

# July 24

## Commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr Christina (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 Christina (Tone 4)*

3. Enlightening your pure heart with His divine knowledge, O blessed martyr Christina, the Lord

delivered you from the deep darkness of error, for He is the radiant Sun of Justice. Thus, you shattered the false, evil idols as you bravely imitated the sufferings of Christ in your body.

2. Patiently enduring sufferings in the flesh, O Christina, you passed to that blessedness where there is no pain nor sorrow. There, in splendid beauty, as a chosen bride of the heavenly King, O illustrious saint, remember all those who celebrate your memory with faith, that we may find mercy and the remission of all evils.
1. As a bride, adorned with the carving of your very flesh, you were robed in the brilliant purple of your own blood. Clothed in that splendid wedding garment, O martyr Christina, you exult before Christ, your Bridegroom, rejoicing in deification with all the virgins and martyrs.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 2)*

As though you were an alabaster vase filled with perfume, O invincible Christina, you poured forth your blood for Christ, your Bridegroom. But you received the incorruptible crown from Him in return, O martyr all-worthy of our praise. By calling upon the Holy Spirit, and by your word, you restored life to the one who had been bitten by venomous serpents. Thus, in the heavenly mansions, you have been welcomed by the Lover of Mankind, Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

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

*Theotokion*

Save your servants from all danger, O Mother of God; for in you, after God, we have our shelter, our refuge, our unshakable 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 2*)

By your deeds, you truly conformed yourself to the name of Christ, which you bore. Becoming His bride in virginal purity, by the good will of the Father and with

the help of the Holy Spirit, you shone more brightly than the sun in your perseverance as you struggled in martyrdom. Thus, you were offered at the heavenly altar as a pure and spotless victim, exulting throughout the ages in the choir of virgins and martyrs. Together with them, O Christina, entreat the Lord, whose name you bear, to grant peace and great mercy to those who honor you.

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

*Theotokion*

Hail, O you who were once foreseen by the prophet as a sealed gate which could only be opened by the Creator of all! Hail, O good news and new wonder, golden vessel containing the heavenly Manna! Hail, only hope and refuge for Christians, powerful helper for your humble servants!

**TROPARION OF CHRISTINA** (*Tone 4*)

Your ewe-lamb, O Jesus, cries out to You in a loud voice: "O my Bridegroom, I long for You and I struggle in my quest for You. I am crucified with You and buried with You in Your Baptism. I suffer for Your sake in order to reign with You; I die for You in order to live with You." Accept her as an immaculate victim, since she is immolated for Your love. Through her intercession, O Merciful One, 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.