

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Synaxis of the Three Great Ecumenical Teachers & Hierarchs:
Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom

Each of these saints has his own feast day: St. Basil the Great, January 1; St. Gregory the Theologian, January 25; and St. John Chrysostom, January 27. This combined feast day, January 30, was instituted in the eleventh century during the reign of Emperor Alexius Comnenus. Once, a debate arose among the people concerning who among the three was the greatest. Some extolled Basil because of his purity and courage; others extolled Gregory for his unequalled depth and lofty mind in theology; still others extolled Chrysostom because of his eloquence and clarity in expounding the Faith. Thus some were called Basilians, others Gregorians, and the third were called Johannites. This debate was settled by divine providence, to the benefit of the Church and to the even greater glory of the three saints. Bishop John of Euchaita (June 14) had a vision in a dream: At first all three of these saints appeared to him separately in great glory and indescribable beauty, and after that, all three appeared together. They said to him: "As you see, we are one in God and there is nothing contradictory in us; neither is there a first or a second among us." The saints also advised Bishop John to write a common service for them and to order a common feast day of celebration. Following this wonderful vision, the debate was settled in this manner: January 30 would be designated as the common feast of these three hierarchs. The Greeks consider this feast not only an ecclesiastical feast, but also their greatest national school holiday.

GREAT VESPERS

***LORD I CALL:** Four stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then five for the Three Hierarchs*

The Three Hierarchs, tone 4:

Let us worthily honor the three champions:
the bulwarks of devotion,
the three apostles added to the twelve,
rivers overflowing with living water from Eden,
flooding the face of the earth with life-bearing and divine streams!
They have formed the faith, as the elements form creation.

It is said: "There is no speech, nor are there words
that are not heard in their voices";
for the proclamation of the godly and wise teachers
has gone out through all the earth and the sea of creation.
Therefore, through their divine precepts, great things are gathered
and assembled
into one true doctrine for the ends of the earth.

Let us who follow their teachings
praise the instruments of the Holy Spirit with hymns;
they are the trumpets of truth, the words of orators!
Let us entreat them, for they are bold before the Lord,
that He may always grant forgiveness to all of us,
and great peace to the whole world!

The Three Hierarchs, tone 2:

With what wreaths of praise
shall we crown the teachers?
In separate bodies, they were united in spirit:
God-bearing intercessors, equal in number to the Trinity,
ministers and lights who illumine the universe,
pillars of the Church, whom Christ, our merciful God,
crowns with wreaths of victorious glory.

With what beautiful hymns
shall we crown the God-bearing and heavenly initiates?
Preachers of the mysteries,
leading theologians of the Orthodox Faith:
Basil, manifest in holiness,
Gregory, godly and divinely inspired,
John of the golden tongue,
whom the Trinity, the greatly merciful Lord, has fittingly glorified.

Glory ... for the Three Hierarchs, tone 6:

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,
the God-bearing Fathers, who stand in the midst of the Church
singing true theology and praising the one changeless Trinity!
They laid low the errors of Arius and upheld the Orthodox Faith.//
They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

***now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in
tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book)***

The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers--to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--and to their descendants after them." At that time I said to you, "You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone. The LORD your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as many as the stars in the sky. May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised! So I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you--as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials. And I charged your judges at that time: Hear the disputes between your brothers and judge fairly, whether the case is between brother Israelites or between one of them and an alien. Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.

The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 10:14-21 To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt. Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

***APOSTICHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral
bound Vespers book)***

Glory ... for the Three Hierarchs, tone 2:

Today, the souls of mortals are raised up from earthly things.
Today, on the commemoration of the saints, they become heavenly.

The gates of heaven are opened,
and the words of the Master are spoken to us.
Words proclaim the Word, and tongues sing hymns to His wonders.
We cry out to the Savior:
“Glory to You, Christ our God, //
for through them peace has been given to the faithful!”

now and ever ... Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord, tone 2:

Today, Christ is carried in the sanctuary as an Infant;
today, He Who gave the Law to Moses becomes subject to the Law.
The armies of Angels wondered,
seeing Him Who holds all things carried in the arms of an elderly
man.
Filled with reverence, Simeon cried out, rejoicing:
“Savior, now let me depart from this fleeting life to a rest that never
grows old,
for I have seen You, and I rejoice!”

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 7:

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen, //
granting the world great mercy.

The Three Hierarchs, tone 4:

As sharers of the Apostles' life and character
and teachers of the universe,
intercede with the Master of all
to grant peace to the world, //
and great mercy to our souls!

Resurrectional dismissal theotokion, tone 4:

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:
God incarnate by union without confusion.
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,
by which He resurrected the first-created man,
saving our souls from death.

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