

October 16

E. Holy Martyr Longinus, Centurion, who was at the Cross of the Lord

From the village of Ardales, Cappadocia, being present at the crucifixion of the Lord on guard duty and witness to His suffering and death and "seeing creation being changed", "the sky was very much darkened, the earth quaked, the rocks were split and the curtain of the temple was torn in two" (Mt. 27:45-51), and being present at the resurrection of the Lord, Longinus left the worship of "dead idols", believed in Jesus Christ and returned to his home country where he began to preach the Gospel. For this reason warriors sent by Pilate due to the intrigues of the Judeans beheaded St. Longinus. The honorable head of the holy martyr was brought by these warriors into Jerusalem and was without burial thrown outside the walls of this city by the Judeans. Subsequently the honorable head, glorified by a miracle, was found by a certain blind woman who thus received healing. The honorable hand of St. Longinus is now in the Vatican Cathedral of the Apostle Peter in Rome. Two other warriors, who also were standing at His Cross believed in Christ, have suffered with St. Longinus.

Kontakion, tone 4

**The Church gladly rejoices today,
In memory of the ever-memorable sufferer, appealing:
You are my power, O Christ, and my support.**

Epistle: see Jan. 3. **Gospel:** Mt. 27:38-54; sel. 113.

Ven. Malo

Since youth a hermit in a certain hermitage, he for his marvelous asceticism was granted the gift of working wonders by the Lord. He died peacefully. From his relics flowed fragrant myrrh. It is not known when he lived.

Holy Right-believing Eupraxia, in the world Euphrosyne, Princess of Pskov

She was the wife of the Pskovian Prince Iaroslav Vladimirovich, who left Pskov to go to the German knights, was enamored by the Latin bishops and married a German girl. Rejecting him St. Eupraxia founded the women's Monastery of St. John the Forerunner and, having accepted monasticism, became its rector. Invited for a meeting with her husband in the Livonian city of Odense, she died as a martyr by the hand of her stepson on May 8, 1243. Her relics are in a hidden place in the Forerunner Monastery in Pskov.