

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022
6th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Martyrs and Passionbearers Boris and Gleb

Saints Boris and Gleb were sons of Saint Vladimir (July 15). Saint Boris was named Romanus and Saint Gleb was named David at their Baptism. After their father's death the eldest son Sviatopolk planned to kill his brothers Boris, Gleb, and Yaroslav in order to seize power. He sent a message to Boris, pretending that he wished to live in peace with him, and to increase Boris's land holdings inherited from their father.

Some of Vladimir's advisers told Boris that he should take the army and establish himself as ruler of Kiev. Saint Boris, however, said that he could never lift his hand against his own brother. Unfortunately, Sviatopolk was not so scrupulous. He came to the town of Vyshegorod to ask its leaders if they were loyal to him. They assured him that they were ready to die for him.

Sviatopolk sent assassins to the Alta to kill Boris, who already knew that his brother wanted him dead. When they arrived they heard him chanting psalms and praying before an icon of Christ. He asked the Lord to strengthen him for the suffering he was about to endure. He also prayed for Sviatopolk, asking God not to count this against him as sin.

Then he lay down upon his couch, and the assassins stabbed him with their lances, and also killed some of Boris's servants. Wrapping Boris in a cloth, they threw him onto a wagon and drove off with him. When Sviatopolk saw that he was still breathing, he sent some men to finish him off with swords.

After Sviatopolk had killed Boris, he wondered, "Now how can I kill Gleb?" He sent him a message saying that their father was ill and wished to see him. As he was on his way, he received word from Yaroslav that their father had died and that Sviatopolk had murdered Boris.

Saint Gleb wept for his father and brother, and was lamenting them when the assassins arrived. They seized his boat and drew their weapons, but it was Gleb's cook Torchin who stabbed him with a knife.

The martyr's body was thrown onto the shore between two trees. Later, he was buried beside Saint Boris in the church of Saint Basil.

Saints Boris and Gleb received the crown of martyrdom in 1015. They became known as Passion-Bearers, since they did not resist evil with violence.

The holy martyrs Princes Boris and Gleb are also commemorated on May 2.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stichera of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spirited bound Vespers book), then ...

Sts. Boris and Gleb, tone 8:

Oh, most glorious wonder!

The day of the divine and honorable brothers now shines on
us,

summoning a new people to praise the courageous martyrs,
Boris, who willingly suffered,

and Gleb, the innocent lamb who was slaughtered with him.

They were devoured for the sake of Him Who was slain for
us, //

the Savior of our souls.

O all-praised one,

having first subjected the royal purple of your princely
power to Christ,

and acknowledged Him as the true God and King of all,
you turned away from the false gods of your ancestors.

Therefore, Christ, the Savior of our souls, Who is glorified in the saints,
enriched you with gifts of miracles,//
and, in place of corruptible things, granted you things eternal.

The land and the city where you were nourished are blessed,
and the honored temple that received your bodies
is adorned as with a crown of a kingdom.
O most pleasing protectors,
who fill our enemies with fear
and drive them far from our homeland,
O glorious Boris and most wondrous Gleb,//
pray for the salvation of our souls!

Sts. Boris and Gleb, tone 2:

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown the all-praised brothers,
who were separate in body yet united in spirit?
They are the fervent helpers of faithful peoples,
the adornments of the Russian land and the joys of the inhabited earth,
who destroyed the power of the demons through the help of
Christ,//
Who grants to the world great mercy.

With what beauties of praise shall we adorn the all-praised brothers,
Boris, who with courage gained power over the passions,
and Gleb, his fellow zealot?
Both were beacons, who shone together
and illuminated all the faithful with the light of their virtues;
for, having learned the commandments of Christ,
they have been gloriously glorified,//
and they entreat Him Who grants mercy to all.

With what spiritual words shall we compose the honorable feast of the all-glorious martyrs,
who, for the sake of Christ, laid aside corruptible, earthly glory?

For the one was pierced by a spear in his side,
and the other was slaughtered like a lamb.
They were worthily glorified by Christ,
and received the gift of healings.//
Now they fittingly ask great mercy for all.

Glory ... Sts. Boris and Gleb, tone 6:

Come, let us praise the wonder-workers and martyrs;
for, suffering lawfully, they defeated the hostile enemy,
and now, radiantly adorned, they stand before Christ, rejoicing.
Therefore, with hymns let us glorify their memory with love,
crying out:
“Rejoice, O defenders of the inhabited earth and vanquishers of the enemy!
Rejoice, O healers of the sick and expellers of demons!
Rejoice, O examples of love and adornments of brotherhood,
glorious Boris and Gleb, beloved of Christ,
who, for our sake, entreat the Holy Trinity//
to grant peace to the world, and to save our souls!”

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound Vespers book)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 43:9-14. Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear and say, “It is truth.” “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen,

that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, and there was no foreign god among you; therefore you are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?” Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon, and bring them all down as fugitives – the Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships.

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9. But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be 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 the 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.

Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15. 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, 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.

APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound Vespers book)

Glory ... Sts. Boris and Gleb, tone 8:

Come, O baptized assemblies of Russia,
and see how the martyr Boris, though innocent, accepts his
fate;
with a spear he is pierced in the side,
and the shedding of blood is accomplished at the Devil’s ins-
tigation;
and Gleb is slaughtered like a lamb by Sviátopolk, his own
brother.

But they are crowned, while he is forgotten.
And they are filled with glory,
while he is tortured in Gehenna.//
And they pray to Christ God on behalf of our souls.

now and ever ... the theotokion of the Resurrection in tone 8 (spiral bound Vespers book)

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 5:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Sts. Boris and Gleb, tone 2:

Righteous passion-bearers and true fulfillers of the Gospel of
Christ,

chaste Boris and guileless Gleb,

You did not resist the attacks of your brother, the enemy,
when he killed your bodies but could not touch your souls.

Therefore, let the evil lover of power mourn

while you rejoice with the Angels standing before the Holy
Trinity.

Pray that those who honor your memory may be pleasing to
God, //

and that all Orthodox Christians may be saved!

Resurrectional dismissal theotokion, tone 2:

All beyond thought, all most glorious,

are your mysteries, O Theotokos.

Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,

you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to
the True God. //

Entreat Him to save our souls.

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