

March 4, 2012

Second Sunday of the Great Fast - St. Gregory of Palamas

Octoechos Tone 5

Our Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan

GREAT VESPERS

KATHISMA READING

Blessed is the man... is sung.

AT PSALM 140

10.

With Your precious Cross, O Christ,

You have put the Devil to shame.

With Your Resurrection You have deadened the sting of Death.

We, therefore, glorify You, O only-begotten Son of God.

9.

O Christ, Who granted resurrection to mankind,

You were led like a lamb to the slaughter.

Then the princes of Hades were struck with terror

as they saw the gates of their tearful domain being lifted up;

for Christ, the King of Glory, entered therein

and exclaimed to those in chains: Go forth from here!

And to those in darkness: Go forth into the light!

8.

What a great wonder!

The Creator of invisible beings suffered in the flesh for mankind,

and rose from the dead as immortal.

Come, therefore, all you nations and adore Him;

for through His compassion we have been freed from the snares of the Devil,

and we have learned to praise the one God in three Persons.

7.

We offer to You our evening worship,

O Light Whom the darkness of night can never extinguish.

For in these latter days Your radiance has appeared to the world,

shining in Your flesh as light reflected in a mirror.

Your brilliance has descended even to the depths of Hades and dissolved its gloom.

O Lord, Giver of Light, glory to You;

for You have shown the radiance of Your Resurrection to all the nations.

6.

Let us glorify Christ, the Author of our Salvation;

for by His Resurrection from the dead,

the world has been delivered from the deception of Satan.
The choirs of angels rejoice as the treachery of evil spirits vanishes.
Fallen Adam arises, and the Devil is vanquished.

5.

Those who guarded the tomb of Christ
were told by the evil men who hired them:
Take this silver and keep silent.
Tell no one of the Resurrection of Christ;
rather tell everyone that while you were sleeping His body was stolen.
But who has ever heard of a body being stolen,
a body which had already been anointed?
Why would anyone take a body from the grave naked,
and leave the burial shroud in the tomb?
Do not deceive yourselves, O people of Judea.
Study the teachings of the Prophets,
and you will come to understand that Jesus Christ is Almighty God,
and truly the Saviour of the world.

In Tone 2

4.

What hymns of praise shall we sing in honour of the holy bishop?
He is the trumpet of theology,
the herald of the fire of grace, the honoured vessel of the Spirit,
the unshaken pillar of the Church, the great joy of the inhabited earth,
the river of wisdom, the candlestick of the light,
the shining star that makes glorious the whole creation.

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2.

What words of song shall we weave as a garland to crown the holy bishop?
He is the champion of true devotion and the adversary of ungodliness,
the fervent protector of the Faith, the great guide and teacher,
the well-tuned harp of the Spirit, the golden tongue,
the fountain that flows with water of healing for the faithful,
Gregory the great and marvelous.

1.

With what words shall we who dwell in earth praise the holy bishop?
He is the teacher of the Church,

the herald of the light of God,
the initiate of the heavenly mysteries of the Trinity,
the chief adornment of the monastic life,
renowned alike in action and in contemplation,
the glory of Thessalonica;
and now he dwells in heaven with the great and glorious martyr Demetrius
whose relics flow with holy oil.

In Tone 6

Glory...

Thrice-blessed Saint, most holy father,
good shepherd and disciple of Christ the Chief Shepherd,
you have laid down your life for your sheep.
And now in your intercessions,
O God-bearing Gregory our father,
pray that great mercy may be granted to our souls.

Now...

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and bride
was revealed in the Red Sea.
There, Moses divided the waters;
here, Gabriel is the messenger of the miracle.
There, the Israelites crossed the deep and their feet were not even wet;
here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed.
There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel;
here, the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel.
Therefore, O immortal God, who appeared in the flesh as true Man,
have mercy on us!

APOSTICHA

In Tone 5

O Christ our Saviour,
we lift up our voices to glorify You.
For, in Your love for mankind,
You became incarnate without leaving heaven;
You accepted the Cross and death;
You cast down the gates of Hades;
and on the third day You arose from the dead
for the salvation of our souls.

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.

O Giver of Life,
streams of forgiveness, life, and salvation

poured forth from Your pierced side upon us all.
By accepting physical death, You granted us immortality;
by lying in the tomb, You freed us from Hades,
and as God, by rising from the dead,
You raised us with Yourself in glory.
Therefore, we cry out to You:
O Lover of mankind, glory to You!

For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

O Lover of mankind,
Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are most wondrous.
For, as God, You thereby conquered the power of Hades,
and raised up in glory, with Yourself, those who were long imprisoned there.
You reopened Paradise and enabled them to enter.
Grant forgiveness of sins to us
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day,
for You alone are all-merciful.

Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

O Lover of mankind,
You accepted suffering in the flesh
and rose from the dead on the third day.
Therefore, heal the passions of our flesh,
raise us from our dreadful iniquities, and save us.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Your tongue, watchful in teachings,
rings in the ears of our heart and wakens the souls of the slothful.
Your words, inspired by God,
are a ladder leading us from earth to heaven.
O Gregory, wonder of Thessaly,
pray to Christ without ceasing
that we who honour you may be illumined with the divine light.

Now...

O Virgin who knew not carnal union,
O you who ineffably carried God in the flesh,
O Mother of the Almighty God.
O you who obtain for all of us the cleansing of sins
accept now our supplication
and intercede for the salvation of us all.

TROPARIA

In Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, acclaim and worship the Word* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh,* to suffer death and to raise the dead,** by His glorious Resurrection.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Light of orthodoxy, teacher of the Church; its confirmation!* Ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians.* Wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace:* always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Now...

O gracious Lord, for the sake of mankind You were born of a virgin;* through Your death on the cross You conquered death;* and through Your resurrection You revealed yourself as God.* O merciful Lord, do not disdain those whom You have created with Your own hands,* but show forth Your love for mankind.* Accept the intercession which the Mother, who bore You, makes in our behalf.** O Saviour, save Your despairing people!