grant me strength to bear worthy fruits of repentance, O divine Apostles, that escaping the fires of Gehenna, I may be judged worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

For Dionysios (Tone 1)

3. Since he is the Vessel of Election, when the divine Paul saw you, he wisely caught you in his discourses with the hook of grace and made of you a hierarch and seer of ineffable secrets. Intercede together with him, O divine preacher, holy Dionysios, for the salvation of those who sing to you with love.

2. O father Dionysios, having become equal to the angels in dignity through the virtue of your spirit, you described in your sacred books the beautiful, heavenly order of the ranks of angels. And following it, you arranged the assembly of the Church in imitation of the order existing in Heaven.
1. As a friend of wisdom, to the point of coming to resemble God as closely as possible, O blessed Dionysios, you mystically explained the divine Names. Initiated as you were by union with God in the mysteries that surpass all understanding, you taught them to the ends of the earth.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 2)

Come, O faithful, let us celebrate in one choir the annual memorial of the divine hierarchs, Dionysios and Cyprian: the first, renouncing the philosophy of the Stoics for the teaching of the "Vessel of Election," opened himself to the knowledge of the mysteries which cannot be expressed. The other, illumined in his spirit by Justina, the all-beauteous virgin, escaped the snares of the demon. Having burned in the fire all his books of magic, he became a herald of the Gospel. Thus, we sinners, glorifying Him who glorified them, sing to the Savior: "You crown Your victorious martyrs with glory; by their prayers, save our souls, O Christ our God!"

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

Theotokion

All creation cries out to you: "Hail, all-holy Virgin, scepter of David, who produced the mystical Grapes! Hail, O gate of Heaven and unconsumed burning bush! Hail, O Light of all! Hail, O happiness of all and glory of

the Apostles, refuge and protection of your faithful servants!"

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O Savior, You exalted the names of Your chief Apostles throughout the whole world: they were instructed in the ineffable mysteries of heaven; they became a source of healing for those on earth; their shadow alone was enough to heal the sick. The first wonderworker was once a fisherman; the second, who explained the divine mysteries of grace, was chosen from the Jews. At their prayers, O compassionate God, grant us Your great mercy.

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. Assailed unjustly on every side, we take refuge in You, O God of truth, and call out to You with the words of Your Disciples: "Save us, O Lord, for we are perishing!" We entreat You to show our enemies that You people and save them from all danger. At the protect Your Your Apostles, pardon the multitude of our sins in Your prayers of great goodness: O Lord and Master, glory to You!

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. Great is the glory which you acquired through your faith. You not only overcame the enemy in your sufferings, but devils and heal the sick, O physicians you still cast out of souls and bodies. O holy martyrs, intercede with God that He have mercy on our souls.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

We wish to call you the unfathomable depth of heavenly wisdom, O witness of Christ, resplendent in light. We sing to you as a firm defender, a champion of the church; for, radiant with the purest illumination, you merited to be clothed in Christ, the cloak of light, and to shine with the splendor of the divine Spirit, in the company of the heavenly hosts. We celebrate your festive memorial throughout the world, O Dionysios, and in faith we glorify the Lord who glorified you.

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

Theotokion

By your divine intercession, deliver me from all affliction, need and dark danger, as well as from all temptations of evil men who provoke me, and from the demons who daily seek the downfall of him who has chosen you as a protectress, O Mother of God.

TROPARION OF DIONYSIOS (*Tone 4*)

O holy hieromartyr Dionysios, master of gentleness, measured in all things, clothed with a straight conscience as befits a priest: you drew ineffable truths from the Vessel of Election. You have kept the faith and completed a course equal to his. Intercede with Christ God 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 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.