

OCTOBER 23, 2022

HOLY APOSTLE JAMES, THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

Apostle James

Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). From his early years James was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach the nation about the Kingdom of God, St. James believed in Christ and became His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

St. James presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, St. James converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill St. James. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. St. James' martyrdom occurred about 63 A.D.

The holy Apostle James composed a Divine Liturgy, which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Sts. Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of St. James, one of the books of the New Testament.

In 1853, Patriarch Hierotheus of Alexandria sent to Moscow a portion of the relics of St. James. The Church distinguishes between the holy Apostle James the Brother of God, and St. James the son of Zebedee (April 30) and St. James the son of Alphaeus (October 9).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: *Six stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 2 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by three for the saint*

Saint, tone 4:

Come, O godly-minded people,
let us honor the memory of the brother of God in a holy manner!
Taking up the yoke of Christ with zeal,
he showed himself to be a preacher
of the goodness of His Gospel and His Kingdom.
He persuades us of His ineffable providence.//
Therefore, grant us purification through him, O almighty One!

The proclamation of your words has resounded to all the ends of the earth.

By them we are enlightened in all types of godly virtue
and are guided by faith to knowledge of the Holy Trinity.
Therefore, we beseech you, as a bishop,//
pray to Jesus that He may save our souls as the Lover of mankind!

Foreseeing your manner of life, O James,
Christ the Lover of mankind, the all-wise One Who perceives all things,
received you and ordained you as an instructor of the sacred Mysteries
for the people of Jerusalem;
a priest to perform the sacred Mysteries.//
Entreat Him that our souls may be saved!

GLORY... for the saint, tone 6:

You adorned your priesthood with the blood of martyrdom,
Hieromartyr and Apostle.
Appearing on the Temple porch,
you proclaimed God the Word as the Creator of all.
Therefore you were thrown to your death by the Jews
and were given the mansions of heaven, O James, the brother of God.//
Entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

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

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

GLORY... for the saint, tone 8:

You were called brother and successor of Christ, the chief Shepherd,

and He put you forward among the Apostles.
You loved Him for Whom you died,
and were not dismayed by torture, O glorious James.//
Ever pray to Him that He may save our souls!

***NOW AND EVER...Theotokion of the Resurrection in tone 8
(spiral bound vespers book)***

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!”

Saint James, tone 4

As the Lord's disciple you received the Gospel, O righteous James;
as a martyr you have unfailing courage;
as God's brother, you have boldness;
as a hierarch, you have the power to intercede.//
Pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 4

The mystery of all eternity,
unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//
saving our souls from death.

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