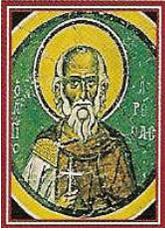


October 24

D. Holy Martyr Arethas and those with him



They suffered in the year 523 under the Omirite King Dunaan [Dhu Nuwas]. In the persecution raised by this king against Arabian Christians, St. Arethas was a 95 year old starets [elder] and held the post of governor of Negran. For his confession of Christ he accepted death by the sword. Together with him the same crown of martyrdom was received by the majority of citizens, priests, monks, clergymen and consecrated virgins, numbering up to 4252 persons.

Troparion, tone 1

**Be moved, O Lord, by the ills of the saints,
By those who suffered for Thee,
And heal all our illnesses, O Lover of Mankind, we pray.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**Today the light-bearing feast of the passion-bearers draws near,
Mediating gladness for us.
Celebrating it let us glorify the Lord in the Highest.**

Martyr Syncletica (i.e. senator's wife) and her two daughters from the Arabian city of Negran together with Martyr Arethas were beheaded by the sword for Christ in 523.

Blessed Ella Asbeha [Elesbaan, Caleb], King of Ethiopia

A contemporary of Martyr Arethas and after the death of this martyr he went to war against King Dunaan [Dhu Nuwas] and, having defeated him, released prisoners, reestablished Christianity and renewed temples. After this ascetic effort Blessed Ella Asbeha [Elesbaan, Caleb] resigned as king and peacefully practiced asceticism as a hermit in one of the monasteries. He died in about the year 555.

St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Constantinople

Born in Adrianople, since youth he practiced asceticism as a monk on Mt. Athos. Elevated to the dignity of patriarch in 1289, he zealously worked for the eradication of heresies among his flock and severely reprimanded and corrected the morals of the court and clergy. In 1293 he was forced to leave his cathedra after the slander of enemies. After a ten year solitary asceticism on Mount Gan, St. Athanasius again was called to his cathedra and peacefully died in 1311. For the

holiness of his life he received from God many revelations, the gift of insight and of working wonders.

Ven. Arethas of the Caves

Born in Polotsk, he practiced asceticism in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves in the 12th century. He kept many possessions in his cell and being robbed by thieves, he almost took his own life. Grieving about his loss of property he became seriously ill and standing close to death he saw with intelligent eyes that the light of angels receded from him and that because of his avarice and murmuring against God for the stolen goods he was condemned to eternal torment, but by the mercy of God, after the prayers of angels, he was returned to life. Since then Arethas completely changed his way of life, becoming merciful and meek. In his last days Ven. Arethas spent his life as a hermit deeply repenting his sins. He died not later than 1190. His relics are in the St. Anthony's Cave.

Icon of the Mother of God, Joy of All Who Sorrow

This holy icon became glorified in 1688. Euthymia, the sister of Patriarch Joachim, living on Ordynka Street in Moscow, and suffering for a long time with a severe wound in a side, once, during a prayer to the Savior and the Mother of God, heard a voice that asked her to pray before the icon "Joy of all Who Sorrow" found in the local parish temple of the Transfiguration. When the Molioben was served before the holy icon and the patient was sprinkled with holy water, she instantly felt better and rose by herself from the bed. This miracle occurred on October 24 and in its memory the feast of the "Joy of All Who Sorrow" was established on this day. The Mother of God on this icon is represented in full stature with the eternal Child on her left hand. On both sides of the Mother of God are depicted two angels, and at her feet are depicted those praying and flowing to her for help and healing. This holy icon is found in the Temple of the Transfiguration on Ordynka Street in Moscow. Another wonderworking icon of the "Joy of All Who Sorrow" is found in the village of Ivanovo, Moscow Province. The service of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" is printed by the Synodal printing house in a special booklet.

Prayer. O All-Holy Lady Theotokos, more exalted than the Cherubim and more honorable than the Seraphim, O Divinely-Chosen Maiden, Joy of All Who Sorrow, grant consolation also to us, who are in sorrow: for without you we have no other refuge or help. You alone are the mediatrix of our joy and as the Mother of God and the Mother of mercy, standing at the throne of the All-Holy Trinity, You are able to help us: for none that flee to You departs ashamed. Therefore hear us now on the day of sorrow who fall down before Your icon and pray to You in tears: drive away from us sorrows and grief in this temporal life, that we may not be deprived of Your omnipotent intercession and of the eternal, unending joy in the Kingdom of Your Son and our God. Amen.

Presbyter Acacius, who baptized St. Irenarchus (Nov. 28), was executed by the sword in 303.

Repose of Ven. John, hermit of the Pskov Monastery of the Caves. He practiced asceticism for 22 years in the city wall and peacefully died in 1616.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0388-0389.
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