

December 12

Commemoration of our father among the saints

**Spyridon the Wonderworker,
Bishop of Trimythus on Cyprus**
(3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

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

Stichera for Spyridon (Tone 5)

6. Hail, O model of holy hierarchs, unshakable pillar of the Church of Christ, glory of the Orthodox and source of awesome miracles, inexhaustible stream of charity, torch radiant with a thousand fires, instrument moved by the breath of the Spirit, exemplar of gentleness and integrity, adorned with candid simplicity, heavenly man, angel living here below, laborer in the vineyard of the Lord and intimate friend of Christ! Intercede with Him that great mercy be given to our souls!
5. Hail, O model of holy hierarchs, ... (*Repeat*)
4. O heir of the land which is the inheritance of the meek, glory of the Fathers, O Spyridon: by the power of your wise words and divine grace, you boldly routed the deadly error and madness of Arius. In the Spirit, you promoted the divine and saving teachings which give light to all orthodox Christians, teaching them to glorify the only-begotten Word, who is truly consubstantial to the unbegotten Father, who grants great mercy to the world.
3. O heir of the land ... (*Repeat*)
2. Putting to death your carnal passions, you gave life to the dead by the grace of God. You changed a serpent to gold and held back the course of a river by your prayers.



Appearing at night to the endangered emperor, you healed him by the apparition through the wondrous glory given you by God. Thus celebrating your illustrious memory and venerating your relics, O Spyridon, we receive the streams of healings and great mercy which you pour forth from it upon all believers.

1. Putting to death your carnal passions, ... (*Repeat*)
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 1)

O blessed father, venerable Spyridon, for love of God you challenge sin even now just as when you were alive. You practiced poverty, yet changed a serpent into gold; you stopped the flow of a river in your flowing compassion for the people; as an instrument of the Providence of God, you appeared to the emperor and healed him. As a disciple of Christ, you raised the dead. Joining the gathered assembly of the Fathers, you made the brilliant purity of the faith shine forth. Having such power with Christ who gave you these gifts, pray to Him to save our souls.

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

Theotokion (Tone 6)

O cave of Bethlehem, prepare yourself to receive the Mother who bears Christ within her womb. O manger, receive the Word who destroys the sins of mankind. O shepherds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awesome wonder. O Magi, come from Persia and bring your gifts to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother; yet she bowed to Him as a servant and spoke to Him within her heart, saying: "How were You conceived in me? How did You grow in me, my God and my Savior?"

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

READINGS (*optional*)

1) *Proverbs* (13:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 34-35, 4, 15, 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. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness, and her tongue speaks of law and mercy.

"Give heed! for noble things I speak. Happy the one who obeys me, and happy those who keep my ways. Happy the one 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. 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. I will teach you the truth, that your spirit may be in the Lord and that you be filled with His Spirit."

2) *Proverbs* (13:31 - 14:15)

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 naught. 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 wicked it is overthrown. He who reviles his neighbor has no sense, but the intelligent man keeps silent.

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

But 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 grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with the elect.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 1*)

1. Come, all you faithful, let us join in the sacred celebration of this radiant feast. Come to the spiritual banquet to which Spyridon invites us: a divine table, refreshing miracles and immortal works. Let us imitate his gentleness and simplicity, his openness and goodness, the wisdom which he shared with everyone, and all the virtues which made him shine like the sun in the midst of his fellow bishops.

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

2. O wise hierarch Spyridon, you were outstanding in your miracles and in your virtues. The former made your life more dazzling than the sun; the latter illumined the whole face of the earth more brightly than sunlight. In all things, you have appeared to us as a sublime being, resplendent and glorious, and as the fervent defender of the faithful who take refuge in your protection.

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

3. O marvel which inspires awe! At your command, the dead answer with a living voice! At your order to change, the river halts in its course! At your prayer, the emperor is healed of illness. Through you the serpent was changed to gold, and the dead were transformed to life, for Christ was working in you, O bishop Spyridon, clear preacher of the dogma of the Trinity!

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

Doxastikon (*Tone 2*)

O venerable father Spyridon, you are the treasure of the hierarchs because of your virtues. As a champion of the Church, you rose up against heresy, casting down the blasphemy of Arius with the Council. Since you work

wonders in word and in deed, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

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

Theotokion

Behold, the time of our salvation is drawing near. Prepare yourself, O cave, for the Virgin is coming to give her Child to the world. Rejoice and exult, O Bethlehem of Judah, for the Lord shall shine forth from you. Listen, O mountains, hills, and all you regions around Judah; Christ is coming to save the human race which He created, for He is the Lover of mankind!

TROPARION OF SPYRIDON (*Tone 1*)

You showed yourself a defender of the first Council and a worker of miracles. You summoned the woman back from the grave and turned the snake into gold. Angels came to minister beside you, O holy father Spyridon, when you offered your ardent prayers. Glory to Him who strengthened you! Glory to Him who crowned you! Glory to Him who heals us through your intercessions.

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!