**MAY 8**

**Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian**

**Ven Arsenius the Great**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

**Tone 1** *(from the Pentecostarion) (O all-praised martyrs)*

The Lover of mankind, Who rose from the dead on the third day, said

to Thomas:

“See and feel the wounds in my hands and feet!

Know me as the changeless God,//

Who accepted the earthly image and suffered in it!”

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

Thomas the Twin was amazed seeing the wounds on the hands and

feet.

He marveled at the miracle and touched His side;

and then he proclaimed to the pagans//

the rising of Christ the Master from His three days in the tomb.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

I receive great joy, O my Savior,

as I behold Your Resurrection,

which was confirmed by the compelling evidence that Thomas was deemed worthy to touch.

So now we proclaim and teach that You are truly God and truly man.

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 1**  *(from the Menaion, for St John) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The beholder of ineffable revelations,

the interpreter of the mysteries of God on high:

the son of Zebedee has recorded the Gospel of Christ for us,//

teaching us to confess God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

(Repeat: “The beholder of ineffable revelations…” )

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Divinely inspired instrument for the songs of heaven,

whose secrets he wrote down for us,

singing wonderfully the song of songs,

with words from his mouth as music from a lyre,//

he prays for us to be saved.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

With your tongue resounding as thunder,

you declare the hidden Word of the Wisdom of God.

O beloved of God, you open your mouth to cry:

“In the beginning was the Word!”//

Thus you illumine all mankind with the knowledge of God.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 8** *(from the Menaion, for St Arsenius) (O most glorious wonder)*

Godly-minded Father Arsenius,

whose understanding shone with the water of tears,

through this purification you communed with God.

You shone as a radiant and perfect pillar of goodness,

inflamed with the fear of God, O boast of monks.//

By your prayers, O blessed one, ever keep watch over us!

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Godly-minded Father Arsenius,

You appeared as the fullness of speech and knowledge,

adorned with virtues, overflowing with glory.

Aflame with zeal for God, and striving for that which surpasses speech,

you fled to Egypt, where you lived the ascetic life,//

exchanging your great burden for glory.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

O Holy Father Arsenius,

in your search for God, you were made to shine with His rays of light,

and reverently desiring this brightness, you left royal courts to receive a

blessed heritage,//

and now you abide with Christ, O divinely blessed one.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion, for St John the Theologian; by Germanos)*

Let us give rightful praise to the Son of Thunder,

the source of divine words, the chief theologian,

the first to proclaim the truths of the teachings of the wisdom of God:

John the beloved and virgin.

For, divinely inspired from within, he said:

“In the beginning was the Word!”

He taught that the Word is inseparable from the Father;

equal to Him in nature,

and revealed to us the right worship of the Trinity.

He has also shown us the Creator,

Who, being with the Father and bearing life, showed us the True Light.

Awesome and fearful wonder!

As you were filled with love, you were filled with divine speech,

and with the glory, belief and honor

that confirm our undivided faith,//

through which we attain the eternal good on the Day of Judgment.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

O Lord, shining with the splendor of Your divinity,

You came through closed doors to Your Disciples,

showing Your pierced side, the wounds from the nails,

dispelling all sadness and sorrow!

O friends, see that I am not a spirit, but truly man!

You commanded the disbelieving Disciple to look,

saying: “Prove to yourself, then come and believe!”

He touched Your side with his own hand and cried in faith and fear://

“My Lord and my God, glory to You!”

**Readings**

1. **1 John 3:21-4:6)** *(Apostle John)*
2. **1 John 4:11-16** *(Apostle John)*
3. **1 John 4:20-5:5** *(Apostle John)*

**Holy Apostle John the Theologian/Ven Arsenius the Great**

**Litya *(If the rector desires the Litya, following the sticheron to the***

***Temple, these stichera are sung:*)**

**Tone 1***(from the Menaion, for St John; by Germanus)*

Rivers of theology gushed forth from your precious mouth, O Apostle.

Watered by them, the Church of God, in an Orthodox manner,

worships the Trinity, one in essence.//

Pray now, O John the Theologian, that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 1** *(by Andrew Pyrrhus)*

On this present feast, the Tree of Purity

has emitted the myrrh of sweet fragrance,

so that we may cry out to him:

“O Apostle John, who reclined on the Master’s breast,

and thundered forth the Word to the world,

and guarded the Virgin as the apple of the eye;//

entreat Christ that He grant us great mercy!”

As an eyewitness of the ineffable mysteries,

you cried out, exclaiming:

“In the beginning, the pre-eternal Word was with God, and He was God!”

O Apostle John, who leaned on Christ’s breast,

the true friend of the Trinity,

fragrance of Ephesus, unshaken support of Patmos, and our helper;

intercede, most blessed Theologian,

that the people who faithfully keep your memory//

may be delivered from hostile enemies, both physical and spiritual!

**Tone 2**

Come, O faithful,

let us bless the foremost of the Apostles,

the trumpet of theology, the spiritual general,

who made the inhabited earth subject to God!

John, praised in song by all,

has departed from the earth, yet has not stood apart from the earth,

but lives and awaits the Master’s fearful Second Coming;

mystical friend of Christ, who leaned on His breast,

pray that we, who with love keep your memory,//

may meet with that Coming as ones uncondemned!

**Tone 5***(from the Menaion, for St Arsenius)*

O Venerable Father,

the report of your good deeds went out into all the earth.

Through them you found in the heavens the reward for your labors.

You destroyed the regiments of demons,

and attained to the ranks of the Angels,

whose life you emulated blamelessly.

Having boldness towards Christ God,//

pray that our souls be granted peace!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 4** *(from the Menaion, for St John)*

Having leaned on the breast of Christ the Teacher at the Lord’s Supper,

O beloved Disciple,

and having gained from it knowledge of ineffable things,

you also thundered forth the heavenly proclamation to all:

“In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God:

the True Light Who enlightens every man who comes into the world,//

Christ God and the Savior of our souls!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2** *(from the Pentecostarion) “O House of Ephratha”*

Look on me, Man’s Transformation, with the eyes of the spirit,

and adorn your inner being with virtues as with garlands,//

and be made beautiful, O soul!

**Holy Apostle John the Theologian/Ven Arsenius the Great**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 4** *(from the Menaion, for St John) (Called from on high)*

You confessed the Son of the Most High:

co-eternal and one in essence with the Father;

Light from Light, unchanging,

the express Image of the Person Who begot Him,

shining from Him timelessly and without passion,

the Creator and Lord of all ages!

You preached Him to the world as Christ our God,//

the Light leading out of darkness.

*v: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps 18/19:4).*

Having received the light of the Holy Spirit,

you were enlightened to speak of things divine:

of the Comforter, Who proceeds from the Father,

and Who appeared to mankind through the Son;

and of one Honor, one Throne, one Essence with the Unoriginate Father

and the Word of God.

All this, O beloved one, you proclaimed to the world.

Therefore we honor you in hymns, as the source of the faith//

that you preserve unshaken by your intercessions before the Lord.

*v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps 18/19:1)*

Having ascended to the height of theology,

you learned the ineffable mysteries of God:

the Unity of the essence of the Godhead;

one Glory, one Kingdom, one Dominion,

ever divided into three Persons,

yet undivided and united in a divine Unity without confusion.

In this way you proclaimed Him,

glorifying the undivided Trinity.//

Pray, O Theologian, that He may save and enlighten our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(from the Menaion, by John the Monk)*

O Apostle of Christ,

Evangelist and divine Teacher,

you were an initiate of ineffable things.

You made teachings plain to the faithful,

as you thundered forth to us:

“In the beginning was the Word!”

Casting aside the words of heretics who said: “He was not!”

You were openly the bosom friend and beloved,

like the prophet Isaiah, and Moses, who saw God.

As you have boldness before Him,//

never cease to pray for our souls!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Touch my side with your hand, O Thomas!

Come and feel the scars of the nails!

Know in faith and do not be faithless, but believing!

Thomas, when he touched the Master, cried://

“You are my God and Lord! O Compassionate One, glory to You!”

**Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian**

**Ven Arsenius the Great**

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 2 Troparion** *(from the Menaion, for St John)*

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,

hasten to deliver a defenseless people!

He who allowed you to recline on His breast,

receives you as you bow before Him.

Implore Him, John the Theologian,

to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,//

entreating for us peace and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8 Troparion** *(from the Menaion, for St Arsenius)*

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,

and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.

By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe.//

Our holy Father Arsenius, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 7** **Troparion**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!

Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.

Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,//

by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all! ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 2 Troparion** *(from the Menaion, for St John)*

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,

hasten to deliver a defenseless people!

He who allowed you to recline on His breast,

receives you as you bow before Him.

Implore Him, John the Theologian,

to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,//

entreating for us peace and great mercy! *(twice)*

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of your womb,//

for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 7** **Troparion**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!

Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.

Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,//

by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

**Tone 2 Troparion** *(from the Menaion, for St John)*

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,

hasten to deliver a defenseless people!

He who allowed you to recline on His breast,

receives you as you bow before Him.

Implore Him, John the Theologian,

to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,//

entreating for us peace and great mercy!

**Tone 8 Troparion** *(from the Menaion, for St Arsenius)*

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,

and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.

By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe.//

Our holy Father Arsenius, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

**Tone 2 Kontakion** *(from the Menaion, for St John)*

Who shall declare your greatness,

O virgin disciple,

for you pour forth wonders and are a source of healings,//

and pray for our souls as theologian and friend of Christ.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** *(from the Menaion, for St Arsenius)*

Arising from Rome, like a sun, you reached the royal city,

enlightening it, O most blessed one, by your words and deeds.

You drove out the darkness of unreasoning.//

Therefore we honor you, O Arsenius, the glory of the fathers.

**Tone 8** **Kontakion**  *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,

when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors.

He cried out with all: “You are my Lord and my God!”

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon**

Great is our Lord and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond

measure! *(Ps 146/147:5)*

*v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!*

*(Ps 146/147:1)*

**Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the

ends of the universe! *(Ps 18/19:4)*

**Epistle**

1 John 1:1-7 *(Apostle John)*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)*

*v: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth.*

*(Ps 94/95:3).*

**Tone 1**

*v. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps 88/89:5)*

**Gospel**

John 19:25-27; 21:24-25 *(Apostle John)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,

your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on you!

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the

ends of the universe! *(Ps 18/19:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Fr Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.