



**The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher
And those with him
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on June 1**

This Saint, who was from Neapolis of Palestine, was a follower of Plato the Philosopher. Born in A.D. 13, he came to the Faith of Christ when he was already a mature man, seeking to find God through philosophy and human reasoning. A venerable elder¹ appeared to him and spoke to him about the Prophets who had taught of God not through their own wisdom, but by revelation; and he led him to knowledge of Christ, Who is the fulfillment of what the prophets taught. Saint Justin soon became a fervent follower of Christ, and an illustrious apologist of the Evangelical teachings. To the end of his life, while preaching Christ in all

¹ In the second hymn of the Entreaty for this feast of Saint Justin Martyr, we hear: “He that caught the sons of Zebedee by the Sea of Galilee sent His beloved disciple to catch thee by the sea-shore also...” So Saint John the Evangelist appeared to Saint Justin, “in a certain field not far from the sea”, and, after disabusing him of his enthrallment with philosophy by cogently and thoroughly putting Plato and the others to rout, directed him to the Hebrew Prophets. St John said to Saint Justin, “There existed, long before this time, certain men more ancient than all those who are esteemed philosophers, both righteous and beloved by God, who spoke by the Divine Spirit, and foretold events which would take place, and which are now taking place. They are called prophets.” Enamored of these Saints, the Hebrew Prophets, St. Justin was led to Christ. (Ed. V.P.)

parts, he never put off his philosopher's garb. In Rome, he gave the Emperor Antoninus Pius (reigned 138-161) an apology wherein he proved the innocence and holiness of the Christian Faith, persuading him to relieve the persecution of Christians. Through the machinations of Crescens, a Cynic philosopher who envied him, Saint Justin was beheaded in Rome in 167 under Antoninus's successor, Marcus Aurelius (reigned 161-180). Besides his defense of Christianity (*First and Second Apologies*), Saint Justin wrote against paganism (*Discourse to the Greeks; Hortatory Address to the Greeks*), and refuted Jewish objections against Christ (*Dialogue with Trypho*).

*Dismissal Hymn. Plagal of First Tone
Let us worship the Word*

THOU didst empty the cup of the wisdom of the Greeks, * and thou didst thirst again, til thou camest unto the well * where thou foundest water springing to eternal life. * And having drunk deeply thereof, * thou didst also drink the cup that Christ gave to His disciples. * Wherefore, O Justin, we praise thee as a philosopher and Martyr of Christ.

*Kontakion. Third Tone
On this day the Virgin*

AS the breath of Paradise, * the dew descending from Aërmon, * Christ the Power and the Peace * and the Wisdom of God the Father, * came upon thy thirsting spirit, * O Martyr Justin, * making thee a spring of knowledge for all the faithful * when thou bearest with true valour, * death as a martyr, * to live forever in Christ.

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Selected Hymns
From
THE MENAION

VESPERS

After the Proemial Psalm, we chant Blessed is the man. For Lord, I have cried, we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating the first two:

Second Tone. When he took Thee

JUSTIN, we acclaim thy feats today, * for with fervent faith and great boldness thou didst uphold holy truth. * Skilled both in philosophy and in the knowledge of God, * thou didst cast down the haughty words * of pagan deception. Zealous in the Faith of Christ, thou didst espouse His strait way. * Wherefore, thy memorial shineth * with the beams of glory and wisdom * emanating from the primal source of Light. *(Twice)*

WHEN the chill of ignorance held sway * over all creation because of the wanton spite of the foe, * and the hordes of demons were adored and served as gods, * ye made chill deception cease through the most fervent heat * of your burning zeal and divine faith, * when you poured your blood out in longing * for Him that poured out His blood on the Cross. *(Twice)*

GODLY Justin, great before the Lord, * Peon the brave athlete, Valerian, and Chariton the wise, Charito, Evelpistus, and Hierax great of fame, now have dyed in their very blood * a bright and divine robe * for the Sovereign Lord of all; and being clad therewith, * they all stand together rejoicing * with the angel's hosts in the Heavens * at the throne of Christ, the mighty King of all.

WHEN, by the divine behest of God, * ye set out for conflicts and struggles above the nature of man, * ye denied the body, as it is corruptible; * and made powerful in the strength * of God the Almighty, * ye feared not the fire nor yet the cutting of the sword, * but bowed your necks unto Christ God * and received a most blessed ending * with exceeding gladness and exultant hearts.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

BEFORE all nations and men, O blessed Justin Philosopher, with clarion voice thou didst cry out: I have loved wisdom, and from my youth I have sought her out; I was a lover of Thy beauty O my Christ, and to all men I proclaimed Thee, O Wisdom of the Father. If any man thirst let him come to this Spring and drink; herein is life everlasting; herein are the waters of salvation; here is the eternal God, become incarnate to save man; love ye Him, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For the Entreaty. Second tone

WITH hymns of thanksgiving, O brethren, let us this day praise Christ's glorious Martyr Justin; for unto us, unworthy as we are, he hath

surrendered his most sacred head as a precious pearl, hidden for centuries beneath the waters of unbelief and oblivion. Herewith he confessed Christ; and in honouring it, we receive forgiveness for our souls.

Same Tone

HE that caught the sons of Zebedee by the sea of Galilee, sent His beloved disciple to catch thee by the sea-shore also; and when He had transformed thy philosopher's pen into the rod of a fisherman, He sent thee to catch the nations. Wherefore O Justin, since thou hast been endued with power from on high, thou dost clothe us with blessing and glory as we honour thy sacred memorial. Intercede with Christ to save our souls.

Third Tone

IN single combat, O Martyr, thou didst fearlessly wrestle against all the power of the demons; and with the might of Christ, thou didst overthrow the empire of their delusion. Wherefore, we thy fervent lovers have thee as our champion and protector, and to thee we make this supplication: turn thy compassionate eye upon us, lighten the burden of our affliction, fortify our hearts amidst temptations, be ever present to help us, and beseech mercy for our souls.

Glory. *Plagal of First Tone*

BLESSED be thy sacred head, O Justin, confessor of Christ, wherewith thy martyrdom was crowned; blessed be thine eyes which steadfastly gazed upon the glory of God; blessed be thy lips which tasted the draught of eternal life; blessed be thy tongue which bare witness before all the world concerning the Word, its Creator; blessed be thine ears which hearkened to the call of thy Master's voice. O head most venerable and most holy, entreat the Lord unceasingly for us, deliver us from peril, comfort us in tribulation, guide us in the present turmoil, and grant help in time of need to us who worship thee.

MATINS

*After the Polyeleos, the following Sessional Hymns:
Plagal of First Tone. Let us worship the Word*

NOT by human contrivance, nor mortal reasoning, * but by divine revelation and thy great meekness of heart * didst thou come unto that knowledge made known unto men * through the far-seeing Prophets and the * Apostles, who saw Christ, O Justin, true friend of wisdom. * Hence, We proclaim thine achievements, O hallowed Martyr and philosopher.

Glory. *Fourth tone. Be quick to anticipate*

LIKE Abraham, called to leave behind his country and kin, * like Paul, who esteemed all things as loss that he might acquire the knowledge of Christ our Lord, * thou becamest for His sake a stranger and pilgrim, * loving nothing on the earth but God and thy neighbour. * Remember us, O Justin, this day, at the dread throne of Christ.

OIKOS

SHUNNING the sophistries of the Stoics and the peregrinations of the Peripatetics, thou didst flee the pedantry of Pythagoras and the improbable problematics of Plato. But the beams of the Beloved disciple illumined thy soul, and thou becamest a beacon beckoning to them that were tossed in the tempest of Grecian gloom and Judaic delusion, O Justin. Robed in the raiment of philosophy, thou didst bedeck thy garment with the royal purple of martyrdom, and the laurel crown of contest doth adorn thy brow, O noble athlete. And now, standing with the Angels as a Martyr, thou livest for ever in Christ.

SYNAXARION

*The Month of June hath thirty days.
The day hath fifteen hours, and the night nine.*

✠ On the first of this month we commemorate the holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher.

Verses

Just in all his dealings, and made wise from Heaven,
Justin hath justly been ranked with Christ's disciples.

The philosopher's tongue flowed with wisdom and learning;
Now his head is a fount of divine myrrh and graces.

June first, O Justin, thou the Master's cup drinketh.

✠ On this day we commemorate the holy Martyrs Chariton, Charito, Evelpistus, Hierax, Peon, and Valerian (or Liberianus), who were martyred with Saint Justin at Rome.

Verses

Divine Chariton and Charito the virgin,
Being beheaded, are blessed with divine graces.

Of good hope was Evelpistus aptly the namesake,
Who had God as his portion on being beheaded.

Hierax taketh wing towards contests like a falcon,
And beheaded, swoopeth in on his soul's salvation.

The impious faith by Peon's words is smitten,
And Peon's head by impious men is severed.

To God thou, also, now showest thy severed member:
Thy head, O Valerian, the noblest of members.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us.



† THE ICON NOT MADE BY HANDS
(WHICH THE HOLY CHURCH
CELEBRATES AUGUST 16)

EXAPOSTILARIA

Second tone. Upon that mount in Galilee

MUSING upon thy search for truth, * thou camest to the sea-shore. * There
the disciple Jesus loved * appeared, and stood beside thee, * and spake to
thee of the Godhead, * which passeth understanding * and was made known
from ages past * unto seers and Apostles, and men of faith * who proclaimed His
marvellous dispensation, * revealed unto the sons of men, * in these last times, O
Justin.

Another. Same Tone. While Thy disciples looked on Thee

IN lauding thy defence of the Faith, O Justin, * the faithful praise thine unexcelled words of wisdom. * For thine exposition of God's mysteries * silenced the foes of piety, * and gained thee laurels of glory * for endless ages, O athlete.

For the Praises we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating the first one:

First Tone. Thou art the joy

THOUGH thou wast born nigh the well Jacob gave unto his son, * yet thou wast far in spirit from the God that he worshipped, * till the Son of Thunder revealed unto thee * the Messiah and Son of God; * and unto all men didst thou cry out: Come and see * Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. (*Twice*)

FROM the prophetic sayings and sacred oracles * enunciated clearly the God-proclaimed Scriptures * thou didst demonstrate that Christ is in all truth * the Messiah and Son of God, * putting to silence the gainsaying of the Jews, * O Great Martyr Justin graced of God.

REJOICE, O Justin, thou star leading unto Bethlehem, * who taughtest Christ to wise men by thy life of true virtue: * for thou soughtest not to quell rivals with words * but to love them that hated thee; * and showing men the humility of the Lord, * thou didst bring them out of ignorance.

Glory. Plagal of Fourth Tone

WHEN thou hadst ascended to the highest summit of man's wisdom, thou wast still far below the Kingdom of God. But when the Theologian revealed to thee the Kingdom that is within, thou didst soar upon the wings of faith unto the Father of Lights, and wast taken up where never man went by reason alone. Wherefore, O scribe instructed in the Kingdom of God, thou hast brought out of thy treasure things new and old, for our instruction, and to the glory of Christ our God. Intercede with Him, O Justin, that our souls be saved.

Both now. *Theotokion.*

LADY, do thou receive the supplications of thy slaves, and deliver us from every affliction and necessity.

The Great Doxology, and the remainder of Matins.

Glory be to God for all things.