

November 7

Commemoration of the Thirty-Three Holy Martyrs of Melitene; and of our Venerable Father Lazaros the Wonderworker, Hermit of Mount Galesius

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Martyrs (Tone 4)

6. A flock brought together by God to form a sacred troop, a divine assembly, a holy people, an inspired host of martyrs, an unbreakable line of shields, an all-comely army: thus have you appeared, O wondrous soldiers, citizens of the City on high. As is fitting, we call you blessed!
5. United on their memorial, let us all venerate Nicander, Athanasios, Hesychios, Mamas and the divine Barachios, Callinicos, Theogenes and Longinos, Theodochos, Valerios, Ostrychios, Callimacos, Theodore and Nikon, Eugene, Theodulos and Xanthias.
4. With harmonious voices, let us sing in faith of the true witnesses: the noble Hieron, the wondrous Epiphanius, Maximian, Theophilos, Dulcitos and Anicetos, Theodotos, Gigantos the divine, Eutychios, Dorotheos, Castricios, Themelios and Claudian.

For Lazaros (Tone 6)

3. Having completely renounced the irrational passions and submitted the flesh to the spirit, O venerable Lazaros, you became a model of virtue, the joy of ascetics, a support for monks, the adornment of the holy fathers. Now that you reflect the ineffable splendor of the Creator, you taste the beauties of Heaven in your spirit. Thus, in our hymns and chants, we all celebrate your holy and sacred memory.

2. Having cast off all material burdens together with the pleasures of the flesh and all desire for earthly possessions, you set out on the road to the City on high. You rose effortlessly in your ascent to the heights of virtue, where you won the battle in a material body over the bodiless Enemy. Thus, O father Lazaros, you have joined the choirs of bodiless angels where you intercede for our souls.
1. Having left the world and renounced the flesh, O venerable father Lazaros, and banishing the very idea of satisfying the passions, you became a faithful observer of the precepts of the Lord, which you kept in a wondrous way. Thus, He took up His dwelling in you, together with the Father and the Spirit; and he granted you an abundance of heavenly charisms, making you the author of amazing miracles and the fervent protector of all the afflicted.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 5)

O venerable father, you gave no sleep to your eyes nor any repose to your eyelids until you had freed your soul and body of all passions, to the point that you were prepared as a tabernacle for the Holy Spirit. For Christ came to dwell in you together with the Father. Having become the servant of the consubstantial Trinity, which you preached with a loud voice, O Lazaros, you now intercede before God for us.

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

Theotokion

I am plunged into the darkness of disaster. Send your radiance upon me, O Virgin Mary, who have conceived in the flesh and given birth to the divine Light. Draw me up quickly from the pit of despair; set my feet firmly on the rock of the true faith. Bring to justice the demons

who constantly make war upon me. Make haste to calm the pain in my heart, O hope of all the ends of the earth, who bring great mercy to the world.

“O Joyful Light...” Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 7*)

1. O wondrous Apostles, pillars of the Church, heralds of the truth and beacons of light: you consumed all the stubble of error in the fire of the Spirit, enlightening the whole human race. Entreat the Savior, our God, to grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

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 Apostles of Christ, laborers of the Savior, you took up the Cross on your shoulders like a plough. You cleansed the barren earth of the weeds of error and idolatry and sowed it with the word of Faith. Thus, as is right, we venerate you, O holy Apostles of Christ our God.

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 martyrs worthy of all praise, you were living sacrifices, spiritual holocausts, offerings acceptable to Christ our God. Though the earth may not have covered you in burial, the heavens received you. You have become fellow-citizens with the Angels. Join with them in interceding with the Savior to grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

Venerable father Lazaros, the whole world is filled with the fame of your holy deeds. Through them you have received the recompense of your labors in Heaven. You destroyed hordes of demons and have been united to the choirs of angels, whose pure lives you imitated. By your boldness with Christ our God, ask peace for our souls.

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

Theotokion

O Lady, I lift up the eyes of my heart to you. Do not despise the poverty of my sighs; but at the hour when the world will be judged by your Son, be a refuge, help and shelter for me.

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!

OR TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS *(Tone 3)*

Recruited by the Spirit of God, you formed a triumph-winning troop, O victorious Athletes of the Savior, worthy of all praise. United in heart, you drove back the Enemy as you bore witness. Entreat the Most High Trinity to grant us great mercy.

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

TROPARION OF LAZAROS *(Tone 8)*

In your night-long prayers, you wept streams of tears upon your pillar, and your deep sighing made your labor fruitful a hundredfold. You became a shepherd, granting pardon to all who draw near to you, holy father Lazaros. Pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

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

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 8*)

O Pure Theotokos, Gate of Spiritual Life, save from dangers those who run to you with confidence to glorify your holy birth-giving for the salvation of our souls.