

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Day of January

⌄ **Commemoration of our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John Calybites (the Hut-Dweller).**

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera:**

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

**T**hou didst reveal thyself to the world as a paragon of the virtues, /  
Ascending on the steps that lead to heaven. /  
For the ascent of the spirit was well established in thy soul, /  
O thrice-bless’t father Paul. /  
Therefore, thou didst attain the heights of goodness ///  
Through thine abstinence and ascetic labor.

**I**n thy desire for God, O blessed one, /  
Thou didst ascend from the wilderness as if mounted on wings, /  
And from the darkness thou didst approach the desert on high /  
There to be illuminated by the knowledge of God, /  
And thy soul was divinely anointed ///  
With the chrism of the virtues.

**T**he desert blossomed with the beautiful flowers of thy virtues, /  
For thou didst destroy the thorns of the passions there, /  
And didst sow the seeds of thy godly deeds /  
By thy glorious labors; /  
And like the sweet fragrance of a lily ///  
Thou dost now perfume us with sweet fragrance of thy life.

**And 3 stichera of venerable St. John, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When from the Tree....”***

**W**hen by the call of God thou didst flee the beauties of this world rejoicing, /  
O ven’rable father John, /  
Thou didst prefer to take the hard and painful narrow way. /  
Then, stripping away through thy fasting all the passions /  
And clothing thyself in the image of godliness ///  
Thou didst take upon thyself the care of many souls, O divinely blessed one.

**T**hou didst devise an amazing way of life,  
A strange pursuit — /  
Being pierced with the love of Christ /

Whose ineffable poverty thou didst gladly emulate, /  
 As one homeless at thy parents' gates, /  
 Thou didst suffer oppression and afflictions, O father; /  
 Patiently didst thou endure, /  
 Wherefore, thou wast laden with spiritual gifts ///  
 And hast inherited riches in heaven that cannot be taken away.

**B**earing the sacred Gospel in thy hands /  
 Thou didst fulfill its commandment, O father, /  
 Thou didst spurn thy parents wealth /  
 And didst perfect thy life through poverty and tears. /  
Therefore, thou dost now delight, O blessed one, ///  
 In divine comfort and eternal joy.

**Glory..., in Tone 2: (usual melody)**

**R**ejecting all the things of this world /  
 Thou didst take up the Gospel and followed Christ /  
 And living in a hut, as though in the garden of Paradise /  
 Thou didst crush the serpent, the slayer of mankind /  
 Through the harshness of thy life and the discipline of thy flesh . /  
 Therefore, abiding now in the heavens, O blessed John, ///  
 Intercede with Christ for great mercy on our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 2, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody, "When from the tree..."**

**B**eholding Thee, her Lamb being voluntarily led to the slaughter /  
 The caste 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 Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.*

**The Aposticha is from the Octoechos, then:**

**Glory..., to the venerable St. Paul, in Tone 6:**

**O** ven'erable father Paul /  
 The proclamation of thy teachings hath gone out into all the world, /  
 Therefore thou hast obtained the reward of thy labors in heaven; /  
 Thou hast destroyed legions of demons, /

And attained to the choirs of the angels /  
Whose life thou didst blamelessly emulate, /  
Having now boldness before Christ our God, ///  
Pray for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 6, or the Stavrotheotokion, in the same Tone: To the melody "On the third day...."**

**B**eholding Thee crucified, O Christ /  
She who gave Thee birth cried ot to Thee: /  
"What is this strange mystery I see, my Son? /  
How, being hung in the flesh, the Giver of Life, ///  
Dost Thou die on the Tree?"

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

**O** God of our fathers /  
Deal with us according to Thy compassion /  
Take not away Thy mercy from us /  
But through the prayers of our fathers ///  
Guide our lives along the way of peace.

### **Matins**

One Canon from the Octoechos, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos;  
and two Canons of the Saints, with 8 Troparia each.

— incomplete as of 11/17/2016

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the venerable St. Paul, in Tone 3: To the melody, "Today the Virgin...."**

**L**et us assemble today, O ye faithful, /  
And let us praise our venerable father Paul; /  
For he shone forth as the brilliant reflection of the spiritual Sun /  
And lead those in the darkness of ignorance to the heights of heaven. ///  
Paul, thou art the adornment of Thebes and the glory of the fathers and  
all the saints.

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the venerable St. John, in Tone 2: To the melody, "Seeking the highest...."**

**L**ike Christ thou didst love to be humble in heart /  
And thou didst give up the parents' wealth /  
Carrying the Gospel in thy hands /

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Thou didst follow Christ God. ///

Intercede with Him ceaselessly for us all.

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