

# July 10

## Commemoration of the Forty-five Holy Martyrs of Nicopolis in Armenia

(5th Class)

### VESPERS

*Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 3)*

6. At the prayers of Your divine Apostles, O Lover of Mankind, the only compassionate One, grant peace to Your people and save from all danger the faithful who sing to You and bow down in worship before You.
5. O eye-witnesses of God, deliver me from the arrows of the evil one. Sprinkle the refreshing dew of the Spirit upon my soul which is melting away under the scorching heat of sin, O divine Apostles who fill me with your blessings.
4. Your divine voice has truly gone forth over the whole world; and it has brought light to the nations that lay in darkness. O divine Apostles of the Lord, you have offered as incense to God those who have come to acknowledge Him.

*For the Martyrs (Tone 1)*

3. O wondrous martyrs, although broken and crushed by the stones, you did not deny Christ, the Cornerstone which never falters. By grace, you became trophy-bearers and now exult in the choir of angels. Together with them, ask the Lord to grant our souls peace and great mercy.
2. O victorious martyrs, you were imprisoned together because you kept the saving precepts of God. Consumed by thirst, you were refreshed in spirit by a dew sent down from above. Standing now in Heaven, ask the Lord to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

1. Invincible martyrs, desiring the true life which endures forever, you joyfully endured an evil judgment and an unjust sentence of death. You now exult in the company of the martyrs. Together with them, ask the Lord to grant our souls peace and great mercy.
- 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*

I am constantly the prey of many evils. Wretched as I am, where can I take refuge, unless in you, O Lady, my only help and the hope of the hopeless? Bride of God, do not despise your servant, unworthy as I am, O prompt helper of the afflicted.

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

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 3*)

1. Your voice has gone forth over the whole world, O holy Apostles. You brought an end to idolatry and proclaimed the knowledge of the one true God. You fought the good fight, O blessed ones, and we sing and glorify your memory.

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 holy Apostles, you kept the commandments of Christ faultlessly. Freely have you received, and freely have you given, for you heal the passions of our souls and bodies. By the confidence which you have in the presence of God, intercede on our behalf for the salvation of our souls.

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. Sustained by faith and strengthened by hope, Your martyrs were united in spirit by love for Your Cross. They vanquished the tyranny of the enemy. Having received the crown of immortality, they now intercede for our souls together with the bodiless Angels.

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*

You are the joy of the divine Angels, the glory of the Apostles, the seal of the prophets, the protectress of believers and the way to salvation. O Virgin, we wish to bow down to honor you.

**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.

- 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.