

THE 15th DAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLES ARISTARCHUS, PUDENS &
TROPHIMUS
AT VESPERS

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 3 Stichera of the holy apostles, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: “O all-praised martyrs ...”:

With a discourse of divine understanding * ye utterly delivered the people from ignorance, * O most wise apostles, * and led them, saved, unto the Word * Who shone forth from the unbegotten Father. * Him do ye entreat, * that He grant unto our souls ** peace and great mercy.

Let us manifestly praise the true preachers of Christ: * Pudens and Aristarchus * and the divine Trophimus; * for with the warmth of divine grace * they brought the winter of falsehood to an end, * and have now made their abode in the never-waning radiance, * receiving the reward of their labors, ** deified by ineffable communion.

Following Paul, the glorious disciple, * ye endured many tribulations, * O glorious ones, * imprisoned in chains * and subjected to pain; * and finally ye suffered beheading by the sword. * Entreat Christ, that He grant our souls ** peace and great mercy.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

Woe is me! What shall I do? * For I have defiled My mind, soul and body * with transgressions! * What shall I do? * How shall I escape the unbearable flame * and the unbreakable and everlasting bonds? * Yet, before the end * grant me forgiveness, ** O all-immaculate one!

Stavrotheotokion: Once, when the unblemished Virgin * beheld on the Tree * Him to Whom she had given birth from her seedless womb, * unable to endure the wounding of her womb, * she said, rending her hair: * “O Thou Who sustainest all creation, * how hast Thou been uplifted upon the Cross as one condemned, ** desiring to save mankind in every way?”

AT MATINS

Canon of the holy apostles, the acrostic whereof is: “I chant a divine hymn to the disciples of God”, the composition of Joseph, in Tone VI:

ODE I

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

Standing as servants and ministers of Christ before the throne of God, as noetic luminaries, shine forth enlightenment upon us who honor your sacred memory, O apostles.

He Who in His loving-kindness appeared on earth chose you as disciples and ministers, who with many others declare His divine will everywhere.

Assembling the most sacred choir of the seventy sacred disciples of Christ, with Paul ye illumined the whole land with teachings of divine light.

The most sacred and glorious Pudens, the wise Aristarchus and Trophimus, shone forth on earth like radiant stars, dispelling the darkness of falsehood.

Theotokion: That He might join those below to those on high, God took flesh of thee in the excess of His loving-kindness, O most pure one, yet remained what He was before His incarnation.

ODE III

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thou, * O Lord my God, * who hast exalted the horn of Thy faithful O good One, * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

With the glorious Paul ye passed over all the earth like stars with the sun, dispelling the darkness of ignorance by the light of sacred preaching.

With great pain of your flesh the disciples of the Word removed painful sin from their midst, winning rest without pain for the faithful in the highest.

With divine struggles ye truly destroyed all the malice of the enemy, and, casting down the temples of the idols, ye made all people temples of God.

Theotokion: With milk thou dost feed the Nurturer of all Who was born of thy most pure womb without corruption, O Virgin, and hath restored all who are broken with corruption.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone I: Spec. Mel.: “Thy tomb, O Savior ...”:

Shining forth upon the world in godliness like the dawn, O apostles, by faith ye dispelled the most profound darkness of falsehood and enlightened men’s souls. Wherefore, the whole radiant Church hymneth your luminous memory today, magnifying Christ.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

O most holy Virgin, hope of Christians, with the hosts on high do thou unceasingly beseech God to Whom, in a manner surpassing understanding and all telling, thou hast given birth, that He grant forgiveness of all our sins and correction of life unto those who with faith and love ever glorify thee.

Stavrotheotokion: Upon seeing the Lamb and Shepherd hanging dead upon the Tree, * the unblemished ewe-lamb, cried aloud, weeping * and exclaiming maternally: * “How is it that Thou dost willingly endure abasement and sufferings * which surpass all telling, ** O my Son, and supremely good God?”

ODE IV

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

The transcendent Trinity lit the sacred Pudens, Trophimus and Aristarchus like a triple lamp, illumining the land with divine discourse.

Ye were shown to be wise companions of Paul, and gladly endured multifarious persecutions and tribulations with him for the sake of the life which is to come, O glorious ones.

Suffering, ye hallowed all creation with the torrents of your blood, O apostles, and with the power of Christ abolished the vile blood-sacrifices offered to the demons.

Theotokion: **O** most pure one, my might, refuge and invincible rampart, as thou art mine advocate before God, free me from the eternal flames and Gehenna.

ODE V

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recalleth us from the darkness of sin.

As preachers of God the glorious ones cast down graven images and the temples of the idols, raising up through grace the hearts of all people like tabernacles fallen through disobedience.

As steeds of God roiling the sea of ungodliness, by divine preaching the most glorious ones truly brought life to those who before were drowning therein.

As our saviors, visited by God with your divine visitations, ye have saved those drowning in the pain of the madness of idolatry.

Theotokion: Illumined by the divine Spirit, the sacred Isaiah cried out of old in sanctity: Behold, a Virgin shall receive the infinite God, Who will become incarnate in His tender compassion!

ODE VI

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * O greatly Merciful One.

Let the most wise Trophimus and Aristarchus, and the wondrous Pudens, be praised with sacred hymns as disciples of the Word and sacred companions of Paul.

Truly filled to overflowing with the water of the Spirit, ye have given every soul the drink of doctrine, wresting them from the midst of the flame of falsehood by divine grace.

United in the Spirit, ye were in nowise separated bodily; for ye were beheaded together with Paul your teacher, and with him are glorified.

Theotokion: Strange was thy conceiving, and strange, awesome and beyond understanding thy birthgiving, O Maiden, who hath reconciled to God those estranged from Him of old, restoring our primal beauty.

Kontakion of the holy apostles, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Thou hast appeared today ...”:

This honored festival of the apostles hath appeared today, * illumining us and dispelling the darkness of sin * from those who cry: * Light hath appeared ** and deliverance hath come!

ODE VII

Irmos: An Angel made the furnace bedew the holy Children. * But the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

As apostles and divine athletes, ye quenched the furnace of impiety with showers of honorable preaching, consuming the tinder of idolatry with the torrents of your blood, O wise ones; wherefore, ye are glorified.

Ye were shown to be disciples of Christ subordinate to the twelve disciples, O glorious ones; for, traversing the whole world with Paul, ye endured many tribulations, and with him received a sacred end.

Ye adorned yourselves with your beautiful wounds, O glorious Aristarchus and Trophimus, and with the sacred Pudens became more lustrous than any gold, praying ever to Christ for us.

Theotokion: Thou wast shown to be blessed by the Holy Spirit, having given flesh to the Angel of great Counsel, Who sent His godly disciples into the world like divine flashes of lightning, to illumine the faithful, O pure one.

ODE VIII

Irmos: Thou didst make flame bedew the holy children, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * Thee do we supremely exalt throughout all ages.

Severing the roots of ungodliness with the scythe of God, ye planted the true Faith and perfect understanding in the hearts of the pious, O divinely eloquent ones.

Ye cleared men's hearts with divine discourse, sowing therein the seed of understanding, O wise apostles, and ye reaped greatly fruitful grain, the multitudes of the saved.

Let Aristarchus, Pudens and Trophimus be honored as the unshakable pillars of the Church of Christ, the divine grapes of the vine of God, exuding the sweetness of life.

Theotokion: **B**y thy recent birthgiving, O Virgin, thou hast renewed all of broken mankind, restoring the bonds of nature in a manner transcending nature, O joyous Mother of the living God.

ODE IX

Irmos: **I**t is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

The might of the proud one hath been taken away, and his haughty arrogance hath fallen; for the saints, wrestling with him in the weakness of their flesh, triumphed and destroyed him, and have delivered the faithful from his tyranny.

Scattering delusion like dust, ye showed yourselves to be true guides for all people, and have become fellow citizens with the angels, chanting with them: Holy, Holy, Holy are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

Healing the infirmities and pangs of body and soul, O apostles of the Lord, and working wondrous miracles, ye have drawn all who are in ignorance to the understanding of the true Light; wherefore, ye are blessed.

Ye now delight in the immaterial mind which is celebrated in the heavens, O apostles, having received your blessed hope. O divine preacher Trophimus, most excellent Pudens and glorious Aristarchus, be ye mindful of us!

Theotokion: **O** most pure and joyous Maiden, who in a manner beyond understanding hast given birth to the unbearable Fire, free me from the flame of Gehenna, and set my soul aflame with the love of Him Who came to bring to the earth the fire of understanding.