

The 18th Day of January



Our Fathers among the Saints Athanasius and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera.

3 stichera for the Saint, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Thou didst endure persecution and misfortune, /
O venerable preacher of God, Athanasius. /
Thou didst drive away the deceiving teachings of Arius /
And saved thy flock from godless impiety, /
By proclaiming the Orthodox dogma /
That the Son and the Spirit are of One essence with the Father, ///
O most-blessèd hierarch and holy priest.

Thou didst illumine those sitting in darkness /
With the brightly arrayed splendor of thy preaching, /
Driving away all falsehood and deception /
Bravely suffering for the Faith /
As a true shepherd suffers for his flock, O Athanasius, /
And as an unshakeable pillar of the Church of Christ. ///
Therefore having joyfully gathered, we honor thee in song.

Patently didst thou study the virtues, /
O divinely inspired one, /
And being anointed with the holy unction of the Spirit, /
Thou wast a most-worthy minister of the sacred and holy Things, /
A true shepherd and champion of the Faith. /
Therefore the whole Church glorifies thy memory, ///
Sacredly celebrating and glorifying the Savior.

And 3 stichera for Saint Cyril, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Thou didst defend the Church of Christ, /
From the wolves with thy staff of thy teachings, /
O God-bearing father Cyril. /
And built a strong defense around her with the force of thy words, /
Presenting her steadfast and unharmed to Christ. /
Beseech Him therefore, to deliver from all corruption and harm ///
Those who with faith celebrate thine all-honorable memory.

Having illumined thy mind with the radiance of the Spirit, /
Thou didst extend the reach of thy words like the rays of the Sun /
To the farthest ends of the world, O father Cyril, /
Illuminating the good works of the faithful /
Driving away the darkness of heresy, O blessed bearer of God, ///
By the power of Him who shone forth from the Virgin.

The Church is adorned with the eloquence of thy words, most-holy Cyril, /
And is gloriously arrayed with the beauty of thy deeds /
It piously honors thy sacred memory, O glorious one, /
Thou boast of the Orthodox and praise of the fathers, ///
O holy champion of all who were at the council at Ephesus.

Glory..., in Tone 6: (the composition of Germanus)

Let us all praise in song Athanasius, the hierarch of Christ /
Who abolished the opinions of Arius /
And clearly pronounced to the world the dominion of the Holy Trinity, /
One God in Three Persons and undivided, ///
For he prays for us who in faith are celebrating his memory.

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

Beholding our Life hanging on the Tree, /
The all-pure Theotokos cried aloud /
With maternal sorrow: /
"My Son and my God, ///
Save those who sing to Thee with love.

The Aposticha from the Octoechos, and

Glory..., in Tone 3 (by Germanus)

The yearly commemoration of thy feast hath come /
O Athanasius, thou namesake of immortality. /
And like the golden waters of the Nile which overflow and nourish the land /
Thy celebration overflows with the great news of life-eternal. /
For it provides a fruit nourishing us with the sweet Word of God /
Teaching us to worship the Undivided Trinity. /
And with this divine doctrine thou dost water the thoughts of the faithful, ///
Ever praying for our souls.

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

A sword has pierced thine heart, O pure one, /
When thou didst see thy Son upon the Cross; /
And thou didst cry out to Him: /
Leave me not alone and childless, /
Who hath preserved me a Virgin after giving birth to Thee, ///
O my Son and my God.

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 in peace.

Or, another Troparion of the Saints, in Tone 3:

Having shone with works of Orthodoxy, /
And having extinguished the fires of heresy, /
You now bear the trophies of victory. /
And having enriched all with piety and greatly adorning the Church ///
Rightly you acquired Christ who grants us great mercy.

Matins

— incomplete as of 12/14/14

After the First and Second Kathisma readings, the **Sessional Hymns** are from the Octoechos.

The Canon

One Canon from the Octoechos and two for the Saints

— incomplete as of 12/14/14

Kontakion of the Saints, in Tone 4: To the melody, “Thou hast appeared today....”

O greatest hierarchs of piety /
And champions of the Church of Christ, /
Preserve those who glorify Him, /
Singing: Save those who honor Thee with faith ///
O greatly compassionate One.

18 JANUARY

The Kontakion of St. Athanasius, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Of Thy blood....”*

Thou didst plant the teachings of Orthodoxy /
And destroyed the thorns of heresy /
Thus increasing the seeds of faith, O ven'rable one, /
By the watering of the Holy Spirit. ///
Therefore we sing thy praise, O father Athanasius.

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UPDATED 1/13/14 SDA
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