

April 30

The Holy Apostle James, Brother of Saint John the Theologian

GREAT VESPERS

KATHISMA

Blessed is the man... is sung.

AT PSALM 140

In Tone 1

8. The Creator of all and Giver of life,
the Word, co-eternal with the divine Father,
Who willed to take flesh from the Virgin, becoming a man,
has manifested the ineffable teachings of wisdom to all!

7. In the midst of the Jewish feast, O Christ,
You stood in the Temple, Master of the law,
teaching with authority and rebuking the scribes,
amazing all with the wisdom of Your words and wondrous signs!

6. The Giver of wisdom and Bestower of blessings,
pouring out divine streams from the inexhaustible fountain, cried:
Come to me, you who thirst, and draw the water of life!
Rivers of divine gifts shall flow from you!

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. 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.

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.

2. 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.

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 2, Now...

When You came to the Temple, O Christ, in the midst of the feast, You taught the people, saying: Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, he shall live! The Jews: Pharisees and Sadducees and Scribes, were enraged and cried: Who is this man to utter blasphemies? They did not understand that You are our God, glorified with the Father and the Spirit before the ages! Glory to You!

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!

In Tone 3 Now...

In the middle of the feast,
let us glorify Him Who worked salvation in the midst of the earth!
The Life was hanging on the Tree, between two thieves.
He was silent with the one who blasphemed,
but the one who believed heard: Today you will be with Me in Paradise!
He descended into the tomb, snatching hell,
and arose on the third day, saving our souls!

TROPARIA

In Tone 8

At the mid-point of the Feast, O Saviour,* water my thirsty soul with streams of true godliness;* for You
cried out to all: Let any who thirst, come to Me and drink.* O Source of Life, Christ our God, glory to
You!

In Tone 3, Glory...

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.

Now...

We sing your praises, O Virgin;* for, as the Mother of God, you always intercede for the salvation of the human race.* It is from you that our God and Your Son took flesh. * Then, by suffering the passion on the Cross,** and out of love for mankind, He delivered us from corruption.