

# November 27

## Commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr James the Persian (5th Class)

### VESPERS

*Stichera for the Apostles (Tone 7)*

6. The voice of the holy Apostles has gone forth to the limits of the whole inhabited world. O Lord, glory to You!
5. You are truly the fragrance of the Word of God, O blessed Apostles: pour out upon me the fragrance of the Spirit.
4. You are citizens of the heavenly homeland: teach me to think heavenly thoughts and to speak words in keeping with the will of God.

*For James (Tone 2)*

3. Renouncing earthly delights, your noble birth, your wealth and well-being, renouncing even your body which was cut to pieces, you followed Christ with joy, O holy James. Since you took part in His sufferings in truth, you share His glory and Kingdom forever.
2. Enduring the intolerable pain of the torturers cutting off the members of your body, O admirable witness of Christ, you courageously trampled on the cruelty of the tyrants. As a conqueror, you received the precious crown which you now wear, O blessed James, with the other martyrs before the throne of your Master and Lord.
1. Through the boldness which you possess before Christ, illustrious martyr, be the fervent protector of the faithful celebrating your venerable feast. Save them from all danger; drive away their passions; by your divine intercession, grant their souls mercy, that we may glorify your splendid struggles.
- 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*

All-holy Bride of God, you alone bore in your womb, without confining Him, the God whom no space can contain, when He became man in His goodness. Thus I entreat you to drive away the evils that encompass me on all sides. Following the right road directly, may I arrive at Him who leads us to life!

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

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 7*)

1. O wondrous Apostles, pillars of the Church, heralds of the truth and beacons of light: you consumed all the stubble of error in the fire of the Spirit, enlightening the whole human race. Entreat the Savior, our God, to grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

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 Apostles of Christ, laborers of the Savior, you took up the Cross on your shoulders like a plough. You cleansed the barren earth of the weeds of error and idolatry and sowed it with the word of Faith. Thus, as is right, we venerate you, O holy Apostles of Christ our God.

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 martyrs worthy of all praise, you were living sacrifices, spiritual holocausts, offerings acceptable to Christ our God. Though the earth may not have covered you in burial, the heavens received you. You have become fellow-citizens with the Angels. Join with them in interceding with the Savior to grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

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

*Doxastikon (Tone 5)*

You worked wonders, O holy James, as you patiently endured all your torments: they cut off your fingers, hands and arms, as well as your legs. Then, as you prayed, they beheaded you. O martyr who suffered so greatly, do not cease to intercede that Christ take pity on our souls!

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

*Theotokion*

Hail, O Beauty of Jacob, whom God has chosen and cherished, O golden tongue holding the burning Coal, deliverance from the curse, O all-blessed one, womb bearing our God, relief for fallen mankind! Hail, O you who are more holy than the cherubim and the summit of creation, vision which no one can contemplate, unknown news and new language, chariot of the Word and cloud from which rose the Sun enlightening us who were in darkness, and granting us great mercy!

**TROPARION OF JAMES** *(Tone 4)*

Your martyr, O Lord, received the crown of immortality from You, O our God, on account of his struggle. Armed with Your strength he has vanquished his persecutors and crushed the powerless arrogance of demons. Through his 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.