

# October 24

## Commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr Arethas and His Companions

(5th Class)

### VESPERS

*Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 5)*

6. O Apostles, you are like sharpened arrows sent forth throughout the whole world by the Mighty One. You swiftly and wisely blunted all the terrible fiery darts of the demons as you banished idolatry and taught the faith to all. You made them sheep of the flock of Christ our God, the true Chief Shepherd, who sent you forth, O blessed ones, into the midst of wolves, so that you could tame their fierceness by means of the Faith.
5. Disciples of the Incarnate Word, who dwelt among men in the greatness of His love and truly assumed their nature in order to deify it, you wisely followed in His divine footsteps. You imitated His poverty, counting all things as loss. Renouncing even a second tunic, you took neither a staff nor traveling bag on your way; and now, O glorious Apostles, you rejoice in your inheritance of the treasures of Heaven.
4. By your intercession before the Lord, O blessed Apostles, deliver us from the storm of temptations, the fatal babbling of unholy heresies, the evil intent of the demons, the cruelty of wicked men, tempests and storms, the gnashing of teeth and every other punishment. Entreat Him that by our abstinence and labors, we may acquire the reward of virtue, the inheritance of the Kingdom and great mercy!

*For Arethas (Tone 1)*

3. O Arethas, illustrious martyr, to the cruelty of the Hebrews, you opposed your constancy; and by divine

grace, you carried off the victory. You led a whole troop of martyrs to Christ, formed of all ages and races.

2. Illustrious Arethas, having formed a melodious choir with your companions in holy martyrdom, you fought the good fight along with them. You struggled with courage to the very end: entreat Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy.
1. Young maidens, inflamed with love for Jesus Christ, forgot the weakness of their bodies. Strengthened by the power of God, they crushed underfoot the error of the enemy without fearing the pain of the torments; and the fire of the furnace did not terrify them.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 4)*

O faithful, with one heart, let us venerate today in hymns the chief shepherd, the illustrious Arethas, and all his companions with him. For he checkmated the evil tyrant and poured forth his blood in witness to Christ. Then a cloud of fire arose on the face of the earth, denouncing the workers of iniquity and their impiety. Thus, O Christ our God, who give Your martyrs the strength to glorify You, save us from trials and affliction through the prayers of Your saints.

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

*Theotokion*

Wash away the stain from my poor heart, O Theotokos all-worthy of our hymns; purify the wounds and sores caused by sin; strengthen my wavering spirit, that in my misery, I your useless servant, may magnify your powerful and sovereign protection.

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

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 5*)

1. O disciples of the Savior, witnesses of the mysteries of Christ, You proclaimed the One who cannot be seen and who has no beginning, as you said: "In the beginning was the Word!" You were not created before the Angels; nor were you taught by men, but by the Wisdom from on high. Therefore, since you have confidence, we entreat you to intercede for our souls in the presence of the Lord.

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. In melodious hymns, let us sing to the Apostles of the Lord: armed with the Cross, they brought an end to the error of idolatry and are seen to wear the crown of victory. At their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord!

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. In your unshakable resolve, you never denied Christ, O holy martyrs, as you endured the most terrible torments. You triumphed over the arrogance of the tyrants and kept the faith, whole and entire, as you passed from earth to Heaven. By the confidence you have in the presence of God, pray that He grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

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

*Doxastikon* (*Tone 8*)

Knowing the perversity, the lack of faith and the malevolence of the Hebrews, you fought the good fight and witnessed to Christ with a bold spirit. Just as under

the old law they had angered in the desert Him who had saved them from Egypt and condemned Him to a Cross, so again they broke their word by their action against you. But having struggled with one heart, with courage and constancy, you showed yourselves to be wondrous martyrs. By the boldness which you have before God, ask Him to wipe away the multitude of our sins.

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

*Theotokion*

O Lady, snatch me from the grip of the dragon, that murderer who fights me as though he wishes to swallow me whole; break his jaws, I entreat you, and put an end to his treacherous cunning. Thus, delivered from his claws and fangs, I may magnify your sovereign power.

**TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS** (*Tone 1*)

Regard the sufferings which Your holy Martyrs have endured for Your sake; and heal all our sufferings, we beg You, O loving Lord.

**OR TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS** (*Tone 1*)

Opposing the evil ruler, after the example of Christ, this martyr reproached his lack of faith. He acted with courage, and suffered torture and death. For this the angels praise you, O Arethas, and those who suffered with you. All generations of the faithful bless you as a sure intercessor for 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 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.