

January 25

Our Holy Father Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

GREAT VESPERS FOR POLYELEOS

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

8.
By your words of wisdom, Gregory the theologian,
you have glorified Him who is worshipped in Trinity:
the consubstantial Godhead: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
You have withered the vanity of false philosophers,
boldly proclaiming the truth with your godly preaching.

7.
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boldly proclaiming the truth with your godly preaching.

6.
Let us sing the praises of the prince of bishops,
the great teacher of the church of Christ,
the mighty organ of the Spirit of God;
the well-tuned lyre, the sweet-sounding harp:
rejoice, depth of divine grace!
Rejoice, heavenly and exalted mind:
Gregory, father and theologian!

5.
You ascended the mountain of virtue, renouncing all earthly cares.
With dead works you held no fellowship;
as Moses received from the hand of God the tables of the law of life,
so you were given the pure dogmas of your theology,
by which you teach us heavenly mysteries,
Most wise father Gregory.

In Tone 1

4.
The grave, the means of forgetfulness, did not close your mouth, father Gregory,
for you have been revealed as the voice of theology,

declaring now to the whole world the teachings of the faith!
Pray that peace and great mercy may be granted to our souls!

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2.

You wisely turned from the hostile and treacherous flesh,
and mounting the heaven-bound chariot, father Gregory,
you were drawn by the virtues as by four horses!
You soared aloft into ineffable beauty!
Now as you delight in it,
grant our souls peace and great mercy!

1.

Through grace you were a faithful mediator between God and men.
Now, as you brought Christ, mercifully turned toward us, father Gregory,
by your bold prayers, never cease to pray to Him, venerable one,
that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy!

In Tone 6, Glory...

Faithful, let us assemble!
Let us celebrate in spiritual songs the prince of bishops and the glory of patriarchs,
the interpreter of the words and thoughts of Christ.
Let us honour him whom God exalted with a heavenly mind:
rejoice, fountain of theology and river of wisdom;
the abyss of divine contemplation!
Rejoice, brilliant star, enlightening the world with true doctrine!
Rejoice, fearless opponent of error and powerful defender of truth!
Most wise Gregory the theologian, never cease to pray to Christ our God
for those who celebrate your God-pleasing and honorable memory
with faith and love!

Now...

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?
Who would not sing a hymn of praise
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?
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 a man.

He is not divided into two persons;
He is understood to have two natures
without commixion or confusion.
O noble and blessed Woman,
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

Readings

Proverbs 10:6-8; 8:6-21

Wisdom 8:17-21; 9:1-4

Wisdom 4:7-15

Aposticha

In Tone 5

Opening your mouth, directed by the Word of God,
you have partaken of the Spirit of Wisdom:
full of grace, you proclaimed divine doctrine, thrice-blessed Gregory.
You have imitated the ceaseless worship of the angelic host,
preaching on earth the triune and undivided Light.
Illumined by your divine teaching we confess the one Godhead in Trinity,
pray for the salvation of our souls.

My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

With your tongue of fire, divinely-inspired Gregory,
you burned to ashes the false teachings of the enemies of God.
You have appeared to us as a man with divine words,
speaking in the spirit of the mighty works of God,
writing for us of the hidden mystery of the Trinity of Persons,
equal in power and one in essence.
You have enlightened the ends of the earth as a radiant sun:
never cease to pray for the salvation of our souls.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

Rejoice, river of God, full of the waters of grace,
gladdening the ransomed people of Christ the King with divine teaching:
rejoice, torrent of delight and inexhaustible sea of truth,
faithful and just guardian of doctrine, undefeated warrior of the holy Trinity,
organ of the Holy Spirit and ever-vigilant mind,
your words explain the deep mysteries of the Scriptures:
pray to Christ, that He may grant our souls great mercy!

In Tone 8, Glory...

You have cultivated the hearts of believers by your words, Gregory:
you have yielded abundant fruit for God:
an ever-green pasture of righteousness.
You have torn out by the roots the thorns of heresy,
cleansing the world by your divine reasoning.
We faithful in joy offer praise to you:
inspired lyre and ever-vigilant mind,
faithful shepherd of the flock of Christ,
never cease to pray to the Word, theologian,
that He will deliver from the wolf all those who honour your memory.

Now...

O Virgin, You have never known wedlock,
Yet You conceived God in the flesh
in a manner which words can never describe.
You thus became the Mother of God on high.
O Immaculate Lady, receive the supplication of your servants
and grant us the cleansing of our sins.
Accept now our prayers and beseech God to save all of us.

Troparia

In Tone 1

Like a shepherd's flute, O Father Gregory* your theology vanquished the trumpets of orators,* for
searching the depths of the spirit,* beauty of speech was increased in you.* Pray Christ God that our
souls may be saved.

Glory... Now...

O Holy Tabernacle, when Gabriel called out to you:* Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace,* the Lord of All
became incarnate of you,* as the righteous David had foretold.* In bearing your Creator, you have
shown yourself to surpass the vastness of the heavens.* We, therefore, cry out: Glory to Him Who dwelt
in you!* Glory to Him Who came forth from you!* Glory to Him Who has set us free* through your life-
giving birth!