

April 30, 2012

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of Saint John the Theologian

GREAT VESPERS

KATHISMA

Blessed is the man... is sung.

AT PSALM 140

In Tone 8

8.

Most strange wonder!
The Creator of all became a Beggar,
clothing Himself in our fleshly nature.
He wished to live with mankind in his compassion.
He showed the Hebrews a multitude of wonders:
He healed the paralytic in Bethsaida, saying to him:
Rise, take up your bed and walk!

7.

My Lord, my Saviour and God,
wishing to raise up fallen mortals,
wandered over the earth.
In His compassion He healed the diseases of all;
He passed by the Sheep's Pool
and by a word revealed Himself
to a man paralyzed thirty-eight years.

6.

Lord, the Jews were poisoned with envy.
Your good works became fuel for their madness.
They had always been transgressors of the law.
Now they seek to kill You, the true Life,
because You made a man whole on the Sabbath,
who before had been paralyzed.

In Tone 4

5.

You drew men up from the depths of vanity with a fisher's rod of grace.
You obeyed the commands of the Teacher, worthy James,
who enlightened all your thoughts
and revealed you as an apostle and holy preacher,
expounding His incomprehensible Divinity, most blessed one.

4.

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3.

The illumination of the Spirit descended on you in the form of fire
and made you a divine vessel, blessed one,
dispelling with power the darkness of godlessness;
enlightening the world with the brightness of your all wise words.
Preacher of mysteries, leader of the apostles,
James, the eye-witness of Christ.

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1.

You illumined those lying in the darkness of ignorance
with the lightning flash of your preaching, glorious James!
You revealed them to be sons through faith of the Master and God
whose passion and death you imitated with zeal.
You became an heir of the glory, O wise one,
as one speaking from God and a most faithful disciple.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Come, let us praise James with hymns of psalms:
the preacher of heavenly mysteries and expounder of the Gospel;
for he was revealed as a river of the mystical Paradise,
watering spiritual furrows with heavenly streams,
revealing them to bear fruit to Christ God,
who, by his prayers, grants cleansing, enlightenment and great mercy!

In Tone 5, Now...

A man lay sick by the Sheep's Pool.
Seeing You, Lord, he cried to You:
There is no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.
Another always goes before me and receives healing,
while I lie here in misery.
Immediately the Saviour was moved to pity, and said to him:
It was for you that I became man;
because of you I was clothed in mortal flesh!
Yet you say: I have no man!

I tell you, take up your bed and walk!
All things obey and submit to Your power, Lord!
Remember us all, and have mercy, holy Lover of mankind!

PROKEIMENON
of the day

READINGS
James 1:1-12; James 1:13-27; James 2:1-13

APOSTICHA

In Tone 8

Blessed, God-seer James, after you listened to the voice of the Word,
you paid no heed to the service and customs of your father,
for you left behind the life of earthly cares and passed over the spiritual sea!
You stirred its depths with the precepts of godliness and with your heavenly thunder,
apostle most blessed of God!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

All-blessed James, by your deeds you served the Word,
the cause of life and of the future age.
Truly you deprived Israel of its first born privilege
when it forsook the worship of the true God,
while recalling it to sonship as the new Israel!

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

You are now appointed a prince over all the earth,
as it is written of you, glorious one,
since you became a disciple of the Creator of all.
In fervent zeal, you suffered murder by the transgressor's sword,
taking you from the revered company of the twelve apostles.

In Tone 1, Glory...

You followed after Christ and despised the world,
hiding his teachings in your treasury, godly James.
You were revealed to be His apostle.
Therefore, going to the nations with the commandments of the Savior,
you enlightened the souls in the darkness of delusion and passion,
that they might believe in the consubstantial Trinity!

Now...

With Your pure hand, You created mankind;
You came to heal the sick, compassionate Christ!
You raised the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool by Your word,
You cured the woman of her painful hemorrhage.
You had mercy on the Canaanite woman's daughter.
You did not reject the centurion's request.
Therefore we cry to You:
Glory to You, almighty Lord!

TROPARIA

In Tone 3

O James, worthy of all praise,* chosen apostle of Christ and only brother of the beloved theologian;*
ask God to bestow on those who hymn you forgiveness of sins* and to grant our souls great mercy.

Glory... Now...

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.*
He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of
Hades** and granted great mercy to the world.