

The 19th Day of April

Our Venerable Father John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 stichera, in Tone 5: *To the melody, “Rejoice....”*

Aroused by the divine desire to follow after Christ God, /
Who willingly clothed Himself in the flesh of the Virgin, /
And for thy sake became a wanderer here on earth, /
O ven'rable and wondrous father John, /
Thou didst come into a foreign land, /
And didst estrangle thyself from all the sweetness of this world, /
And didst live as a pilgrim, acquiring the virtues, /
In contemplation of death, /
By keeping vigil all night and standing in constant prayer /
Thou didst restrain the passions by thine abstinence, /
In likeness of them that have followed the way of fasting before thee ///
And with them thou hast attained glory.

O ven'rable and most glorious father John, /
Having been trained as a disciple of blessed Chariton /
Thou didst eagerly learn by his example; /
And emulated his divine ways /
Thou didst live a life of silence and prayer /
And wast found worthy of the honored priesthood; /
Ever offering the Blameless Sacrifice /
Thou was swathed in glory and enlightened in wisdom ///
And uplifted in mind to mystical visions and indescribable bliss.

O ven'rable and all-blessed father John /
Being strengthened by the power of the Trinity /
Thou didst escape the harm of heresies /
And didst cleave to the Truth, O wise one /
And through foresight and action didst truly attain divine glory, /
The ultimate of all desires, at thy repose, O blessed one. /
And standing now together with the angelic host, /
Resplendent in glory before the Throne of God ///
Pray for those who worthily celebrate thy memory with faith, O truly wondrous one.

Glory... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

To whom hast thou likened thyself, O my soul? /
 Why dost thou run after the most terrible of things, /
 Mindlessly adding painful lashes to thine already festering wounds? /
 With no heed to what will become with the rest of thee, /
 Nor that the Judge is already approaching. /
 Before whom, thou shalt stand and receive the just reward of thy deeds. /
 But turn back, and fall down before the Virgin crying out: /
 Do not despise me, O Lady! /
 For I have angered the Just and Merciful God who was born of thee ///
 And was crucified in the flesh for our salvation.

Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: (and melody)

When she beheld Him suspended on the Tree /
 The unplanted Cluster of grapes,
 Which had put forth from within her womb, /
 His divine side pierced by a spear,
 The all pure one cried aloud: /
 “What is this, O my Son and God? /
How is it that Thou acceptest suffering, /
 Who hast healed all infirmities and passions, /
 Being in Thy divinity dispassionate by nature? /
What have these ungrateful people done to Thee,
 Their Benefactor, for all the good Thou hast done to them?” /
 But entreat thou Him unceasingly, O Lady, /
 That He deliver me from my passions by His sufferings, ///
 That I may ever glorify thee.

Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service.

The General Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 8: (None given in the Menaion)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, /
 For thou didst take up thy cross and follow Christ /
 By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away /
 But to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal ///
 Therefore thy spirit, O ven’rable John, rejoices with the angels.

Matins

The Canon for the Saint, Tone 4

—incomplete as of 3/2013

VENERABLE JOHN OF THE ANCIENT CAVES.

The Kontakion of Saint, in Tone 2: *(None given in the Slav Menaion)*

Arming thyself with the purity of thy soul /
And wielding thy constant prayer as a spear, /
Thou didst utterly rout the myriad hordes of demons, /
O our ven'erable father John. ///
Ceaselessly pray now on behalf of our souls.

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