

**THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**  
**COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYRS ACEPSIMUS THE BISHOP, JOSEPH**  
**THE PRIEST AND AITHALAS THE DOCTOR**  
**COMMEMORATION OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE GREAT**  
**MARTYR GEORGE IN LYDDA**  
**AT VESPERS**

At "Lord, I have cried ..., " three stichera to the martyrs, in Tone VIII:  
Spec. Mel.: "O most glorious wonder ...":

**O** most glorious wonder! \* the comely Acepsimus, \* the minister to the martyrs, \* is crowned today with a wreath of hymns. \* He setteth before us the suffering to which he was subjected for his worship of God, \* and doth wound the incorporeal foe. \* O, what liberal gifts of grace he hath received! \* through his prayers save Thou our souls, O Christ, \* in that Thou art full of lovingkindness.

**O** most glorious wonder! \* Joseph hath shone forth as a star \* from Persia. \* Destroying the abomination of sorcery by the Spirit, \* he hath extinguished the impious worship of fire with the streams of his blood. \* O, the strength wherewith he cast down the demons! \* Through his prayers, O Christ, save Thou our souls, \* in that Thou art compassionate.

**O** most glorious wonder! \* The steadfast Aithalas, \* the namesake of a champion of suffering, \* is shown to be an ever-blossoming garden, \* which, cut down, doth bloom with wounds, \* and when slain doth but begin to live. \* O, the strength of nature which he endured! \* Through his prayers, O Christ, save Thou our souls, \* in that Thou art compassionate.

And three stichera to the Great Martyr, in Tone IV  
Spec. Mel.: "As valiant among the martyrs ...":

**O** passion-bearer George, \* converser with the angels, \* dweller with the martyrs, \* who art ever the refuge of the sorrowful: \* Be thou a haven of tranquility! \* Preserve me as I sail upon the sea of life, \* and pilot my life, I implore thee, \* that with unwavering faith I may bless \* thy supernatural struggles.

**As** I sleep at night; \* and when I am awake \* illumine my mind, O George, \* and instruct me to do the will of the Lord, \* that on the day of Judgment \* I may find remission of the sins I have committed in my life, \* by fleeing to thy protection, O glorious one.

**Arrayed** in the breastplate of faith, \* armed with the shield of grace \* and the spear of the Cross, \* thou wast invincible to the adversary, O George. \* And as a divine warrior, \* having conquered legions of demons, \* thou dost hold chorus with the angels, \* and, entreated by the faithful, \* thou dost sanctify and save them, preserving them,

**Glory ..., in Tone VI:**

**T**hou didst live in accordance with the meaning of thy name, as is meet, O warrior George; for, taking the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulders, thou didst work well the ground which had been made barren by the deceit of the devil, and, having uprooted the thorns of idolatrous worship, thou didst plant the vine of the Orthodox Faith. Wherefore, thou dost pour forth healings upon the faithful throughout all the world, and hast been shown to be a righteous laborer of the Trinity. Pray thou, we entreat thee, for peace for the world and the salvation of our souls.

**Now and ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion:**

**Spec. Mel.: "On the third day ...":**

**B**eholding our Life hung upon the Tree, the all-immaculate Theotokos cried out, lamenting maternally: O my Son and my God, save them that hymn Thee with love!

**At the Aposticha: Glory ..., to the martyrs, in Tone VI:**

**The composition of Ephraim of Karyes:** The three children who were preserved out upon the way, unconsumed by the fire in Persia were mystically a foreshadowing of your thrice-radiant oneness of mind and your martyrdom in Christ, O athletes of the ineffable Trinity and the supernatural Unity; for as they stood up against the flame and did not rail against God, so ye also did not refuse to die when your lives were not spared by those who hate Christ. For just as in their midst there appeared a Fourth Who bedewed them, so also Christ, Who is one of the Trinity, hath received you into a place of coolness. O Aicepsimus, Joseph and Aithalas, elect of God, pray ye for our souls.

**Now and ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion:**

**Spec. Mel.: "On the third day ...":**

**B**eholding Thee crucified, O Christ, she that gave Thee birth cried out: What strange mystery is this that I see, O my Son? How is it that Thou dost die, hung aloft in the flesh, O Bestower of life?

**Troparion, in Tone IV:**

**I**n their sufferings, O Lord, Thy martyrs have received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God; for, possessed of Thy might, they cast down the tormentors and set at naught the feeble audacity of the demons, through their prayers, save Thou our souls.

**Glory ..., to the Great Martyr, in the same tone:**

**O** great martyr George, thou victor and champion of kings, as a liberator of captives, a defender of the poor and a physician for the afflicted, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

**Now and ever ..., Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion.**

## AT MATINS

One canon from the Oktoechos, with six troparia, including the Irmos; the canon to the martyrs, with four troparia, in Tone IV; and that to the great martyr, with four troparia, also in Tone IV.

### ODE I

#### Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** I shall open my mouth, and it shall be filled with the Spirit, and I shall utter discourse unto the Queen and Mother, and shall appear radiantly keeping festival; and, rejoicing, I shall hymn her wonders.

O most rich ones, equal in number to the all-holy Trinity, ye were shown to be honorable worshipers thereof, and ye intercede before the throne of the Trinity for them that have recourse unto you, O fervent helpers.

O ye worshipers of the three-sunned Trinity, O holy ones, ye destroyed the deception of polytheism, enduring divers torments and an unjust death, O ye blessed of God.

The deep of torment did ye traverse by faith without being capsized, O blessed ones; and ye did come to anchor in the harbor of heavenly radiance, in the land of life without grief, to your ineffable joy.

**Theotokion:** O all-immaculate one, thou hast been shown to be the mediatrix of joy for us, in that thou didst receive within thyself the fullness of the whole Godhead. Wherefore, together we all call thee the joy of the angels, O thou divinely joyous one.

Canon to the Great Martyr, the acrostic whereof is: "O blessed one, I glorify thee, husbandman of God ..." in Tone IV:

**Irmos:** O Thou that wast born of the Virgin, drown Thou, I pray Thee, the three parts of my soul in the depths of dispassion, as of old Thou didst drown the mounted captains of Pharaoh, that in the immortality of my body, as on a timbrel, I may sing a hymn of victory.

Thou didst show forth the prosperous husbandry of God, O passion-bearer George, nurturing by thy pious example the faithful that in sacred manner celebrate thy splendid memorial and fervently glorify thee thereon.

Divine love truly inflamed thy heart, O passion-bearer, and, unbidden, thou didst proceed therewith to torment, consuming the deception of polytheism with fire and illumining thy mind with rays of salvation.

Confident as a lion, thou didst confront the tribunal, proclaiming the incarnation of Christ, whereby the world hath been delivered from the ancient fall; and thou didst receive man's pristine fruitfulness, O thrice-blessed George.

**Theotokion:** Delivering us from our ancient condemnation, the Son of God became, as man, the Son of the Virgin. Wherefore, with Orthodox hearts, we glorify Him in two natures and wills.

### ODE III

#### Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** Not in wisdom, nor in power, nor yet in wealth do we boast, but in Thee, O Christ, the hypostatic Wisdom of the Father; for none is holy save Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Not in the learning of Hellenic vanity, O wise ones, but with divine knowledge did ye denounce the godlessness of the Persians, setting at naught their madness.

Illumined With the divine anointing of the episcopate, O sacred Aceptsimus, thou didst adorn thyself with the blood of martyrdom, O divinely blessed one.

The crushing of thy limbs, O ever-memorable Joseph, hath utterly crushed the wiles of the deceiver and hath brought thee imperishable glory.

**Theotokion:** Finding thee a most pure habitation, the Wisdom of God took flesh of thy blood, yet revealed thee as incorrupt even after thou hadst given birth.

#### Canon to the Great Martyr

**Irmos:** The bow of the mighty is become weak, and the strengthless have girded themselves with power; wherefore, my heart is established in the Lord.

Joyously renouncing the glories of lineage and homeland, thou didst follow after Christ, O martyr, and hast been shown to be a most comely citizen of the heavenly Zion.

As thou didst show thyself to be a special heir and dutiful son of the living God, thou didst endure the tormentors' waves of scourgings, O valiant martyr.

**Theotokion:** O all-immaculate one, He that alone created man, putting on all of Adam, hath become a new Adam through thee, for the sake of His lovingkindness.

#### Sedalion of the martyrs, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "Of wisdom ...":

Joseph, the valiant struggler, Aceptsimus, the destroyer of deception, and Aithalas, the invincible and glorious sufferer, the radiant stars, are today truly praised by the faithful in hymns, as is meet. For they did not harbor the deception of the Persians and did not sacrifice to the sun nor honor fire. To them let us cry out with love: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of sins unto them that celebrate your holy memory with love.

Glory ..., that of the great martyr, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb ...":

**D**isdaining military service on earth, thou didst desire glory in the heavens, O martyr, and didst endure pain and a grievous death. Wherefore, celebrating thy holy memory today, we offer praise unto Christ, O thrice-blessed George.

Now and ever ..., Theotokion:

**O** all-holy Virgin, thou hope of Christians, do thou unceasingly entreat God, to Whom thou gavest birth in manner surpassing understanding and recounting, in behalf of them that hymn thee, that He grant remission of all our sins and correction of life unto us that ever glorify thee with faith and love.

**Stavrotheotokion:** **T**he unblemished ewe-lamb, beholding the Lamb and Shepherd hanging dead upon the Tree, weeping and crying out maternally, exclaimed: O my Son, my all-good God, how can I bear Thy voluntary sufferings and Thy descent which surpasseth recounting?

Kontakion of the martyrs, in Tone II:

Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest...":

**T**hou didst celebrate the mysteries blamelessly, O wise one, and wast thyself an acceptable sacrifice, O divinely blessed one; for thou didst gloriously quaff the cup of Christ, O holy Acepsumus, with thy fellow sufferers, and prayest unceasingly in behalf of us all.

**Ikos:** **W**ho among the faithful can in any wise fittingly hymn the all-wise hierarch Acepsumus, the beacon of Christ? For he hath destroyed the deception of idolatry and hath put the demons' wiles to shame by the mighty power of Christ God, instructing us piously to worship the all-holy Trinity and to honor the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost in One Godhead; and he prayeth unceasingly in behalf of us all.

## ODE IV

Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** **S**eated in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, Jesus most divine hath come on a light cloud and with His incorrupt right arm hath saved them that cry out: **G**lory to Thy power, **O** Christ!

**D**isdaining that which is below and turning their gaze towards those things that alone abide, the valiant Acepsumus and the glorious Joseph and Aithalas received dwelling places thereof; wherefore they are praised.

**O** mighty martyr Acepsumus, thou wondrous passion-bearer of Christ, during thy suffering thou didst stretch forth thy thought unto Him Who alone is Master, and He lightened thine unbearable torments.

**H**arvested like a fruitful vine, O passion-bearer Aithalas, thine honored martyrdom doth pour forth the wine of compunction upon the faithful, who cry out in gladness: Glory to Thy power, O Christ!

**Theotokion:** **T**he holy Theotokos, in whom the Word of the Father, Who is equal in divinity to Him, was well pleased to make His abode, did not lose her purity, nor was she wearied by the pangs of labor; for she gaveth birth to Emmanuel, God and man.

### Canon to the Great Martyr

**Irmos:** **O Compassionate One, for the sake of Thy love for Thine image, Thou didst mount Thy Cross, and the nations melted away, for Thou, O Lover of mankind, art my strength and my praise.**

**O** blessed one, thy body, slain by torture, doth image forth the sufferings of the Word, Who was slain and Who hath given thee eternal life.

**P**rotected by the shield of truth, with thy mighty mind thou didst altogether destroy the false contenders, O divinely wise George.

**T**he Word, Who on earth put on our weakness, hath been glorified by thy members. Wherefore, we everlastingly glorify thee, O George.

**Theotokion:** **O** all-pure one, He that gaveth existence unto men, becoming man Himself, hath granted the possibility of being good unto them that have been corrupted by the transgression.

### ODE V

### Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** **Thou hast come as a Light into the world, O my Lord, a holy Light, which turneth from the gloom of unbelief them that hymn Thee with faith.**

**C**alling upon the great and precious name of the Lord, O Aceptsimus, thou didst drain the saving cup of sufferings, rejoicing.

**T**he Most High, Who is our Food, hath received thee who wast summoned through wounds, O Joseph, as have the choirs of martyrs with whom ye now make merry.

**O** blessed Aithalas, thou hast truly been shown to be an ever-flowering garden which nourisheth the ends of the earth with the fruits of thy struggles.

**Theotokion:** **O** all-immaculate one, in time didst thou give birth for us unto the timeless Light, the Radiance of the Father, becoming a wealth of goodness.

### Canon to the Great Martyr

**Irmos:** **Thou hast come as a Light into the world, O my Lord, a holy Light, which turneth from the gloom of unbelief them that hymn Thee with faith.**

**H**aving manfully entered upon the struggle of martyrdom, thou didst put an end unto the audacity of idolatry with thy broken body, O passion-bearer.

**I**n His crown hath the Master set thee as a brilliant gem, thus illumining His Church, O passion-bearer.

**S**laughtered like a lamb, thou didst image forth the death of the good Chief Shepherd, and didst offer thyself as an unblemished sacrifice at His exalted altar.

**Theotokion:** O all-pure Theotokos, from misfortunes, tribulations and the torments which are to come save us by thy prayers.

## **ODE VI**

### **Canon to the Martyrs**

**Irmos:** I shall sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord, the Church crieth out to Thee, having been cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

**W**hen thy head was severed from thy body, O Aicepsimus, thou didst by faith join thy soul to Christ inseparably, ever enlightened by rays of heavenly light.

**S**lain by stoning like the first martyr, thou didst not deny Christ, the living Stone, O martyr, but passed over to the radiant mansions of heaven.

**B**eaten mercilessly with staves, thou didst rejoice, possessed of a staff of power, the Cross and boast of the Lord, O passion-bearer Aithalas, divinely wise and most rich.

**Theotokion:** The bush prefigured the great mystery of thy birthgiving, which surpasseth comprehension, for it was in no wise killed by the fire, nor consumed, O all-hymned Virgin.

### **Canon to the Great Martyr**

**Irmos:** I have come upon the depths of the sea, and the tempest of my many sins hath overwhelmed me; but, as God, lead up my life from the abyss, O greatly Merciful One.

**T**hough the vessel of thy body hath been broken by sufferings, O martyr, thou hast manfully destroyed all the evil machinations of the enemy, O most blessed George.

**A**flame with the love of God, thou didst in no wise fear the hot irons of the furnace or the blades and wheels which lacerated thy body, O martyr.

**Theotokion:** O Mother of God, thou wast a holy temple for Him that resteth in the saints. Wherefore, sanctify us that faithfully hymn thee, O Ever-virgin.

Kontakion to the Great Martyr, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: "To thee, the champion leader ...":

**H**aving recourse to thine elect and speedy aid, O athlete of Christ, we, the faithful, pray that they that hymn thee may be delivered from the snares of the enemy and from all tribulation and afflictions, that we may cry: Rejoice, O martyr George.

**Ikos:** **T**hou art shown to be great among earth's intercessors, O friend and favorite of the Lord; for, protected by thee, faithful people are ever saved, O glorious one. Wherefore, with faith and love we cry to thee, O much suffering one: Rejoice, thou by whom the world is enlightened! Rejoice, thou by whom the army is made splendid! Rejoice, deliverance of the faithful from captivity! Rejoice, ready aid of the imprisoned! Rejoice, summit of them that fervently have recourse to thee! Rejoice, enricher of them that love thee! Rejoice, for thou art the protection of kings! Rejoice, for thou grantest victory in battle! Rejoice, star which illuminest them that are at sea! Rejoice, ender of all misery! Rejoice, thou to whom all the faithful have recourse! Rejoice, thou by whom the Creator is praised! Rejoice, O martyr George!

## ODE VII

### Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** **O** all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, Who saved the children of Abraham in the fire, having slain the Chaldeans whom righteousness justly hunted down: Blessed art Thou!

**R**eceiving dew from God amid the fire of torment, ye set the adversaries afire with the flames of your patience, O passion-bearers, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

**T**he worshipers of fire are shown to be inheritors thereof, for they tried to compel them that worship the Sun of glory to worship fire, but they cried out: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**L**et Aicepsimus, Joseph and Aithalas, the three beacons of the most honored Trinity, who illumined all the ends of the earth with rays of piety, be honored forever!

**Theotokion:** **B**lessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Whom the hosts of heaven and the assemblies of earth do bless, and Who hath delivered us from the original curse, O blessed one.

### Canon to the Great Martyr

**Irmos:** **T**he three youths in Babylon, having treated the tyrant's command as foolishness, chanted in the midst of the flame: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

**T**hou wast a living sacrifice unto Him that was sacrificed for us like a lamb; and, strengthened by Christ, thou didst set at naught sacrifices vainly offered to demons.

**T**hou art shown to be a fruitful branch which doth bear for us the grapes of patience which produce the divine wine which maketh glad the hearts of all the pious.

**T**hou didst zealously give thy members over to be cut off for Christ's sake, and, gladdened, thou didst remain inseparable from His love, O all-blessed one, and an heir to all blessings.

**Theotokion:** All creation doth offer praise unto God, Who was born of thine all-pure womb, O all-immaculate maiden, and Who hath delivered us all from the ancient curse.

### ODE VIII

#### Canon to the Martyrs

**Irmos:** The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the pious children in the furnace, then in figure, but now in deed; and she moveth all the universe to chant unto Thee: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

**H**aving become abodes of the Word and, through the savagery of the tormentors, bearing the burden of His stripes as though lifeless already, ye set yourselves against the mindless, O valorous martyrs, being subjected to testing by many torments, yet did ye exalt Christ supremely forever.

**O** ever-memorable martyrs, mediators of everlasting glory, adorned, ye went joyously forth, and ye loved the path of His testimony, crying out: Hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely forever!

**N**either fire, nor stripes, nor beasts, nor the sword, nor family, nor death could separate the martyrs from Thy love, O Lord, Thou Wellspring of blessings, Who pourest forth inexhaustible streams of love. Praising them, O Christ, we bless Thee forever.

**Theotokion:** Praising the Theotokos, the Mother who alone kneweth not man, who alone is the most exalted of all created beings, the all-holy mountain, the golden altar, with hymns, we cry out: Hymn the Lord, ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

#### Canon to the Great Martyr

**Irmos:** O almighty Deliverer of all, descending into the midst of the flame, Thou didst bedew the pious and didst teach them to chant: Bless and hymn the Lord, ye works!

**O** George, thou art shown to be the special helmsman of them that sail and a great helper amid tribulations, and thou savest them that have recourse unto thee with faith and an unwavering heart.

**T**hou hast been shown to be a champion of truth and a denouncer of falsehood, and the confirmation of us that chant with faith, O passion-bearer: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**W**ith the shedding of thy blood thou didst extinguish the burning coals of deception, O George, and didst water the hearts of the faithful that faithfully hymn and keep thy glorious memory.

**Theotokion:** **T**hou didst spring forth from the root of Jesse and didst uproot the root of malice by putting forth the Fashioner of creation, O maiden. To Him do we chant: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

## **ODE IX**

### **Canon to the Martyrs**

**Irmos:** **Christ, Who hath united the two disparate natures, the Chief Cornerstone uncut by human hands, was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. Wherefore, in gladness we magnify thee, O Theotokos.**

**L**et us praise the beacons of piety and destroyers of deception, the fragrant blossoms of the rational paradise, the honored vessels, the beholders of God's beauty.

**T**he glowing coal which Isaiah beheld of old did ye receive into your hearts; and illumined by the brilliance thereof, O martyrs, ye set at naught the dark worship of fire.

**A**dorned, ye now stand before the life-creating Trinity, and, illumined with crowns of comeliness, ye commemorate those on earth that ever keep your memory, O blessed ones.

**Theotokion:** **O** Virgin, who didst conceive the Savior and gavest Him birth in the flesh, save me who am in despair. For, weighed down by the burden of sin, I cry out to thee in pain: Have pity, and help thy servant!

### **Canon to the Great Martyr**

**Irmos:** **Eve, through weakness, dwelt under the curse of disobedience; but thou, O Virgin Theotokos, hast budded forth blessing upon the world with the Offspring of thy pregnancy. Wherefore, we all magnify thee.**

**R**adiantly shining forth like the dawn, like the sun, thou hast enlightened creation with the unwaning rays of thy sufferings and the manifestation of thy many miracles, O George, joy of martyrs. Wherefore, we bless thee in love.

**T**hou hast disclosed drops of divine sweetness which take away the bitterness of our passions and ever delight the souls and hearts of them that bless thee with faith, O right glorious one.

**W**ith thy blood thou didst hallow the earth and with the spirit of gladness thou hast filled the heavens, O martyr. Wherefore, all the souls of the pious love thee as a favorite of Christ and call thee their sure helper.

**Theotokion:** **W**e offer thee the cry of gladness of the divine Gabriel, crying out: Rejoice, joy of the universe, who gavest birth unto the Abolisher of sorrow, and who didst remove the reproach of Eve! Rejoice, O Virgin, who hast not known man!

**Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "By the Spirit in the sanctuary ...":**

**U**nbearable torments did ye endure as if ye were of the bodiless ones, O all-praised Aicepsimus, wondrous Joseph and marvelous Aithalas the deacon, initiates of the mysteries, and the incorporeal hosts are ever amazed at the pain of your sufferings.

**Glory ..., to the Great Martyr, in the same melody:**

**T**hou didst quench the flames of delusion with the streams of thy blood, O blessed one, and didst utterly destroy the audacity of thy tormentors; and thou didst glorify Christ, O passion-bearer George. Wherefore, thou hast received a crown of incorruption and life from the right hand of the Most High.

**Theotokion:** **T**here is no hope of salvation for me, O Virgin, for I have miserably fallen into the abyss of transgressions and await the menace of dreadful torments and the portion of the goats. But take pity on me before the Judgment, for thou art a fervent aid, O Theotokos.

**At the Aposticha, the stichera from the Oktoechos, and this one to the martyrs, in  
Tone II:**

**Stichos:** **The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them.**

**O** ye holy ones, having steadfastly struggled in piety for Christ, ye put to shame the audacity of the tormentors and cast the summit of idolatry into the abyss, O Aicepsimus, Aithalas and Joseph. And now, holding chorus in the heavens, O crowned ones, pray ye in behalf of our souls.

**Glory ..., in Tone IV, the composition of a Studite hymnographer:**

**O** brethren, let us spiritually praise the patience of George, the glorious martyr and mental adamant, who, heated for Christ, was forged by misfortunes and sharpened by torments, and whose body, corrupt by nature, was laid waste by divers torments. For desire conquered nature, through death forcing the lover to pass on to Christ God, the object of his desire, the Savior of our souls.

Now and ever ..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion:

Spec. Mel.: "As valiant among the martyrs ...":

**T**he ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, \* beheld Thee nailed to the Cross, O Lord, \* and she marveled \* and cried aloud: \* What is this I see, \* O my longed-for Son? \* How hast the unbelieving and iniquitous synagogue repaid Thee \* which benefited from Thy many miracles? \* But glory to Thine ineffable descent, O Master!

## AT LITURGY

### Troparion, in Tone IV:

In their sufferings, O Lord, Thy martyrs have received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God; for, possessed of Thy might, they cast down the tormentors and set at naught the feeble audacity of the demons, through their prayers, save Thou our souls.

### Troparion, to the Great Martyr, in Tone IV:

O great martyr George, thou victor and champion of kings, as a liberator of captives, a defender of the poor and a physician for the afflicted, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

### Kontakion of the martyrs, in Tone II:

Thou didst celebrate the mysteries blamelessly, O wise one, and-wast thyself an acceptable sacrifice, O divinely blessed one; for thou didst gloriously quaff the cup of Christ, O holy Aicepsimus, with thy fellow sufferers, and prayest unceasingly in behalf of us all.

### Kontakion to the Great Martyr, in Tone VIII:

Having recourse to thine elect and speedy aid, O athlete of Christ, we, the faithful, pray that they that hymn thee may be delivered from the snares of the enemy and from all tribulation and afflictions, that we may cry: Rejoice, O martyr George.

**Prokimenon, in Tone IV:** In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous, He hath wrought all His desires in them.

**Stichos:** I beheld the Lord ever before me, for He is at my right hand, that I might not be shaken.

### THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS [6:10-16]

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**Alleluia, in Tone IV:** The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

**Stichos:** Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE [21:12-19]**

**B**ut before all these, they shall lay their hands on you and persecute, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not a hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls

**Communion Verse:** Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.