

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020
HOLY WONDERWORKERS AND UNMERCENARIES
COSMAS AND DAMIEN

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians. Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse. When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia). Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenary physicians. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith. Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?" They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life. From ancient times, their veneration spread also to Russia. The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should

not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Six stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 4, followed by four for the saints Resurrection, tone 4:

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;
by it You have renewed the corrupted nature of mankind, O almighty One.
By it You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//
for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.
By descending to hell, O almighty God,
You broke the bonds of death.
Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://
“Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!”

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.
You delivered the human race from corruption,//
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

Come, O people,
let us sing of the Savior's Resurrection on the third day!
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.
By it, we have received life and incorruption.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

Angels and mortals sing of Your Resurrection on the third day, O Savior.
By it, the ends of the earth have been illuminated.
By it we have been delivered from bondage to the enemy.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
Life-creating and almighty Savior, Glory to You!

You have shattered the gates of brass
and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God.
You have raised the fallen human race.//
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Saints, tone 6:

Having placed all their hope in heaven,
the saints laid up for themselves a treasure that cannot be stolen away.
They freely received and freely give healing to the infirm.
Following the Gospel, they acquired neither silver nor gold,
but performed works of mercy for both men and beasts, //
that, obedient to Christ, they might pray with boldness on behalf of our souls.

The two holy ones who shared a single character and single soul,
the like-minded companions,
disdained corruptible things on earth,
showing themselves to be citizens of heaven like the Angels,
though dwelling in the body.
Therefore they grant healings to all who suffer,
performing good works for those in need without exacting any fee.
Let us fittingly honor them with an annual festival, //
for they pray to Christ with boldness on behalf of our souls!

The divinely wise Cosmas and Damian,
the ever-memorable pair,
made themselves fully the dwelling of the Trinity.
They pour forth the waters of healing
like torrents from the life-giving Source,
by their touch, their relics cure suffering,
and their very names drive infirmities away
from all those who turn to the saving harbor of Christ.//
They pray with boldness on behalf of our souls.

O holy unmercenaries, Cosmas and Damian,
you scorned the tyranny of suffering,
trampling down, by Christ's power, every snare of the Evil Serpent!
You were revealed to be as radiant as beacons,
ever illumining the whole world with divine signs,
driving away darkness and infirmities by grace;
showing yourselves to be the saviors of all who, with steadfast faith, //
celebrate your glorious memory, all-wise ones.

GLORY...Saints, tone 6:

Boundless is the grace the saints have received from Christ!
Therefore their relics continually work miracles by the power of God,
and their names, invoked with faith, heal incurable diseases.
Through them free us also from passions of soul and body, //
O Lord and Lover of mankind!

NOW AND EVER...the Dogmatikon in tone 4:

The Prophet David was a Father of the Lord through you, O Virgin.

He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in you:
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,
since God was freely born of her without a father.
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder
and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly pow’rs.//
Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 4:

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,
You have annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,
You shook all of creation.
By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

The lawless people, O Christ,
handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their benefactor.
But voluntarily You endured burial,
rising by Your own power on the third day as God,//
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

With tears the women reached Your tomb,
searching for You, but not finding You.
They wept with wailing and lamented:
“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,
how were you stolen?
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”
An angel replied to them:
“Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,//
Granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

GLORY...Saints, tone 6:

You ever have Christ working within you,
as you work wonders in the world and heal the sick.
Holy Unmercenaries, your healing is an inexhaustible source.
Drawn from, it flows in abundance;
poured out, it gushes forth,

flowing every day in great quantity,
granting healing to all, yet remaining unspent.
Those who draw from it are filled with healing, yet it remains full.
Therefore what shall we call you?
Healing physicians of soul and bodies?
Healers of incurable sufferings who heal all?
You have received this gift from Christ the Savior,/
Who grants us great mercy.

NOW AND EVER...the Resurrection Theotokion in tone 6:

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

Troparia

Resurrection, tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel
The joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse
And elatedly told the apostles;
Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

Sts. Cosmas & Damian, tone 8

Holy unmercenaries and wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities.
Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 8

For our sake You were born of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death.
Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Your hand!
Reveal Your love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying for us, //
and save the despairing people, O our Savior!

THE DIVINE LITURGY

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel
The joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse
And elatedly told the apostles;
Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

Saint John of Damascus

Teacher of Orthodoxy, piety, and purity!
Enlightener of the universe!
And divine inspiration to monastics
by your teachings we are all enlightened,
and by your spiritual music, O all-wise John of Damascus,
pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!

Saints Cosmas and Damian, tone 8

Holy unmercenaries and wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our infirmities.
Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

KONTAKIA

Resurrection, tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God
Rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
And as Master,
He has risen on the third day!

Saints Cosmas and Damian, tone 2

Having received the grace of healing,
you grant healing to those in need.
Glorious wonderworkers and healers Cosmas and Damian,
visit and put down the insolence of our enemies,
and bring healing to the world through your miracles.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the creator:
Do not despise the cry of us sinners,
But in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,
For you always protect those who honor you.

PROKEIMENON, tone 4: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

Vs. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

EPISTLE: (203) Galatians 2:16-20 Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified... “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? God forbid! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me...”

Alleluia in the fourth tone: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness.

vs. For Thou lovest righteousness and doth hate iniquity.

GOSPEL: (38) LUKE 8:26-39 At that time they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia....