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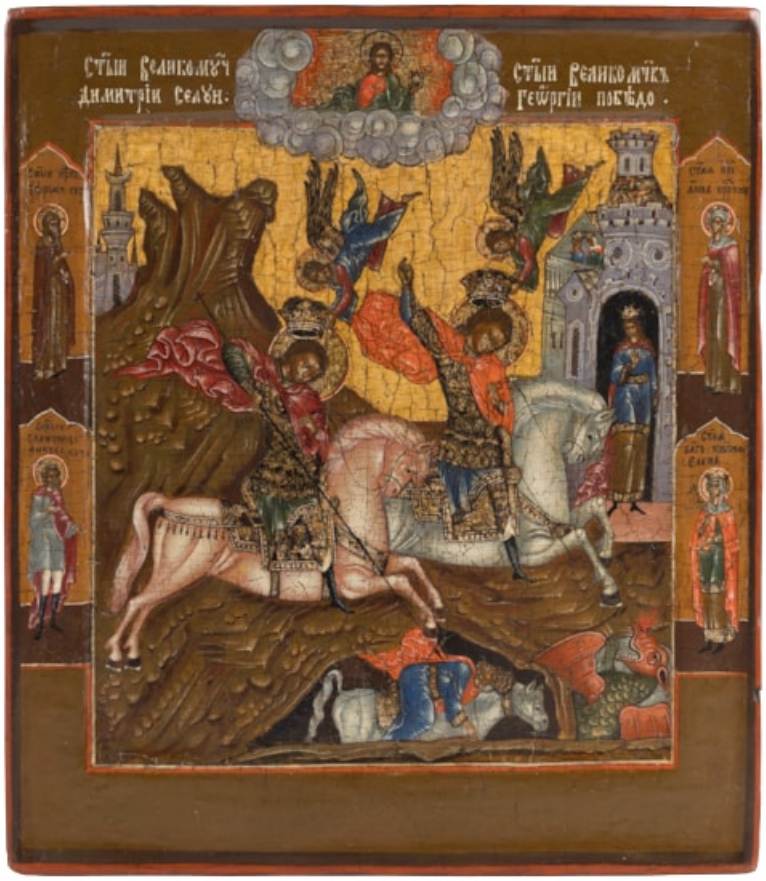

Saints George and Demetrius

Central Russia, early 18th century
32 × 28 cm

This exceptionally rare icon brings together the two renowned soldier saints George and Demetrius. On the left, Demetrius of Thessaloniki rides a pale red horse; on the right, George appears on a white horse. Angels descend to crown both martyrs, while Christ blesses them from heaven.

George pierces the dragon and thus rescues the princess and her city. Demetrius defeats Tsar Kaloyan, whose siege of Thessaloniki, according to tradition, was brought to an end through the miraculous intervention of the saint. Thessaloniki can be seen in the background on the left; on the right, the princess stands before the gate of her walled city. The combined iconography presents both saints as victors over evil.