

March 7

D. *Hieromartyrs Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius and Agathodorus.*

They were bishops and labored much to spread the faith of Christ in Chersonese in Taurida.

"Divinely wise" St. Basil and "glorious" St. Ephraim preached about the year 300. Both died as martyrs: Basil was stoned to death by the Judeans in Chersonese, and Ephraim was executed by the sword on the Danube.

Eugene, Elpidius and Agathodorus underwent the same fate: they were all killed by Judeans and Pagans.

After them, already during the reign of Constantine the Great, St. Aetherius preached in Chersonese. He built a temple in Chersonese and ruled his spiritual flock in peace until his death. He died on Aasa Island on his return journey from Constantinople.

His heir, "the most sacred shepherd" Capito, according to tradition, following the requirements of a sign from him by the pagans, in hierarchical vestments entered into a heated furnace and stayed there for about an hour, remaining unharmed. This miracle caused many pagans to convert to Christ. Once on the way to Constantinople, Capito was overtaken by a storm which drove his ship to the mouth of the Dnieper River. The pagan inhabitants of the country seized all those on the ship and drowned them.

Kontakion, tone 2

**The radiant day of pastors has dawned,
Who brightly ruled as bishops in Chersonese,
So let us hymn the feast of those who suffered for the sheep of Christ.
O Hieromartyrs, pray to the chief shepherd Christ,
That he may number us with the sheep on His right hand.
So that we may cry out to you:
Rejoice, Blessed Fathers, who poured out your blood for Christ.**

St. Paul the Confessor, Bishop of Plusiada in Bithynia, 9th century

For iconolatry he underwent much suffering and died in prison about the year 850.

Ven. Paul the Simple

He was a farmer. When he was 60 years old he became a disciple and co-ascetic of St. Anthony (see Jan. 17), spending all his time in hard labor, fasting and prayer and was distinguished by his goodness and simplicity of heart. For this he

received the gifts of wonderworking and clairvoyance. He died at a very old age about the year 340 (see October 4).

Ven. Monk Emilian

Born in Rome, up to old age he sinned, rolling in erotic pleasures. Having repented, he became a monk, surprising all the brethren of the monastery with his humility, fasting, obedience and other ascetic labors. Every night he quietly left for a certain cave and there tearfully prayed for the remission of his sins. He died in the joyful hope in the goodness of God.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0104-0105.
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