

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022
24th Sunday after Pentecost (10th of Luke)
Greatmartyr Jacob (James) the Persian

The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor.

Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness.

His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, Saint James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death.

They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture Saint James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: 6 stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

St. James, tone 2:

Having forsaken the beauties of the world,
the splendor of your birthright, wealth and honor,
you cast aside all sensuality,
breaking your body through the taming of the passions.
You rejoiced, O James, as followed after Christ,
for through your suffering you have indeed become a partaker of
glory,//
and are an inheritor of the Kingdom.

When the members of your flesh were cut off,
you endured unbearable pain and wounds, O truly glorious James.
You courageously trampled underfoot the savagery of the tormentors
and received a priceless crown of victory, O martyr of Christ.
Now adorned with it, O blessed one,
you stand with those who suffered with you//
before the throne of the Master.

Possessing boldness before Christ, O ever-memorable Martyr,
you fervently intercede for all
who celebrate your honored festival with faith,
delivering them from misfortunes
and freeing them from the passions,
rescuing them from the evils that surround them,
and granting their souls salvation by your divine prayers,//
that we may glorify your splendid struggles.

Glory ... Forefeast, tone 5:

Steadfast in struggles, O Martyr James,
you delivered up your body on behalf of Christ our God.
Your hands and legs were severed,

your fingers, arms, shoulders, and at the last, your head.
O long-suffering Martyr,
do not cease to pray to Christ on our behalf//
that He will grant our souls great mercy!

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTICHA: All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then ...

Glory ... St. James, tone 8:

Having assembled today in faith,
O lovers of the things of God,
let us behold the spiritual and awe-inspiring contest of James of Persia,
who has shone on us like the star appearing to the Magi,
guiding us to true knowledge.
That valiant one, when he fell, destroyed those who fought against
him,
and when his members were severed,
he brought to nothing those who tortured him,
for, strengthened by the providence of the Most High, he cried out:
“Even though you cut my material limbs,
yet I have Christ, Who has spiritually become all things to me.”
Therefore, foreseeing the life to come,
that lies before all through death,
he hastened to pass over to it.
Dwelling there, he entreats God, the Bestower of crowns,
that He may grant to us who celebrate his memory//
cleansing, enlightenment and great mercy.

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

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 7:

By Your Cross You destroyed death.

To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen//
granting the world great mercy.

St. James, tone 4:

Long-suffering James, you astounded all
by enduring horrible tortures with great patience.
As the evil assembly performed the slaughter,
you uttered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord.
Through your sufferings you received your crown,
and came to the throne of the heavenly King, Christ God.//
Entreat Him to save our souls!

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.

Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church

Rector: Father Michael Anderson

16903 Espola Rd

Poway, CA 92064

Email: powaypadre@stjohnofdamascus.org

Office: 858-674-1931