

November 30

Commemoration of the Holy and Illustrious Apostle Andrew, the First-Called (3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

[*First Kathisma*: Blessed the man...]

Stichera for Andrew (Tone 4)

6. You had walked in the light of the Forerunner. But when the incarnate Image of the Father's glory appeared to save mankind in His mercy, you were the first to follow after Him, O illustrious Andrew, whose spirit was illumined by the perfect splendor of His radiant divinity. Thus you were the Apostle and Herald of Christ our God: entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.
5. You had walked in the light... (*Repeat*)
4. You had listened to the voice of the Forerunner. But when the All-holy Word was incarnate to give us the gift of life and bring the good news of salvation to earth, you followed Him and were consecrated to Him as a holy first-fruits and the beginning of His harvest. Having recognized Him, you revealed our God to your brother: entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.
3. You had listened... (*Repeat*)
2. You had been the disciple of the fruit of a barren womb. But when the Son of the Virgin arose, the Master teaching piety, total wisdom and purity, you became a fervent friend of virtue. O blessed Andrew, in your heart you prepared the steps to lift you from glory to glory, to



the very splendor of Christ our God: entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls.

1. You had been the disciple... (*Repeat*)
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

Renouncing the catching of fish, you became a fisher of men, with the rod of divine preaching and the hook of faith, O illustrious Apostle, who fished the whole assembly of the nations up from the depths of error. You are the brother of Peter, whose voice went out to instruct the whole world. O Andrew, do not cease to intercede for us, the faithful, who celebrate your sacred memory with their whole heart.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

Isaiah, dance for joy: receive the word of God. Prophecy to the Virgin Mary that the bush burning with fire will not be consumed by the radiance of our God. Let Bethlehem be prepared! Let the gates of Eden be opened! Let the Magi come forth to see wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger of beasts the salvation which the star has pointed out from above the cave, the life-giving Lord, who saves mankind!

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

READINGS

- 1) 1 Peter (1:1-2, 10-25; 2:1-6)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen sojourners of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, in the foreknowledge of God the Father, through



sanctification by the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: may grace and peace be yours in abundance. Beloved, concerning this salvation, prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and investigated it, investigating the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the glories to follow them. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you with regard to the things that have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven, things into which angels longed to look. Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, "Be holy because I am holy." Now if you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere mutual love, love one another intensely from a pure heart. You have been



born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God, for: "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; but the word of the Lord remains forever." This is the word that has been proclaimed to you. Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander; like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, for you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in scripture: "Behold, I am laying a stone in Sion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame."

2) *1 Peter (2:21-3:9)*

Beloved: Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. Likewise, you wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct when they observe your



reverent and chaste behavior. Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God once used to adorn themselves and were subordinate to their husbands; thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord." You are her children when you do what is good and fear no intimidation. Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

3) *1 Peter (4:1-11)*

Beloved: since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude for whoever suffers in the flesh has broken with sin, so as not to spend what remains of one's life in the flesh on human desires, but on the will of God. For the time that has passed is sufficient for doing what the Gentiles like to do: living in debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and wanton idolatry. They are surprised that you do not plunge into the same swamp of profligacy, and they vilify you; but they will give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead that, though condemned in the flesh in human

estimation, they might live in the spirit in the estimation of God. The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

LETE (*Tone 1*)

O Lord, Andrew was the first-called among the disciples, the imitator of Your Passion, the Apostle who was like You even in his death. With the hook of the Cross, he has fished from the depths of ignorance those who once had wandered, in order to bring them to You. Thus, we the faithful who have been saved, sing to You, O supreme Goodness: By his prayers, save our souls and grant peace to our lives.

O faithful, let us sing to Andrew, the brother of Peter and the disciple of Christ. He once cast nets to catch fish. But now, with the Cross as a rod, he has caught the world, as he leads the nations back from error through Baptism. Forever in the presence of Christ, he intercedes before Him that the world be given peace and that He grant great mercy to our souls.

Having received in his heart the mystic flame enlightening the spirit and consuming sins, the Apostle Andrew, the disciple of Christ, made his teaching shine in the darkened hearts of the pagans. He burns the myths of the wicked like twigs, for such is the power of the fire of the Spirit. O strange



wonder arousing amazement: human nature, with its body made of mud and its lips of clay, has received bodiless knowledge, proper to the Spirit. Initiated into ineffable secrets which you contemplate in Heaven, intercede that our souls receive light!

(Tone 8)

Seeing the God you loved walking in the flesh on earth, O first-called of His eye-witnesses, you cried out to your brother, full of joy: "Simon, we have found the One whom we love!" Then you spoke to the Savior in the words of David: "Like the deer that yearns for living streams, so my soul is thirsting for You, O Christ our God!" Loving Him ever more deeply, you joined Him by means of the Cross, as a true disciple imitating His passion; since you share His glory, ceaselessly pray to Him for our souls.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Let us acclaim Andrew, the herald of the Faith and servant of the Word, who fishes men from the depths of error, holding in his hands the rod of the Cross and casting divine power as a net to draw souls from the abyss of evil, and present them as an acceptable offering to our God. O faithful, ceaselessly sing to him with the choirs of the disciples of Christ, that he intercede before Him that He be favorable to us on the Day of Judgment.

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Lady, receive the prayers of your servants: deliver us from all danger and all affliction.

APOSTICHA *(Tone 5)*

1. Hail, mystical heaven, ceaselessly proclaiming the glory of God, O Andrew, first to answer the call of Christ with fervor. You became His intimate companion, to the point of reflecting His light on those in darkness, whom you illumined, in imitation of His goodness. Thus we celebrate your holy feast and joyfully embrace your reliquary from which, for those who ask, flows great mercy.

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. Having found the primary object of your desires, the One who put on our nature in the compassion of His heart, O Andrew, you united yourself to Him in the fervor of your love. You cried out to your brother, "We have found Christ, the One whom the prophets announced in the Spirit. Let us go, that His beauty may delight our souls and spirits; so that, enlightened by His splendor, we may drive away the darkness of ignorance and the night of error, praising and blessing the Lord who grants the world great mercy!"

All: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

3. With the net of your words, you fished from the depths of ignorance the nations who had lived without knowledge of the true God; and with a sure foot, you trod upon the breakers stirred up by the sea as an excellent steed of Him who had dominated the waves. Then you attacked the sickness of the godless, applying your precious wisdom to it as a medicine. It is a wisdom that amazes the impudent followers of him who turns



them to foolishness by not acknowledging Christ, who grants the world great mercy.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 3)

With hymns, let us honor the First-called, the brother of Peter, a catcher of fish and fisher of men, the Apostle Andrew: for he made known to all the teachings of Jesus. As one throws bait to the fish, so he handed over his body to the wicked, and thus captured them in his nets. By his prayers, O Christ our God, grant your people peace and great mercy.

All: now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

Tell us, O Joseph: how is it that you take the young Virgin you received from the Holy Temple and lead her pregnant to Bethlehem? He says, "Having searched the prophecies and having been divinely warned by an angel, I firmly believe that Mary will give birth in an ineffable manner to God. Magi will come from the East to bow down before Him, worshiping Him and offering rich gifts." O Lord, who are incarnate for our sake, glory to You!

TROPARION OF ANDREW (*Tone 4*)

Andrew, first-called of the Apostles and brother of Peter, their leader: intercede with the Master of All that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

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

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION (*Tone 4*)

The mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, has been revealed through you, O Theotokos, to those on earth. For God took flesh in a union without commixture, and willingly took up the Cross by which He elevated the first man and saved our souls from death!