

October 9

**Commemoration of the Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus;
of our Venerable Father Andronicos and his wife Athanasia;
and of the Just Patriarch Abraham and his nephew Lot**

(4th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for James (Tone 4)

6. With divine grace as a net, O wondrous James, you fished up mortals from the sea of vain illusions. In this you obeyed the command of the Master who filled your soul with light and made of you an Apostle, O blessed one, a sacred preacher of His inaccessible Divinity.
5. The Light of the Spirit came upon you in the form of fire, making you a divine instrument, O blessed Apostle James, to drive away the darkness of godlessness as you filled the world with the light of your wise words, O eye witness of Christ.
4. The radiance of your teaching brought light to those who lay in the darkness of error, O illustrious Apostle James. By faith you made them children of the Master, our God, whose suffering and death you imitated, and whose glory you inherited as a true disciple and preacher of His Divinity.

For Andronicos and Athanasia (Tone 6)

3. Having renounced the tyranny of this life, abjuring wealth, and holding passing pleasures to be of no account, you took up the Cross, that divine yoke, and you followed Christ in order to dwell wondrously in the verdant fields of Heaven. In your common joy, O Andronicos and Athanasia, remember us, the faithful, who commemorate your august, sacred memory and celebrate it wholeheartedly.
2. Having cherished You with their whole soul, O Lord, the holy couple, all-worthy of our praise, hastened to follow after You. Like a spider-web, they broke the indissoluble chain with all its allurements. Thus they found Your Kingdom, O Immortal Christ. By their prayers, O God of love grant me pardon for my sins and make me triumph over the passions which assail my soul each day.

1. By divine disposition, O Andronicos and Athanasia, you were separated from your two beloved children. Dwelling without consolation in this life, you repeated the courageous saying of Job: "The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away!" Then it was easy for you to fulfill the work which you had at heart: you both joyously departed to the wilderness and the holy places.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

Having received the grace of the divine Spirit, O holy James, you were numbered among the apostles in their sacred band. Filled with the Spirit by the tongues of fire when the violent wind descended from Heaven on high, you set on fire the thorns of the pagans. O holy apostle, pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

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

Theotokion

O Mother of God, because of you, David the Prophet became an ancestor of God. He foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise to you and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you: "The Queen stood at Your right hand." God revealed you as a life-giving mother when He chose to be incarnate of you without a father; He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted. He found the lost sheep in the mountains, carried it on His shoulders, offered it to the Father, generously numbered it among the Powers of Heaven and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

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

APOSTICHA (Tone 4)

1. O holy apostle, you received invincible strength over the demons and the power to expel the prince of demons in the name of Christ. Like the sun, you coursed over the whole earth, illuminating it. You taught all lands, O illustrious James, as you preached the first coming of the Savior.

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. Imitating the supreme Good, that life led by our God in human nature, O apostle James, by communion with your Master, you were a good man, filled with divine grace. By the excellence of your life and the purity of your spirit, it revealed you to be a chosen disciple for Christ.

All: The heavens proclaim the glory of God and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

3. Having become an instrument played harmoniously under the divine action of the Spirit, O holy James, you were commissioned to call the nations to the knowledge of Christ, and to transform the whole world by your words and deeds. You enlightened it that it might confess the true divinity of Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 5)

With faith we celebrate your sacred feast, O illustrious James, commemorating not the son of Alphaeus, but the apostle of Christ, the herald of His ineffable incarnation. You exult ceaselessly before the throne of the Lord with the angels, apostles and martyrs. Hasten to fervently entreat the Savior, our God, for our salvation.

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

Theotokion

You became a temple, a palace, a door and a throne of the King, O Virgin most venerable through whom Christ the Lord appeared as the Sun of justice, our Savior, who willed to light the way of those stumbling in darkness, those stumbling in darkness, those He fashioned in His likeness with His own hands. We beseech you, O Woman most worthy of praise, since you have upon Him the power of a Mother: never cease to intercede for the salvation of our souls.

TROPARION OF JAMES (Tone 3)

O holy Apostle James, intercede with the merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

TROPARION OF ANDRONICOS (*Tone 1*)

You appeared as a citizen of the wilderness, an angel in the flesh and a wonderworker, our God-inspired Father Andronicos. By fasting, vigils and prayer, you received heavenly gifts. You cure the sick and the souls of those who run to you in faith. Glory to him who gave you this power! Glory to Him who crowned you! Glory to Him who through you performs healings for all!

OR TROPARION OF ANDRONICOS (*Tone 5*)

You adorned your divinely-woven robe of chastity with the wondrous colors of the virtues found in God when you both embraced the ascetic life. Wherefore, your silence on earth was received as praise like the Trisagion Hymn in Heaven. O wise Andronicos, with Athanasia, pray to God for the salvation of us all.

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

TROPARION OF ABRAHAM (*Tone 5*)

In the night of universal ignorance of God, in that starless, profound gloom lacking the light of Heaven, O Abraham, you were placed in the firmament as a lamp burning with bright, far-shining faith in the Everlasting Light who shone forth for us from your seed. Entreat Him now with fervor to enlighten and save us all.

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

THEOTOKION OF THURSDAY (*Tone 5*)

The Virgin's wondrous mystery was the salvation revealed to the world, for You, O Lord, were born of her without human seed, and You appeared in the flesh without corruption, O Joy of us all! O Lord, glory to You!