

May 11, 2012

Holy Cyril and Methodius, Teachers of the Slavs and Equals to the Apostles

GREAT VESPERS

Kathisma

"Blessed is the man..." is taken.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

8.

Behold, the Messiah Jesus,
Whose coming Moses foretold in the law!
In His compassion, He has appeared on earth!
He spoke with me as a man, by the well!
He is truly the anointed One Who has come into the world.
So the Samaritan woman told the people of Sichar.

7.

From the mouth of the joyful woman,
the whole town heard the news of sweet flowing water.
She hurried to lead them quickly to the well.
There they found the River of life, the Fountain of immortality,
Who gives refreshment to our souls!

6.

When the people in the town saw the Fountain
Who came in the likeness of men,
they cried to the woman:
It is no longer because of your words that we believe!
Now we really know:
He is the eternal salvation and atonement for the world!

In Tone 2

5.

With what crowns of praise shall we adorn the divinely-wise teachers,
the voices of wisdom sounding amid clouds of darkness,
enlightening those in the shadow of death with the light of the Gospel!
The great preachers of the undivided Trinity who grafted barren unbelievers
as branches into the fruitful tree of the orthodox Church
that they might obtain from Christ our God peace and great mercy.

4.

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3.

With what songs of praise shall we glorify the divinely-wise teachers:
the golden-mouthed Cyril
who reached the heights of wisdom through his sweet preaching,
humbling the fierce pride of Islam!
And Methodius, the lover of solitude,
who in silence received the fruits of the Spirit.
Through their prayers, Christ our God, grant us great mercy.

2.

With what hymns of praise shall we magnify the divinely-wise teachers:
Cyril, who chose to live with wisdom in his youth.
He multiplied his talents to the glory of God;
and Methodius who renounced the things of this world for love of Christ.
He strove like an angel for the kingdom of heaven.
Through them, we have come to know God,
the eternal Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
receiving from Christ our God great mercy!

1.

With what spiritual songs shall we magnify you, most blessed teachers?
For the sake of the salvation of the Slavs you became equals to the apostles.
You laboured to enlighten them by the lamp of the Word of God,
opening for them the door of the written Word.
As we enter, we understand the blessed teaching of Christ,
receiving from Him peace and great mercy.

In Tone 6, Glory...

Come, lovers of feasts!
Let us glorify the apostolic labourers with songs of praise:
the pride of hierarchs, the enlighteners and fervent intercessors for the Slavic people!
Rejoice, Cyril, golden herald of the Word of God,
lighting up the mysteries of the Holy Trinity as the sun,
closing the blaspheming mouths of Islam!
Again, rejoice, Methodius!
You assisted him with prayers and miracles.
Most blessed fathers, never cease to intercede before Christ our God
for those who praise you with faith and love!

Now...

Jesus met the Samaritan woman by Jacob's well!
He wraps the earth in clouds, yet He asks for water from her!
Wonder! He Who rides on the cherubim speaks with an adulterous woman!
He Who suspended the earth on the waters, asks for a drink!

He Who causes the lakes and springs to overflow is weary with thirst!
Truly He desires to set the woman free from the enemy's snares.
He drowns her sins in the waters of life,
for He alone is the compassionate Lover of mankind!

Prokeimenon
of the day

Readings
Deuteronomy 1:8-17; Deuteronomy 10:14-21; Wisdom 3:1-9

Aposticha

In Tone 8

The light of your lives, teachers equals-to-the-apostles,
has enlightened the Church like the stars.
The strength of your teaching has brought many nations to Christ.
You approached the unapproachable Light,
and now you dwell with the angels.
Therefore pray for us who honour your blessed memory!

Let Your priests be clothed in righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy!

Come, all you faithful, let us magnify the teachers:
equals-to-the-apostles, and the glory of the Slavs.
Through them we are delivered from the snares of the devil,
receiving the blessing of Christ,
and learning the eternal Word which cleanses us from the darkness of sin.

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

Divinely-wise Cyril, and God-loving Methodius,
apostles and first teachers of the Slavic church,
protectors of the faithful and lovers of righteousness,
sweet voices of the Holy Spirit!
You have great boldness before Christ, the great high priest:
pray for us, who honour your blessed memory,
that He will deliver our lives from corruption, as the greatly merciful One!

Glory...

Rejoice, blessed ones who enlightened us with the knowledge of God!
Rejoice, Cyril, living source of spiritual wisdom:
you quenched the thirst of the Slavic people!
Rejoice, Methodius, pure dwelling of prayer:
now you stand in the glory of Christ.
Therefore never cease to pray that we may glorify Him

as we magnify you throughout the ages!

In Tone 6, Now...

The Lord spoke thus to the Samaritan woman:
If you knew the gift of God
and Who it is that asks you: give me water to drink,
you would have asked Him, and He would give you living water,
that you may never thirst again.

Troparia

In Tone 4

As equals to the apostles in the way you lived* and teachers of the Slavic lands,* O Cyril and Methodius, divinely wise,* intercede with the Master of all* to confirm the Slavic nations in orthodoxy and oneness of mind;* to grant peace to the world and save our souls.

Glory... Now...

When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* "Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,** granting to the world great mercy."