

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 samohlasen

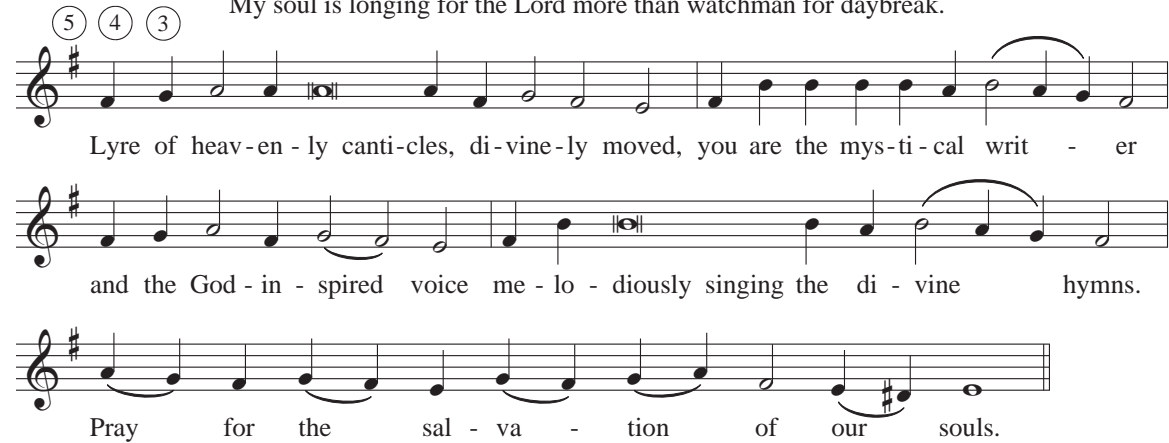
⑧ ⑦ ⑥

As the wit - ness of revela-tions be - yond words and in - ter - preter of the sub-
lime mys-t'ries of God, O son of Ze - be-dee, you have writ - ten the gos-pel
of Christ for us. You taught us to glo - ri - fy the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly
Spir - it.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. (*Repeat "As the witness..."*)

(on 6) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (*Repeat "As the witness..."*)

(on 5) My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

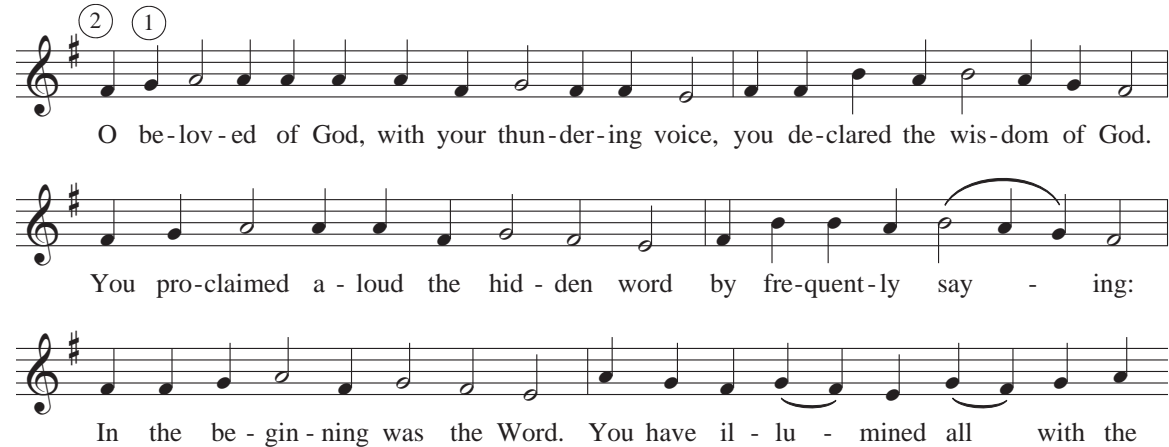


Lyre of heav-en - ly canti-cles, di-vine-ly moved, you are the mys-ti-cal writ - er
and the God - in - spired voice me - lo - diously singing the di - vine hymns.
Pray for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 4) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Repeat "Lyre of heavenly canticles..."*)

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 3) and Israel on the Lord. (*Repeat "Lyre of heavenly canticles..."*)

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!



O be-lov-ed of God, with your thun-der-ing voice, you de-clared the wis-dom of God.
You pro-claimed a - loud the hid - den word by fre-quent-ly say - ing:
In the be - gin - ning was the Word. You have il - lu - mined all with the

Troparia

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

Be - lov - ed A - pos - tle of Christ our God, make haste to deliver a people that
 lacks an - y oth - er de - fense. He who ac - cepted that you lay your
 head on his breast will al - so ac - cept your pray'r. Pray to Christ, O
 The - o - lo - gian, that he may overcome the darkness of pa - gan na - tions,
 and beg that he grant us peace and a - bun - dant mer - cy.

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).

knowl - edge of God.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
 (on 1) 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 prais - es due to John, the son of
 thun - der, the vir - gin apostle and the bear - er of God's mes - sage,
 the chief theologian and the first to pro - claim the truths which are con - tained
 in the teachings of di - vine Wis - dom. For al - ways being filled with
 that which is di - vine, he said: In the be - gin - ning was the Word, not
 sep - a - rat - ed from the Fa - ther but e - qual to the Father accord - ing

to his na-ture, there-by show-ing us the right worship of the Ho-ly Trin-i-ty.

He has al-so shown that the Word was with the Father, the Cre-a-tor of all,

that he bears life and has shown us the true light. O awe-some mar-vel!

O Wis-dom! John was filled with love for God; he was al-so

filled with glory, hon-or and faith; he was the preach-er of our pure faith.

Be-cause of this, we shall obtain e-ter-nal bles-sing on the day

of judg-ment.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 2 samohlasen

The shad-ow of the Law passed a-way when grace ar-rived, for, like

the bush which burned but was not con-sumed, you gave birth as a virgin, and a

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Re-deem-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

with-out 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.

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-ef-fa-ble mys-ter-ies. 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-ject-ed their false teach-ings. 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.

vir-gin you re-mained. In- stead of a pil-lar of fire, the Sun
of Jus-tice dawned; in- stead of Mo-ses, Christ- the sal-va-tion of our souls.

Readings

1 John 3: 21 - 4: 6

1 John 4: 11 - 16

1 John 4: 20 - 5: 5

At the Litija

¹
O A-pos-tle, riv-ers of the-ol-o-gy poured out of your pre-cious mouth.
The Church of God has drunk from them and in true faith a-dores
the con-sub-stan-tial Trin-i-ty. O John the Divine, pray to the
Ho-ly Trin-i-ty to strength-en our Church and to
save our souls.

②

The gar - den of pu - ri - ty, the fra - grant myrrh has come
a - gain upon us in the pres - ent feast, so that we may cry
a - loud: O John, who reclined on the Mas - ter's bos - om,
and made the Word fall on the world like rain, you have guard-ed the Virgin
as the most cher - ished one. Ask Christ to grant us his great
mer - - - cy.

③

As an eye - wit-ness of the in - ef - fa - ble mys - ter - ies, you cried out
that the eternal Word was in God, and that he is God. O A - pos - tle John,
you re - clined up - on the breast of Christ. O de - light of the Trin - i - ty,

bless-ed preacher of our faith. Keep it firm by your pray'rs to the Lord our God.

Cantor

The heav - ens declare your wonders, O Lord, and your truth in the as - sem - bly
of the ho - ly.

①

Hav - ing ascended to the height of the - ol - o - gy, you have learned the ineffable
mys-t'ries of God: that the essence of the God-head is one; one glo - ry,
one kingdom, and one do - min - ion, ev - er di - vid - ed in - to three Per - sons,
yet undivid-ed in es - sence, u - nit - ed in a divine union without con - fu - sion.
Thus you glo - riously proclaimed the undi - vid - ed Trin - i - ty. O Theologian,
en - treat God to save and to en - light - en our souls.

O be - lov - ed, you have preached about Christ our God to the world,

who is the Light lead - ing us out of dark - ness.

Cantor
Through all the earth their voice re-sounds; their message reaches to the ends

of the world.

②
Hav - ing received the light of the Com - fort - er and having been en - light - ened by him,

O beloved, as the - o - lo - gian, you taught that the Holy Spirit proceeds from

the Fa - ther, and was man - i - fest - ed to us by the Son.

He is equal in holiness, es - sence, and maj - es - ty with the e - ter - nal Father and

the Word of God. We, there - fore, ven - er - ate you in hymns as the

O un - shak - a - ble for - ti - tude of Ephesus and Pat - mos, help us!

O bless - ed Theologian, pray that those who hon - or you faith - ful - ly

will be de - liv - ered from the wicked enemies of both bod - y and spir - it.

④
O Dis - ci - ple of the Sav - ior, O celibate and the - o - lo - gian,

Christ our God entrusted the Virgin The - o - to - kos to you. You pro - tect - ed

her as the most cher - ished one. There - fore, in - ter - cede that our

souls may be saved.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 4 Bolhar

O be - lov - ed Dis - ci - ple, at the Lord's sup - per you re - clined on

the breast of Christ the Mas - ter. From that place, you un - der - stood
 things in - ef - fa - ble, and your heav - en - ly voice thun - dered to all:
 In the be - gin - ning was the Word; the Word was in God's
 pres - ence, and the Word was God. The true light which gives light to
 ev - 'ry - one was com - ing in - to the world.
 Christ is God and the Sav - ior of our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

The Son, glo - ri - fied on high with the Father and the Spirit by the Cher - u - bim,
 de - sired to re - store Ad - am. He com - plete - ly and
 in - ef - fa - bly emp - tied him - self in your womb, O ev - er - 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 Litija, p 116.

Aposticha

¹ You are the the - o - lo - gian who spoke of the Son of the Most High.
 He is co - eternal 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 eternally and with - out change, the Cre - a - tor and Lord of all.