

November 13

Commemoration of our Father among the Saints
 John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople
 (3rd Class)

GREAT VESPERS

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

Stichera for John (Tone 4)

6. With our chants, let us celebrate the golden trumpet, the instrument played by the breath of God, the inexhaustible font of teachings, the pillar on which the Church finds support, the abyss of wisdom, the spirit reaching up to the heavens, the golden chalice pouring out streams of doctrine sweeter than honey, which give drink to the whole creation in their flow.
5. With our chants, let us celebrate... (*Repeat*)
4. As is fitting, let us honor holy John of the golden words, that never-fading star enlightening all that lives under the sun with the rays of his bright teachings, that preacher of repentance, that golden sponge drying up the tears of deadly despair, that dew refreshing the hearts parched by sin.
3. As is fitting, let us honor... (*Repeat*)
2. In our hymns, let us honor the earthly angel and heavenly man, the solitary swallow with the eloquent song, the rich treasury of virtues, the unbreakable rock, the model for every believer, the imitator of the martyrs, the equal to the holy angels: Chrysostom, who by his life imitated the divine Apostles.
1. In our hymns, let us honor... (*Repeat*)
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

O thrice-holy and thrice-blessed Father, disciple of Christ the High Priest and good shepherd in your own right, you gave your own life for your flock. Now, O John Chrysostom hierarch of great renown, intercede constantly with Him to grant us great mercy.

- 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 explained, 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 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) *Wisdom* (*Prov.* 10:31-32; 11:4,7,19; 13:2,9; 8:17; 15:2; 14:33; 22:11; *Eccl.* 8:1; *Wis* 6:13,12,14-16; 7:30; 8:2-4, 7-9, 17-18,21; 9:1-5,10-11,14)

The mouth of the just yields wisdom. The lips of the just know how to please, but virtue saves from death. At the death of a just man, his hope does not perish for he is born to life. A good man shall enjoy the fruits of righteousness. The righteous always have light; they shall find grace and renown in the presence of the Lord. The tongue of the wise pours out knowledge. In the heart of the intelligent wisdom abides. The LORD loves the pure of heart; those who walk the way of perfection are acceptable to Him. The wisdom of the Lord lightens the countenance of the wise man. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of men's desire. Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. He who watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of her is the perfection of prudence, and he who for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care. Because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude. Wickedness prevails not over Wisdom. Her I loved and sought after from my youth; I sought to take her for my bride and was enamored of her beauty. Even the LORD of all loved her, for she is instructress in the understanding of God, the selector of His works. The fruits of her works are virtues; for she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful for men than these. Does one still wish to understand wisdom? She knows the things of old, and infers those yet to come. She understands the turns of phrases and the solutions of riddles; signs and wonders she knows in advance and the outcome of times and ages. So I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would be my counselor while all was well, and my comfort in care and grief. And knowing that I could not otherwise possess her except God gave it and this, too, was prudence, to know whose is the gift - I went to the LORD and besought him, and said with all my heart: God of my fathers, LORD of mercy, you who have made all things by Your word and in Your wisdom have established man to rule the creatures produced by You, to govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart: Give me

Wisdom, the attendant at Your throne, and reject me not from among Your children; for I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid. Send Your wisdom forth from Your holy heavens and from Your glorious throne dispatch her that she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is Your pleasure. She will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory. For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans.

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.

LETE (*Tone 1*)

O golden lamp and mouth, jewel of divine virtues, holy John, temple of the Scriptures, instructing us, you were also the pure treasure of the Spirit: the whole Church rejoices in your saving words. You now enjoy the heavenly inheritance. By the boldness which you possess before God, intercede for us, O holy father.

O venerable Father, the grace of God was poured out on your lips; thus the Lord has consecrated you as a hierarch for His people, to guide His flock in justice and holiness. Girding yourself with the sword of the powerful, you cut short the babbling of the heretics. Now, O John Chrysostom, do not cease to intercede for peace in the world and great mercy for our souls.

(*Tone 2*)

Acclaiming you, O holy Father, as an archbishop and good shepherd, a preacher of repentance, an instrument of grace, a mouth of golden words, we pray to you with our whole heart, O venerable Father: By your prayers, obtain great mercy for our souls!

Like a bride adorned in her jewels, the Church adorned by your words cries out to you joyously, O John Chrysostom: "I am filled by the delights of your outpourings, radiant with the gold of your honey; and by your sweet exhortations, I have passed from action to

contemplation; I have been united to Christ, the mystic Bridegroom, and I reign with Him." Thus we all gather in memory of you and sing, "Do not cease to intercede before the Lord on our behalf for great mercy for our souls!"

O Hierarch, you have attained the highest philosophy, living beyond the world, above all that can be seen; you were a pure mirror of God; constantly united to His radiance, you drew in light until you reached your glorious end in the greatest Light. O Chrysostom, intercede for our souls!"

(Tone 4)

Your words, like rays of light, have bathed the whole world, O blessed one, whose whole being was a fount of light. You have adorned everything with the filigree of your discourses, working your own teachings like a goldsmith. After composing your golden books, you took flight to Heaven. Thus we cry out, "O Chrysostom, river of gold, intercede before Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!"

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

To the Queen of Cities belonged the glory and pride of possessing the hierarch John as a royal adornment, a golden trumpet sounding throughout the world to announce the doctrine of salvation. She invites all to come together as a choir in divine hymns. In response, then, let us say, "O Chrysostom, pray to Christ God to save our souls!"

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

In you, O pure Theotokos we possess the rampart, fortress and harbor of peace; thus we cry out to you from the storms of this life, "Be our helmsman and save us!"

APOSTICHA *(Tone 5)*

1. Hail, delight of the Church; golden trumpet; instrument of the breath of God; tongue which in love for mankind preaches repentance to us in its many forms; radiant spirit; golden-tongued swallow; dove whose wings, according to the psalm, are tipped with gold in the splendor of the virtues; river sparkling with flashes of light in its waters; holy mouth

announcing the love which our God has for mankind: implore Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

All: My mouth speaks wisdom and my heart exalts with understanding.

2. Hail, true Father to orphans, prompt help of the distressed, support of the poor, nourisher of the hungry, staff for those who are falling, wondrous physician of souls and their skillful healer, strict interpreter of the highest theology, clear exegete of the inspired Scriptures, straight rule and norm for action, double peak of wisdom at whose summit works and contemplation come together: implore Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

All: The just man's mouth utters wisdom and his lips speak what is right.

3. You have become the sacred dwelling-place of the virtues; in you they have taken up their dwelling as though in a pure and holy temple. For, having mastered the senses of your body, you have guarded the purity of your spirit, like an inviolate treasure chamber, against the entrance of the passions. Thus, O blessed father, having restored the likeness to God, you presided as a hierarch in the Church of Christ, praying to Him to grant the world great mercy.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 6)

O Chrysostom, you were truly the golden-mouthed trumpet, pouring out over the hearts of the faithful the treasure of the pure, joyous notes of your teachings. And as the prophet David said, O venerable father, their message has gone out to the limits of the universe, making it radiant with light.

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

Theotokion

Christ the Lord, my Maker and Savior, came out of your pure womb in the likeness of me, O Woman without stain, and He delivered Adam from the original curse. Therefore, O Woman all pure, since you are the Mother of God and a true Virgin, we never tire of calling to you with the salutation of the angel: "Hail, O Lady, O our intercessor, our shield and the redemptress of our souls!"

TROPARION OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (*Tone 8*)

The grace that shines forth from your mouth like a torch has enlightened the universe, bestowed treasures of generosity upon the world, and shone us the eminence of humility. While you teach us by your words, Father John Chrysostom, pray to the Word, Christ our God, that He may save 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.