

May 20

G. Holy Martyr Thalelaeus

Son of a Lebanese military commander, St. Thalelaeus studied the medicinal arts, gratuitously treated patients and consequently was called an unmercenary physician. While still 18 years old, the Pagans brought him before one of the governors in Asia Minor charging him with being a Christian. Struck by the beauty and youth of the martyr, the governor began stroking him to persuade him to sacrifice to graven images but unsuccessfully. They threw St. Thalelaeus into the sea, fed him to wild beasts, turned him over to other torture, but he remained unharmed. Then the governor ordered to drill his feet and to hang him with his head downwards; but the warriors darkened by the power of God, drilled and hanged a tree instead of him. The governor received this as ridicule on the part of the warriors and ordered that they be tortured.

The warriors declared themselves Christians and were killed. These warriors were Alexander and Asterius. The governor, considering Thalelaeus as a wizard, condemned him to be drowned. But before they had time to inform the governor that his order was executed, the drowned martyr again appeared before him. The people who were with the martyr seeing the wonders exclaimed: "Great is the Christian God!" The embittered governor sentenced St. Thalelaeus to be beheaded. This happened in the city of Egakh, Cilicia about the year 284. Memory of Martyr Thalelaeus was solemnly celebrated from of old in Constantinople where his relics reposed in the temple of the Martyr Agathonicus. The relics of St. Thalelaeus bestowed many wonderful healing to many of the faithful.

Kontakion, tone 3

**Revealed as an arms-bearing passion-bearer of martyrs,
You were the perfect soldier of the King of Glory,
By the suffering and torture you endured:
You brought low the haughtiness of the idol worshippers:
Therefore we praise your honorable memory, O Wise Thalelaeus.**

*+ The Opening of the Honorable Relics of our Father among the Saints
Alexis, Metropolitan of Kiev and all Russia, Wonderworker*

The relics of St. Alexis were opened (according to one source in 1431, but according to another in 1438) and placed in the Temple of the Archistrategus Michael in Moscow in the year 1485, and were translated to the Chudov Monastery in a temple in the name of the hierarch, but on May 20, 1686 they were

translated to the newly-constructed Temple of the Annunciation in the same monastery. See February 12.

Troparion, tone 2

**Like the richest treasure hidden in the ground for many years,
Your honorable relics flowing with wonders were opened,
O All-blessed Father Hierarch Alexis:
We are enriched by the treatment received from them,
And sing glorification to Christ saying:
Glory to Your glorifying saint.**

Kontakion, tone 8

**Like the unwaning sun shining on us from the tomb,
Your precious relics were hidden incorruptible for many years,
O Hierarch Alexis: You accepted grace for all this country,
And enriched us all with wonders, goodness and action of grace,
That we may sing to you:
Rejoice, O Father, the Star of Russia.**

Paramoea and so forth see May 9.

**The Vigil is served in his monastery and in the major church,
everywhere there is a Polyeleon.**

Martyr Asclas

Born in Egypt, he suffered in the city of Antinoe, Thebaid about the year 287. He was planed with iron, singed with fire and finally drowned in the Nile River. His honorable body was found on the third day (as he predicted before his death) on the shore and buried by Christians.

Ven. Thalassius, Myrrh-gusher, Seventh Century

Hegumen of the Libyan Monastery, he with love in piety combined love with theological enlightenment and was much occupied with Holy Scripture, having left behind the composition "Concerning Love, Abstinence and Spiritual Life".

Venerable Nicetas, John and Joseph, founders of the Monastery on the island of Chios, died on or about the year 1050.

Repose of St. Dovmont (Timothy), Prince of Pskov

Born as a Pagan in Lithuania, he being saved from avengers arrived in Pskov and was baptized in the year 1265. In the year 1266 the Pskovians, seeing the courageously good morals of Dovmont, elected him prince. Dovmont protected them for 33 years from enemies, especially from the Lithuanians and the Lithuanian knights, not only Pskov, but also all Northern Russia. In times of peace he was distinguished by a pious and virtuous life: he loved truth, was merciful to the needy, visited prisoners, gave rest to travelers and spent a life in fasting and prayer and reverently honored the feasts. The holy prince died in 1299 and was buried in the Trinity Cathedral.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0179-180.
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