

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

APOSTLES OF THE SEVENTY: STACHYS, AMPLIAS,
URBAN, NARCISSUS, APELLES, AND ARISTOBULUS
HIEROMARTYR JOHN KOCHUROV

The Holy Apostles Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, Apelles and Aristobulus. They were of the Seventy. St Stachys was a helper of St Andrew the First-Called, who made him bishop of Byzantium. He built a church in Argyropolis, and governed his flock with faithfulness and zeal. After sixteen years as bishop, he entered peacefully into rest in the Lord. Amplias and Urban were also fellow-workers with St Andrew, and were made bishop by him, Amplias in Lydda and Urban in Macedonia. They both died as martyrs for Christ the Lord. Narcissus was made Bishop of Athens by the Apostle Philip, and holy Apelles was Bishop of Heraklion in Trachis. Aristobulus, the brother of the Apostle Barnabas, preached the Christian faith in Britain and died peacefully there. He is also commemorated on March 16th.

Holy Martyr Archpriest John Kochurov, The first clergyman of the Russian Orthodox Church, whom Our Lord Jesus Christ made worthy of bearing a martyr's crown in the 20th century from the hands of the godless Bolshevik authorities, the first murdered Russian Orthodox priest, about whom the Holy Confessor Patriarch Tikhon said: "adorned with a martyr's crown, the reposed pastor now stands before the throne of God among the chosen faithful of Christ's flock", was destined to be the zealous parish priest and inspired witness "even unto death" (Rev. 12:11) of Christ's Truth – Archpriest John Kochurov, who met a martyr's death at the hands of apostates and theomachists on October 31, 1917 in Tsarskoye Selo.

GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL:** Four stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2, (spiral bound vespers book) followed by four stikhera for the martyr*

HIEROMARTYR JOHN, tone 4:

Rejoice, O holy Father John of Chicago,
missionary and evangelizer of America!
You left your native land to minister to Christ's people in the
New World.

Like Abraham, you were a stranger in a strange land,
and like the patriarch, you never lost your faith in God.
You zealously instructed your flock in the Orthodox Faith,
guiding them through a land of strange beliefs as through the Land
of Canaan.

You firmly established your flock in the True Faith,//
as a true emulator of the Apostles and intercessor for our souls.

Rejoice, O holy Father John, Evangelizer of Chicago!
You embodied the virtues of the Apostles.
With your family, you traveled to the New World to minister to
Christ's people.
Through patience, tolerance, and love,
you built up a strong foundation for Orthodoxy throughout the
Midwest,
always acting in humility and in obedience to the will of God. //
By your prayers, preserve the Church in peace and save our souls!

Rejoice, O holy Father John, Martyr of Tsarskoe Seló!
Returning to Russia, you found Christ's people beset by godless
powers.

With love and zeal you ministered to your flock,
not caring about wars, or rumors of wars, //
but only for the peace and salvation of all.

Rejoice O glorious John, true disciple of the Lord!
To those consumed by the darkness of this world,

the light of your virtues was blinding.
When they sought to extinguish the light,
you were praying, not for the victory of an earthly kingdom,
but for the peace of the Kingdom of Heaven.
With malice, the godless ones insulted and persecuted you.
Filled with hate they put you to a gruesome death,
granting you the victory that they had sought. //
O pious and holy Hieromartyr, pray unceasingly that our souls may
be saved!

GLORY... for the martyr, tone 6:

Rejoice, O city of Chicago!
Leap for joy, O Tsárskoe Seló!
You have shared in the blessed presence of the holy Hieromartyr
John,
faithful and righteous priest of Christ;
zealous teacher and defender of the Truth;
enlightener of the confused, consoler of the distraught,
and rescuer of those gone astray;
true shepherd and pastor of the Flock of Christ;
who with the holy Patriarch Tikhon, and the holy Hieromartyr
Alexander,
illuminated North America with the rays of Orthodoxy;
who struggled unto death in defense of the Faith in Russia against
the godless powers!!
With them, he prays for the peace of the world and the salvation of
our souls.

***NOW AND EVER...The Dogmatikon in tone 2 (spiral
bound vespers book)***

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment can ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction — but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,

because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in a furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect, and He watches over His holy ones. ***Wis.3:1-9***

The Reading from Proverbs. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse. The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires. When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead. With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape. When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed. A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. **Proverbs 10:31-11:12**

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He

was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones. **Wis.4:7-15**

APOSTIKHA : All stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2 (spiral bound vespers book)

Glory... for the Martyr, tone 5:

Rejoice, O holy Father John, great pastor of the Church of Christ! You were a source of comfort and consolation to your people, ministering to their needs as a servant of servants, guiding them in an alien land, like Abraham of old. Returning to your native land, you likewise offered consolation to a people beset by evil and civil war. You did not condemn the warring parties, but ceaselessly prayed to Christ for the restoration of peace and the end of suffering.

For this you endured insult and injury, bearing all in a Christ-like manner, even unto the forfeit of your earthly life.

Now, as you stand before the Prince of Peace, // intercede with Him that He may grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

Now & ever... the resurrectional Theotokion, tone 5:

O most precious Virgin, you are the gate, the temple, the palace, the throne of the King. From you, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord, appeared to those asleep in darkness. He is the Sun of Righteousness, Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created. Since you possess motherly boldness before Him, O all praised Lady,//

pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

St. John, tone 1

You were revealed to all as a true shepherd
O Hieromartyr John of Chicago,
for you nurtured your people in the Orthodox Faith,
guiding them by word and deed on the path of salvation,
and defended the Faith even unto the shedding of your blood.
Therefore we your spiritual children cry out in thanksgiving:
“Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you the Martyr’s ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who through you grants mercy to all!”

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 1

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!” with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^you, the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!
Your womb became more spacious than the heavens, for you carried your Creator.
Glory to Him Who took abode in you!
Glory to Him Who came ^forth from you!//
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

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