

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of October



### Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite.

#### Vespers

**At “Lord I call...,” 6 stichera,**

**3 stichera, in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

**H**aving entered in mind into the shadow of the unapproachable light /  
Thou didst learn the divine mysteries of the Word, /  
O holy Dionysius, disciple of Christ, /  
And didst reveal to all the world ///  
The celestial hierarchies of the holy angels.

**T**hy soul was illumined by Three-fold rays of splendor /  
And thy body was enlightened by the immaterial fire, /  
And thus, O father, thou didst pass over into immaterial radiance /  
Into the company of the angels. /  
With them now, unceasingly pray for us, ///  
That our souls may be saved.

**T**hou didst make thy heart into a receptacle of the grace of the Spirit /  
And thus became a foremost pastor of the Church of God. /  
Now, healings flow abundantly like water from thy shrine ///  
O holy father Dionysius.

**And 3 stichera, in the same Tone:** *To the melody, “O all-praised martyrs....”*

**T**hou wast caught upon the hook of grace, /  
By the preaching of the divine apostle Paul, /  
Who made thee into a preacher of the sacred mysteries /  
And an eye-witness of ineffable things, /  
For he perceived thee to be a vessel chosen by God. /  
Pray with him now, O blessed and eloquent father Dionysius, ///  
That those who lovingly praise thee may be saved.

**T**hou didst acquire the divine virtues, O father, /  
By making thy mind equal in wisdom to that of the angels /  
And didst set down a sacred account /  
Which described the order of their heavenly hierarchies ///  
And aligned the hierarchies of the Church with those of the ranks of heaven.

**A**cquiring the wisdom of God as much as thou wast able, /  
O blessèd father Dionysius, /  
Thou didst re verently and piously make known to all the ends of the earth /  
The revelation of the divine names, /  
And the achievement of that which is beyond all understanding — ///  
The unity of all through union with Divinity.

**Glory..., in Tone 2: *(the composition of Andrew of Jerusalem)***

**C**ome, all ye faithful, /  
And together let us praise the annual memorial /  
Of the blessed hierarchs Dionysius and Cyprian, /  
For the one, spurned the philosophy of the Stoics and was taught by the ap<sup>o</sup>stle Paul,  
/  
And became an initiate of the divine mysteries; /  
And the other, through the piety of the maiden Justina fled the deception of the  
demons; /  
He cast his books of sorcery into the blazing fire /  
And became a preacher of the Holy Gospel. /  
Therefore, glorifying the Savior who hath so glorified them /  
Let us sinners cry aloud: /  
O Christ God, who hast crowned thy martyrs with crowns of glory, ///  
By their supplications, save our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 2:**

**T**he shadow of the Law passed when grace came. /  
As the bush burned, yet was not consumed, /  
So the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin. /  
The Sun of Righteousness has risen instead of a pillar of flame! ///  
Instead of Moses, Christ the salvation of our souls!

**Or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: *To the melody "Down from the tree...."***

**B**ehold<sup>i</sup>ng Thee, her Lamb being voluntarily led to the slaughter /  
The chaste ewe-lamb wept and cried aloud: /  
“What dost thou do, striving to make me childless, O Christ, /  
Who gave birth to Thee, the Deliverer of all? /  
Yet I glorify Thine ineffable grace past all understanding, O Lover of mankind.

*Or, on Friday or Saturday Evening, the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.*

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, followed by**

**Glory..., in Tone 4:**

**W**e know thee as the unfathomable depth of heavenly knowledge /  
O splendid martyr of Christ, /  
And we praise thee in song as a warrior and steadfast champion of the Church,  
O most wise one, /  
For thou didst shine forth with the purity of fire /  
And was counted worthy to don the vesture of light with the armies on high /  
Having illumined thy mind with the radiance of the Holy Spirit. /  
Therefore, O father Dionysius, we celebrate thy universal memorial ///  
And we glorify God who hast so glorified thee.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion: (in the same Tone)**

**S**eeing Thee the Lamb and Shepherd on the tree, /  
The ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented, /  
And as a mother cried out to Thee: /  
“O desired Son, how art Thou hung on the Tree of the Cross, /  
O Longsuffering One? /  
How art Thy hands and feet nailed by the transgressors, O Word? /  
How dost Thou shed Thy Blood, O Master?

**The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

**H**aving been well instructed in goodness /  
And being temperate in all things, /  
Thou wast clothed in good conscience as befits a priest /  
And from the chosen vessel, Paul, thou didst draw ineffable mysteries. /  
Having kept the faith, /  
Thou didst complete a course like his. ///  
O hieromartyr Dionysius, intercede with Christ God, that our souls may be saved.

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

**T**he mystery of all eternity /  
Unknown even by angels /  
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God, /  
God incarnate by union without confusion. /  
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /  
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///  
And saved our souls from death.

3 OCTOBER

### Matins

**At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Martyr, twice; Glory..., now and ever..., the Theotokion, or Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone.**

### The Canon

*Both Canons from the Octoechos (excluding the Troparia to the Martyrs), and this one of the Saint, having the acrostic: “I praise the mind of wise teachings” (the composition of Theophanes)*

#### Ode 1

#### The Canon of the Martyr, in Tone 8

*Irmos:* Having crossed the water as though it were dry land and escaped from the wickedness of the Egyptians, the children of Israel cried aloud: Let us sing to our Redeemer and our God.

*Refrain:* Holy martyr Dionysius pray to God for us!

**I**nstructed by the divine apostle Paul, who beheld the wonders of heaven, O Dionysius, thou didst straightway become an initiate of the heavenly mysteries and a herald of God.

**B**eing illumined by the grace of God, O blessed Dionysius, enlighten the souls of those who praise thee, so that we may fully understand thy divinely inspired teachings.

**W**ith thy soul and mind thoroughly purified, O father Dionysius, thou wast counted worthy to behold the beauty of heaven and all its hosts.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou wast the splendid bridal chamber of the incarnation of the Creator of all, for in a manner past all understanding He put on our flesh through thee, O Theotokos.

#### Ode 3

#### The Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* O Lord, Creator of the vault of heaven and founder of the Church, strengthen me in Thy love, for Thou art our supreme desire and the support of the faithful, O only lover of mankind.

**H**aving soared above the circles of heaven and beheld the ranks and hosts of angels, thou didst explain to all on earth that which thou didst see.

**B**eholding the fullness of thy lofty vision, O venerable one, thou didst set forth the theology for understanding the divine names God, O divinely blessed Dionysius, through grace, the theologian of the Trinity.

**T**hou didst mortify thy flesh in thy constant desire for God, and having intently

studied ways of wisdom, thou didst become a divinely-inspired vessel of light-bearing gifts that pass all human understanding.

*Theotokion:* Through the activity of the all-accomplishing Spirit, O Virgin, thou didst bring forth as fruit, the body of the Master of all, in whom the world of sin hath been condemned and everlasting life hath shone forth.

**The Sessional Hymn of the Martyr, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "Of Wisdom ...."***

**H**aving studied the depths of the Spirit at the source of Wisdom /  
Thou didst learn to preach the One Godhead of the Trinity, /  
O divinely-wise and ven'rable father, /  
And thou didst describe all the ranks of the angels and the mystery of their splendor, /  
Thereby describing also the order of the hierarchies on earth. /  
Bringing all into one unity. /  
Entreat Christ God, O holy hierarch Dionysius, /  
That He may grant the remission of sins ///  
To those who honor with love thy holy memory. (*twice*)

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

**O** golden lamp of the divine Light and cloud of the spiritual Sun, /  
O chaste and immaculate Lady, most-pure, /  
Illumine the darkness of my soul with the rays of dispassion, /  
And cleanse my filthy heart with the streams of compunction, /  
That I may wash my evil deeds away with tears of repentance, /  
So that I may cry out to thee with love: O Ever-virgin Mother of God, /  
Beseech Christ God to grant me remission of my transgressions, ///  
For I, thy servant, have placed my hope in thee.

**Or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone:**

**W**hen she beheld the Lamb, /  
The Shepherd and Deliverer stretched out upon the Cross, /  
With maternal tears the Ewe-lamb cried aloud: /  
"The world rejoiceth for it hath received deliverance though Thee, /  
Yet my womb burns at the sight of Thy crucifixion, /  
Which Thou dost endure in Thy compassion and mercy. /  
O longsuffering Lord, and infinite source of mercy, /  
Have pity and grant the remission of sins ///  
To those who faithfully praise Thy divine suffering."

## Ode 4

### The Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* *Thou art my strength, O Lord, my God, my power, my joy; without leaving Thy Father's bosom Thou hast visited our wretchedness. So with the prophet Habákuk I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy Power, O Lover of man!*

**T**hou hast adorned the good estate of Churches hierarchal order, O father, by describing in words and with visible images the invisible and bodiless powers, thereby illumining all the assemblies of the faithful about their mysteries.

**T**he sacred blossoms of the Word flourish as they are watered by the streams of thy theology, O beloved of God, that proclaim the unity of essence in the three Persons of the co-reigning Trinity.

**H**aving a powerful desire for God, a fervent love for the angelic hosts, and a longing for the divine and unattainable heights, with godly wisdom thou didst teach us to cry out with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of mankind!

*Theotokion:* **O** Virgin, thy Son was the divine Guide, the Light, and the Author of Salvation, and the justification and deliverance of all who praise thee. Therefore, with one mind we, the faithful glorify thee, O Lady.

## Ode 5

### The Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* *Why hast Thou cast me away from Thy face, O never setting Light? Why has this dismal darkness covered me, the wretched one? Guide me in return to the light of Thy commandments, I pray Thee.*

**T**he sound of thy teachings, like a clap of thunder, smote the minds of the ungodly with words of grace, and illumined the hearts of the faithful with the splendid light of the precepts of God.

**T**hou wast like merchant in search of fine pearls, O richly-blessed one, and thou didst find the one Pearl which is truly beyond price; and amazed at its divinely-wrought luster, thou didst come to confess God.

**T**hou didst love the well-spring of Wisdom, O wisdom-loving father, and, held fast by thy zealous love, thou didst achieve greatness, ever pouring forth streams of divine teaching, O divinely-eloquent one.

*Theotokion:* **O** Lady full of joy, thou didst receive the beautiful magnificence of Him who created all things by His will alone, and who graced us with the beauty of the Orthodox Faith, O Lady Theotokos.

## Ode 6

### The Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* Cleanse me, O Savior, for many are my transgressions; Lead me from the abyss of evil, I pray Thee, and I cry: Hear me, O God of my salvation.

**S**tudying the love of knowledge thou didst receive the gift of wisdom, and by writing words of theology thou didst produce volumes of Orthodox dogmas which delight the faithful who call thee blessed.

**W**isely seeking knowledge of the divine, O Dionysius the wise, thou didst incline thine ear to listen to the divine Teacher as He taught thee heavenly wisdom.

**M**arvelous was thy life, wondrous were thy words, brilliant was thy tongue, thy fiery mouth was inspired by the Spirit, and thy mind was established in the Faith, O divinely-blessed father.

*Theotokion:* **W**e, the faithful, joyously cry out to thee with the voice of Gabriel, O Virgin, for through thee did the Creator and Giver of life, who lovest mankind, come forth to dwell among mankind.

### The Kontakion of the Saint, Tone 8:

**B**eing a disciple of the apostle Paul who ascended to the third heaven of paradise /  
Thou didst pass beyond the gates of heaven in the spirit, /  
And being enriched with the understanding of the ineffable mysteries /  
Thou didst enlighten those who sat in the darkness of ignorance ///  
Therefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O universal father Dionysius!

*Ikos:* **G**racèd with the virtue of being a great angel among men replete with wings, Dionysius learned the understanding of heaven. Therefore, we honor him with hymns as an angel, and as such, cry out to him: Rejoice, thou who didst come to know Christ through the apostle Paul; Rejoice, thou who didst convert multitudes to Christ; Rejoice, destroyer of the temples of the pagan gods; Rejoice, watch-tower of the counsel of the knowledge of God; Rejoice, book of the hidden mysteries inscribed by the hand of God; Rejoice, divine tablet and mirror of heaven; Rejoice, eye-witness who beheld the suffering of the Lord; Rejoice, for thou didst sacrifice thyself joyfully for His sake; Rejoice, well-spring of divine understanding; Rejoice, droplet of water that extinguishes godless foolishness; Rejoice, straight path of salvation, Rejoice, barrier denying entry to the impious. Rejoice, O universal father Dionysius!

## Ode 7

### The Canon of the Martyr

*Irmos:* In Babylon the flames were put to shame by God's condescension; the young men in the furnace danced in joy and sang in exultation: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**A**s the showers from heaven water the thirsting earth, so do thy teachings anoint the hearts of the faithful as they teach them to cry: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

**W**ith divine understanding didst thou describe the minds of the bodiless angels, O blessèd father, and teach the Church to sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

**A**s a worthy receptacle of the most Holy Spirit, thou didst prophetically proclaim His inspirations and manifestations, O Dionysius the wise, as thou didst sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

**Theotokion:** **B**ehold, the prophecy of the divine Isaiah has been fulfilled, for a Virgin has conceived God the Word in her womb, and has given birth to the Giver of life, to who all cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

### Ode 8

#### The Canon of the Martyr

**Irmos:** *The Chaldean torturer became enraged; he ordered the furnace to be heated sevenfold; but seeing the godly youths saved by a greater might, he sang to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless Him, O ye children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!*

**H**aving, by thy virtues, made thy mind into a receptacle of divine revelations that surpass all human understanding, O richly-blessèd one, like a bright mirror didst thou shine them down upon all people as thou didst cry out: Bless Him, O ye people, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

**A**bundant grace poured forth from thy lips, O Dionysius, as thou didst set forth for us thy divine teachings, extending our understanding of the ineffable things by revealing them to those who cry aloud with faith: Bless Him, O ye people, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

**T**he metropolitan see of Athens prospered through thee, O Dionysius, and it became renowned for it offered thee as its first-fruit to the King of all, as its faithful cried aloud: Bless Him, O ye people, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him throughout all ages!

**Theotokion:** **O** most immaculate Mother of God, cause the sores of my soul and the wounds of my sins to vanish, for thou gavest birth to the Son who has authority readily to release from bondage those bound with the unbreakable bonds of sin: the one Benefactor and only Bestower of life.

### Ode 9

#### The Canon of the Martyr

**Irmos:** *The heavens were filled with fear, the ends of the earth were filled with awe, for God revealed Himself in the flesh to men; and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, so the leaders of men and angels magnify thee, O Theotokos!*

**T**hou was counted worthy to join the holy apostles and become an heir of their witnessing and glory, and together with them didst thou hasten to the body of the one true and life-giving and most pure Lady, whom we truly magnify as Theotokos.

**A**s a worthy hierarch and an invincible martyr didst thou mingle the blood of thy martyrdom with the oil of thy priesthood and become an heir of the divine heavenly kingdom, O father. Therefore, thou art truly worthy of the double crown, O Dionysius, thou initiate of the sacred mysteries.

**H**aving great boldness before Christ as an initiate of the secret and sacred mysteries, pray for those who piously praise thee, that they may be delivered from all temptations, O wise hierarch Dionysius, thou student of ineffable visions.

***Theotokion:*** **T**he honored Church, which Christ thy Son hath acquired in His goodness by His precious blood, O joyous Lady, has truly conquered the heresies; and He has truly saved us from every tribulation and evil circumstance that beset us, O Lady Theotokos.

**Exapostilarion of the Martyr:**

**H**aving mounted to the heavens by ascending in the virtues, O God-pleasing Dionysius, thou didst come to know the ranks of all the angles and their hierarchy on high; and from the apostle Paul didst thou learn of the radiant greatness of the Three-fold Sun.

**Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:**

**O** Virgin Mother of God, the wicked and evil enemy, who from the ancient days of the golden and blessed life in paradise, hated mankind and drove him out of Eden, is slain by Him who thou didst bear, O Theotokos.

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, and**

**Glory..., in Tone 8: (the composition of Germanus)**

**E**xcelling as both hierarch and martyr, O ven'rable one, /  
Thou wast truly a good shepherd /  
And didst fully drain the cup of Christ. /  
Therefore, having pleased Him in both thy witness and thy ministry ///  
Pray for us all, O thou who dwellest now in the Light with the heavenly angels.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, or this Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "Thy martyrs...."**

**B**ehold her Child upon the Tree /  
As a willing sacrifice, /

The unblemished Maiden wept bitterly /  
And she cried lamenting: /  
“Woe is me, my belovèd Child /  
What hath the ungrateful people done to Thee? ///  
Wishing to leave me childless, O my belovèd One.”

### **Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Octoechos, and 4 from the third Ode of the Canon of the Saint.**

**1-4. (from the Octoechos)**

**5.** Having soared above the circles of heaven and beheld the ranks and hosts of angels, thou didst explain to all on earth that which thou didst see.

**6.** Beholding the fullness of thy lofty vision, O venerable one, thou didst set forth the theology for understanding the divine names God, O divinely blessèd Dionysius, through grace, the theologian of the Trinity.

**7.** Thou didst mortify thy flesh in thy constant desire for God, and having intently studied ways of wisdom, thou didst become a divinely-inspired vessel of light-bearing gifts that pass all human understanding.

**8. Theotokion:** Through the activity of the all-accomplishing Spirit, O Virgin, thou didst bring forth as fruit, the body of the Master of all, in whom the world of sin hath been condemned and everlasting life hath shone forth.

### **The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 4:**

**H**aving been well instructed in goodness /  
And being temperate in all things, /  
Thou wast clothed in good conscience as befits a priest /  
And from the chosen vessel, Paul, thou didst draw ineffable mysteries. /  
Having kept the faith, /  
Thou didst complete a course like his. ///  
O hieromartyr Dionysius, intercede with Christ God, that our souls may be saved.

### **The Kontakion of the Saint, Tone 8:**

**B**eing a disciple of the apostle Paul who ascended to the third heaven of paradise /  
Thou didst pass beyond the gates of heaven in the spirit, /  
And being enriched with the understanding of the ineffable mysteries /  
Thou didst enlighten those who sat in the darkness of ignorance ///  
Therefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O universal father Dionysius!

HIEROMARTYR DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7:** Let the saints be exalted in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches. *Verse:* Sing to the Lord a new song; His praise in the assembly of the saints.

**The Epistle:** (40-ctr) Acts 17:16-34

**The Alleluia, Tone 2:** Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy saints shall rejoice! *Verse:* The Lord hath chosen Sion; He hath desired it for His habitation.

**The Gospel:** (55) Matthew 13:44-54

**The Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

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