

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022
HIEROMARTYR ZENOBIUS AND HIS SISTER ZENOBIA,
OF AEGAE IN CILICIA

The Hieromartyr Zenobius, Bishop of Aegea, and his sister Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in the year 285 in Cilicia. From childhood they were raised in the holy Christian Faith by their parents, and they led pious and chaste lives. In their mature years, shunning the love of money, they distributed away their inherited wealth giving it to the poor. For his beneficence and holy life the Lord rewarded Zenobius with the gift of healing various maladies. He was also chosen bishop of a Christian community in Cilicia.

As bishop, St. Zenobius zealously spread the Christian Faith among the pagans. When the emperor Diocletian (284-305) began a persecution against Christians, Bishop Zenobius was the first one arrested and brought to trial to the governor Licius. "I shall only speak briefly with you," said Licius to the saint, "for I propose to grant you life if you worship our gods, or death, if you do not." The saint answered, "This present life without Christ is death. It is better that I prepare to endure the present torment for my Creator, and then with Him live eternally, than to renounce Him for the sake of the present life, and then be tormented eternally in Hades."

By order of Licius, they nailed him to a cross and began the torture. The bishop's sister, seeing him suffering, wanted to stop it. She bravely confessed her own faith in Christ before the governor, therefore, she also was tortured.

By the power of the Lord they remained alive after being placed on a red-hot iron bed, and then in a boiling kettle. The saints were then beheaded. The priest Hermogenes secretly buried the bodies of the martyrs in a single grave.

St. Zenobius is invoked by those suffering from breast cancer.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Seven stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound vespers book) followed by three for the saints

Saints, tone 4:

You dyed your vestments, O Zenóbius,
with the blood of martyrdom.

Through grace you accomplished what is most sacred
and entered into the holy of holies, O glorious one.

As a wise high priest, you were offered as a perfect and all-pure
offering

and as an unblemished sacrifice//

to Him Who was sacrificed for you, O most holy one.

Your body was burned, O all-worthy hieromartyr Zenóbius,
yet the inner beauty of your soul shone forth more brightly.

You are the glory of priests, O godly- minded one;
the boast of champions;

a spring ever-flowing with wonders//

You put the demons to flight, O divine warrior of Christ.

Your sister Zenobía was of one mind with you, O all-wise one.

She voluntarily chose to suffer with you.

With courage she endured with you threat of fire and a violent death,
and received with you the crown of victory//

entering with you, O Zenóbius, into the Kingdom on high.

GLORY... for the saints, tone 6:

Come, O lovers of the martyrs!

Let us clap our hands today and form a choir!

Let us sing songs to commemorate the most pious contenders
Zenóbius and Zenobía!

They became champions of the Trinity,

and in the arena they courageously drowned the invisible enemy with
their holy blood.

They have gloriously gained the crown of victory.

Therefore let us cry out to them:

“O holy and illumined pair, both blessed before the Lord //

intercede with the Savior for the salvation of our souls!”

NOW AND EVER...the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 3 (spiral bound vespers book)

APOSTIKHA: *All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 3*

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Martyrs, tone 4

As brother and sister united in godliness

together you struggled in contest Zenóbius and Zenobía.

You received incorruptible crowns

and unending glory//

and shine forth with the grace of healing upon those in the world.

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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