

The 15th Day of November

The Holy Martyrs and Confessors, Gurias, Samonas and Abibas (*Aviva, Habib*) of Edessa.

Note: The Menaion reflects the beginning of the Nativity fast:

If this, the first day of the Nativity Fast should fall on a Saturday, then on Friday Evening at “Lord, I call...,” we sing 6 stichera for the Martyrs (*i.e., singing each one twice*). But if it should fall on a Sunday, then we sing the first 7 stichera from the Octoechos and then 3 for the Martyrs; Glory..., Martyrs; Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion. At the Aposticha, the stichera are from the Octoechos; Glory..., Martyrs; Now and ever..., Theotokion. At the morning service (Matins), we sing “God is the Lord...,” the Troparion of the Martyrs; Glory..., Martyrs: Now and ever..., Theotokion, as usual.

On every other day, Monday through Friday, in honor of the beginning of the Nativity Fast, instead of “God is the Lord” we may sing “Alleluia” at the morning service. If we follow this order, then at “Lord, I call...,” we sing 3 stichera to the Theotokos and 3 for the martyrs; Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion or Stavrotheotokion. At the Aposticha, the stichera are from the Octoechos; Glory..., Martyrs; Now and ever..., Theotokion or Stavrotheotokion.

And, as noted above, at the morning service, instead of “God is the Lord,” we sing “Alleluia” and the Triadica hymns. After Ode 6, we sing the Kontakion of the Martyrs.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign...”*

The holy martyrs, Abibas the wise, /
The wondrous Samonas and Gurias the glorious,
Have joined with us, the faithful, in a common choir. /
Now we celebrate together joyously ///
For God has given them the grace to always spiritually be with us

Having endured unbearable pain and suffering, /
O three martyrs, equal in number to the Trinity, /
Samonas, Gurias and Abibas /
You now enjoy the sweetness of eternity /
As a reward from Christ for all your labors. ///
Entreat Him now to save our souls.

O suffering martyrs, /
You have attained the calm waters of eternal passionlessness /
And a peaceful life not battered by the waves of the sea; /
For having transformed yourselves here below, ///
You received from God the just reward for all your labors, O blessèd ones

Note: If we will sing “Alleluia” at the morning service instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stichera to the Theotokos are sung at the evening service, at “Lord I call,” **before** the above stichera of the saints, in the same tone and melody:

Sprinkle me, O Lady, /
With the dew from the depths of thy mercy, /
And give drink to my heart enflamed by the heat of passions, O Maiden, /
As thou art merciful. /
And make it cry tears of compunction, I pray thee, /
That I may receive the consolation, ///
Which is granted to those who shed tears in sincerity, O pure one.

Take pity upon me, O Lady, /
For I am failing under the assaults of the demons /
And am falling into the pit of destruction, /
And establish me upon the rock of virtues; /
And having overturned the designs of the enemy /
Grant me to fulfill the commands of thy Son and our God, ///
That on the Day of Judgment I may receive remission of my sins.

Wash away the filth of the passions of my heart /
O all-praised Theotokos /
And cleanse all the wounds which come from my sins and their corruption, /
O pure one; /
Set in order my unstable mind /
So that I who am condemned and am thy worthless servant ///
May magnify thy power and great protection.

Note: If “God is the Lord,” will be sung, then the following to the martyrs:

Glory..., of the Martyrs, in Tone 2:

Edessa rejoices, enriched by the shrine of the saints, /
Gurias, Samónas and Abíbas, /
Summoning the Christ-loving flock, she cries aloud: /
Come, all ye who love the martyrs and be illumined by their memory! /
Come, all ye who love the feasts of the Church, rejoice and be glad! /
Come, and see the heavenly stars who made their abode on earth! /
Come, and hear how they suffered a bitter death for the sake of eternal life! /
Being the guardians of justice, they saved the young maiden placed alive in the grave, /
And exposed the villain as a merciless and pitiless murderer. /
Earnestly they beseech the All-holy Trinity /
To deliver those who with faith are celebrating their memorial ///
From every temptation, corruption and misfortune.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion in the same Tone.

Or, on Saturday evening or Friday evening the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.

Note: If we will sing “Alleluia” at the morning service instead of “God is the Lord,” then the above is omitted and we sing:

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 2:

O all-pure Virgin Mother of God /
Remove all weakness and despondency from my soul /
And translate it to health and vigor /
That I may fulfill the commandments of Christ with love and fear /
Hoping to escape the unbearable flames of Gehenna ///
And joyfully receive the heavenly portion of life eternal.

**Or on Wednesday or Friday, this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:
To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”**

Beholding Christ, Who loveth mankind, crucified, /
His side pierced by a spear, /
The all-pure one, cried aloud, lamenting: /
‘What is this, O my Son? /
How have these thankless people rewarded Thee /
For all the good things Thou hast done for them? /
Dost Thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Belovèd? ///
I marvel, O Compassionate One, at Thy voluntary crucifixion!’

The Aposticha is from the Octoechos.

Glory..., of the Martyrs, in Tone 2:

Come, all ye who love the martyrs /
And let us honor Gurias, Samónas and Abíbas with songs of praise /
For these warriors of Christ performed wondrous miracles: /
They did not disdain to honor the maiden’s vow /
And by performing her petition they saved the virgin’s life, /
And brought vengeance down upon the transgressing Goth. /
Through their prayers, O Christ God, ///
Save us, in that Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Now and ever..., Theotokion in the Same Tone.

The Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 5: *To the melody, “Let us, the faithful praise and worship....”*

Having granted to us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs /
Thou hast provided us with an invincible rampart, O Christ God. /
By their prayers, confound the plots of the faithless /
And strengthen the Orthodox Faith ///
Since Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Morning Service

Both canons from the Octoechos and the canon of the Martyrs, with 4 troparia, in Tone 4.
incomplete as of 11/3/15

After the sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When Thóu didst descend....”*

Having received a special grace from above, O wise ones, /
You became the protectors of those in danger, /
O Gurias, Samonas and Abibas, worthy of all praise. /
You saved a young maiden from a bitter death. ///
You are truly the glory of Edessa and the joy of all the world.

Liturgy

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4: The Lord has shown the wonders of His will / to the saints who are in His land. *Verse:* I keep the Lord always before me; for He is at my right hand, and I shall not be moved.

The Epistle: (233) Ephesians 6:10-17

Alleluia, in Tone 4: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and He delivered them from all their troubles. *Verse:* Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

The Gospel: (64) Luke 12:8-12

Communion Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!