

**November 13**

**Our Holy Father John Chrysostom (the Golden-Mouthed)  
Archbishop of Constantinople**

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GREAT VESPERS FOR POLYELEOS SAINT ON WEEKDAY

*“Blessed is the man” is sung.*

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 4*

6. Let us praise in song  
the God-inspired instrument and golden-forged trumpet,  
the boundless depth of dogma,  
the affirmation of the Church and the heavenly mind,  
the depth of wisdom and the chalice of purest gold  
that poured forth sweet rivers of learning  
and nourished all creation.

5. Let us praise in song  
the God-inspired instrument and golden-forged trumpet,  
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4. Let us worthily honour John of the golden words,  
the never-setting star which enlightens everything under the sun  
with his rays of teaching.  
He is the preacher of penance  
and the sponge of purest gold  
which removes the cruel dampness of ignorance.  
He gives life to hearts that are torn by sin.

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2. Let Chrysostom be exalted,  
for he is the earthly angel and the heavenly man,

the eagle of great and good speech  
and the treasury of virtues.  
He is the firm rock and the example of the faithful,  
the one who is like the martyrs  
and who stands equal with the angels,  
for his teaching was the same as the apostles.

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*In Tone 6, Glory...*

O thrice-venerable and most holy Father,  
you are the good shepherd and the student of Christ the chief Shepherd  
who gave his life for his flock.  
Now, ever-praised John Chrysostom,  
grant that through your prayers we may receive great mercy.

*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.

**Prokimenon**  
*of the day*

## Readings

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

Blessings are on the head of the righteous,  
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.  
The memory of the righteous is a blessing,  
but the name of the wicked will rot.  
The wise of heart will heed commandments,  
but a prating fool will come to ruin.  
Hear, for I will speak noble things,  
and from my lips will come what is right;  
for my mouth will utter truth;  
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.  
All the words of my mouth are righteous;  
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.  
They are all straight to him who understands  
and right to those who find knowledge.  
Take my instruction instead of silver,  
and knowledge rather than choice gold;  
for wisdom is better than jewels,  
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.  
I, wisdom, dwell in prudence,  
and I find knowledge and discretion.  
The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.  
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil  
and perverted speech I hate.  
I have counsel and sound wisdom,  
I have insight, I have strength.  
By me kings reign,  
and rulers decree what is just;  
by me princes rule,  
and nobles govern the earth.  
I love those who love me,  
and those who seek me diligently find me.  
Riches and honour are with me,  
enduring wealth and prosperity.  
My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,  
and my yield than choice silver.  
I walk in the way of righteousness,  
in the paths of justice,  
endowing with wealth those who love me,  
and filling their treasuries.

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

When I considered these things inwardly,  
and thought upon them in my mind,  
that in kinship with wisdom there is immortality,  
and in friendship with her, pure delight,

and in the labours of her hands, unfailing wealth,  
and in the experience of her company, understanding,  
and renown in sharing her words,  
I went about seeking how to get her for myself.  
As a child I was by nature well endowed,  
and a good soul fell to my lot;  
or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.  
But I perceived that I would not possess wisdom  
unless God gave her to me --  
and it was a mark of insight to know whose gift she was --  
so I appealed to the Lord and besought him,  
and with my whole heart I said:  
"O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy,  
who hast made all things by thy word,  
and by thy wisdom hast formed man,  
to have dominion over the creatures thou hast made,  
and rule the world in holiness and righteousness,  
and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul,  
give me the wisdom that sits by thy throne,  
and do not reject me from among thy servants.

*Wisdom 4:1, 6-20*

Better than this is childlessness with virtue,  
for in the memory of virtue is immortality,  
because it is known both by God and by men.  
For children born of unlawful unions  
are witnesses of evil against their parents  
when God examines them.  
But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest.  
For old age is not honoured for length of time,  
nor measured by number of years;  
but understanding is gray hair for men,  
and a blameless life is ripe old age.  
There was one who pleased God and was loved by him,  
and while living among sinners he was taken up.  
He was caught up lest evil change his understanding  
or guile deceive his soul.  
For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,  
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.  
Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness.  
Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,  
nor take such a thing to heart,  
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,  
and he watches over his holy ones.  
The righteous man who had died will condemn  
the ungodly who are living,

and youth that is quickly perfected will condemn  
the prolonged old age of the unrighteous man.  
For they will see the end of the wise man,  
and will not understand what the Lord purposed for him,  
and for what he kept him safe.  
They will see, and will have contempt for him,  
but the Lord will laugh them to scorn.  
After this they will become dishonoured corpses,  
and an outrage among the dead for ever;  
because he will dash them speechless to the ground,  
and shake them from the foundations;  
they will be left utterly dry and barren,  
and they will suffer anguish,  
and the memory of them will perish.  
They will come with dread when their sins are reckoned up,  
and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 5*

Rejoice, O golden, glittering, and beautiful God-inspired instrument of the Church.  
Rejoice, O orator who with loving-kindness  
prescribed for us various examples of penance.  
Rejoice, O golden-formed mind,  
golden-tongued swallow, and dove who radiated virtues on green pastures.  
Rejoice, most golden stream which pours forth the waters of divine speech,  
the stream entrusted with the divine love for the human race.  
Ask Christ to send great mercy to our souls.

*My lips will speak words of wisdom. My heart is full of insight.*

Rejoice, father of orphans and quick helper of the needy.  
Rejoice, benefactor of the poor,  
food of the hungry, and corrector of those who sin.  
Rejoice, most honourable and most pleasing healer of souls.  
Rejoice, sublime knowledge of theology  
and narrator of spiritual writings.  
Rejoice, keeper of the law and retainer of the most just order.  
Rejoice, O sublime wisdom of visions and deeds.  
Ask Christ to send great mercy to our souls.

*The mouth of the just utters wisdom, and his lips speak what is right.*

O Chrysostom, the Church sings to you:  
Rejoice in Christ, your Bridegroom.  
For by your virtues and your words,

you have enlightened the world more than the rays of the sun.  
Rejoice, O wisest of men, greater than all other orators.  
Rejoice, defender of the true faith.  
You are the one who uncovered falseness, O teacher of penance.  
Rejoice, quiet depth of knowledge,  
who like the great Paul followed Christ completely.  
Now ask Christ to send great mercy to our souls.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

O Chrysostom, you spoke most purely  
and showed yourself to be the golden-sounding trumpet.  
You purified the hearts of the faithful  
by your true and dedicated teaching.  
The message of your teaching  
has gone forth prophetically, O venerable Father,  
and you have enlightened the ends of the earth.

*Now...*

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,  
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.  
He clothed Himself in our human flesh  
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.  
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,  
as the true Virgin Mother of God,  
and we sing with the angels:  
Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

## **Troparia**

*In Tone 8*

Grace shone forth from your mouth like a fiery beacon\* and enlightened the universe,\* bestowing on the world not the treasures of greed,\* but rather showing us the heights of humility.\* As you teach us by your words, O John Chrysostom, our father,\*\* intercede with the Word, Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

*Glory... 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!

**Note:**

Texts of hymnography taken from a variety of sources.

Scripture used from the [Revised Standard Version](#).

Troparia taken from *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* ([Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University](#); Ottawa, 2004. Used with permission.