

25 JANUARY

+ Archbishop Gregory the Theologian of Constantinople C4

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 1

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

O father Gregory, the grave, which is the way of oblivion, did not close your mouth, for you have been revealed as the voice of theology. You now declare the doctrines of faith to the entire world. Pray that peace and great mercy may be granted to our souls.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;

my soul has waited for your word,

my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O father Gregory, you wisely turned away from the hostile and treacherous flesh, and mounted the heaven-bound chariot. You were drawn by the virtues as by though by four horses and soared above into ineffable beauty. Now, as you delight in it, grant our souls peace and great mercy.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

Through grace you were a faithful mediator between God and man. Now, O venerable father Gregory, since you have turned Christ mercifully towards us through your bold prayers, continually plead with him to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Tone 2

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord

and abundant redemption with *him*.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O theologian, you embarked for the heights in your heart after you had carefully cleansed your body and spirit by your works. You restrained your mind and entered the opaque and divine cloud. O Gregory, now that you are in communion with the bodiless Majesty and lovingly united to him, you cause the unapproachable Light to shine over everyone.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;

every people, acclaim him!

Once the Seraphim used tongs to give the burning charcoal to Isaiah when he drew near to be initiated into the contemplation of the thrice-holy Lord who was radiant on his throne of glory. O blessed theologian, O hierarch Gregory, you have proclaimed the Three-person Nature of the Divinity to the Church and used your hands to give believers the divine Coal whom we celebrate in two Natures.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us

and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O blessed Gregory, it is correct for us to call you "Son of Thunder" and "Theologian" for you shared in the divine grace of holy John. With your voice of thunder and your tongue of fire you proclaimed the eternally-begotten Word of God who was with the Father in the beginning. *You announced* the Spirit who eternally proceeds from the Father and is of one Being with the Father and the Son.

Glory: Tone 8

O holy theologian Gregory, your tongue, which is always prepared and ready to teach, echoes in our hearts and wakes the souls of the most slothful *people*. They find a ladder in your divine words which leads them from earth to God. Therefore we implore you to plead with Christ to rescue our souls from every danger.

Both now:

The King of Heaven, appeared on earth and lived with men because of his love for the human race. He took flesh from the pure Virgin and, after he had assumed it, came from her. The Son is one in two Natures, yet one Person. Therefore we truly proclaim him as perfect God and perfect man, and we acknowledge Christ as our God. O unwedded Mother, plead with him to have mercy on our souls.

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, when we come to the setting of the sun and see the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you

with voices of praise,

O Son of God *and* Giver of life.

Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeimenon

Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Proverbs (Composite)

The memory of the just is with eulogies, and the blessing of the Lord is on his head. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who knows prudence. For it is better to travel for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. She is more valuable than precious stones. (Nothing evil can resist her; she is well known to all who approach her.) All price is not worthy of her. From her mouth proceeds justice, and she carries law and mercy in her mouth. O children, listen to me, and I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who will keep my ways, for my ways are ways of life, and prayer is prepared by the Lord. Therefore, O men, I warn, and utter my voice to human sons. For I, wisdom, have lived with counsel and knowledge, and have called on understanding. I am counsel; I am prudent and strong. I love those who are friendly with me; and those who seek me will find grace. O simple, understand subtlety, and uneducated, take heart. Listen to me, for I will speak solemn truths, and will unfold right words from my lips. For my throat will muse on truth, and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are with justice; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those who understand, and right to those who find knowledge. For I will teach you truth, so that your hope may be in the Lord, and you will be filled with spirit.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

Although the just may be overtaken with death, yet he will be at rest. ⁸ For honourable age is not in length of time, nor what is measured by the number of years. ⁹ But wisdom is the gray hair to people, and an unspotted life is old age. ¹⁰ He pleased God, and was loved by him, so that living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was snatched, in case evil should alter his understanding, or deceit charm his soul. ¹² For the bewitching of waywardness obscures things that are honest, and the wandering of desire undermines the simple mind. ¹³ Since he was made perfect in a short time, he completed long years, ¹⁴ for his soul pleased the Lord, therefore he hurried to take him away from among the wicked. ¹⁵ The people

saw, and did not understand, neither did they perceive that grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he has visited his chosen ones.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (Composite)

The mouth of the just distils wisdom; the lips of just men exude grace. The mouth of the wise muses on wisdom, and justice rescues from death. At the death of a just man his hope does not perish; he will eat the fruit of justice with good things. Light is always for the just and they will pour out grace and glory. The tongue of the wise knows what is good, and wisdom rests in their heart. The Lord loves holy hearts, and all those blameless in the way are acceptable with him. The wisdom of the Lord shines on the face of the intelligent, for she goes before those who desire her, in making herself first known to them, and is contemplated easily by those who love her. Whoever seeks her early will have no great toil, and whoever watches for her will quickly be without care. For she goes around seeking those who are worthy of her, and reveals herself favourably to those on the ways. Vice will not prevail against wisdom. Therefore I became a lover of her beauty. I loved her, and sought her from my youth; I desired to make her my bride. The Lord of all things loved her, for she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a chooser of his works. Her labours are virtues, for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude, which are such that men can have nothing more profitable in their life. If a man desires much experience, she knows events in the past and infers what is to come. She knows the subtlety of words and can expound enigmas. She foresees signs and wonders, and the events of seasons and times. She is a counsellor for all in goodness. For there is immortality in her, and good repute in the communion of her words. Therefore I prayed to the Lord, implored him, and said with all my heart. O God of *my* fathers, and Lord of mercy, you have made all things by your word, and put together man in your wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which you have made, and order the world according to equity and justice. Give me wisdom that sits beside your throne; and do not reject me from among your children, for I am your servant, and son of your handmaid. Send her from your holy dwelling, and from the throne of your glory, that being present with me, she may teach me, so that I may know what is pleasing to you. Guide me with knowledge and guard me with her glory. For all the thoughts of mortals are miserable, and their thinking unstable.

Ekteni

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Lití

Tone 4

O hierarch Gregory, before you ascended the mountain to speak to the Lord as an initiate of the divine mysteries, you purified your body and soul by your holy deeds in accordance with the Law. After you had entered the thick cloud, you received the divinely-written tablet which contained the charter of the consubstantial Trinity. Because of you we are able to bow in true worship before him, sing and say, "O God, Unity revealed as Trinity, have mercy on us."

Apósticha

Tone 5

Hail, O spring of pure theology! You are the source of deep contemplation. When you had examined the heavenly heights with faith, you clearly announced to everyone the essential unity of the Three Lights in one Sun which resulted from their identical Divinity in three Persons. You taught the adoration of the Holy Trinity through the purity of your life and the majesty of your words. O divinely-inspired hierarch, plead with him to send our souls great mercy.

S1: My mouth will speak about wisdom;

the thought of my heart will be about understanding. Ps 48

You dispersed the shadows of heresy with your majestic theology, for you arrived at the Source of all light through your wise and godly meditation. You encountered the radiance which flows from the future age. O holy father you made your spirit a fine mirror and intensely reflected the undivided and triple light of God; you tasted the richness of his unique radiance. Now plead with him to grant our souls great mercy.

S2: The mouth of the just will muse on wisdom

and his tongue speak about judgement. Ps 36

Hail, great river of God which is always full of the waters of grace! You make the ransomed people of Christ the King joyful with divine teaching. Hail, fast-flowing river of delight and inexhaustible sea of truth! You are the faithful and just guardian of doctrine, the undefeated warrior of the Holy Trinity, the organ of the Holy Spirit and the ever-watchful mind. Your words explain the deep mysteries of the Scriptures. Plead with Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

Glory: Tone 8

O Gregory, ever-green pasture of justice, you have cultivated the hearts of believers by your words and yielded abundant fruit for God. You have torn out the thorns of heresy by the roots and cleansed the world with your divine reasoning. Those who are faithful joyfully offer praise to you. O inspired harp and ever-watchful mind, O faithful shepherd of Christ's flock, O theologian, continually pray to the Word that he will rescue from the wolf all those who honour your memory.

Both now: Tone 8

O Lady, you are the protection of all. Calm my confusion and distress, and rescue me from the darkness of sin. Save me from the tempest of life and the raging of the sea. Send down the gentle rain of your mercy on me and extend your hand to help me. O pure *Lady*, make me worthy of the inheritance of the just who are chosen. Grant me the depth of your mercy.

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,

² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before all peoples,

³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 1

The pastoral power of your theology vanquished the delusion of the orators, for you have sounded the depths of the Spirit of God and were granted the gift of eloquence as well. O father Gregory, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 1

O Virgin, O sacred ark, when Gabriel greeted you with "Hail!" he cried out like the just David, for in you the Master of all became incarnate. You were revealed as more spacious than the heavens, for you bore your Creator. Glory to *the Lord* who lived in you! Glory to the one who comes from you! Glory to the one who frees us through your Child!

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 1

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Tone 1

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Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

You inherited divine enlightenment and mastered the spiritual life through asceticism. You excelled in vigilance as a priest in keeping with your name. You have confirmed the Orthodox faith by your plain and marvellous teaching. O venerable father, implore Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Glory: Both now:

Your Child was not separated from the Divinity when he took flesh in your womb, but became man while he remained God. O Mother, he is the Lord who kept your virginity intact, therefore, after you had given birth, you remained as you were before. Continually plead with him to grant us great mercy.

Kathisma 2

Tone 5

O Hierarchy, you were vigilant with the word of truth, spoke about the power of the Trinity, and demolished the vicious and evil heresy of Arius. As a guardian and champion of faith you have illuminated those who sit in the darkness of unbelief.

Glory: Both now:

Hurry to heal the diseases of my body and the cruel passions of my soul. Make straight the straying of my spirit. O Theotokos and blameless Virgin, make me worthy to offer pure worship to the King of all with a calm soul. Plead with him for the forgiveness of my sins.

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

O highly regarded father, you demolished the error of the ungodly, revealed the meaning of the Holy Scriptures and wisely explained the doctrine which brings joy to the hearts of the faithful with a sweetness greater than honey. You taught them to worship the Trinity in one Divinity. You put forward the icon as evidence where the likeness of the Saviour is understood in relation to his humanity. O Gregory the Theologian, plead with Christ our God to grant forgiveness of sins to those who sincerely celebrate your holy memory.

Glory: Both now:

O faithful, come and honour the Mother of the Creator of the inhabited earth. Let us say to her, "Hail, O fiery throne of the universal Lord Jesus, the King of all! Hail, O Queen of the world and only blameless *Lady*! Hail, O pure and light-bearing Temple of the Holy Trinity, dwelling of the Father, Son and Spirit! *Hail*, O divine Mother totally worthy of our praise! *Hail*, O ever-virgin Mary! Hail, O venerable Bride adorned with the Sun! Hail, O Joy of all who sing to you!"

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth,
but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord;
they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity
and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit;
they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 48 Tone 4

R: My mouth will speak about wisdom.

S: All you nations, listen to these words.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy

Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to John (10:1-9)

The Lord said to those who followed him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; ² but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 2

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Gregory the Theologian.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 6

O thrice-holy and thrice-blessed father, *you were* a disciple of Christ the High Priest and Good Shepherd in your own right; you gave

your life for the flock. O Gregory the Theologian, plead continually with him to grant us great mercy.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of our father among the saints Gregory, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, “Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us.”

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontákion

Tone 3

O glorious father Gregory, your knowledge has overcome the pride of false wisdom. The Church is clothed with your teaching like a robe of justice. Those of us who are your children celebrate your memory and cry out, “Hail, O father of unsurpassable wisdom!”

Íkos

O father, fill my poor and passionate mind with the exalted wisdom of your theology so that I may sing hymns about your life. For I cannot offer you words if you will not grant me strength in speech, understanding and wisdom, in order to bring you what is yours from your own. There I will find a beginning in the wealth of your virtues. I will crown your precious and holy head as I cry aloud with the faithful, “Hail, O father of unsurpassable wisdom!”

Synaxáριον

Today we remember our father among the saints Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople, who lived in the Fourth Century. He studied at Athens with his life-long friend Basil the Great, then joined a monastic community with him. His father, the Bishop of Nazianzos, compelled him to accept ordination as a priest. He was consecrated as Bishop of Sasima, but returned to Nazianzos. After he had moved to the imperial capital he took charge of the Orthodox parishes. After the Arians had been expelled he was elected as Archbishop and made important contributions to the debates of the Second Oecumenical Council. He cared little for the politics of his office and again retired to Nazianzos. He died on the Twenty Fifth.

Together with him we remember:

Martyr Felicitas of Rome and Seven Sons C2

Abbot Pouvlios of Syria C4

Singer Maris of Syria C5

Archbishop Moses of Novgorod C14

New Martyr Afxentios of Constantinople C18

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: The sun's rays once shone on dry land in the midst of the deep, for the water on both sides became as firm as a wall while the people crossed over the sea on foot. They offered this song acceptable to God, “Let us sing to the Lord, for he has been greatly glorified.”

3: O Lord, *you are* the firm foundation of those who put their trust in you. Strengthen the Church which you have purchased with your precious blood.

4: O Christ, your virtue has covered the heavens, for after you came from your undefiled Mother, the ark of your sanctification, you appeared in the Temple of your glory as a Child in arms and the whole world was filled with your praise.

5: Isaiah symbolically saw God on a throne. He was lifted high and carried in triumph by angels in glory. He cried, "Woe is me, for I have seen the incarnate God beforehand. He is the Lord of the light which knows no evening and the King of peace."

6: When the Elder with his eyes saw the Salvation which had come to the Gentiles, he cried aloud to you, "O Christ, *you* come from God and are my God."

7: O Word of God, you dropped dew on the children as they spoke about divine matters in the midst of the fire. You took up your home in the pure Virgin. We praise you as we sing with devotion, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The youths who fought for godliness stood together in the unbearable fire, yet were not harmed by it. They sang a divine hymn, "Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all for ever!"

Ode 9

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim. You gave birth to God the Word without defilement; O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**
² For he has regarded his servant's humility; see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**
³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me and his name is holy. His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. **R**
⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**
⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones and exalted the humble. He has satisfied the hungry with good *things* and dismissed the rich with nothing. **R**
⁶ He has helped his servant Israel in remembering his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: Those of us who are faithful see the outline in the shadow of the Law and in the Scriptures, "Every male child which opens the womb will be holy for God." Therefore we also glorify the First-begotten Word, and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 2

O blessed theologian Gregory, you teach us to worship the three Persons who compose the Union of the perfect Trinity with its unique Divinity. You show us that the Father is Light, the Son is Light and the Holy Spirit is also Light. And yet there is only one

radiance which has no division or confusion. You clearly explain that there is a unique triune God who is one in Being.

O blessed theologian Gregory, you were given great depth. Your learned teaching spoke clearly about the ineffable mysteries of Christ, and also about the lives of the saints and their achievements. Now that you have been made godlike in communion with God, rescue me and receive me into your temple.

O hierarch Gregory, as you stand before the unapproachable Trinity, together with the divine mother, the Virgin Mary, and together with the sanctified and great Basil, implore peace for the world, triumph for believers and mercy for those who honour you today.

Praises

Tone 4

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his powers.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
 praise him with strings and flute.

All-wise Gregory, enlightener of the Church, you cut through the gloominess of the letter and entered with the Spirit into the most heavenly light. From there, through the flood of light which you received, you enriched everyone with theology. You diminished the dark clouds of heresies with the lightning flashes of your words. Therefore, O companion of the angels, you live where there is the sound of those who celebrate and continually intercede for our souls to be saved.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
 praise him with joyful cymbals.
 Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O Gregory, second theologian, initiate of divine illumination, brilliant writer about the Trinity, you supernaturally teach about the ineffable divine nature. Now, as you more clearly rejoice in God, remember those who honour you and defend the Church which you have assembled. For your fame has gone out to all the ends of the world. You clearly teach that the consubstantial Holy Trinity must be glorified.

S2: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
 the thought of my heart will be about understanding. Ps 48

O preacher of God, you cultivated the furrows of the heart and planted divine seed. You enriched the total fullness of the Church with the height of theology. Then you burnt the weeds of heresies with the fire of the Spirit. O father of fathers, pastor of pastors, glory of the faithful, enlightener of priests, all-blessed Gregory, you are the glory of the world and were nourished by the love of divine philosophy.

S1: The mouth of the just will muse on wisdom
 and his tongue speak about judgement. Ps 36

O Gregory, your holy lips approached the Vessel of wisdom and drew out the divine spring of theology. You abundantly imparted it to the faithful. You blocked the flow of heresies, deadly to souls and blasphemous to God. For the Holy Spirit found in you a helmsman able to steer safely through the fierce blasts of the ungodly as you preached the consubstantial Trinity.

Glory: Tone 1

Let us as brothers of the Church address theological hymns to you, for you are the harp of the Spirit, the mower of heresies, the sweet

delight of the Orthodox and the second bosom friend. You became the wise arch-pastor in your teaching. O Gregory, you are the good shepherd who gave yourself like the Christ the teacher. Now you dance with Paul and intercede for our souls.

Both now: Tone 1

All-holy Virgin, since you accept the petitions of sinners and do not overlook the sighs of those in affliction, intercede for our salvation to *the Lord* who came from your pure womb.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 1

The pastoral power of your theology vanquished the delusion of the orators, for you have sounded the depths of the Spirit of God and were granted the gift of eloquence as well. O father Gregory, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
and shout with gladness to him in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God
and an exalted king over all the earth.

S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
and the summits of the mountains are his.

For the sea is his and he made it;
his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 48 & 36 Tone 1

S2: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
the thought of my heart will be about understanding.

R: The pastoral power of your theology vanquished the delusion of the orators, for you have sounded the depths of the Spirit of God and were granted the gift of eloquence as well. O father Gregory, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

S1: The mouth of the just will muse on wisdom
and his tongue speak about judgement.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Save us, O Son of God.
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikion

Tone 1

The pastoral power of your theology vanquished the delusion of the orators, for you have sounded the depths of the Spirit of God and were granted the gift of eloquence as well. O father Gregory, plead with Christ God to save our souls.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 1

O Christ God, you sanctified the Virgin's womb by your birth and blessed Simeon's hands; now you have come and saved us. Grant peace to your people in time of war and strengthen the rulers whom you have loved, for you are the only Lover of the human race.

Triságion

Prokeimenon

R: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
the thought of my heart will be about understanding.
S: I will open my mouth with parables.

Apóstolos

Christ is the great High Priest.

From the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (7:23-8:2)
Brothers, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office;²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever.²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.²⁶ For it was correct that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners and exalted

above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people. He did this once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. ¹ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a servant in the sanctuary, the true tent which has been set up not by man but by the Lord.

Alleluia Ps 77 Tone 2

S1: O my people, be attentive to my law.

S2: I will open my mouth in parables.

Gospel

The Sermon on the Mount

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (4:25-5:12)

At that time great crowds followed Jesus from Galilee and the Decápolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. ¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!