

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021**  
**Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus & John**

Saint Cyrus was a noted physician in the city of Alexandria, where he had been born and raised. He was a Christian and he treated the sick without charge, not only curing their bodily afflictions, but also healing their spiritual infirmities. He would say, "Whoever wishes to avoid being ill should refrain from sin, for sin is often the cause of bodily illness." Preaching the Gospel, the holy physician converted many pagans to Christ. During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), Saint Cyrus withdrew into Arabia, where he became a monk. He continued to heal people by his prayer, having received from God the gift to heal every sickness.

In the city of Edessa at this time lived the soldier John, a pious Christian. When the persecution started, he went to Jerusalem and there he heard about Saint Cyrus. He began to search for him, going first to Alexandria and then to Arabia. When Saint John finally found Saint Cyrus, he remained with him and became his faithful follower.

They learned of the arrest of the Christian woman Athanasia and her three young daughters. Theoctiste was fifteen; Theodota, was thirteen; and Eudoxia, was eleven. Saints Cyrus and John hastened to the prison to help them. They were concerned that faced with torture, the women might renounce Christ.

Saints Cyrus and John gave them courage to endure what lay before them. Learning of this, the ruler of the city arrested Saints Cyrus and John, and seeing their steadfast and fearless confession of faith in Christ, he brought Athanasia and her daughters to witness their torture. The tyrant did not refrain from any form of torture against the holy martyrs. The women were not frightened by the sufferings of Saints Cyrus and John, but courageously continued to confess Christ. They were flogged and then beheaded, receiving their crowns of martyrdom.

At the same place they executed the Holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John. Christians buried their bodies in the church of the holy Evangelist Mark. In the fifth century the relics of Saints Cyrus and John were transferred from Canopis to Manuphin. Later on their relics were transferred to Rome, and from there to Munchen (Munich) (another account is located under June 28).

Saints Cyrus and John are invoked by those who have difficulty in sleeping.

## Great Vespers

**LORD I CALL:** *Six stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1, followed by three for the saints.*

### ***Resurrection, tone 1:***

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!  
Grant us remission of sins, //  
for You alone have manifested the Resurrection to the world.

Encircle Zion and surround her, O people!  
Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead! //  
For He is our God, Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

Come, O people, let us hymn and fall down before Christ,  
glorifying His Resurrection from the dead! //  
For He is our God, Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

Be glad, O heavens!  
Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!  
Sing in gladness, O mountains!  
Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!  
Granting life, He has slain death. //  
He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of mankind.

Let us praise Him Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.  
He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead.  
By orthodoxy confirm Your Church, O Christ. //  
Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of mankind.

We stand before Your life- bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,  
offering glory to Your ineffable compassion.  
You have accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One! //  
to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of mankind.

### ***Saints, tone 1:***

You brightly illumine the whole universe  
with the radiance of your miracles  
like brilliant lamps made worthy of heaven by grace,  
set there like stars, O Cyrus and John! //  
because of the virtues of your perfect lives.

You have indeed received the skill from God  
to heal the passions of soul and body.

O martyrs of the Lord, you heal all supernaturally,  
not by the cure of human medicine,//  
but by divine inspiration.

As you stand in the midst of the heavenly powers,  
O Cyrus and John,  
brightly shining lamps and brave sufferers,  
you heal the bodily and spiritual wounds of those on earth//  
for the sake of Christ to Whom you pray for us.

***Glory... for the saints, tone 8:***

The pair of martyrs, miracle-working Cyrus and John,  
shine on us today, curing our spiritual infirmities.  
They both, as equal to the angels, bring healing.  
They lived until the end as if with one life  
and were joined to Christ by their martyred blood!  
Both, having appeared to the gathered soldiers,  
have been enrolled as citizens of the heavenly armies.  
Therefore they grant healings and pray for the souls//  
of those of us who celebrate their memory with faith.

***Now & ever... the Dogmatikon in tone 1:***

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!  
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!  
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!  
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!  
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!  
She destroyed the wall of enmy!  
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!  
Since she is our foundation of faith,  
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!  
Courage! Courage! O People of God!  
For Christ will destroy our enemies//  
since He is all powerful.

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 1:***

We have been freed from sufferings  
by Your suffering, O Christ.  
We have been delivered from corruption  
by Your Resurrection.//  
O Lord, glory to You!

Let creation rejoice!  
Let the heavens be glad!  
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,  
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.  
Slaying death, He has given life.//  
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

As King of heaven and earth,  
You were voluntarily crucified in Your love for man.  
Hell was angered when it met You below.  
Adam rose seeing You, the Creator, under the earth.  
O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?  
You enlightened the world which cries://  
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Your tomb,  
bearing myrrh and lamenting.  
Not finding Your most pure body,  
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.  
They told the Apostles://  
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

***Glory... for the saints, tone2:***

O assembly of the faithful,  
let us gather today!  
Let us crown Cyrus and John with hymns!  
They are soldiers of grace who grant it abundantly to those who ask.  
They have been revealed to all, in various ways,//  
as brilliant physicians who pray for our souls.

***Now & ever... Theotokion of the Resurrection in tone 2:***

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!  
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,  
who carried in her arms her Creator?  
This birth is the will of God!  
Since you carried Him as an infant in your arms, O most pure one,  
and since you possess motherly boldness before Him,  
do not cease praying for us who honor you,//  
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

***TROPARIA***

***Resurrection, tone 1***

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;

while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O giver of Life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

***Sts. Cyrus & John, tone 5***

O Christ God;  
You have given us the miracles of Your martyrs Cyrus and John,  
as an invincible rampart;  
through their prayers frustrate the plans of the heathens,  
and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians,//  
for You alone are good and lovest mankind.

***Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 5***

Rejoice, Impassable Gate of the Lord!  
Rejoice, Wall and Protection of those who run to you!  
Rejoice, Unshakable Refuge!  
Rejoice, you who knew not wedlock,  
who gave birth in the flesh to your Creator and God!//  
Do not cease praying for those who praise and worship your Son!

<b>DIVINE LITURGY</b>
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**TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;  
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O giver of Life:  
Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

**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 Cyrus & John, tone 5**

O Christ God;

You have given us the miracles of Your martyrs Cyrus and John,  
as an invincible rampart;  
through their prayers frustrate the plans of the heathens,  
and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians,//  
for You alone are good and lovest mankind.

### **KONTAKIA**

#### **Resurrection, tone 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Thyself.  
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.  
Adam exults O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee;  
Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

### **Saints Cyrus & John, tone 3**

Having received the gift of miracles through divine grace, O saints,  
you work wonders in the world unceasingly.  
You remove all of our passions through your invisible surgery,  
divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious John,//  
for you are truly divine physicians.

### **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 1:** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!  
*V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)*

**EPISTLE** (258) Colossians 3:12-16: Brethren, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also you must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be

thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

*Alleluia in the first tone:* God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

**GOSPEL (105) Matt. 25:14-30:** “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, Enter into the joy of your lord. He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, “Well, done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!