



**The Holy and Glorious Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on April 23**

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or *chiliarch* (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he heard that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the miraculous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandria, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the Saint's holy relics to the Church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandria the Queen, on April 21.)

Through the Centuries Saint George has shown himself to be a swift and present helper to all who call on him in faith, whether on land or sea, to the

uttermost ends of the earth; yet so many miracles have been worked at his tomb in Lydda (the present day Lod), that when Palestine was in the hands of the Moslems, they took half of his church and turned it into a mosque, which may still be seen to this day, dedicated in his honor and testifying to the abundant power of his intercession.

Rest from labor. Wine and oil allowed.

Dismissal Hymn. Fourth Tone

LIBERATOR of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

*Kontakion. Fourth Tone
Thou Who wast raised up*

HAVING been cultivated well by the Lord God, * as the most honored cultivator of piety * thou hast now gathered sheaves of virtues for thyself; * for, as thou didst sow with tears, * thou dost reap with rejoicing; * with thy blood thou didst contest * and thou now hast received Christ. * And by thine intercessions, O Saint George, * thou grantest all the forgiveness of trespasses.

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SELECTED HYMNS
FROM
THE MENAION

GREAT 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:*
Fourth Tone. The Original Melody

AS one valiant in martyrdom, * trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, * on this day we gather to chant thee hymns of praise; * for thou hast finished the course and hast invincibly kept the Faith, * and from God thou hast received * thy great victory's crown of light; * hence entreat the Lord * to deliver from perils and corruption them that faithfully do honour * thine ever-ven'erable memory.

WITH unflinching and steadfast mind, * thou didst go of thine own accord, * fearless as a lion, to strive in martyrdom. * While disregarding the body as a thing soon corruptible, * thou didst wisely turn thy care * to thy precious immortal soul; * and by many kinds * of sore torments wast thou assayed like pure gold sevenfold as in a furnace, * O great and glorious Martyr George.

AS the Saviour's co-sufferer, * thou didst willingly imitate * His death by thine own death; and now in majesty * with Him thou reignest, endued with the most radiant purple robe * wrought of thine own sacred blood, * and adorned with the sceptre of * thy martyric deeds; and the crown of thy triumphs doth enhance thee unto ages everlasting, * O thou all-lauded Great Martyr George.

WITH the breastplate of ardent faith, * with the shield of resplendent grace, with the mighty spear of the Cross girt all about, * thou didst prove to thine enemies to be all-invincible; * as a God-like prince in war, * thou didst vanquish the demon's troops, and dost dance for joy * with the Angels; and caring for the faithful, thou dost hallow and preserve them, * when they invoke thee, O Martyr George.

WE know thee as a brilliant star * and a sun in the firmament * pouring forth the beams of its far-resplendent light; * and as a son of the day; a goodly pearl of the greatest price; and a brightly shining gem; * as one valiant in martyrdom, * and the champion * of the faithful in perils; thus we praise and glorify thee while observing * thy hallowed feast, O prizewinner George.

AS I voyage upon the sea, * as I journey o'er hill and plain, * as I sleep throughout the night, do thou keep me safe! * As I wake do thou rescue me, all-blessed Great Martyr George; deem me worthy to perform * every day the Lord's holy will, * so that I may find * in the day of dread judgment the remission of all sins that in my lifetime * I have wrought, who now flee unto thee.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

THOU hast lived worthily of thy name, O soldier George; for taking the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulders, thou hast cultivated the earth that had become barren because of diabolic deception; and uprooting the thorny religion of the idols, thou hast planted the vine of the Orthodox Faith. Wherefore thou gushest

forth healings for the faithful throughout the world, and hast proved to be the Trinity's righteous husbandman. Intercede, we pray, for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

For the Entreaty.

Glory. *Second tone. By John the Monk*

SOLOMON said: Let the eyes of mortals gaze straight; for, he foretold, whoso looketh straight shall find mercy from Christ God. Lending a ready ear unto this, O much-enduring George, thou didst follow the teachings of the Master; and when thou wast given up to the lawless, thou didst endure manfully, abhorring the rituals of delusion, because they are profane. For the love of Him that made thee thy body was wholly severed limb by limb, and yet more was Belial wholly put to shame and wounded, when he saw thee wearing thy crown and flourishing again. Wherefore, as thou abidest in the courts of thy Lord, O prizewinner, together with the powers on high, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

MATINS

SESSIONAL HYMNS

Glory. *Another. Same Melody*

GIVING all men thine earthly wealth on the earth, * in its stead thou hast truly inherited * the wealth that is heavenly, * O wise Martyr, through thy travails; * for thou tookest as breastplate upon thee the spotless Cross, * and with this thou didst shame the proud tyrants' audacity. * Wherefore, by thy prayer, thou dost distribute divine gifts * and graces that heal men's ills * unto all them that ask of thee, * O prizewinning Great Martyr George. * Intercede with Christ our God * that forgiveness of all their transgressions be * granted to them that with longing * keep thy memory.

ODE FOUR

Let the Prophet Abbacum

HOW Queen Alexandra hath now exceeded the Queen of the South of former times! For she ran in astonishment unto thy wisdom, and with thee, O wise martyr, she standeth as a queen at the right hand of God.

UNABLE to bear thy words of reproof, that impious man, alas, giveth command that thy mouth be smitten, O George; and on being struck, it resoundeth like a cymbal, crying: Christ is the only true God.

O VERY friend of Christ, chiefest of them that have contended for His sake, O all-luminous lantern of all the world, thou star of greatest splendour, thou lamp of greatest price, thou unsleeping guardian of them that honour thee, guard us O Martyr George.

ODE FIVE

Let us arise in the deep dawn

GOOD Glycerius glorifies thy strange sign, O marvel-streamer; and having wondrously quickened his ox, thou didst offer him to thy Lord as a living sacrifice.

ODE SIX

Thou didst descend

BEHOLD, O people chosen of God, how but one delightful swallow, even George, wondrously restoreth the grace of spring; therefore rejoice ye all with his joy.

WHILE bearing the bitter torments of terrible sufferings, thou heldest them to be pleasures. O glorious George, waiting patiently for the Lord and chanting; and when thou wast set upon the wheel, the voice of the thunder of thy prayers resounded in its rolling.

HAVING dedicated thyself unto God by every means, and having received lightning-shafts of miracles, O all blessed George, thou dost distribute gifts unto those in need.



IN his longing for Christ the King, Who laid down His life for the life of the world, this soldier, the great George, strove diligently to die for His sake; for having divine zeal in his heart, he offered himself up. Let us therefore faithfully sing his praise as our fervent protector, as Christ's glorious servant, who verily imitated his own Master, and who asketh Him to grant all the forgiveness of trespasses.

SYNAXARION

- ✠ On the twenty-third of this month we commemorate the holy and glorious Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

Verses

George, cutting down all his foes in battles,
Is gladly cut down of his foes by beheading.
On the twenty-third George's neck was seized
by the brazen blade.

- ✠ On this day we commemorate the holy Martyr Valerius.

Verses

With a sword the headsman, a most wicked person,
Took Valerius' divine head off his person.

- ✠ On this day we commemorate the Holy Martyr Athanasius,
the former magician.

Verses

Athanasius the potion-mixer found beheading
To be a potion that strangely healed his soul's ailments.

- ✠ On this day we commemorate the holy Martyr Glycerius
the husbandman.

Verses

O husbandman Glycerius, as is right fitting,
I see thy neck as soil, and the sword, as a plowshare.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O God, have mercy on us.
Amen.

ODE SEVEN

The only blest and most glorious

THE army of Angels is astonished at thy contest, O commander George; and the King of Angels, being amazed at thee, hath desired thy beauty, O Martyr; wherefore He hath found thee worthy to reign with Him forever.

Theotokion

O DIVINELY-BUILDED temple full of light; O golden lampstand; O urn and ark; O temple wherein God hath dwelt; O strangely sprouting rod, who without a man became a mother, O Maiden of many names, preserve us thy suppliants.

ODE EIGHT

This chosen and holy day

AS sweet-smelling flowers from another Paradise, let us gather hymns from the divinely-inspired Book of Psalms, and come, let us plait a bright garland of songs woven for the Martyr; for he triumphed, and destroyed the power of Satan.

COME, O Melodist, chief of the Prophets, speak: That righteous man, which flourisheth like a palm tree, who and what manner of man is he? He is the great conqueror George, a tree verily laden with sweet fruit that nourisheth the heart.

Theotokion

O Prophet, behold the Virgin of whom thou foretoldest: she hath conceived without seed; she is the Queen and lady, and as a Mother she bringeth forth the King of all, while remaining all-incorrupt. A strange mystery is thy childbirth, O Maiden!

ODE NINE

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem

YE Mountains, drop down most sweet dew; and thou, O Holy Mountain, do thou skip for joy more than them all: dance now and be glad with a beaming countenance, for thou hast found in the great George the mightiest guardian of the Mountain.

NOW do all the kindreds of the nations praise, and bless, and sing hymns, and cry out with one voice: Rejoice, O Saviour, Thou joy of the faithful; rejoice thou also, glory of the prizewinners, O exceedingly marvellous George.

Ivenerate thy cudgelings, thy scrapings, the beatings with the ox-hide whips, the kickings, the pit of quicklime, O Martyr of Christ; and all such other things as thou hast endured, I bless; and I kiss the wheel whereon thou wast tortured.

O Martyr Demetrius, thou art found with the renowned George, for ye good twain have never failed any man, as ye both do ever keep watch over the land and take away whole myriads of temptations.

Theotokion

THOU glory, thou beauty, thou comeliness of the faithful, thou delight of the faithful, thou delight of the whole world, O all-pure Mother of Christ God, preserve them that flee under thy protection, O mine all-holy Lady.

The Second Canon. Our God and Lord

Theotokion

THE Tabernacle of testimony, wherein were the tablets, the urn, and the golden ark, prefigured thee, O all-pure Theotokos; for as that contained those, so heldest thou in thy womb the beginningless Word when He received a body.

EXAPOSTILARIA

Of the Saint. Second Tone. Upon that mount in Galilee

BRIGHTLY hath spring appeared to us, * the Master's Resurrection, * which, full of splendour and divine * doth send us up from earth now * unto a heavenly Pascha; * with it, this brightly beaming * commemoration hath shined forth * of the lauded and glorious * Great Martyr George; * let us keep it joyously, that divine grace * may be vouchsafed unto us all * by Christ our God and Saviour.

For the Praises we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera:

Glory. Plagal of First Tone, By Theophanes

SPRING hath shined forth as the dawn; come, let us celebrate. The Resurrection of Christ hath appeared in splendour, come, let us be glad. The memorial of the prizewinner hath been revealed, making the faithful bright with joy. Come, therefore, O feast lovers, let us mystically keep the festival; for this man, as a good soldier, bravely defied the tyrants and put them to shame, becoming an imitator of Christ the Saviour's Passion. Unto his own clay vessel he showed no mercy, but cast it naked into the forge, transforming it by means of torments. Let us cry out to him: O prizewinner George, make entreaty that our souls be saved.





St. George the Trophy-bearer and
St. Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer

**This icon is found on the south side of the iconostasis
at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts.**

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers
Lord Jesus Christ our God
have mercy on us.
Amen.