

**Vespers sung on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ♦ The Holy Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the**  
**Presbyter, and Aithalas the Deacon, of Persia**  
**Dedication of the Church of the Holy Great Martyr George in Lydda**

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon Thee!//  
Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer arise  
in Thy sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 2 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website]

Come, let us worship the Word of God  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!  
Having endured the Cross,  
He was buried as He Himself desired.//  
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

*The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ our Saviour  
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,  
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//  
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

With the Archangels  
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!  
He is our Saviour, our Redeemer.  
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//  
to judge the world which He made.

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

The Angel proclaimed Thee,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty.”  
We worship Thee, O only immortal One.//  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 8 (For the Martyrs)**

O, most glorious wonder!

The noble Aképsimas, who ministered to the martyrs,  
today is crowned with a wreath of hymns.

He puts before us the suffering he endured for his worship of God  
and wounds the bodiless Enemy.

What great gifts of grace he received!

Through his prayers, save our souls, O Christ, //  
since Thou art compassionate!

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

O, most glorious wonder!

Joseph shines forth as a star from Persia.

Through the Spirit he destroyed the outrage of sorcery;  
with the streams of his blood he extinguished the impious worship of fire.

How great is the strength by which he cast down the demons!

Through his prayers, save our souls, O Christ, //  
since Thou art compassionate!

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

O, most glorious wonder!

The steadfast Aithalas, a champion of suffering,  
is revealed as an ever-blossoming garden.

Cut down, it brings forth the flower of wounds;  
slain, it then begins to live.

How great the strength of his nature, through which he endured!

Through his prayers, save our souls, O Christ, //  
since Thou art compassionate!

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4 (For Saint George)**

O passion-bearer George, converser with the Angels,  
dweller with the martyrs,

thou art the refuge of the sorrowful.

Be a haven of tranquillity for me who dost sail through life,  
and pilot my life, I implore thee, //

that with unwavering faith I may bless thy supernatural struggles.

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Protect me as I sail upon the sea,  
as I set out upon the way, and as I sleep at night.

When I am awake, illumine my mind, O George,  
and instruct me to do the will of God,

that on the day of Judgment I may find remission of the sins  
that I have committed in my life, //

by fleeing to thy protection, O glorious one!

*For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Clothed in the breastplate of faith,  
armed with the shield of grace and the spear of the Cross,  
thou, O George, wast invincible to the adversary.

As a divine warrior thou didst conquer legions of demons.

Now thou holdest chorus with the Angels, //

and, entreated by the faithful, thou dost sanctify and save them.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(For Saint George)*

As a tiller of the earth thou didst deserve thy name, O warrior George.  
By carrying on thy shoulders the Cross of Christ,  
thou hast ploughed the earth, barren through Satan's snares.  
The thorns of idolatry held it fast,  
but thou didst plant it with the vine of true faith in Christ.  
and hast tended well the garden of the Trinity.  
Pray for the well-being of the world//  
and the salvation of our souls!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;  
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,  
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.  
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//  
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

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**APOSTICHA**

**Tone 2** *(For the Resurrection)*

[Music on website]

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Thy creation.//  
Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By the Tree Thou didst destroy the curse of the Tree, O Saviour.  
By Thy burial Thou didst mortify the majesty of death.  
Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection.//  
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

When Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
Thou didst restore the beauty of Thy creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear.  
The Hebrews, not knowing Thy power,  
asked that Thy tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Thy compassion,  
Thou didst accept the tomb  
and didst rise on the third day!//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead Thou didst voluntarily endure death,  
descending into hell as the Mighty One  
to save those who awaited Thy coming,  
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day//  
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(For the Martyrs)*

The three children, preserved unharmed by the Persian fire,  
 mystically foreshadowed your thrice-radiant unity of mind and your martyrdom in Christ.  
 O athletes of the ineffable Trinity and supernatural Unity,  
 as they stood in the midst of the flames and did not cry out against God,  
 so also you did not refuse to die when your lives were not spared by the love of Christ.  
 As in their midst, a fourth appeared who sprinkled them with dew,  
 so also Christ, one of the Trinity,  
 received you into a place of refreshment.  
 O Aképsimas, Joseph and Aithalas, chosen by God, //  
 ever pray for our souls!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion)*

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
 was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.  
 By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.  
 Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!  
 Rejoice, O celestial Joy!  
 Rejoice, O Lady: //  
 the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

**TROPARIA****Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 2**

[Music on website / Green Book page 4]

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
 Thou didst slay hell with the splendour of Thy Godhead.  
 And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
 all the powers of heaven cried out: //  
 "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

**Troparion of the Holy Martyrs in Tone 3**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Ye were pillars of the Church, O servants of godliness,  
 and ye humbled the proud worshippers of fire.  
 Much afflicted hierarch Aképsimas, Joseph the presbyter and Aithalas the deacon,  
 pray to Christ our God: //  
 to grant us His great mercy!

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 3**

[Music on website / Sheet]

We praise thee as the mediatrix of our salvation,  
 O Virgin Theotokos.  
 For thy Son, our God, Who took flesh from thee,  
 accepted the Passion on the Cross, //  
 delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.