

The 23rd Day of November

Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos; The commemoration of our Fathers among the Saints, Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium, and Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum; Also, the Right-believing Prince Alexander Nevsky, whose service is found following this.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera of Saint Amphilochius, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Being endowed with a righteous spirit, O father, /
And granted the strength of abstinence /
Thou didst give thy thoughts mastery over the passions, /
And striving to attain that which is highest, /
Thou didst receive a full measure of righteousness /
Therefore it was given thee to understand the knowledge of God /
And to behold His presence, ///
O divinely-inspired Hierarch.

Thou didst destroy the snares of the enemy /
And abolish the traps of heresies, /
Thou didst avoid oppression and enmity /
By the rightness of thy teachings, O ven’rable one, /
And by thy most excellent theology /
Thou didst define the boundaries of our pious faith
Preaching the Holy Trinity in the triune unity of the Godhead.

Cleverly instructing the ruler /
Who rebuked thee for ignoring the presence of his son, /
Thou didst wisely instruct him /
That He who is before the ages /
Abhorreth those who ignore His ineffably begotten Son /
Who was born in a manner beyond all understanding. ///
O most ven’rable one.

And 3 stichera of Saint Gregory, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder....”*

O holy father Gregory, /

Thou wast an offering to God while still swaddled as a babe, /
 Who through His will had created all things. /
 And being illuminated by Him /
 Thou didst pass through the darkness of physical passions /
 To emerge shining, with the beams of healing /
 Filled with the wonders of grace, /
 Chasing away spiritual deceptions ///
 And all physical diseases.

O wondrous father Gregory, /
 Thy mind was illuminated with the light of purity /
 Which calmed the raging sea of passions; /
 Thou didst ascend on wings of purity /
 And attain the place of ineffable and unimaginable beauty /
 Where thou dost ever pray for us ///
 Who praise and honor thee.

O father among the fathers Gregory, /
 Thou art a model of the priesthood, /
 An image of chastity, and the strength of monastics; /
 The throne of sensibility, and source of wonders; /
 The tongue of fiery inspiration /
 And the mouth of sweet discourse; /
 The vessel of the Holy Spirit ///
 And the mystical garden of paradise, O divinely blessed one.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

Come, all ye people /
 Let us praise her who alone is undefiled; /
She who was foretold by the prophets /
 And offered in the temple, /
 The Mother pre-ordained before all ages, /
 Who in the last times has been shown forth as Theotokos ///
 O Lord, at her intercession grant us Thy peace and great mercy.

Or, Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection service.

The Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 1: To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”

Let the virgins be brought to the King in the temple of the Lord, /
As David, the ancestor of God, foretold, /
Following thee with their lamps, O Virgin, /
And let them sing in chorus /
As they lead thee into the Holy of Holies, O pure one, ///
For thou art the holy tabernacle of God.

Verse: And the virgins, her companions, shall be brought before the King.

Let the temple of the Lord be made ready /
And let the house of glory open wide its gates /
To receive her, who alone past reason and understanding, /
Is far greater than the heavens ///
And let them joyfully praise Christ the Savior.

Verse: And they shall come with joy and gladness, and they shall enter into the palace of the King.

Let the gates of the holy temple be opened. /
Let them receive within themselves the gate of heaven, herself. /
Let all mankind, rejoice together with the angels, ///
And celebrate the entrance of the Mother of God into the temple.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 5:

A feast of great joy and happiness hath dawned for us today! /
For she who remained virgin after giving birth /
Is led into the temple of the Lord. /
Zachariah, the father of the Forerunner, is glad and cries out with joy: /
“The Mediatrix for the suffering draws near the Holy of Holies /
To be sanctified, in that she herself is the holy habitation of the God of all;” /
Joachim, her father, rejoices with Anna, her mother
For they have brought the spotless Lady as an offering to God; /
Rejoice, ye mothers! Be glad, ye virgins! /
And delight with joy, O ye barren, /
Let all mankind rejoice today /
For the Queen of all, who of old hath been foretold ///
Hath opened to us the kingdom of heaven.

The General Troparion of the Hierarchs, 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.

Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

Today is the preview of the good will of God /
And the proclamation of the salvation of man: /
The Virgin appears clearly in the temple of God, /
And Christ is foretold to all. /
To her, therefore, let us cry with mighty voices: /
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment ///
Of the Creator's providence.

Matins

**The Canon of the Feast, with 4 Troparia, in Tone 1; and one
Canon of St. Amphilochius, with 4 troparia, in Tone 4; and the Canon of
St. Gregory, with 4 troparia, in Tone 8. — incomplete as of 10/2014**

**After the Third Ode, the Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 4: *To the melody,
“Having been lifted up...”***

The most pure temple of the Savior /
The precious bridal chamber and Virgin, /
The sacred treasure of the glory of God, /
Is led today into the house of the Lord; /
With her she brings the grace of the Divine Spirit, /
Of her the angels of God sing in praise: ///
“Truly she is the tabernacle of heaven.”

The Kontakion of Saint Gregory, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Quickly go before...”*

The Church of the Holy Spirit /
Illuminates with a splendid radiance ///
All who celebrate thy repose, O blessed father Gregory.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of Saint Amphilochius, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Seeking the highest*

O holy hierarch Amphilochius, /
Thou clap of thunder and sounding trumpet of the Spirit, /
O husbandman in the garden of Faith pruning all heresies away /

ST. AMPHILOCHIUS OF ICONIUM AND ST. GREGORY OF AGRIGENTUM.

And the favorite of God, /
Standing now before the Holy Trinity together with the angels ///
Ceaselessly pray on behalf of our souls.

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