

January 18

**Commemoration of our Fathers among the Saints,
Athanasios and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria**
(3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

[First Kathisma: Blessed the man...]

Stichera for Athanasios (Tone 4)

6. You endured persecutions and withstood perils, O venerable Athanasios, divine preacher, so strenuously that you drove out the impious error of Arius. You saved the Church from heresy as you proclaimed in true Faith that the Son and Spirit have the same Essence as the Father.

5. With the brilliance of your teachings, you brought light to those who lay in darkness. You drove off all error, exposing yourself to danger, O Athanasios, with the courage of a true Pastor, as an unshakable pillar of the Church of Christ. Thus, as we gather together, we venerate you with joy in our hymns.

4. Divinely inspired, you practiced all the virtues with perseverance. Consecrated by the anointing of the Spirit, in the sight of all, you became a most holy hierarch and a true Shepherd, a defender of the Faith. Thus, the whole Church honors your sacred memory, rendering glory to the Savior on this feast.

For Cyril (Tone 4)

3. O learned Cyril, by your teachings of fire, you burned up the weeds and thorns of heresy. The depth of your thoughts swallowed up the stubborn army of evil-thinkers. Your wise teaching remains the daily beauty of the Church of believers who venerate you with a loud voice.
2. The entire Church is adorned by the elegance of your discourses, O Cyril, thrice-blessed hierarch. She is radiant in the splendor of the Faith as she reverently venerates your memory, O glory of the Orthodox, spokesman for the Fathers gathered in Council, and champion of the all-holy Mother of God!
1. With the staff of your teachings, you drove off the spiritual wolves from the Church of Christ, O Cyril. You have set up your words around her as a rampart in order to present her intact to Christ. Intercede with Him to deliver from peril and death the faithful who celebrate your venerable memory.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

In our hymns, let us all honor Athanasios, the hierarch of Christ, who overcame the teachings of Arius, preaching clearly to the whole world the power of the Holy Trinity, the one God in Three Persons, without division. He intercedes before God for us who celebrate his memory with faith.

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

Theotokion

Who would not call you blessed? Who would not sing a



hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail, O Virgin most holy? The Only-begotten Son Himself, begotten of the Father before all ages, was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure! And for our sake, He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man. He is not divided into two persons; He is understood to have two natures without commixtion or confusion. O noble and blessed Woman, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

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

READINGS

1) *Deuteronomy 1:8-11; 15-17*

Thus says the Lord: "I have given that land over to you. Go now and occupy the land I swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, I would give to them and to their descendants." "At that time I said to you, 'Alone, I am unable to carry you. The LORD, your God, has so multiplied you that you are now as numerous as the stars in the sky. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times over, and bless you as He promised!

So I took outstanding men of your tribes, wise and experienced, and made them your leaders as officials over thousands, over hundreds, over fifties and over tens, and other tribal officers. I charged your judges at that time, 'Listen to complaints among your kinsmen, and administer true justice to both parties even if one of them is an alien. In rendering judgment, do not consider who a person is; give ear to the lowly and to the great alike, fearing no man, for judgment is God's.'"

2) *Deuteronomy 10:14-21*

Moses said to the children of Israel: Think! The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to the LORD, your God, as well as the earth and everything on it. Yet in His love for your fathers the LORD was so attached to them as to choose you, their descendants, in preference to all other peoples, as indeed He has now done. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and be no longer stiff-necked. For the LORD, your God, is the God of gods, the LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes; who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him. The LORD, your God, shall you fear, and Him shall you serve; hold fast to Him and swear by His name. He is your glory, He, your God, who has done for you those great and terrible things which your own eyes have seen.

3) *Wisdom 3:1-9*

Thus says the Lord: But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself. As gold in the furnace, He proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who

trust in Him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love: because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

LETE (*Tone 1*)

The Wisdom of God has prepared the afflictions of the world and the opposition of enemies as a crucible of great value in order to try, in an appropriate manner, like gold in the furnace, Athanasios, the sacred hierarch, the resplendent luminary of Alexandria. Having found him worthy, she placed him as a ring on her finger, choosing to espouse his blessed soul. He rejoices throughout all the ages!

The Wisdom of God has placed her treasures in Cyril. Thus, let us make haste to drink deeply from him, rather than defiling ourselves by wallowing on the earth for the treasures of perdition. For their pleasure lasts only a moment. As for us who possess the treasures of divine wisdom for all ages with the thrice-blessed Cyril - let us preserve them in our souls.

The Wisdom of God formed man at the beginning, making him a union of body and soul, a wonder before the whole universe! In the new creation, she unites man to God. That ineffable union, difficult to explain, was transmitted to us by the holy Teachers of the Church of Christ. They confessed that the Son was a unique Person - a composite: and in that single Person there are two wills. This is a mystery for our eyes and ears, but great joy for our souls!

(Tone 6)

Come, let all mankind rejoice in the memory of our most wise Teachers, Athanasios and Cyril of Alexandria. For, as fighters worthy of God, as faithful defenders of the truth, they reverently opposed all visible and invisible enemies. Thus, the King of All granted them a crown of immortality in Heaven. They exult there now with the angels and ceaselessly sing to the consubstantial Trinity, the thrice-holy Lord.

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

(Tone 8)

O faithful, let us gather together to sing of Athanasios and Cyril of Alexandria, those chiefs of the hierarchs, those heralds of the most profound theology, those golden vessels of the Holy Spirit. One was an interpreter and teacher of the Trinity, who proclaimed the Father, the Son and the Spirit to be consubstantial and of the same power. The other, knowing deeply the economy of Christ, taught in the true Faith that He had been born without change from the Virgin Mary. Benefiting from the labors of both, we freely say to them: "Hail, tireless servants of Christ! You have fought the good fight, running the race to the very end. By the Orthodox Faith preached from your eloquent lips to the ends of the earth, you have gained a dwelling place in Heaven, where you have been crowned with unfading crowns, praising the Lord throughout the ages!

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

The heavens sing of your grace, O unwedded Mother, and we glorify your ineffable birth-giving. O Mother of God, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, model of virtue, who fought valiantly for the Faith and shattered the heresy of Arius by the power of your sacred words, O Athanasios, as you clearly taught of the one power shared by the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. By it, all things spiritual and material have been created in its unique goodness. Thus, you explained that which is difficult to understand in the divine creation. Beg Christ to send great mercy to our souls.

All: My mouth speaks wisdom and my heart exalts with understanding.

2. Hail, support of patriarchs, clear trumpet, sublime spirit, precise tongue, penetrating insight, radiance of just doctrine, true shepherd and resplendent torch, axe chopping down the weeds of heresy to burn them in the fire of the Spirit, unshakable pillar, unassailable citadel! You preached the supreme power of the Holy Trinity. Intercede before God to send great mercy to our souls!

All: Your priests shall be clothed with holiness; Your faithful shall ring out their joy.

3. Hail, star shining resplendently over the whole world through the exploits of your struggles, eclipsing the glory of Arius into a sad evening! O heavenly spirit, filled with renown, who made your brilliant teachings radiate over all of us orthodox, teaching that the Son shares with the Father the same nature, throne and honor. Ceaselessly beg the divine Spirit, consubstantial and indivisible, to send great mercy to our souls.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 3)

Once again, on his annual feast, we are visited by the one named for immortality, that Nile River with golden streams. By his splendid elevation, he made immortality overflow in a river of gold. Granting an ambrosia as a fruit, thanks to his profound theology, he taught us to worship the undivided power of the Holy Trinity. By the flood of his divine teachings, he waters the spirits of believers and intercedes for our souls before God.

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

Theotokion

Without seed, you conceived through the Holy Spirit, and we glorify you as we sing: "Hail, all-holy Virgin!"

TROPARION OF ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL *(Tone 3)*

Radiant with the works of Orthodoxy, you extinguished every false belief and teaching, becoming trophy-bearers and conquerors. Since you enriched all with true piety, greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, O Athanasios and wise Cyril, you have both attained Christ God who grants great mercy unto all.

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 3)*

We praise you, O Virgin Theotokos, mediatrix of our salvation; for your Son, our God, who suffered on the Cross in the flesh which was taken from you, redeemed us from corruption; for He is the Lover of Mankind.