

NOVEMBER 6, 2022
SAINT PAUL THE CONFESSOR,
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Saint Paul the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople, was chosen to the patriarchal throne after the death of Patriarch Alexander (+ 340), when the Arian heresy had again flared up. Many of the Arians were present at the Council which selected the new Archbishop of Constantinople. They revolted in opposition to the choice of St. Paul, but the Orthodox at the Council were in the majority. The emperor Constantius, ruling over the Eastern half of the Roman Empire, was an Arian. He was not in Constantinople for the election of the Archbishop, and so it took place without his consent. Upon his return, he convened a council which illegally deposed St. Paul, and the emperor banished him from the capital. In place of the saint they elevated Eusebius of Nicomedia, an impious heretic. Archbishop Paul withdrew to Rome, where other Orthodox bishops were also banished by Eusebius. Eusebius did not rule the Church of Constantinople for long. When he died, St. Paul returned to Constantinople, and was greeted by his flock with love. But Constantius exiled the saint a second time, and so he returned to Rome. The Western emperor Constans wrote a harsh letter to his Eastern co-ruler, which he sent to Constantinople along with the holy exiled archpastor. The threats worked, and St. Paul was reinstated upon the archepiscopal throne. But soon the pious emperor Constans, a defender of the Orthodox, was treacherously murdered during a palace coup. They again banished St. Paul from Constantinople and this time sent him off in exile to Armenia, to the city of Cucusus, where he endured a martyr's death. When the Archbishop was celebrating the Divine Liturgy, Arians rushed upon him by force and strangled him with his own omophorion. This occurred in the year 350. In 381, the holy Emperor Theodosius the Great solemnly transferred the relics of St. Paul the Confessor from Cucusus to Constantinople. In 1326, the relics of St. Paul were transferred to Venice. St. Athanasius the Great, a contemporary of St. Paul, writes briefly about his exiles, "St. Paul the first time was sent by Constantine to Pontus, the second time he was fettered with chains by Constantius, and then he was locked up in Mesopotamian Syngara and from there

moved to Emesus, and the fourth time to Cappadocian Cucusus in the Taurian wilderness."

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Six stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 4 (spiral bound Vespers book), followed by four for the saint

Saint, tone 4:

The divinely-eloquent Paul ordains you, O most blessed one, as his namesake and follower.

You are adorned with his character and piety, his endurance through tribulations.

Aflame with his zeal, you are a champion of Orthodoxy./

Now you are glorified with him in the heavenly mansions.

You strangled the ungodly Arius and the impious Macedonius with the strong cords of your doctrines.

But with the right word of your teaching you confirmed the multitude of the Orthodox, O blessed leader in sacred things.

Therefore, the Lover of mankind accepted your brilliant confession./ revealing you to be a sharer in His Kingdom.

You finished the course and kept the faith, O blessed Hierarch. Christ has crowned you with a bright wreath of righteousness, and glorified your confession, O truly wondrous Paul. Therefore, having received the heavenly inheritance./ pray to the Savior for those who sing praises to you.

Most blessed Paul, the namesake of confession, you are the intercessor for those who praise you in faith; deliver us from all danger and every sin, and from the storm of the passions and from tyranny, for you are an invincible martyr, O Father, and a rightly-accepted bishop./

You have acquired boldness before Christ our God!

GLORY... for the saint, tone 1:

Clothed in the vestments of a bishop, venerable Father,
you emulated your namesake, O Paul.
You endured persecution and tribulations;
by constant toil you overthrew the blasphemous teachings of Arius.
You suffered for the unoriginate and consubstantial Trinity;
you cast down the impious Macedonius who fought against the Spirit.
Having given a clear explanation of the Orthodox Faith to all,
you abide with the immaterial angels.//
Together with them, now pray that our souls may be saved.

***NOW AND EVER the Dogmatikon of the Resurrection in
tone 4 (spiral bound Vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: All stikhera of the Resurrection in tone 4 (spiral
bound Vespers book)***

GLORY... for the saint, tone 2:

Sailing the sea of ascetic discipline with the sail of abstinence,
O Venerable Father,
you escaped the storm of the passions.
Therefore, as the namesake of the divine Paul,
you endured persecutions and tribulations.
You were maltreated amidst the blasphemies of the heretics.
You cast down the opinions of Arius
and vanquished the heresy of Nestorius.
Therefore you were revealed as a zealot of the Church of Christ!//
Entreat Him, O blessed hierarch, that our souls may be saved!

NOW AND EVER...the Theotokion of the Resurrection in tone 2:

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,
who carried in her arms her Creator?
This birth is the will of God!
Since you carried Him as an infant in your arms, O most pure one,
and since you possess motherly boldness before Him,
do not cease praying for us who honor you,//
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Saint Paul, tone 3

For confessing the divine faith,
among her priests the Church has shown you to be another Paul.
Abel cries out to the Lord together with you,
as does the righteous blood of Zachariah.//
Venerable Father, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion, tone 3

We praise you as the mediatrix of our salvation,
O Virgin Theotokos.
For your Son, our God, Who took flesh from you,
accepted the Passion on the Cross,//
delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.

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