

# September 26

## Commemoration of the Passing of the Apostle and Evangelist, John the Theologian (3rd Class)

### GREAT VESPERS

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

*Stichera for John (Tone 1)*

6. Beholder of revelations past speech, spokesman of the mysteries of God on high, John, the son of Zebedee, has written down the Gospel Christ for us; he has taught us to acknowledge God as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
5. Beholder of revelations... (*Repeat*)
4. The divine lyre of the hymns of Heaven, having written their secrets down, John sings the Song of Songs, his mouth inspired by the Spirit. With his lips, he forms a hymn of intercession for us to God.
3. The divine lyre... (*Repeat*)
2. Resounding like thunder, your tongue expresses the hidden wisdom of God. O beloved Apostle, you open your mouth and say to us, "In the beginning was the Word!" You give light to all men to lead them to the knowledge of God.
1. Resounding like... (*Repeat*)
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 2)*

Let us celebrate, as is right, the son of thunder, the originator of divine sayings, the chief theologian, the first preacher of the true wisdom of God, John, the beloved virgin apostle. He carried within himself the

continual presence of God, saying "In the beginning was the Word", who was always with the Father and of the same essence as the Father. He taught us the truth of the Holy Trinity. He showed us the Word as the Creator, always with the Father, the true Light bringing life. O awesome wonder and amazing thing: that, being full of love, you were also filled with theology. That brought with it glory, honor and belief, becoming the foundation of our pure Faith, through which we shall obtain eternal goods on the Day of Judgment.

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

*Theotokion*

O Virgin, the shadow of the Law passed away with the realization of grace, for as the bush had burned without being consumed, so you gave birth while a virgin and you remained a virgin. Instead of the pillar of fire, there rose the Sun of Justice; instead of Moses, Christ God came forth, the Savior of our souls.

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

## **READINGS**

1) 1 John 3:21 - 4:6

Dearly beloved, if our consciences have nothing to charge us with, we can be sure that God is with us and that we will receive at His hands whatever we ask. Why? Because we are keeping His commandments and doing what is pleasing in His sight. His commandment is this: we are to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and are to love one another as He commanded us. Those who keep His commandments remain in Him and He in them. And this is how we know that He remains in us: from the Spirit that He gave us.

Beloved, do not trust every spirit, but put the spirits to a test to see if they belong to God, because many false

prophets have appeared in the world. This is how you can recognize God's Spirit: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh belongs to God, while every spirit that fails to acknowledge Him does not belong to God. Such is the spirit of the Antichrist which, as you have heard, is to come; in fact, it is in the world already.

You are of God, you little ones, and thus you have conquered the false prophets. For there is One greater in you than there is in the world. Those others belong to the world; that is why theirs is the language of the world and why the world listens to them. We belong to God and anyone who has knowledge of God gives us a hearing, while anyone who is not of God refuses to hear us.

2) *1 John 4:11-16*

Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us.

The way we know we remain in Him and He in us is that He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. When anyone acknowledges that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. We have come to know and believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

3) *1 John 4:20 - 5:5*

Dearly beloved: If anyone says, "My love is fixed on God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. One who has no love for the brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God. Now, everyone who loves the father loves the child he has begotten. We can be sure that we love God's children when we love God and do what he has commanded. The love of God consists in this: that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not burdensome.

Everyone begotten of God conquers the world, and the power that has conquered the world is this faith of ours. Who, then, is conqueror of the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

**LETE** (*Tone 1*)

O Apostle, rivers of theology have poured forth from your venerable mouth. Watered by them the Church of God worships the consubstantial Trinity in the orthodox faith. Intercede that the Church be made strong and that we may be saved, O John the Theologian.

The lily of purity, the fragrant myrrh, has again come upon us in this present feast so that we may cry aloud, "O John, the Apostle who reclined against the chest of the Master and made the word fall on the world like rain, who watched over the Virgin as the apple of your eyes, ask Christ that we may receive great mercy.

O Disciple of the Savior, on the Cross, Christ entrusted the pure Virgin, the Mother of God to you, O virginal Theologian; and you protected her as the apple of your eye. Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

As an eyewitness of the ineffable mysteries, you cried aloud that the pre-eternal Word was in the beginning with God and that He is God, O John, beloved Apostle of Christ and His true friend, delight of the Trinity, unshaken pillar of Ephesus and Patmos, and our helper. Intercede, O blessed Theologian, for the people who faithfully keep your memory

to be delivered from impious enemies, both visible and invisible.

*(Tone 2)*

Come, O faithful, and let us bless the highest of the apostles, the trumpet of theology, the spiritual general who subjected the whole inhabited earth, John, the disciple worthy of our hymns. Translated from earth, he does not remain aloof from it, but lives in Heaven awaiting the awesome second coming of the Master. O mystic friend of Christ, who rested on His bosom, ask that we who lovingly celebrate your sacred memory may meet Him uncondemned.

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

*(Tone 4)*

Beloved Disciple, reclining on the bosom of Christ at the Supper of the Lord, you drew forth from it ineffable mysteries which you were permitted to reveal; and your heavenly voice thundered out to all: "In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was in God's presence; and the Word was God!" He is Christ our God and the Savior of our souls, the true Light that enlightens every man coming into this world.

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

The Son, glorified on high with the Father and the Spirit by the Cherubim, wished to restore the first man; He ineffably emptied Himself in your womb, O Theotokos, who are praised by all. Having shone forth from you, He has enlightened the whole world with the splendor of His divinity, delivering it from the madness of idolatry. And Christ our Lord and the Savior of our souls, having made man God-like by Himself, led him back with Him to Heaven.

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 4*)

1. You confessed the Son of the Most High to be coeternal and consubstantial with the Father, Light from Light, changeless, the very Image of the Father, shining forth from Him from all ages, the Creator, Logos and Lord of the ages. Then, O beloved apostle John, you preached Him to the world as Christ our God, the Light that leads us out of darkness.
  - v. Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.
2. You received the Light of the Comforter Spirit and spoke of divine things. You taught us all about the Paraclete who proceeds from the Father and appeared to mankind through the Son, coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Word. We honor you in hymns, O John, as an Initiator of the Faith. By your prayers, keep that faith firm and unshaken.
  - v. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.
3. Ascending to the heights of theology, you learned the unspeakable mysteries of God: that God is always and essentially One, divided into Three Persons, yet undivided in essence in a union without confusion. By glorifying the undivided Trinity, you proclaimed God to us. Pray that we may be saved and enlightened, O John the Theologian.
  - v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

(*Tone 6*)

O apostle and evangelist of Christ, John the Theologian, you penetrated unspeakable theology and thundered forth your teachings to us, plainly declaring them as a beloved friend and companion of Christ, as Isaiah and Moses, who saw God. In your boldness before Him, pray earnestly for us.

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

All-holy Virgin, Christ, who is the Maker, Deliverer and Lord, came forth from your womb. Clothing Himself in our nature, He set us free from the original curse of Adam. Thus, all-pure Virgin, we sing to you unceasingly as the Mother of God and true Virgin in the words of the angel: "Hail, O Lady, advocate, defender and salvation of our souls!"

**TROPARION OF JOHN** (*Tone 2*)

Apostle beloved of Christ God, hasten to deliver a people that lacks any other defense: for He accepted that you lay your head on His breast. He will also accept your prayer. Pray Him, then, O Theologian, that He may disperse haughty nations, and beg that He may grant us peace and abundant mercy.

- 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 2*)

All your mysteries, O Theotokos, are beyond understanding and most glorious! Sealed by purity and preserved by virginity, you have indeed been acknowledged as the Mother who gave birth to the true God. Intercede with Him to save our souls!