

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
REPOSE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

September 26

St John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist.

John was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the holy Mother of God. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and the fishing nets and followed Christ with his brother James. From that time, he was not parted from his Lord until the end. With Peter and James, he was present at the raising of Jairus's daughter and at the Lord's Transfiguration, and laid his head on Jesus' breast at the Last Supper. When all the others had forsaken the crucified Lord, John staved beneath the Cross with the holy Mother of God. In obedience to the Lord's wish, he was as a son to the holy Virgin Mary, caring for her and serving her, looking after her right up to her falling-asleep. After her Dormition, John went off with his disciple Prochorus to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor, and mainly lived and worked in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and miracles, he brought many to Christianity and undermined the foundations of paganism. The vexed pagans bound him and sent him to Rome to the Emperor Domitian. He was tortured and flogged before the Emperor, but, when he was unharmed either by the strong poison that he was given to drink or the boiling oil into which he was put, the Emperor was afraid and, thinking he was immortal, sent him into exile on the island of Patmos. On this island, St John brought many to Christianity by his words and miracles, and strengthened the Church of God. He wrote his Gospel and the Revelation there. In the time of the Emperor Nerva, who gave liberty to all the captives, John returned to Ephesus, where he lived for some time, confirming the work that he had earlier begun. He was over a hundred years old when he went to the Lord. When his disciples later opened his grave, they found that his body was not there. Every year, on May 8th, a fine, fragrant dust, endowed with healing power rose from his grave. After a long and fruitful

life of labor upon earth, this beloved disciple of Christ and pillar of the Church entered into the joy of his Lord, to peace and eternal rejoicing.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Four stikhera of the resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by three stikhera for the Saint)

Saint, tone 1:

The beholder of ineffable revelations,
The interpreter of the mysteries of God on high:
The son of Zebedee has recorded the gospel of Christ for us, //
Teaching us to confess God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven,
Whose secrets he wrote down for us,
Singing wonderfully the song of songs!
With words from his mouth as music from a lyre, //
He prays for us to be saved.

With your tongue resounding as thunder,
You declare the hidden word of the wisdom of God!
Beloved of God, you open your mouth to cry:
In the beginning was the Word! //
Illumining all mankind with the knowledge of God.

GLORY... Saint, tone 2:

Let us give rightful praise to the Son of Thunder,
The source of divine words, the chief theologian,
The first to proclaim the truths of the teachings of the wisdom of God:
John the beloved and virgin.
For divinely inspired from within he said:
In the beginning was the word!
Teaching that he is inseparable from the Father;
Equal to Him in nature,
And showing us the right worship of the Trinity!
You have also shown us the Creator,

Who being with the Father and bearing life, showed us the true light.
O awesome and fearful wonder!
As you were filled with love, you were filled with divine speech,
And with the glory, belief and honor
Which confirm our undivided faith,//
Through which we attain the eternal good on the day of judgment!
NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatikon in tone 1, (spiral bound vespers book)

READINGS

The reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. *1 John 3:21-4:6*

The reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John.

Beloved, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son

of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. *1John 4:11-16*

The reading from the First Catholic Epistle of the Holy Apostle John.

Beloved, if anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
1 John 4:20-5:5

APOSTIKHA: all Resurrection in tone 5 (spiral bound vespers book)

GLORY... for the Saint, tone 6:

Apostle of Christ,
Evangelist and divine teacher,
You were an initiate of ineffable things.
You made teachings plain to the faithful,
As you thundered forth to us:
In the beginning was the Word...
Casting aside the words of heretics who said: He was not.
You were openly the bosom friend and beloved,
Like the prophet Isaiah, and Moses, who saw God.
As you have boldness before Him,//
Never cease to pray for our souls!

NOW AND EVER... Resurrectional Theotokion in tone 6:

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
was born of you, O most pure Virgin.
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.
Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!
Rejoice, O celestial Joy!
Rejoice, O Lady://

the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 5

et us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Saint John the Theologian, tone 2

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!
He Who allowed you to recline on His breast,
receives you as you bow before Him.
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,//
entreating for us peace and great mercy!

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 2

All beyond thought, all most glorious,
are your mysteries, O Theotokos.
Sealed in purity, preserved in virginity,
you were revealed to be the true Mother who gave birth to the True
God.//
Entreat Him to save our souls.

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