

NOVEMBER 14

**Our Father Among the Saints Gregory Palamas
the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Thessalonica**

*A Composition of the Most Holy Patriarch
of Constantinople Philotheus*

A SELECTION OF HYMNS FROM

THE MENAION



VESPERS

After the Proemial Psalm we chant Blessed is the man. *For* Lord, I have cried, *we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating them all:*

Fourth Tone. As one valiant

AS we gather in festive joy * we befittingly sing thy praise, * the unsleeping beacon, the lamp unquenchable, * the saving haven of grace completely filled with serenity * for those sailing on the sea, * O divine Hierarch Gregory; * and we ask of thee: * By thy prayers, do thou rescue from the spiritual billowing of tempest * the Church for which thou didst bravely strive. *(Twice)*

OILLUSTRIOUS Gregory, * as the voice of the Word of God, * as the gracious breath of the Holy Comforter, * the fiery tongue of theology untiring in mighty toils, * which by grace hath brilliantly * burnt to ashes the all-profane * stuff of heresy: * We entreat thee that they who praise thee piously be saved by thy entreaties * from the malign doctrines of the foe. *(Twice)*

SHINING forth in ascetic feats * and in stillness and inner prayer, * seeing in the Spirit the Scriptures' hidden depths, * thou wast set up by Christ Saviour on the high lampstand of the Church, * gloriously seen by all, * flashing lightning-like on the

world * with thy holy words * and, O Father, establishing unsteady men by working mighty wonders * and awesome marvels, O Gregory. (*Twice*)

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

TODAY the all-glorious festival of the hierarch calleth us together. Come, therefore ye feast lovers, with one accord let us keep his memorial with hymns, saying: Rejoice, thou that by faith rentest asunder the garment of ungodliness, and didst clothe the faithful in the robe of the Spirit. Rejoice, thou who didst destroy the devices of the unbelievers in the strength given thee by the only God. Rejoice, thou who by mortifying thy members in asceticism, hast portrayed for us the blessed Passion of Christ, Whom do thou entreat, O Gregory, adornment of the Church's teachers, that we be delivered from enemies visible and invisible, and that our souls be saved.

Both now. *Theotokion*

WHOM would not call thee blest, O all-holy Virgin? Who would not praise thine untravailing giving of birth? For the Only-begotten Son, Who shone forth from the Father timelessly, hath come forth from thee the pure one, having become ineffably incarnate, being God by nature and having become man by nature for our sake; not that He was divided into two persons, but that He is known in two unmingled natures. Him do thou beseech, O august and all-blessed one, to have mercy on our souls.

For the Aposticha, the following Stichera:

Plagal of First Tone. Rejoice

REJOICE, resplendent sun of the Church, * bright luminary shining forth with true piety; * great teacher both of divine vision and of devout discipline, * rule of holy stillness, boast and joy of monks; * thou temple where wisdom dwelt and full knowledge took up its rest; * O tabernacle of the truths and the mysteries * both taught by the world and those known only by the Church, * Thou art the Spirit's instrument, His animate psaltery, * **the very mouth of the Lord God**, bringing the precious out of the vile. * Entreat Christ to send down * His great mercy on our souls, O our Father Gregory.

Verse: My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

REJOICE, thou mind exalted and great, * thou who didst clearly see the Spirit's deep mysteries, * the vessel of gifts and graces, the lamp that beareth the light * of the Godhead's lightning and enlightenment. * Thou honoured and excellent dwelling place of the highest love; * the truly gentle, meek and simple free from guile, * who yet didst unfold Scripture with clarity. * Sea of divine and mystic intellections and fiery thoughts, gulf of the God-inspired doctrines, limpid, profound, inexhaustible. * Entreat Christ to send down * His great mercy on our souls, O our Father Gregory.

Verse: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom; and the lips of righteous men know graces.

REJOICE, depth of the knowledge of God, * exactest standard of our Orthodox piety, * who clearly declared the Trinity's single nature to all * with a single will and single energy: * a simple Divinity increate and omnipotent, * putting to shame them that reject both the Spirit's grace * and the gift of God, that we men should be deified. * Mouth of the theologians, O august Hierarch Gregory, * glory, joint heir, and companion of the divine Fathers from of old; * thou light of the whole Church, * thou who givest God's great mercy to all men through thy prayers.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

WHOO can worthily praise thy struggles for piety? What tongue can tell the wealth of thy virtues and the abundance of thy gifts, O Hierarch Gregory? On Athos thou wast considered worthy to enter the divine darkness like another Moses; and like David, in the great Church thou didst teach of the Light of the mystical life hidden in the mystery of faith. Resisting the vain babblings of heresy, even to the shedding of thy blood, thou wast rightly glorified, O blessed one. Wherefore, Thessalonica, thy chosen flock, boasteth in thy glory, and being sanctified by thy holy relics, she glorifieth Christ God, Who by thine intercessions, doth grant us great mercy.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O UNWEDDED Virgin, who didst inexpressibly conceive God in the flesh, O Mother of the Most High God: Receive the petitions of thy servants, O all-blameless one. O thou who grantest unto all purification from offenses, do thou now receive our entreaties, and beseech that we all be saved.

MATINS

After the Second Reading from the Psalter, the following Sessional Hymn:

WELL washed with the clear streams of thy tears, thou, O Father, * didst inwardly receive the All-worshipful Spirit, * becoming a worthy heir and partaker of grace divine * and deification passing nature and reck'ning, * which thou didst declare as uncreated and single, * O godly-wise Gregory.

After the Polyeleos, the following Sessional Hymn:

Plagal of Fourth Tone. By conceiving the Wisdom

FLEEING far from things fleeting, O Gregory, * even kinsmen and friends and the courts of kings, * thou foundest the blessedness that endureth immovable; * and thou broughtest the Master thy mother and all thy kin * as a ven'erable offering whole and without defect: * whom thou, while instructing, didst make holy and bring them * to God both in soul and mind * through both vision and discipline, * marvellous Hierarch great in grace. * Now fervently entreat Him as Lord, * that forgiveness of all their transgressions * be granted to them that with longing * keep thy holy memory.

THE FIRST CANON OF THE SAINT

Plagal of Fourth Tone

ODE ONE

The Charioteer of Pharaoh

WISHING to sing thy praise as the companion one in mind that wrought with the three * divine Theologians, * I now ask for inspiration from the Trinity through you * and the wisdom of discourse that ye breathed forth with divine accord. * O supremely blest Hierarch Gregory.

AS Theologians, as God-chosen orators most wise, as authors and scribes * of most sacred writings, now ye three God-bearing heralds have obtained yourselves a fourth: * your most famous initiate who partook of your ways and name, * now doth share the hymns offered up to you.

THE sacred trumpets of august theology, the Holy Trinity's voice, * the most sacred Muses * it befitteth us to praise: Great Basil, righteous Gregory, * and John Chrysostom, joined by our God-inspired Father Gregory, * who with them breathed forth of the Spirit's grace.

THE SECOND CANON OF THE SAINT

*First Tone. Thy victorious right hand
Theotokion*

GREGORY, longing to see the Light that dawned from thy womb, O Mother of God, sought thee as his intercessor and fellow worker, and from thee attained to the grace he desired.

ODE THREE

First Tone. In the beginning

THAT theologian firm and staunch, * that armoured soldier of wisdom, * who employed the holy Father's true doctrines * as dread instruments of war and awe-inspiring lightning-bolts, * doth bravely crush the armies * of haughty heretics with his words.

YE living heavens of Christ's Church, * ever declaring His glory, * O ye holy Fathers, make us partakers * of His saving and divine and holy glory in the heights, * as we with songs of glory, * now keep your glorious memory.

Theotokion

THE theologians, with their words, * prepared the race of us mortals * to behold thy glory clearly, O Virgin, * when they gloriously preached the myst'ry of thy holy Child, * Whom by their fervent pleadings * do thou make gracious unto us all.

SESSIONAL HYMN

Plagal of Fourth Tone. By conceiving the Wisdom

WITH sobriety, abstinence, fervent prayer, * with virginity, poverty, and thy tears * as laver, O Gregory, * thou didst make thy heart wholly pure; * thou becamest one spirit with Christ, cleaving unto Him, * and in union with Him wast exalted unto the heights. * Wherefore, thou, like Paul, didst hear words not to be uttered; * and thou didst become a new * Chosen Vessel to bear the Name * of the Lord, preaching openly * the Godhead uncreated and one, * Whom do thou cease never to implore for us, * thy flock that singeth thy praises, * that we might be saved with thee.

Glory. *Repeat the Same*
Theotokion

THOU Who broughtest the essences of all things * into being from nothing, O Word of God; * O Thou Who didst honour man * with Thine image by Thine own hand; * Who, beholding him marred through the serpent's deceit and guile * didst create him anew by Thy holy and precious Cross, * and hast sanctified the whole creation in mercy * through Thy Holy Spirit's grace * and the flesh that Thou didst assume: * O our Master and Saviour Christ: * Accept Thy Mother's prayers for our sakes * and bestow the pardon of our trespasses * on us who faithfully worship * Thy dominion over all.

ODE FOUR

Thou art my strength

GOD maketh flesh * now to be God through His poverty * and the excess * of His endless kindness and His love for man, and beyond all thought, * enricheth vile mankind * with His very own Divinity, * whereof, ye all partaking, * O great God-bearing Fathers, * ye have wondrously taught us the mystery.

The Second Canon. Having perceived thee

MOUNTING up to the divine height of virtue, O Father Gregory, there, like His beloved disciples on Tabor, thou beholdest Christ, making manifest His natural and divine glory; and being deified, thou becamest another sun.

ODE FIVE

Wherefore hast Thou deprived me

OTHREE great Theologians, * rising high above all attachment to earthly things, * ye have been united * to the holy and worshipful Trinity; * with your fourth companion, * ye now uphold the Faith together, * as the four primal elements do the world.

WITH the three godly teachers, * plead for us with Him Whom thou wisely didst preach to all * as a Virgin's Offspring, * inexplicably born past all finding out; * for thou hast our Lady, * the ever-virgin Theotokos * as thy helper, protectress, and advocate.

ODE SIX

O Lord, be gracious to me

THE spread and fester and plague * of the abom'nable heresies * ye three held back with your mighty words and the Spirit's grace; and when it revived again, * Gregory destroyed it * with the Spirit's help most valiantly.

GIVING no rest to thine eyes, * O all-reverend Father Gregory, * nor slumber to unto thine eyelids, thou didst interpret Holy Writ by the Spirit's grace * and the Father's doctrines, * putting heresies to flight therewith.

Theotokion

BY bearing God in the flesh, * thou madest gods of us mortal men * by grace divine, **O** pure Theotokos, and through participation in things divine; * and thy four reverend friends * have confirmed this by their words and deeds.

The Second Canon. The sea-monster spat forth Jonas

THE great Gregory piously preached unto us One Divinity in Three Hypostases and One Nature, which is the same in His operations throughout, simple and uncreated; and he excellently put to shame them that prate idly about God the Creator.

THOU convictest the senseless and perverse Acindynus, as before thou hadst done with the arrogant Barlaam. For they, sharing in the opinions of the Greeks, brought the Godhead down to a creature, dishonoring, like the Jews aforetime, the dignity of the Son of God.

OIKOS

THOU didst appear on earth as an angelic messenger of ineffable mysteries, proclaiming to mortals the things of God. For employing the voice of the incorporeal hosts and a man's mind and body, O God-proclaimer Gregory, thou didst astonish and persuade all to cry such things as these:

Rejoice, thou by whom the Light was preached; *rejoice*, thou through whom the darkness was banished.

Rejoice, messenger of the uncreated Godhead; *rejoice*, reprover of the one created by the truly foolish.

Rejoice, herald of God's nature as an unscalable height; *rejoice*, preacher of His energy as an unfathomable depth.

Rejoice, for thou didst rightly declare the glory of God; *rejoice*, for thou didst denounce the opinions of the wicked.

Rejoice, luminary that hast pointed out the Sun; *rejoice*, wine-bowl providing nectar.

Rejoice, thou who whom the truth brightly shineth, *rejoice*, thou through whom falsehood is benighted.

Rejoice, O herald of grace.

SYNAXARION

✠ On the fourteenth of this month we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory Palamas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Thessalonica, who reposed in peace in the year 1359.

Verses

The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning
The Light's own truly great and resplendent herald.

Chief Sacrificer Gregory slept on the fourteenth.
By his holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ODE SEVEN

Aforetime in Babylon

O BASIL, thou truly art * the depth of wisdom and blameless mind of the Church, * who hast brilliantly searched out * the fitly ordered natures of all things that be, * O faultless rule of the doctrines inspired of God, * standard of monks and corrector of the ways of men.

THE whole Church, O Gregory, is stamped and governed by thy clear beauty of speech * and the powerful thunder * of thy sound doctrines, whereby with vehement force * she doth drive off and destroy every heresy, as in Three Persons she worshippeth one singular God.

THE Church's fair paradise * art thou, O Chrysostom, who hast filled her with joy * with thy manifold beauty * and unexampled wisdom and richness of speech, * teaching, sustaining, and gladdening them that chant: * O Lord and God of our Fathers, praised and blessed art Thou.

Theotokion

THE Mother of Christ the Lord * looked on her servant, the truly quiet and meek; * and as thou hadst requested, * she raised thee up unto the divine light of God * and made of thee an illustrious fellow heir * with the divine theologians and their ven'erable choir.

The Second Canon. We the faithful know thee

THE thralls of error, stricken by thy doctrines and the lightening of thy divine words as with the resounding of thunder, are unable to see clearly, O Father, and the madmen now ridiculously grope for the walls like a blind man, as it is written.

ANIGHT without illumination is fallen upon the disbelievers; and now that natural light, the Kingdom and glory of God, which the Friend of man revealed to His initiates upon Tabor, thou, O Gregory, partaking of in all abundance, dost communicate unto them that believe.

THOU hast put to shame them that impiously did insult to the grace of God, O glorious Gregory, who shamefully mocked stillness and prayer and ineffable deification, and thou hast driven them from the house of God, which do thou ever preserve by thy prayers.

ODE EIGHT

The Chaldee tryant

ANEW Elias, thou hast brought * down from Heaven the Spirit's fire * in thy burning zeal for truth and godly piety; * and burning thy sacrifice with doctrines of the Trinity, * thou hast shamed and slain the wicked prophets of falsehood * and ministers of error, who like them aforetime * were fattened at an impious queen's pernicious table.

YE taught us One Divinity * in Three Sovereign Hypostases, * God without beginning, in one Essence glorified, * possessing His natural powers and operations as God; * so ye turned to flight the authors of adverse doctrines: * Sabellians and Arians, * Macedonians also, * together with Barlaam and his newly crafted error.

OGODLY Hierarch Gregory, * as reward of thy many pains, * thou hast been united to the Theologians' choir, * now dancing in joy with the Three Hierarchs in the

Spirit of God; * for thou didst acquire their lofty wisdom and virtue, * theology and knowledge, * and hast also now found them * as friends and fellow citizens dwelling in the Heavens.

Theotokion

O SPIRITUAL Paradise, * and the four greatest elements * which do constitute the new creation made in Christ * with teaching and reasonings, O ye four Theologians of God: * make ye common prayer with the all-pure Theotokos * before the Sov'reign Master * that He keep His Church safely * from all the harm of heresies and all kind of perils.

The Second Canon. In the furnace as in a forge

THOU wast altogether cheerful to those who came to thee with faith, O Father, sweet, upright, and meek, pouring forth the sweet and divine stream of thy words, which cheered the hearts of all the pious but stung them that were diseased in the senses of the soul.

ODE NINE

The heavens were astonished

YE pulled up the profane tares of heresies * with the strength of the Spirit and Godlike thunders of your words; * and this latest insult to grace divine, * assailing God's own energies, * ye have now uprooted like those of old, * O three most mighty Hierarchs, * since ye have found an ally * in Gregory, who used your sharpened words.

O GREGORY, thou didst boldly take in hand * the sharp sword of the Spirit, and armoured with His full array * like a great commander above defeat, * thou wentest forth with valiant zeal, * pulling down the strongholds of godless men, * the error of Ideas, the worship of creation, * and thou didst cast them forth in full defeat.

THE Spirit hath revealed thy blessed tomb * as a fountain of graces and river filled with floods of cures, * as a sea of mercy, a wondrous fount * whence healings flow forth free of charge * both for souls and bodies, O Gregory, * which silently proclaimeth * the power and glory * of Orthodoxy, which thou hast made known.

Theotokion

OLADY Theotokos, the sacred choir * of divine Theologians possessed thee as the ground and cause * of the holy doctrines they lived and taught; * and preaching that thou barest God, * with their brilliant teachings, they lit the world; * and now as they extol thee * with all the Saints and Angels, * deliver us, who learned of thee from them.

The Second Canon. The burning bush

AS thou standest at the throne of the Three-Sun Godhead without beginning, richly filled with His energy and grace, the praise of which thou sangest, remember now thy friends and fellow workers who remember thee.

THOU hast found as recompense of thy pains, O Father, the everlasting Kingdom of God which thou didst preach upon the earth, receiving threefold crowns for divine confession of the Faith, the priesthood, and the life of stillness.

THOU wast seen to be the boast of monks, the mouth of theologians, and the inspired perfection and most exact rule of the priesthood; wherefore the divine grace of working wonders is given thee in return, setting the seal upon thy words.

Theotokion

THY venerable servitor Gregory became the spokesman of thy dread childbearing, and the theologian's tongue declaring the deification that beyond nature appeared from thee, O Lady. Receiving his entreaties now, save us all.

The Praises

Plagal of Fourth Tone. O strange wonder

THOU, O godly-minded Gregory, * didst take the glittering sword * of the Spirit to cut away * the profane and wicked root * of Barlaam the abom'nable. * And his disciple, the dire Acindynus, * that wretched trifler and traitor to the Faith, * thou castest far away * from the Church's fullness, that he take his place * with the heathen Greeks who worshipped the creation as God.

The Great Doxology and the remainder of Matins.