

# October 31

**Commemoration of the Holy Apostles  
Stachys, Appelles, Amplias, Urban, Aristobulos and  
Narcissos, Counted Among the Seventy;  
and of the Holy Martyr Epimakios of Egypt  
(5th Class)**

## VESPERS

*Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 1)*

6. O glorious Apostles of the Lord, your message of salvation has gone forth over the whole world, making grace shine in all hearts and scattering the darkness of error. Intercede that our souls be given peace and great mercy.
5. Stachys, the blessed preacher, the Apostle of Christ, the wondrous Apelles, Aristobulos and Urban, Amplias and the divine Narcissos, announced the All-Holy Trinity; they enlightened the nations in order to save them from captivity. We the faithful call them blessed.
4. O shining lights, all-pure vessels of Jesus Christ, by faith you received all the light of the Spirit. O pillars of the Church, illustrious heavens proclaiming the glory of God, intercede before Him that our souls be given peace and great mercy.

*For Epimakios (Tone 4)*

3. Having desired the beauty of Heaven, you did not value the passing glory here below. Having lived like an angel in the flesh, you patiently endured - like the bodiless powers - the many torments with which the executioners afflicted you, O glorious Epimakios.

2. You exult in the mansions of Heaven and rejoice in the glory of the Master of all. O thrice-blessed Epimakios, intercede before Him for us who venerate your memory, that with the angels we may taste the eternal delights and the never-ending happiness.
1. O holy martyr Epimakios, you appear as a shining light to those once held in the shadows of ignorance; you enlighten them with your holy teachings. Then having fought the good fight for Christ, you received the crown of victory.
- 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*

O Virgin, grant me conversion of life; make me pass from the search for pleasure to the state of dispassion and ineffable reconciliation with God. Grant that my soul may pour forth the sweet tears of compunction in abundance.

*"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, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion*

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of Life: wherefore we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the Apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

**TROPARION OF THE APOSTLES** (*Tone 3*)

O holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**TROPARION OF EPIMAKIOS** (*Tone 4*)

Your martyr, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of his struggle. Armed with Your strength he has vanquished his persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through his supplications, O Christ God, save our souls!

- 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.