

The 4th Day of August
Commemoration of the Seven Holy Youths (Seven Sleepers)
of Ephesus.

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stikhera, in Tone 1: *Special melody: “Joy of the ranks of heaven...”*

Come, and let us ever praise the memory /
Of the seven-circled light /
Which shone upon the seven worthy youths, /
And let us cry out to Christ, Who hath so crowned them: /
Through their prayers, grant peace to our lives, ///
O Lord, our Redeemer.

The seven godly youths /
Who were dead according to the laws of nature /
Truly rose together, as if from sleep, surpassing nature. /
O most awesome wonder! /
For three hundred and seventy-two years ///
They had slept in a cave as if they were dead!

Let us now praise the divine Iamblicus, /
Maximillian, Martinian and John, /
Antoninus and Dionysius, /
For they ever pray for us, /
And with them, let us piously praise ///
Exacustodian the wise.

Note: But if we sing “Alleluia” at the Morning Service instead of “God is the Lord,” then the following 3 stikhera to the Theotokos are sung at the Evening Service, at “Lord I call,” before the above stikhera of the saints, in the same tone and melody:

Most glorified art thou from generation to generation, /
O Virgin Mother and Maiden, Mary the Mother of God, /
The intercessor for the world, /
Thou gavest birth in the flesh to the Son of the Unoriginate Father /
Truly of One Essence with the Spirit. ///
Pray to Him that we may be saved

We who are hopelessly possessed by sins, O pure one, /
Have thee alone as our intercessor, O Virgin. /
And we gratefully cry out to thee: /

4 AUGUST: THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS OF EPHESUS

Cleanse us, O most holy bride of God. /
For thou, art the refuge of the world ///
And the defender of the race [of mankind].

Tossed about by the storm of my sins, /
I flee to the calm haven of thy prayers, O Mother of God, /
And I cry out to thee: /
Stretch out thy mighty right hand to me, thy servant ///
And save me, O most pure one!

Glory... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the Same Tone:

With the staff of thy prayers, O pure Birth-giver of God, /
Speedily chase away /
All the animal passions from my wretched soul. /
And direct my life in peace ///
And number me among the chosen flock of thy sheep.

Or the Stavrotheotokion:

Standing before the Cross of thy Son and God, /
And beholding His long-suffering,
O pure Mother, thou didst cry out weeping: /
Woe is me, O my Child most sweet! /
What are these things which Thou dost suffer unjustly, ///
O Word of God, that Thou mightest save mankind?

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service;

**General Troparion for the martyrs,
Or this one for the saints, in Tone 4:**

O great miracle of faith, /
The seven holy youths remained in a cave /
As if in a royal palace /
And died without corruption. /
After a long time they arose as from sleep, /
Confirming the resurrection of all men. ///
Through their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us.

4 AUGUST: THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS OF EPHEBUS

Morning Service

Both Canons from the Octoechos, and that of the saints, with 4 troparia, in Tone 2:

incomplete as of 6/10/2013

Kontakion for the saints, in Tone 4: *Special Melody: "Having been lifted up ..."*

Surning the corruption of this world /

And accepting the gifts of incorruption, /

Though [the seven youths] died they were not touched by corruption; /

And they arose after many years thus burying the unbelief of the wicked. ///

Therefore, let us the faithful praise them as we glorify Christ.