

The 18th Day of August

Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stikhera of the feast, in Tone 2: *Special melody: “With what crowns of praise ...”*

With what unworthy lips shall we bless the Theotokos? /
She who is more honorable than all creation, /
And more holy than the cherubim and all the angels, /
She is the unshaken throne of the King, /
The abode in which the Most High dwelt. /
She is the salvation of the world, the Holy place of God, ///
Who richly grants unto the faithful great mercy on this her holy feast.

What songs filled with wonder /
Did the apostles of the Word offer thee, O Virgin? /
As they stood ’round thy bier and cried aloud in amazement: /
Behold, the palace of the King is departing! /
Behold, the ark of holiness is raised on high! /
Open wide, ye gates, that the portal of God may enter into the joy [of paradise] ///
She who asks without ceasing for the world great mercy.

What spiritual hymns shall we now offer thee, O most holy one, /
For thou hast sanctified the whole world by thy deathless falling asleep, /
Passing over to the things that are above the world, /
There to perceive the beauty of the Almighty, /
And to rejoice in Him as His Mother, /
Borne aloft by the ranks of angels and the souls of the righteous. ///
Together with them, ask for us peace and great mercy.

And 3 stikhera of the martyrs, in Tone 4: *Special melody: “Thou hast given a sign...”*

Revealing yourselves as perfect stones, O holy ones, /
Hewn in martyrdom and quarried in torments, /
You fashioned yourselves into a church of the Lord /
Casting down the temples and the worship of idolatry. /
Therefore, we bless [you] as citizens of paradise ///
And [as worthy] offerings in the temple of heaven.

All who venerate the relics of the holy martyrs Florus and Laurus /
Draw forth grace and receive enlightenment, /
Gladness and mercy, /
For streams of healing and divine grace richly flow out from them; /
And blessing the [martyrs] as being well-pleasing to the Lord ///
We earnestly cry, O our God, glory to Thee

Enduring imprisonment in the pit /
And being buried in the earth at the torturer's command /
You were revealed to us as brightly shining stars /
By Divine will and the action of the Holy Spirit, /
Radiant with signs, wonders and gifts of healing ///
O passion-bearing brothers and companions of the angels.

Glory..., Tone 2

O holy zealots, /
O Florus and Laurus, brethren in Christ, /
Be honored with these fitting hymns of praise, /
For you suffered greatly and achieved [greatness], /
For your confession of God you have received crowns of victory; /
Therefore, in heaven you now sing together with the angels /
Earnestly entreating the Holy Trinity ///
To grant peace to the world and to save our souls.

Now and ever..., in the Same Tone:

Come, O ye people /
And let us sing the praises of the pure and most holy Virgin /
From whom the Word of the Father ineffably came forth incarnate. /
Let us cry aloud and say: /
Blessèd art thou among women and blessèd is thy womb that held Christ /
Having delivered thy soul into His holy hands, ///
Do thou, O most pure, entreat Him for the salvation of our souls.

At the Apostikha, these stikhera of the feast, in Tone 2: Special melody: "O house of Ephratha..."

O ye choirs of heaven, raise a song, /
For the Virgin Mother hath been presented today ///
From the earth to heaven.

Verse: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness

The choir of the disciples hath assembled in glory /
From all the ends of the earth ///
To bury thy divine and incorrupt body, O maiden.

Verse: The Lord hath sworn to David a sure oath and will not change His mind.

Lift up, O ye gates of heaven! /
And behold as the gates that held the Highest One, /
The only Mother of God, approaches [God] in the Highest.

Glory..., now and ever.... Tone 4:

Come O ye people , /
And let us sing today unto Christ our God, a song of David: /
'The virgins that follow her', he said, 'shall be brought unto the King: /
With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought'. /
For she, through whom we have been made godlike, is of the seed of David; /
And gloriously and ineffably she commends herself into the hands of her
own Son and Master. /
Praising her as the Mother of God, we cry aloud and say: /
From all distress save us who confess thee, O Theotokos, ///
And grant our souls deliverance from all tribulations.

The Troparion of the martyrs, in Tone 4:

O come all ye faithful /
And let us worthily praise the all-blessèd Florus and the most honored Laurus, /
For they have earnestly proclaimed the uncreated Trinity to all. /
For this they suffered unto the shedding of their blood /
And earned their most glorious crowns. /
O most wise and radiant brethren in Christ, ///
Pray Christ God that He may save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever.... the Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

In giving bîrth, thou didst preserve thy virgînity, /
In falling asleep thou didst not forsâke the world. /
Thou wast translated into life, O Móther of Life, ///
And by thy prayers dost redeem our sôuls from death.

Morning Service

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Feast, twice; Glory..., that of the martyrs; Now and ever..., that of the Feast, once.

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sedalen, in Tone 4: Special Melody: “Thou hast appeared today...”

The whole universe is adorned [today], /
With the immaterial glory of thy glorious memory ///
And spiritually cries out to thee: Rejoice, O Virgin, the boast of [all] Christians!

Glory..., now and ever... (Repeat)

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sedalen in Tone 6: Special Melody: “The portal of loving-kindness...”

All the faithful praise thy falling asleep, O pure one, /
And we sing to thee, /
O thou who hast been translated from the earth, from life unto life, /
And is ever praying now in heaven to God, ///
For the deliverance of the human race.

Glory..., now and ever... (Repeat)

The Canon

The canon of the martyrs, with 4 troparia (having the acrostic:
“I hymn the two beautiful martyrs”, the composition of Joseph), **in Tone 8:**

incomplete as of 7/10/2013

The Kontakion to the Martyrs, in Tone 8: Special Melody: “As the first-fruits ...”

The whole universe gloriously honors Florus and Laurus /
As pious victims and divinely wise martyrs for Christ. /
That we may we receive grace and mercy through their prayers /
And be delivered from every trial and tribulation ///
And from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion to the Feast, in Tone 2:

Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotókos, /
Who is constant in prayer /
And our firm hope in her intercessions; /
For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life ///
By the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.