Vesper Propers, September 26
Falling Asleep of John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist

The passing of the holy apostle and evangelist, John the Theologian, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James and Peter was a witness of the transfiguration and also of the passion of the Lord. At the cross he took Mary as his mother, at the command of the dying Lord. In the Gospel and his other writings he shows himself to be a theologian. He was found worthy to contemplate the glory of the incarnate Word, which he saw and proclaimed. (cf May 8)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms in Tone 1 (p. 24).

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Cantor: (Tone 1) Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Stichera of the holy apostle and evangelist John - Tone 1 podoben: Nebesnych činov

As the witness of revelations beyond words and interpreter of the sublime mysteries of God, O son of Zebedee,
you have written the gospel of Christ for us. You taught us to
glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Lyre of heavenly canticles, divinely moved, you are the mystical writer and the God-inspired voice melodiously singing the divine hymns. Pray for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat “Lyre of heavenly canticles...”)

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord. (Repeat “Lyre of heavenly canticles...”)

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! Psalm 116

O beloved of God, with your thundering voice, you declared the wisdom of God. You proclaimed aloud the hidden word
by frequently saying: In the beginning was the Word.

You have illuminated all with the knowledge of God.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever. (Repeat “O beloved of God...”)

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon of the holy apostle and evangelist John - Tone 2 samohlasen

Let all the human race sing the praises due to John, the son of thunder, the virgin apostle and the bearer of God's message, the chief theologian and the first to proclaim the truths which are contained in the teachings of divine Wisdom. For always being filled with that which is divine, he said: In the beginning was the Word, not separated from the Father but equal to the Father according
to his nature, thereby showing us the right worship of the Holy Trinity.

He has also shown that the Word was with the Father, the Creator of all, that he bears life and has shown us the true light. O awesome marvel!

O Wisdom! John was filled with love for God; he was also filled with glory, honor and faith; he was the preacher of our pure faith.

Because of this, we shall obtain eternal blessing on the day of judgment.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 2 samohlasen

The shadow of the Law passed away when grace arrived, for, like the bush which burned but was not consumed, you gave birth as a virgin, and a
virgin you remained. Instead of a pillar of fire, the Sun of Justice dawned; instead of Moses, Christ—the salvation of our souls.

Readings
1 John 3: 21 - 4: 6
1 John 4: 11 - 16
1 John 4: 20 - 5: 5

At the Litija

O Apostle, rivers of theology poured out of your precious mouth. The Church of God has drunk from them and in true faith adores the consubstantial Trinity. O John the Divine, pray to the Holy Trinity to strengthen our Church and to save our souls.
The garden of purity, the fragrant myrrh has come again upon us in the present feast, so that we may cry aloud: O John, who reclined on the Master's bosom, and made the Word fall on the world like rain, you have guarded the Virgin as the most cherished one. Ask Christ to grant us his great mercy.

As an eye-witness of the ineffable mysteries, you cried out that the eternal Word was in God, and that he is God. O Apostle John, you reclined upon the breast of Christ. O delight of the Trinity,
O unshakable fortitude of Ephesus and Patmos, help us!

O blessed Theologian, pray that those who honor you faithfully will be delivered from the wicked enemies of both body and spirit.

O Disciple of the Savior, O celibate and theologian, Christ our God entrusted the Virgin Theotokos to you. You protected her as the most cherished one. Therefore, intercede that our souls may be saved.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 4 Bolhar

O beloved Disciple, at the Lord's supper you reclined on
the breast of Christ the Master. From that place, you understood things ineffable, and your heavenly voice thundered to all:

In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The true light which gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Christ is God and the Savior of our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

The Son, glorified on high with the Father and the Spirit by the Cherubim, desired to restore Adam. He completely and ineffably emptied himself in your womb, O ever-praised
The - o - to - kos, and hav - ing shone forth from you,
he has en - light - ened the world with his di - vin - i - ty.

Christ, the Lord and Sav - ior of our souls, hav - ing di - vin - ized
the hu - man race, led us back to heav - en.

The service continues with the Litany of the Litiija, p 116.

Aposticha

You are the the - o - lo - gian who spoke of the Son of the Most
High.

He is co - e - ternal and consubstantial with the Fa - ther, Light from
un-change-a - ble Light, and im - age of the very person of the Fa - ther,
shin - ing from him e - ternal and without change, the Cre - a - tor and
Lord of all. O beloved, you have preached about Christ our God to the world, who is the Light leading us out of darkness.

Cantor

Through all the earth their voice resounds; their message reaches to the ends of the world.

Haven received the light of the Comforter and having been enlightened by him, O beloved, as theologian, you taught that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father, and was manifested to us by the Son. He is equal in holiness, essence, and majesty with the eternal Father and the Word of God. We, therefore, venerate
you in hymns as the blessed preacher of our faith. Keep it firm by your prayers to the Lord our God.

The heavens declare your wonders, O Lord, and your truth in the assembly of the holy.

Having ascended to the height of theology, you have learned the ineffable mysteries of God: that the essence of the God-head is one; one glory, one kingdom, and one dominion, ever divided into three Persons, yet undivided in essence, united in a divine union without confusion. Thus you gloriously
proclaimed the un-di-vid-ed Trin-i-ty  O Theologian, en-treat God
to save and to en-light-en our souls.

Cantor:  (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O a-pos-tle of Christ, O evangelist, O the-o-lo-gian, you were the mystic of the
in-e-f-fa-ble mys-ter-i-es. You pro-claimed to us the untold teach-ings
of Wis-dom. You clar-ified for the faith-ful that the word was present
to God in the be-gin-ning. You cast a-side the words of the her-e-tics
and re-jec-ted their false teach-ing{s. You appeared as the favorite and be-lov-ed
friend of Christ, e-ven as the thundering Isaiah and Mo-ses who saw God.
Hav - ing bold-ness be - fore him, ear - nest-ly pray for our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeem - er, came forth from your womb, O

Vir - gin most pure. He clothed him - self in our hu - man flesh to set

us free from the original curse of A - dam. There - fore, O Mary, we praise you

without ceas - ing, as the true Vir - gin Moth - er of God,

and we sing with the an - gels: Re - joice, O Lady: advo - cate, pro - tec - tor

and sal - va - - - tion of souls.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.
Troparia

Troparion - Tone 2 - sung once by the priest and once by the faithful

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God, make haste to deliver a people that lacks any other defense. He who accepted that you lay your head on his breast will also accept your pray'r. Pray to Christ, O Theologian, that he may overcome the darkness of pagan nations, and beg that he grant us peace and abundant mercy.

Cantor:  

(Tone 4) Glory... now and ever...

The faithful sing the troparion, “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos” (p. 119).

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread (p. 119).