

Vespers Proper Hymns for 3 November

Holy Martyrs Aceptsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Priest, and
Aithalas the Deacon and Doctor of Persia
Consecration of the Church of the Holy Great-Martyr George
in Lydda

*At “Lord, I have called...” three stichera to the martyrs, in
Tone 8:*

O most glorious wonder!
the comely Aceptsimus,
the minister to the martyrs,
is crowned today with a wreath of hymns.
He setteth before us the suffering to which he was subjected
for his worship of God,
and doth wound the incorporeal foe.
O, what liberal gifts of grace he hath received!
through his prayers save Thou our souls, O Christ,
in that Thou art full of lovingkindness.

O most glorious wonder!
Joseph hath shone forth as a star
from Persia.
Destroying the abomination of sorcery by the Spirit,
he hath extinguished the impious worship of fire with the
streams of his blood.
O, the strength wherewith he cast down the demons!
Through his prayers, O Christ, save Thou our souls,
in that Thou art compassionate.

O most glorious wonder!
The steadfast Aithalas,
the namesake of a champion of suffering,
is shown to be an ever-blossoming garden,
which, cut down, doth bloom with wounds,
and when slain doth but begin to live.
O, the strength of nature which he endured!
Through his prayers, O Christ, save Thou our souls,
in that Thou art compassionate.

And three stichera to the Great Martyr, in Tone 4:

O passion-bearer George,
converser with the angels,
dweller with the martyrs,
who art ever the refuge of the sorrowful:
Be thou a haven of tranquillity!
Preserve me as I sail upon the sea of life,
and pilot my life, I implore thee,
that with unwavering faith I may bless
thy supernatural struggles.

As I sleep at night;
and when I am awake
illumine my mind, O George,
and instruct me to do the will of the Lord,
that on the day of Judgment
I may find remission of the sins I have committed in my life,
by fleeing to thy protection, O glorious one.

Arrayed in the breastplate of faith,
armed with the shield of grace
and the spear of the Cross,
thou wast invincible to the adversary, O George.
And as a divine warrior,
having conquered legions of demons,
thou dost hold chorus with the angels,
and, entreated by the faithful,
thou dost sanctify and save them, preserving them.

Glory... in Tone 6:

Thou didst live in accordance with the meaning of thy name,
as is meet, O warrior George;
for, taking the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulders,
thou didst work well the ground
which had been made barren by the deceit of the devil,
and, having uprooted the thorns of idolatrous worship,
thou didst plant the vine of the Orthodox Faith.
Wherefore, thou dost pour forth healings upon the faithful
 throughout all the world,
and hast been shown to be a righteous labourer of the
 Trinity.
Pray thou, we entreat thee,
for peace for the world
and the salvation of our souls.

At the Aposticha: Glory ..., to the martyrs, in Tone 6:

The three children
who were preserved out upon the way,
unconsumed by the fire in Persia
were mystically a foreshadowing
of your thrice-radiant oneness of mind
and your martyrdom in Christ,
O athletes of the ineffable Trinity and the supernatural
Unity;
for as they stood up against the flame
and did not rail against God,
so ye also did not refuse to die
when your lives were not spared by those who hate Christ.
For just as in their midst
there appeared a Fourth Who bedewed them,
so also Christ, Who is one of the Trinity,
hath received you into a place of coolness.
O Acepsimus, Joseph and Aithalas,
elect of God,
pray ye for our souls.