

September 25

Commemoration of our Venerable Mother Euphrosyne (5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 6)

6. Having received the heavenly power of the Paraclete, the Apostles of Christ drove back the hordes of the enemy. They put the wise to shame and triumphed over kings, though they were unskilled and unlettered, fighting without shields or weapons, armed only with the Gospel. By the word of truth, they worked wonders and brought the nations to obedience to Christ; and they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
5. For love of You, the glorious Apostles renounced themselves and followed after You wholeheartedly. Taking up their cross in Your footsteps, in obedience to Your command, they abandoned the earth and received Heaven as their inheritance, bringing the nations to knowledge of You, O Lord. Having become Your companions forever, they now boldly intercede on behalf of our souls.
4. Having spent my whole life in negligence, I have come to its end without bearing any fruit, carrying only the painful burden of my evil deeds, O God of all goodness. O Lover of Mankind, blot them out by the power of Your love. Grant me compunction and a saving conversion at the prayers of Your Apostles, O my God, whom I offer to You as intercessors together with the Woman who gave You birth.

For Euphrosyne (Tone 5)

3. O Mother Euphrosyne, venerable and worthy of all admiration, for love of Him who is our joy, you set out on the road leading to Him. You exchanged your wealth for

the greatest poverty, your earthly betrothed for the One who lives throughout all the ages; and by temperance, you exchanged the passing delights of life for those that last forever. The difficulties of asceticism became your repose, and a transcendent life replaced that of this world. You hastened toward it, in company with the wise virgins who had their lamps ready, meriting, as a virgin and bride of Christ, to enter with Him into the bridal chamber.

2. You watered your soul with your tears, and by asceticism brought forth the fruits of the virtues. You bore beautiful clusters of grapes, like a fruitful vine. Fill us with their divine wine; sharpen our spiritual senses to imitate you, so that, exulting with divine joy, we may overcome the drunkenness of sin and cry to you, "O venerable Euphrosyne, ceaselessly pray to Christ to grant the world peace, harmony and great mercy.
1. O strange sight that nature cannot comprehend! How could you forget the deadly machinations which Eve used to submit to the ancient Tempter, in order to dwell among men in the perfection of your spirit? How could you pass through the midst of flames without being burned? How could you hide your womanly frailty? Surely it was by taking strength from the power of God, who assumed our frailty and was born of a Virgin without the aid of man. You exult now with the angels in Heaven; O Euphrosyne, intercede with Him to grant the world peace, harmony and great mercy.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 2)

Faultlessly keeping the pure treasure of your virginity while living in a community of men, O Euphrosyne, you became a bride of Christ, dimming your passing bodily attractiveness through the labors of asceticism; but grace adorned your soul with a most wondrous beauty. Hiding

your womanhood under the guise of a man, you forgot the snares of Belial and lived like an angel on earth. Pray for peace for all those who wholeheartedly acclaim you, who were named for joy.

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

Theotokion

Hail, O star as bright as the sun! Hail, all-pure cause of all good! Hail, O you who offer a place to the infinite God, you who make the harvest of immortal life come forth! Hail, O shining gate and divine chariot! Hail, O Virgin who abolished the ancestral curse, gaining the eternal blessing for us!

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 6*)

1. Once when Your Apostles were tossed about on their ship by a storm, they cried aloud: "Master save us, for we are perishing!" And now it is we who cry out: "We entreat You, O Savior, Lover of Mankind, deliver us from all danger!"

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 Lord, Your Apostles touched the very depths of the sea with their nets, then the very heights of the Kingdom by their teaching. By skill they were fishermen who searched the unsounded depths; by faith, they looked into Your infinite heart and preached Your timeless Son to the whole world. At their prayers and those of all Your saints, have mercy on us.

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 Lord, Your Cross became an invincible weapon for the martyrs. Seeing the death approaching them, and foreseeing the life awaiting them, they were strengthened by their hope in You. At their intercession, have mercy on us.

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

O Theotokos, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of Life: wherefore we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the Apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

TROPARION OF EUPHROSYNE (*Tone 8*)

In you, O Mother Euphrosyne, was restored the likeness of God, for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away, and how to value the soul, for it is immortal. Wherefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

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 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.