

September 4

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Babylas, Bishop of Antioch; the Holy Prophet Moses (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for Babylas (Tone 6)

6. Dying your sacred vestments in your own blood, you were sanctified, O illustrious Babylas, and thus entered into the Holy of Holies. You rejoice now forever in the presence of God, radiant with beauty in your martyrdom, sharing the life of the angels in all purity. Thus we venerate you, celebrating your holy solemnity with love, O blessed hierarch.
5. Bound by iron chains, you unswervingly followed the path leading to the heavenly city, O venerable hierarch Babylas, adorned with your wounds as with precious jewels. There, as a true conqueror, an invincible martyr, a holy priest, you sing with the angels the pure and holy hymn: "Holy, holy, holy are You, O Consubstantial Trinity!"
4. At the head of your spiritual flock, O venerable hierarch Babylas, you led them to safe pastures of the Faith in the depth of your wisdom. You protected them from the beasts, delighting in the Most High God, your Shepherd, whom you preached before the impious, O blessed one, rejoicing to be immolated as a spotless lamb in the company of innocent children. With them, you were offered as a victim of pleasing fragrance in a whole-burnt offering.

For Moses (Tone 4)

3. In the storm, you contemplated, insofar as it was possible, the Bodiless One. In the cloud, you saw the Immaterial One; the divine glory made you radiant in

God, and that enabled you to penetrate the mysteries of God, but grace was given to those who wished the things above.

2. For the people who awaited the Lord, you were a priest according to the Law, O Moses, a valiant general for their armies, striking Egypt with blows, dividing the Red Sea with your staff, drowning the base and arrogant Pharaoh with his troops. And, despite their ingratitude, you led and nourished Israel in the desert.
1. "Moses, make haste to remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. Do not wear that garb, for their leather is symbolic of having been put to death. Behold, in the burning bush you see the wondrous mystery of the virginal handmaid of God." Thus spoke the Lord to Moses on Mount Horeb.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

The Church holds your holy struggles to be a support and foundation, O hieromartyr Babylas: you keep it protected, a refuge from the ravenous wolves, as it proclaims your sublime accomplishments and magnifies together with you the infants immolated for Christ in your company, O blessed one.

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

Theotokion

Since you have no compunction, impenitent soul, why do you delay? Death is approaching to carry you off, the end arrives unexpectedly like a thief. Hasten to bow before the Mother of God.

"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,

Doxastikon (*Tone 6*)

Fighting for the faith before the tribunal of the tyrant, you cried out, "Here I am, with the children which God has given me!" You were crowned together with them in the heavens, O hieromartyr Babylas, and you ceaselessly intercede before God that our souls be saved from the snare of the enemy.

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

Theotokion

All-pure Virgin, implore the King of All, the Creator whom you bore, to have pity on me, your servant, at the hour in which He comes to judge mankind.

TROPARION OF BABYLAS (*Tone 4*)

Sharer in the Apostles' way of life and successor on their thrones, inspired by God, you found ascetical effort as the means to contemplation. And so, dispensing rightly the word of truth, you fought for the faith unto the shedding of your blood. O hieromartyr Babylas. Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

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

TROPARION OF MOSES (*Tone 2*)

We celebrate the memory of Your prophet Moses; and though him, we implore You, O Lord: Save our souls.

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

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 2*)

O Theotokos and Virgin forever, through you we have been made to share the divine nature: you have given birth for us to the Incarnate God. Wherefore we all exalt you with great devotion.