

# January 30

**Commemoration of our Fathers among the Saints  
the Great Ecumenical Teachers, Basil the Great,  
Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom;  
and of the Holy hieromartyr Hippolytus, Pope of Rome**  
(3rd Class)

## GREAT VESPERS

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

*Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 4)*

8. Let us fittingly honor Basil, Gregory and John, as instruments of the grace of God, harps of the Spirit and sweet-sounding trumpets of theology! From on high, their admirable preaching announced awesome mysteries; as three satellites proclaiming the great Trinity, they spoke of the glory of God to the ends of the earth.
7. Let us fittingly honor... *(Repeat)*
6. Let us honor the champions of the Holy Trinity, the ramparts of the Faith, the three men similar to the Twelve Apostles of Christ. They are like a life-bearing river from Eden, watering the face of the earth with divine streams, as they taught the faith in an ordered way.
5. Let us honor... *(Repeat)*
4. The Prophet said, "Their voice has gone forth over the whole world;" and, indeed, the words of these wise theologians and teachers of the creation have been announced to the limits of the earth and sea. Wherefore, all hear the way of life taught by them and are united in the one Orthodox Faith.
3. The Prophet said... *(Repeat)*

2. Let us follow their teachings, praising in song these instruments of the Spirit, radiating the truth, these mighty preachers of the Word. Since they have boldness before the Lord, let us ask them to seek peace for the world and forgiveness of sins for us all.
1. Let us follow... (*Repeat*)
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 6)*

Today let us praise the God-bearing Fathers, those mystic spokesmen of the Spirit, who made divine harmony resound in the midst of the Church as they proclaimed the Trinity one in Essence and undivided. They sustained the Orthodox Faith against Arius; and they constantly intercede before God to have mercy on our souls.

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

*Theotokion*

Who would not call you blessed? Who would not sing a hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail, O Virgin most holy? The only-begotten Son Himself, begotten of the Father before all ages, was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be expressed, O Woman most pure! And for our sake, He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man. He is not divided into two Persons; He is understood to have two natures without commixtion or confusion. O noble and blessed Woman, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

*Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of the day.*

**READINGS**

1) *Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)*

Thus says the Lord: I have given that land over to you. Go now and occupy the land I swore to your fathers,

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, I would give to them and to their descendants.

Moses said to the children of Israel: "At that time I said to you, 'Alone, I am unable to carry you. The LORD, your God, has so multiplied you that you are now as numerous as the stars in the sky. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times over, and bless you as he promised!' So I took outstanding men of your tribes, wise and experienced, and made them your leaders as officials over thousands, over hundreds, over fifties and over tens, and other tribal officers. I charged your judges at that time, 'Listen to complaints among your kinsmen, and administer true justice to both parties even if one of them is an alien. In rendering judgment, do not consider who a person is; give ear to the lowly and to the great alike, fearing no man, for judgment is God's.'

## *2) Deuteronomy (10:14-21)*

Moses said to the children of Israel: Think! The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to the LORD, your God, as well as the earth and everything on it. Yet in His love for your fathers the LORD was so attached to them as to choose you, their descendants, in preference to all other peoples, as indeed He has now done. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and be no longer stiff-necked. For the LORD, your God, is the God of gods, the LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes; who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him. The LORD, your God, shall you fear, and Him shall you serve; hold fast to Him and swear by His name. He is your glory, He, your God, who has done for you those great and terrible things which your own eyes have seen.

### 3) *Wisdom (3:1-19)*

Thus says the Lord: But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself. As gold in the furnace, He proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in Him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love: because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

#### **LETE** (*Tone 2*)

Come, worshippers of the heavenly Trinity: let us acclaim the earthly trinity of holy hierarchs: Gregory, named for theology; Basil, who bears the name of the kingdom; and John, well-named for the grace of God. They are abysses of wisdom, measureless streams of the Spirit, sources of living water for all, clear pearls, earthly luminaries, helmsmen of the Church, trees bearing wondrous fruit, stewards of the grace and words of Christ, champions of the Trinity, from Whom they received their enlightenment. They constantly intercede before God for our souls.

O faithful, let us celebrate in the light coming from those burning embers of the divine Fire. Illumined by that union with Him, they were bright torches for the world, a life-giving strength for the poor. They preached the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, according to the Faith. Let us say to them, "Hail, O wise trio of the Holy Trinity!"

*(Tone 6)*

O faithful, let us celebrate the triple-corded sling of David, the purple strand of Solomon, the three ropes which the Word used as a whip, the wise hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John the Golden-mouthed. With the Cornerstone, they brought down a new Goliath. They brought the Faith into harmony; they protected it, not with the scarlet cord of Rahab, but with the blood of Christ. As for heresiarchs, those troublemakers, they chased them by their words far from the fold of the holy flock of Christ. Now they constantly strengthen the Faith, interceding with the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

*(Tone 8)*

The grace of God has been made manifest to all. We have learned through these Teachers to regulate our activities and better our way of life, centering our spirit around the divine Light. Thus we wish to cry aloud, "O Holy Trinity, governing all things, through the prayers of the three Hierarchs, Your Pastors, keep this Your flock in peace, preserving it from all sadness and error; save it in Your love for mankind!"

*(Tone 6)*

Holy Trinity, worthy of adoration, may Your divine Providence be glorified! For from all mankind, You have given us these three great luminaries to enlighten us with knowledge of You, making us radiant with the splendor of Your salvation and Your holy will. Enriched by the luminous knowledge of You thanks to them, the universe shines with Your glory as it hastens toward Your blessed Kingdom. As You encourage us to listen to them, hear their prayers on our behalf and save our souls, O our God, Lover of Mankind and compassionate Lord!

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

O feast-lovers, let us come together to sing the praises of the three hierarchs of Christ, the glory of the Fathers, the

strongholds of the Faith, the Teachers and Protectors of believers. Let us say to them, "Hail, light of the Church, holy Basil, unshakable pillar! Hail, Gregory, heavenly spirit, great Archbishop and Theologian! Hail, John of the golden words, fearless preacher of repentance! O thrice-blessed Fathers, constantly intercede before Christ for the faithful who celebrate with love your holy and divine feast!"

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

O feast-lovers, let us come together to sing the praises of the Joy of the angels, the pride of virgins, the unique Theotokos, the solid rampart for believers. Let us say to her, "Hail, pure Virgin Mary, golden lampstand and gate of Heaven! Hail, sanctified Temple who welcomed God into your womb! Hail, all-pure one, who without compare are higher than all the angels of Heaven! O Virgin Mother, our Lady, keep under your protection all your faithful servants who sing to you with love and worship your pure maternity!"

#### **APOSTICHA** (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, trinity of holy hierarchs, three-towered stronghold of the Church of Christ, pillars of the Faith and support for believers! Through you, heresy has been turned back; you shepherd the people of Christ with your true teachings and your virtues. You are preachers of grace who have made known the laws of Christ to all the faithful in order to guide them to the heights and open for them the gates of Paradise. Ask Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

All: Let the saints triumph in glory and sing for joy upon their couches.

2. Hail, trinity of holy hierarchs, men who lived like angels upon earth: you bring salvation to the world and joy to all mankind. Ecumenical Teachers, champions of the Word of God, wise physicians of souls and bodies,

inexhaustible channels of the Spirit, whose words have completely watered the face of the earth, you are pillars of the Church and theologians of golden words. Ask Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

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

3. Hail, trinity of holy hierarchs, who were like the sun to the earth, rays beamed forth by the radiance of the Triple Light. You restore vision to blinded hearts. You are gentle and fragrant flowers of Paradise: Chrysostom, Gregory and Basil the Great, scribes of the Spirit, tablets written by our God, nourishing us with the milk of salvation, joyful in wisdom. Ask Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

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

*Doxastikon (Tone 5)*

Let the tones of our festive songs resound like trumpet blasts as we exult with joy in the universal celebration of our teachers. Kings and princes, hasten to sing of the three hierarchs, those great rivers pouring forth the wondrous waves of their teachings, those living streams of the Spirit! O bishops and teachers, let us all celebrate the three hierarchs of the Holy Trinity! Philosophers, celebrate the truly wise men! Priests, praise the great Pastors! Sinners, sing to our fervent defenders! Poor people, feast the ones who lend out treasures! Afflicted, praise our warm consolers! Travelers, celebrate our companions on the way! Sailors, praise our helmsmen! Let us all celebrate the holy Archbishops whose care surrounds us in all places. Let us praise them and say, "O holy teachers, hasten to save the faithful from falling in this life, and deliver them from all pain in the age to come!"

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

*Theotokion*

Let the harmony of our chants resound, for the Virgin Mary, the Queen of all, bends down from Heaven to crown with blessings those who sing her name. Kings and princes, hasten to acclaim the Mother of the King who in His love wished to save from death those who were once held captive! Bishops and teachers, let us all celebrate the all-spotless Mother who brought the Good Shepherd into the world! She is the golden lampstand, the cloud bearing Light, who is higher in honor than the Cherubim, the living Ark, the fiery throne of the Lord, the golden vessel containing the Manna, the tablet on which the Word of Life is written. Let us sing the praises of the Theotokos, calling upon her as the refuge of Christians: "O Temple of the Word, grant the Kingdom of heaven to your humble servants, for nothing is impossible to your divine mediation!"

**TROPARION OF THE FATHERS** (*Tone 1*)

Let us all come together to honor with hymn and song the three great Satellites of the Holy Trinity, the Sun, enlightening the universe with the beams of their divine doctrine, flowing with honey-like rivers of wisdom, refreshing deserts with streams of the knowledge of God: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John, the famous speaker, the Golden-mouthed. Let us sing in hymns our love for their teachings, for they are constantly interceding for us before the Holy Trinity.

- 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!

**OR TROPARION OF THE FATHERS** (*Tone 4*)

O you, the equals of the apostles by your way of life, the teachers of the universe: intercede with the Lord of all that He may grant peace to the world and great mercy to 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 4*)

The mystery which was hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels has been revealed through you, O Theotokos, to those on earth: for God took flesh in a union without commixture, and willingly took up the Cross by which He elevated the first man, and saved our souls from death.