

November 23

**Third day of the Entrance;
Commemoration of our Fathers among the Saints
Amphilochios, Bishop of Iconium,
and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for Gregory (Tone 8)

6. O father Gregory, holy hierarch, you were consecrated from birth to the Creator of all, to whom you were united by a constant inclination. In His light, you surmounted the night of the passions and were radiant with the light of healing and the power of miracles, driving away all types of illness and the spirits of error.
5. O Gregory, father worthy of admiration, having received the divine light in all its purity in your spirit, you brought peace to the troubled sea of the passions. Lifted up on the wings of the condition of impassibility, you were joined to the ineffable and prodigious beauty of Him whom you entreat at all times for us the faithful who ceaselessly acclaim you.
4. O excellent father, you have been a rule for priests, a model of chastity, a support for monks, a light of charity, a pillar for the Church, the throne of the Faith, a source of miracles, a tongue of fire, an eloquent mouth, an instrument of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual Paradise, O blessed Gregory!

For Amphilochios (Tone 4)

3. Having received as your inheritance freedom in judgment and mastery of your spirit over your passions, O blessed father Amphilochios, you wisely used the scale of equity to grant dominion to the higher things over the lower. Thus, you were able to see and comprehend God, O inspired hierarch.
2. By the orthodoxy of your teachings and the precision of your theology, you broke the nets and destroyed the snares of heresies. You rejected the doctrines sustaining division and reduction, O venerable father, and you remained within the limits of the Faith, preaching the Trinity in the divine Unity.
1. Wishing to teach wisdom simply to the emperor who reigned on earth, you would not greet his own son. Thus you made him understand that in refusing worship to the Son, the Father is gravely offended, insulting Him who in a wondrous fashion had begotten and known Him as the bodiless and impassible Son from before all ages.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion (Tone 4)

Come, O people, let us praise her who is undefiled; she who was foretold by the prophets and offered in the Temple, the Mother preordained before all ages, who in this last time has been shown forth as the Theotokos. O Lord, at her intercession, grant us Your peace and great mercy.

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 1*)

1. The virgins in your train, holding their lamps enkindled, shall be brought into the Temple of the Lord, O pure Virgin, as foretold by the prophet David, the ancestor of God. They escort you, as the holy Ark of God, into the Holy of Holies.

All: She is led to the King with her maiden companions.

2. Having gathered from spiritual meadows a bouquet of various flowers which are words inspired by the Spirit, let us joyfully weave a crown of praises for the Virgin. Thus, as is fitting, let us prepare a gift for her on these days of the feast.

All: They are escorted amid gladness and joy: they pass within the Temple of the King.

3. O gate of the holy Temple, open up to usher in the Gate of Heaven, and let the human race keep feast. Let the angels exult with us, celebrating the Entrance of the Mother of God!

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



Theotokion (Tone 5)

Behold the day of joy and the most venerable season are here! For the one who was a virgin before giving birth remained a perfect virgin, even after she gave birth. She is presented today to the Holy Temple, to the great admiration of the high priest Zechariah, father of the Forerunner, who cries out with joy: "Behold, the hope of the afflicted is coming near! She is holy, and she is vowed to be the dwelling-place of the King of all! Let Joachim rejoice and Ann dance with glee, for they have presented to God the Lady spotless and all-blameless, when she was only three years old. O mothers, rejoice! You virgins, be merry! Barren ones, share your happiness! The Queen of all, the one whom God prepared from all eternity, has opened to us the kingdom of Heaven. Rejoice, O nations of the world, and be glad!"

TROPARION OF THE FATHERS *(Tone 4)*

O God of our Fathers who always deal with us according to Your compassion, do not remove Your mercy from us, but through their intercession direct our lives in peace.

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS *(Tone 4)*

Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God and the announcement of the salvation of men. In the Temple of God, the Virgin is seen openly, foretelling to all the coming of Christ. Wherefore, let us cry out to her in a loud voice: "Hail, O fulfillment of the Creator's plan!"