

January 25

**Commemoration of our Father among the Saints,
Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople**
(3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

[First Kathisma: Blessed the man...]

Stichera for Gregory (Tone 1)

6. O holy father Gregory, the grave, which brings oblivion, did not seal your lips nor your voice, for you were the mouth of the purest theology. Even now you make the whole world understand the teachings of the Faith. Intercede with God that He might grant our souls peace and great mercy.
5. O holy father Gregory, you wisely repelled the hostile rebellion of the flesh. Mounting the chariot of the virtues, you took flight heavenward toward the ineffable Beauty. Filled by It, you grant our souls peace and great mercy.
4. O holy father Gregory, through grace you became a faithful mediator between God and man. Now by your confident prayers, you obtain for us the good graces of Christ. O venerable father, you never cease to intercede with Christ that He might grant our souls peace and great mercy.

For Gregory (Tone 2)

3. Having carefully purified your body and spirit for the Trinity by your works, O Theologian, you set out toward the heights in your heart. You restrained your mind and



entered into the impenetrable and divine cloud. Now, in communion with the immaterial splendor and united to it through love, O Gregory, you make the unapproachable Light shine upon all peoples.

2. Once, with the aid of tongs, the Seraphim gave the burning coal to Isaiah as he approached to be initiated into the contemplation of the thrice-holy Lord, radiant on His throne of glory. But you, O blessed Theologian, who have proclaimed the tri-personal nature of the Divinity to the Church, used your own hands to distribute to believers the divine Coal whom we celebrate in two natures, O hierarch Gregory!
1. O blessed Gregory, it is right for us to call you "son of thunder" and "Theologian," for you shared in the divine grace of holy John. By your thundering voice and your tongue of fire, you announced the eternal begotten Word of God, who was with the Father at the beginning, and the Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father, consubstantial with the Father and the Son.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

Your voice, always prepared and ready to teach, resonates in our hearts, waking the souls of even the most slothful. In your divine words, a ladder is found which leads them from earth to God. Therefore, O holy Gregory the Theologian, we beg you to intercede with Christ to save our souls from all danger.

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

Theotokion

Out of His love for mankind, the King of Heaven appeared on earth and dealt with men, for He assumed a human body from the pure Virgin and was seen in the flesh He received from her. He is the One and only Son, having two natures but not two persons. Wherefore we profess and declare the truth: that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man. O Mother who knew not carnal union, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

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

READINGS

1) *Proverbs (10:7,6; 3:13-16; 8:6,34-35, 4, 12, 14, 17, 5-9; 1:23; 15:4)*

The memory of the just will be blessed. Blessings are for the head of the just. Happy the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding! For her profit is better than profit in silver, and better than gold is her revenue. She is more precious than corals, and none of your choice possessions can compare with her.

Give heed! for noble things I speak; honesty opens my lips. Yes, the truth my mouth recounts. So now, O children, listen to me; instruction and wisdom do not reject! Happy the man who obeys me, and happy those who keep my ways. Happy is the man watching daily at my gates, waiting at my door-posts. For he who finds me finds life, and wins favor from the LORD. To you, O men, I call; my appeal is to the children of men. I, Wisdom, dwell with experience, and judicious knowledge I attain. Mine are counsel and advice. Mine is strength; I am understanding. Those who love me I



also love, and those who seek me find me. You simple ones, gain resource, you fools, gain sense. Sincere are all the words of my mouth. All of them are plain to the man of intelligence, and right to those who attain knowledge. Give heed! for noble things I speak; honesty opens my lips. Yes, the truth my mouth recounts, but the wickedness my lips abhor. Sincere are all the words of my mouth, no one of them is wily or crooked; All of them are plain to the man of intelligence, and right to those who attain knowledge. For I teach you the truth, so that your hope might be placed in the Lord and that you might be filled with His Spirit.

2) *Wisdom (4:7-15)*

Thus says the Lord: The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported-snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because His grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

3) *Wisdom* (*Prov.* 10:31-32; 11:4,7,19; 13:2,9; 8:17; 15:2; 14:33; 22:11; *Eccl.* 8:1; *Wis* 6:13,12,14-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 17-18,21; 9:1-5,10-11,14)

The mouth of the just yields wisdom. The lips of the just know how to please, but virtue saves from death. At the death of a just man, his hope does not perish for he is born to life. A good man shall enjoy the fruits of righteousness. The righteous always have light; they shall find grace and renown in the presence of the Lord. The tongue of the wise pours out knowledge. In the heart of the intelligent wisdom abides. The LORD loves the pure of heart; those who walk the way of perfection are acceptable to Him. The wisdom of the Lord lightens the countenance of the wise man. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of men's desire. Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. He who watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of her is the perfection of prudence, and he who for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care. Because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude. Wickedness prevails not over Wisdom. Her I loved and sought after from my youth; I sought to take her for my bride and was enamored of her beauty. Even the LORD of all loved her, for she is instructress in the understanding of God, the selector of His works. The fruits of her works are virtues; for she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful for men than these. Does one still wish to understand wisdom? She knows the things of old, and



infers those yet to come. She understands the turns of phrases and the solutions of riddles; signs and wonders she knows in advance and the outcome of times and ages. So I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would be my counselor while all was well, and my comfort in care and grief. And knowing that I could not otherwise possess her except God gave it and this, too, was prudence, to know whose is the gift I went to the LORD and besought him, and said with all my heart: God of my fathers, LORD of mercy, you who have made all things by Your word and in Your wisdom have established man to rule the creatures produced by You, to govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart: Give me Wisdom, the attendant at Your throne, and reject me not from among Your children; for I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid. Send Your wisdom forth from Your holy heavens and from Your glorious throne dispatch her that she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is Your pleasure. She will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory. For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans.

LETE (*Tone 4*)

In conformity with the Law, you purified your body and soul by your holy deeds, O hierarch Gregory, before ascending the mountain to speak to the Lord as an initiate in the divine mysteries. Entering the impenetrable cloud, you received the divinely redacted code on which was traced the Trinity, one in essence. Because of you, we can bow down in true worship before Him, singing and proclaiming, "O God, Unity revealed in Trinity, have mercy on us!"

You opened your mouth for the Word of God, breathing out the Spirit of wisdom. Filled with grace, you made the divine teachings sound forth, O thrice-blessed Gregory. Then, as a communicant in the knowledge of the angels, you preached the undivided yet triple Light. Illumined by your holy teachings, we bow down in true worship before the Holy Trinity, revealed as the only Divinity, for the salvation of our souls.

With your tongue of fire, O Gregory the Theologian, you consumed the impious babblings of heresies. Now you truly appear as a divine mouth proclaiming in the Holy Spirit the wonderful works of God, and making known in your writings the secret mysteries of the Trinity, one in essence. Ceaselessly intercede for our souls as you stand before the triple Sun which illumines the earthly world through its splendor.

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

(Tone 1)

In our hymns, we, the flock of the Church, call upon Gregory as the lyre of the Spirit, the corrector of heresies, the gentle sweetness of the Orthodox Faith, the second Theologian, resting on the breast of Christ, the one who saw the Word with his vision as a Teacher, the wise guide for pastors. Let us say to him, "You are a good shepherd, laying down your life, like Christ, your Master, for us. You now exult in the company of holy Paul, interceding for our souls."

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

Through the prayers of all the saints and of the Mother of God, grant us Your peace, O Lord, and have mercy on us.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, O fountain of pure theology, source of deep contemplation. Having examined the heavenly heights with faith, you clearly proclaimed to all the intimate union of the Three Lights in the one Radiance coming from their identical Divinity in Three Persons. By the purity of your life and the splendor of your words, you taught the adoration of the Holy Trinity. O divinely-inspired hierarch, beg Him to send our souls great mercy.

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

2. By your resplendent theology, you scattered the shadows of heresy: for by your wise and divine understanding, you arrived at the very source of all light, encountering the Radiance flowing from the Age to come. You made your spirit a clear mirror, O holy father, and brilliantly reflected the undivided and triple Light of God, tasting the fullness of His unique Radiance. Now beg Him to grant our souls great mercy.

All: The just man's mouth utters wisdom, and his lips speak what is right.

3. Hail, O great river of God, flowing with the waters of grace at all times, giving joy to the whole city of Christ our King by your words and your holy teachings: a torrent of delights, an inexhaustible sea, the faithful and careful steward of Orthodoxy, the fervent defender of the Holy Trinity, the instrument of the Spirit, the discerning mind, the interpreter of the depths of the Scriptures in a harmonious fashion. Now beg Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 8)

With your voice as a plow, you cultivated the hearts of the faithful to make the immortal fruits of the faith grow in them, O hierarch Gregory, and to offer them to the Lord. By pulling out all thorns of heresy by the roots, you gave thoughts their purest beauty. Receive our praises as the lyre of God, O everwatchful Theologian, shepherd of shepherds, who drive away the wolves from your flock. Intercede ceaselessly before the Word for our souls.

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

Theotokion

O protectress of all, send down the dew of your mercy upon me in the troubles in which you see me, engulfed by the shadows of affliction, ceaselessly tossed about by the storms of life. Extend your hand to help me. Make me worthy of the lot of the just, a sharer in the inheritance of the elect, O pure Virgin, who gave birth to the Depth of mercy!

TROPARION OF GREGORY (*Tone 1*)

The sweet melody of your theological teaching has overcome the noisy blast of orators, for God has granted you the power of penetrating spiritual depths and the gift of brilliant literary talent. Gregory, our father, intercede with Christ God that He may save 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 1*)

When Gabriel greeted you, O Virgin, with his voice, the Lord of all took flesh in you, O holy Ark, as the just David called you. You have been revealed as more spacious than the heavens, in bearing your Creator. Glory to Him who dwelt in you! Glory to Him who came from you! Glory to Him who delivered us through your maternity!