

November 14

Commemoration of our Father among the Saints

Gregory Palamas,

Archbishop of Thessalonica, the Wonderworker

(3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

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

Stichera for Gregory (Tone 5)

6. O venerable father, holy Gregory, you are a branch sprung from a God-loving and wondrous root. You were like a tree planted near the runways of divine waters bringing forth the fruits of immortality. You amazed all who heard you by your doctrine, teaching and works for God, an outstanding orator, wise in the knowledge of God. Entreating Christ, you always thirsted for Him the more, passing from glory to glory, and from power to truly immortal power.
5. O venerable father, wondrous Gregory, renouncing passing things and seeking those which are eternal and heavenly, you abandoned fleeting wealth and held poverty to be your lasting treasure, O wise one. Purifying your spiritual vision through fasting, tears and compunction, you became a splendid vessel of the Holy Spirit, filled with His grace. Intercede that those who worship the one true God, the mighty Trinity, may receive His light and glory.
4. O venerable father, holy Gregory, you sharpened the sword of your speech with the Spirit and became a consuming fire for those who waged war against God. Like lightning from on high, you struck down their blasphemies, yet guided all the faithful to the divine radiance of the triple Sun. You reflected His light and

were enthroned, made equal to and praised with the holy Theologians with whom you now dwell. Intercede that unity, peace and great mercy be granted to the Church.

3. Gathered in choir, we sing fitting hymns to you, O Gregory, the never-failing lamp, the never-setting beacon who saves those who sail the seas, the calm and peaceful harbor of grace. We entreat you to intercede that the Church be delivered from all storms, for you bravely struggle for its sake.
 2. O Gregory, spiritual breath of the voice of the Word, unquenchable and fiery tongue of theology, by grace you consumed the stubble of heresy. Intercede that those who sing to you in the true faith may be delivered from any bondage to the Enemy.
 1. O father Gregory, Christ made you a radiant lamp for the Church. You were first enkindled in asceticism and inner quiet, then burst forth in the fire of the Spirit with clear yet profound writings. By your intercession, teachings and miracles, you still bring light to the world and strengthen those who waver.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

Having adorned your speech with wisdom and blameless virtue, O wise Gregory, you excelled in both. You brought joy to the faithful by your words revealing God, showing them the reality of the one and holy Trinity. You trampled down all heresy by your glorious teachings and strengthened the Orthodox Faith. As you stand now before Christ with the bodiless angels, entreat peace and great mercy for our souls.

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

Theotokion

O Mother of God, because of you, David the Prophet became an ancestor of God. He foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise to you and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you: "The Queen stood at Your right hand." God revealed you as a life-giving mother when He chose to be incarnate of you without a father; He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted. He found the lost sheep in the mountains, carried it on His shoulders, offered it to the Father, generously numbered it among the Powers of Heaven and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

Entrance. "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) *Proverbs (10:30 - 11:12)*

The mouth of the just yields wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the just know how to please, but the mouth of the wicked, how to pervert. False scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a full weight is his delight. When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom. The honesty of the upright guides them; the faithless are ruined by their duplicity. Wealth is useless on the day of wrath, but virtue saves from death. The honest man's virtue makes his way straight, but by his wickedness the wicked man falls. The virtue of the upright saves them, but the faithless are caught in their own intrigue. When a wicked man dies his hope perishes, and what is expected from strength comes to nought. The just man escapes trouble, and the wicked man falls into it in his stead. With his mouth the impious man would ruin his neighbor, but through their knowledge the just make their escape. When the just prosper, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. Through the blessing of the righteous the city is exalted, but through the mouth of the sense, but the intelligent man keeps silent.

3) *Wisdom* (*Prov* 29:2; *Wis* 4:1,14; 6:11,17-18, 21-23; 7:15-16, 21- 22, 26-27, 29; 10:9-10,12; 7:30; 1:8; 2:1, 10-17, 19-22; 15:1; 16:13; *Prov* 3:34)

When the just is praised, the people rejoice; for immortal is his memory. Because both by God is it acknowledged, and by men, for his soul was pleasing to the LORD.

Desire wisdom, therefore, all of you. Long for it and you shall be instructed. For the first step toward her is a very earnest desire for her; then, care for discipline is love of her; love means the keeping of her laws. Honor Wisdom, that you may reign forever. Now what wisdom is, and how she came to be I shall relate; and I shall hide no secrets of God from you. For God is the guide of Wisdom and the director of the wise. For both we and our words are in his hand, as well as all prudence and knowledge of crafts.

Wisdom, the artificer of all, taught me. For in her is a spirit intelligent and holy. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of His goodness. And she produces friends of God and prophets. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars. Compared to light, she takes precedence. But Wisdom delivered from tribulations those who served her. She guided them in direct ways, and gave them knowledge of holy things. She preserved them from foes, and she gave them the prize for their stern struggle that they might know that devotion to God is mightier than all else. Wickedness prevails not over Wisdom; justice is not confounded by evildoers. They who said among themselves, thinking not aright: "Let us oppress the just man, without regard for his goodness; let us not revere the old man for his hair grown white with time. But let our strength be our norm of justice. Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us

with violations of our training. He professes to have knowledge of God and styles himself a child of the LORD. To us he is the censure of our thoughts; merely to see him is a hardship for us, because his life is not like other men's, and different are his ways. He judges us debased; he holds aloof from our paths as from things impure. He calls blest the destiny of the just. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him.

With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him." These were their thoughts, but they erred; for their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God; nor did they wish to believe that You alone are God who have dominion over life and death. It is You who save in time of distress and deliver from all evil. You are tenderness and pity. When You are dealing with the arrogant, You are stern, but to the humble You show kindness.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, O father, holy hierarch Gregory! You are the light of Orthodoxy, the radiant sun of the Church, the pride of monastic life and model for the Church, the wondrous teacher of the righteous life, the dwelling-place of wisdom and understanding, the instrument of the Spirit for those both far and near, the inspired hymnographer, the spokesman for the Lord who separates the worthy from the unworthy! Ask Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

All: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

2. Hail, Gregory, exalted intelligence, seer of the Mysteries, vessel of the Spirit granted to us, burning torch, splendor of the radiance of God, powerful and revered dwelling-place of love! You are truly meek, simple and innocent, the expositor and teacher of the Scriptures, the abyss of the knowledge of God, the unsounded sea of the teachings of the Word of God! Ask Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

All: Happy the man who fears the Lord, who takes delight in all His commands.

3. Hail, holy hierarch Gregory, fountain of theology, sure rule of Orthodoxy for upholding the one exalted Essence of the Trinity in a single will and activity, the simple, almighty and uncreated Divinity! By the timeless grace of the Spirit you shamed those who rejected theosis, O spokesman of theologians, glory of the Fathers, who are counted among them, guiding lamp for the Church. By your intercession, you obtain for us great mercy.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 4)

Having led a life of holiness, O divinely-revealed Gregory, you adorned your asceticism with contemplation. Having loved and sought wisdom with great desire, the Spirit enriched you with divine grace. Pouring forth words sweeter than honey from the comb, you brought joy to the Church of Christ with your divine doctrines. As you dwell now in the heavens with the holy hierarchs, pray unceasingly for those who celebrate your holy memory.

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

Theotokion

Look with compassion upon the petitions of your servants, all-blameless one. Calm the attacks of the cruel demons against us and deliver us from all sorrow. You alone are our strength, and we have been granted your intercession. Let no one who calls upon you, O Lady, be put to shame. Hasten to answer the pleas of those who cry aloud to you with faith, "Hail, O help, joy and protectress of all, the salvation of our souls!"

TROPARION OF GREGORY (*Tone 8*)

O Gregory the wonder-worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace: pray without ceasing for the salvation of 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 8*)

O Good One, You were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion for us. You destroyed Death by Your death, and as God You made manifest the Resurrection. Turn not away from those You have made by Your hands. O Merciful One, show Your love to men and accept as our intercessor the Mother of God who gave birth to You. O our Savior, save a desperate people.