

January 23

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra; and of the Holy Martyr Agathangel

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for Clement (Tone 2)

6. You were a branch on the Vine of Life, dug about on all sides by your mystic labors. Pruned by the hardships of asceticism, cut back by the sword of martyrdom, O holy father, you poured forth the wine of repentance for us. Drinking of it to the full, we the faithful celebrate your holy memory, O blessed Clement.
5. O holy hierarch, after offering the perfect Sacrifice, the wondrous and divine Oblation, you offered yourself as a sacrifice, joyfully mingling your blood with that of the Lord. Cleansed by Him, O blessed one, you became pure, wholly and perfectly consecrated.
4. You offered in sacrifice the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, removing corruption and death, O blessed and holy hierarch. Then you were immolated as a spotless victim, becoming one with Him through a death like His, which led to life. Now you have found merited blessedness in His Kingdom.

For Agathangel (Tone 4)

3. The illustrious hierarch Clement enriched you with the Good News, and you became his companion in his struggles. With him, you ran the holy race to the end, O Agathangel, suffering all sorts of punishments. You received the crown at last and passed into the Kingdom on high, there to rejoice with the angels for all ages.

2. Scourged by sharp instruments and burned on all sides by fire, you were laid out on a rack, O martyr Agathangel. Baked like good bread, you were offered to the heavenly table where you beg the Master to save from all punishment those who venerate you with faith.
1. You withstood flaying; and, extended on the rack, you endured your sufferings with an infinite patience. At the end of your struggle, when you were beheaded, you poured forth your blood, watering the whole Church, which celebrates your illustrious renown as the glory of martyrs by your hardships.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

O martyr and hierarch Clement, for twenty-eight years you suffered a veritable crucifixion for Christ. Beaten by rods, cut, you were dragged from town to town, from place to place. But neither fire, nor sword, nor blows could rob your soul of its strength. You bravely broke the power of the demons. Thus, we beg you to intercede with Christ for the salvation of our souls.

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

Theotokion

O Lady, snatch me from the grip of the dragon, that murderer, who struggles to swallow me alive. Break his jaws, I beg you: put an end to his perfidious snares, so that, delivered from his claws and fangs, I may magnify your sovereign power.

"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 protect Your people and save them from all danger. At the prayers of Your Apostles, pardon the multitude of our sins in Your 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 you still cast out devils and heal the sick, O physicians 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 1)

Wonderful among the priests, the holy martyr Clement endured long years of suffering. He merited to obtain the joy of eternal blessings. The one who followed his

example entered into countless struggles for the faith, acquiring divine riches by making his body have more regard for Heaven than for death. O holy martyr, we sing of your grandeur; by your intercessions before Christ, break the continuous assaults of our passions; and deliver us from all evil through your prayers.

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

Theotokion

With the staff of your protection, O pure Theotokos, chase the bestial passions far from my poor soul and lead me toward life in peace, joining me to the holy flock of the chosen sheep.

TROPARION OF CLEMENT (*Tone 4*)

Clement most holy, you are for the faithful a vineyard of holiness, a rod of valiance, a flower of purity and a fruit of great delight that God has granted. Since you struggled together with the martyrs and rose to the dignity of a bishop, intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls.

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

TROPARION OF AGATHANGEL (*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.