

April 18

**Thursday of the Myrrh-bearers;
Commemoration of our Venerable Father John,
Disciple of Saint Gregory of the Decapolis**
(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Resurrection (Tone 2)

6. Having heard the words of joy spoken by the angels seated at the tomb of the Word of God, the holy women set out to run with boundless zeal. Laying aside the gravity of sad ointment-bearers, they became messengers of joy to announce to the disciples the Resurrection of the One who became man to save us.
5. Before daybreak, the women bearing spices came to the tomb to anoint Christ, the Source of Life, counting among the dead the Conqueror of Hades. But an angel of God appeared to them and said, "Why do you seek among the dead the Living One and Giver of Life? Go now and proclaim His Resurrection!"
4. The Word, who rests upon the backs of the cherubim, rested on your back, O blessed Joseph, when you carried Him like another throne. The One who gives life to mortals was first incarnate, then put to death. But seeing Him risen, you rejoice with the ointment-bearers, after the funeral chants with which you accompanied His passing.

For John (Tone 6)

3. With the fear of God as your rudder, O venerable father, you safely navigated around the instincts of the flesh and the bitter tyranny of the passions. You found your delight in God as you adorned your heart with wondrous virtues. You now dwell with the hosts of holy monks where you have found that peace which you always desired. O father John, you ceaselessly remember us who honor with faith your holy memory.
2. You sought God with a resolute heart, soaring on the wings of your holy contemplation, ceaselessly directing your spirit toward Him alone. As your zealous guide, you had Gregory, vigilant in both name and deed, resplendent in miracles and wonders. Enlightened by his radiance, O blessed John, you sailed across the raging ocean of this life.
1. O venerable father John, you lived as a monk without allowing yourself to be distracted by this passing life, adorned by your wondrous deeds. Your heart filled with spiritual fire, you persevered in tranquil silence, spending yourself in night-long vigils and prayer, until you were wholly purified and restored in the likeness to God. After your ascetic struggles, you found the delight of rest, where you seek the joy of God for those who honor you.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 1)

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, seeking the Lord. They saw an angel as radiant as light. He was seated on the stone and said to them: "Why do

you seek the Living One among the dead? He has risen as He said. You will find Him in Galilee!" Let us bow down in worship before Him, saying, "O Lord, who are risen from the dead, glory to You!"

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

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. Your Resurrection, O Christ the Savior, has lighted up the universe! You have renewed Your creation, O Lord almighty: glory to You!

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

2. O Savior, You exalted the name of Your chief Apostles throughout the whole world: they were instructed in the ineffable mysteries of Heaven; they became a source of healing for those on earth; their shadow alone was enough to heal the sick. The first wonderworker was once a fisherman; the second, who explained the divine mysteries of grace, was chosen from the Jews. At their prayers, O compassionate God, grant us Your great mercy.

All: God is wonderful among His saints, the God of Israel.

3. Great is the glory which you acquired through your faith. You not only overcame the Enemy in your sufferings, but you still cast out devils and heal the sick, O physicians of souls and bodies. O holy martyrs, intercede with God that He have mercy on our souls.

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

Dogmatikon

Weeping, the women poured out myrrh on Your tomb, mixed with tears. And then their voices were filled with joy as they said, "The Lord is risen!"

TROPARION OF JOHN (*Tone 8*)

In you, O father John, was restored the likeness of God, for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away, and how to value the soul, for it is immortal. Wherefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

TROPARION OF JOSEPH (*Tone 2*)

The noble Joseph took down from the tree Your spotless body, and wrapped it in pure linen for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day, You arose, O Lord, and bestowed great mercy upon the world!

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

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 2*)

When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You put Hades to death by the splendor of Your Divinity. And when You raised the dead from below the earth, all the heavenly Powers cried out to You: "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

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

TROPARION OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN (*Tone 2*)

The Angel stood by the tomb and cried to the myrrh-bearing women, "Myrrh is proper for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself free from corruption. Cry out then, 'The Lord is risen and has bestowed great mercy upon the world!'"