

# JULY

Cherven in Old Slavonic. Lipets [linden-honey] in Little Russian<sup>1</sup>.

## July 1

G. † *Holy Wonderworker Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, martyred in Rome*



Born in Rome, brothers by birth, brought up in Christian piety, they were trained in the medical arts and, "having received the grace of healing from God", they helped the sick without pay, demanding from the latter only faith in the Lord Jesus. Helping people, they also treated animals. At the same time out of their estate they helped the poor and converted many idolaters to the true faith. Arrested for spreading Christianity before the court they firmly confessed Christ before Emperor Carinus and refused to sacrifice to idols. The Emperor wanted to subject them to torture, but the Lord Himself struck him with illness. Having been healed from his illness by their prayers, Carinus released them and the holy brothers continued their fruitful activity, "from the treasury of the spirit offering the saving remedy". In 284 they were stoned by their former teacher in the medical arts, who envied the success of the holy unmercenaries.

*Troparion, tone 8*

**O Holy Unmercenaries and wonderworkers, visit our infirmities:  
Freely you received, freely give to us.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Having received the grace of healing,  
You extend healing to those in need,  
O Glorious Wonderworking Physicians:  
But through your visitation put down the insolence of warriors,  
Granting healing to the world through your wonders.**

*Ven. Peter*

A Constantinopolitan patrician, while serving in the Greek army was once captured, wonderfully received his freedom and left for solitary hermetical asceticism on Mount Olympus. Here St. Peter spent 34 years and practiced asceticism under the direction of Joannicius the Great (see November 4). Then he returned to Constantinople where he spent the last 8 years of his life in strict vigil

and fasting. He died in 865 and was buried in the Monastery of St. Evander founded by him in Constantinople.

### *Martyr Potitus*

Having known Christ from his youth, St. Potitus was a zealous preacher and converted many pagans to Christ, confirming his true faith through wonders. For this they subjected him to severe tortures and then they beheaded him during the reign of Emperor Antoninus (138-161).

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<sup>1</sup> *July* is named after the name of the famous Roman ruler and commander Julius Caesar. *Cherven* (scarlet - red) specifies the reddishness of fruits and berries ripening at this time. *Lipets [linden-honey]* is taken from the linden tree which is in full bloom in this month.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0224.  
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