

THE 4th DAY OF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
COMMEMORATION OF THE VENERABLE PAUL THE SIMPLE, DISCIPLE OF THE
VENERABLE ANTHONY THE GREAT
AT VESPERS

At "Lord, I have cried ...," these stichera, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel: "O marvelous wonder ...":

O wondrous Paul, * how like unto the angels thou didst live; * how thou didst humble thy soul like a babe; * how thou didst discomfit all the powers of hell! * Thy patience was ineffable * and thy struggles glorious. * Entreat Christ God, O venerable one, * on behalf of them that honor thy holy memory with love.

Wondrous was thine obedience, O wise Paul, * whereby, borne aloft as on wings, * thou didst take flight in thy spirit, attaining even unto the heavens, * where thou dost now abide in blessedness. * Pray thou unceasingly to Christ God * on behalf of them that honor thy holy memory with love.

Having Christ dwelling within thy soul, O venerable one, * boldly didst thou say to Him: "On this place shall I remain immovable * until Thou dost obey me, O Jesus my Savior." * Wherefore, thou didst receive the fulfillment of thy petition in an instant, * and didst drive out an unclean spirit with authority. * Pray thou, O most marvelous wonderworker, * for us that honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory ..., in Tone VI: Spec. Mel: "Setting all aside ...":

Heeding the Master's voice * within thy soul * and having forsaken the world, * thou didst run after Him, * and didst emulate the angels, O blessed one, * abiding in the desert as one of the bodiless host * and emulating Christ Himself in obedience. * Wherefore, thou didst find, O most wise one, * recompense an hundredfold and eternal life. * Pray thou for our souls.

At the Aposticha, Glory ..., in Tone III:

Be glad, ye desert dwellers! Rejoice, ye venerable! Sing with the angels, ye righteous! Hold festival, ye monks and laymen! And leap-up in spirit, O great Anthony, beholding thy disciple exalted by God; Paul, wondrous in boldness, a mighty intercessor for the world.

Troparion, in Tone 8 :

In thee, O Father, the image of God was preserved unspoiled, * for taking up thy Cross, and following Christ, * thou didst teach by thine own example to despise the flesh as transient, * that we should rather bestow upon the immortal soul particular care; * wherefore, together with the Angels, thy most pure spirit rejoiceth, O venerable Paul.

AT MATINS

Canon to St. Paul the Simple, in Tone II:

ODE I

Irmos: Once, almighty power overwhelmed Pharaoh's whole army in the deep; and the incarnate Word hath destroyed pernicious sin, for our most glorious Lord hath gloriously been glorified.

Come ye, and as is meet let us honor Paul, the lover of simplicity, the teacher of patience, and the instructor in humility.

Most malicious hell lamented, conquered by thee, O wondrous Paul, for by thy humility thou didst wound its head, O glorious one.

Truly thou didst believe in the living God; wherefore, thou didst do most glorious things, healing afflictions and driving out demons by the blessed name of Christ, O Paul.

Theotokion: Shining more radiantly than the sun in the beauty of thy virginity and revealing a dread wonder unto the world, thou art called the pure Mother of God. Wherefore, in fear and love we bow down before thee, O Theotokos and Queen.

ODE III

Irmos: Establishing me upon the rock of faith, thou hast enlarged my mouth against mine enemies, for my soul doth exult when I sing: There is none holy as our God, and none righteous save Thee, O Lord!

Thou didst arrive at the eleventh hour; yet, borne aloft on the chariot of divine love, thou didst ascend to the heavens of the virtues, O wondrous and most wise Paul.

Desiring the honors of a more exalted rank, forsaking the world, as it were the land of Sodom, thou didst make haste to the mountain of the knowledge of God, in no wise looking back. Wherefore, thou didst escape the everlasting fire.

Having the mind of Christ, O wondrous Paul, thou didst drive away all the cunningly wrought temptations of the devil by thy simplicity and obedience, repelling the enemy with that two-edged sword, and strengthening thy soul with prayer unceasing.

Theotokion: O all-praised Virgin, unceasing boast of the desert dwellers, heartfelt hymn of them that keep silence: Be thou the salvation of us sinners!

Sedalion, in Tone VIII:

His soul illumined with unwavering beams of light, the holy Paul said within himself: "Behold, evening approacheth; the day hath drawn to a close. Lo!, the eleventh hour of my life is come, and how is it that I strive but to work my field,

when hitherto I have neglected to cultivate my soul? Wherefore, I shall make haste to follow after the disciples of Christ, fervently crying out to them: Receive me, O ye workers in the vineyard, that, having labored diligently, I may receive from the hands of the Lord the promised recompense and the image of the great King, Christ God, the Savior of our souls!"

ODE IV

Irmos: Thou didst come forth from the Virgin, neither a mediator nor an angel, but Thyself incarnate, O Lord, and hast saved me, the whole man; wherefore, I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou didst desire to reach the gates of heaven; therefore thou didst wait patiently at the gates of the great Anthony until he accepted thee as a disciple and fellow faster. Wherefore, thou dost abide with him in paradise.

Acquiring the faith of Abraham, receiving in thine old age from God the promised fruit thereof, the gladness of life equal to that of the angels, thou didst mock all the wiles of the hater of mankind, O venerable father.

Having quaffed a cup of temptations more bitter than the waters of Marah, and loving the sweetness of the tree of the Cross with all thy heart, thou didst crucify thyself with Christ God in thine obedience. Wherefore, receiving gifts of grace from Him, thou hast wrought great and wondrous things.

Theotokion: We hymn thee who didst reveal the fulfillment of the images and shadows, who didst give birth without corruption to the Expectation of our fathers and forefathers, O Virgin Theotokos.

ODE V

Irmos: O Christ my Savior, Enlightenment of them that lie in darkness and Salvation of the despairing, rising early to Thee, O King of the world, may I be enlightened with Thy radiance, for I know none other God than Thee.

Adorned with gray hairs of radiant beauty, thou didst reckon thyself to be a witless disciple, being an elder in wisdom, but a child in simplicity. Wherefore, astounding all by thine obedience, O Paul, thou hast illumined the world as a beacon of virtue.

Thou didst will to tread the narrow path and didst dry up the sources of the passions by the cutting off of thy will, shining forth in purity of heart like the sun, O right glorious Paul.

Though thou didst reach the evening of thy life, yet, illumined with the unwaning light of the Spirit, thou didst without hesitation find the way of truth; and washing away thy spiritual blindness in the Siloam of life in the desert, thou didst with pure eyes gaze upon Christ, the Sun of righteousness.

Theotokion: Rejoice, O light and dwelling place of the Light! Rejoice, star that hast shone forth from Jacob! With the unwaning rays of thy mercy, O Theotokos, ever illumine thy servant.

ODE VI

Irmos: Tossed about in the abyss of sin, I invoke the unsearchable abyss of Thy lovingkindness: Lead me up from corruption, O God!

Thou didst remain harmless as a dove, and didst vanquish the ancient ruler of this world by thy simplicity and transcendent wisdom, banishing his foul servants to the abyss, and delivering Christians from them by thy prayer, O blessed one.

Setting aright the crime of Adam and emulating the obedience of Christ, thou didst make thyself an heir of paradise and a partaker of the tree of life through the cutting off of self will, and didst put to shame the most wicked counsel of the serpent.

As a precious vessel of divine gifts and a resplendent abode of the Holy Spirit, hath Christ, the Judge of the contest, made thee manifest, O Paul; Him do thou unceasingly entreat, that, through thy supplications, He save our souls.

Theotokion: O, how we have been subject to vanity! O, how we have been reckoned with them that are bereft of hope! How we have become servants of corruption, and have forgotten thee, our Mistress! Forsake not us that are perishing and that call upon thee, the all-pure Theotokos.

Kontakion, in Tone II:

Forsaking the crooked paths of the sin-loving world, thou didst run with steps of obedience after Christ; being an elder thou didst humble thyself as an infant; wherefore, thou hast entered into the kingdom of heaven in accordance with the Master's word; for which cause we cry out to thee: Rejoice, O faithful servant of the Lord! Rejoice, beacon of the virtues! Rejoice, O Paul, our venerable father!

Ikos: Making thyself a disciple of Anthony, the wise instructor of monks, thou hast become an instructor for all that wish to live in sanctity; taught genuine simplicity by babes, thou dost show thyself to young and old as the image of transcendent wisdom; emulating the angels in thy life, thou hast received from God great power over the demons. Wherefore, hymning thy memory with love, we cry out: Rejoice, O faithful servant of the Lord! Rejoice, beacon of the virtues! Rejoice, O Paul, our venerable father!

ODE VII

Irmos: The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God, raised a lofty flame, but Christ spread a spiritual dew upon the reverent youths, He Who is blessed and most glorious.

Like unto the pillar of fire, thy prayers reached to the heavens, O holy one, consuming the prince of the powers of the air, illumining all the world, and protecting us from misfortune.

Not bowing down to the golden image of fleshly pleasure, but worshipping the tri-hypostatic God in spirit, thou didst offer unceasing prayer unto Him. Wherefore, Christ hath united thee to Himself, O Paul, He that is blessed and most glorious.

O, the wondrous humility and great patience! O, the Christ-like obedience! O, the divine gifts which thou didst reveal, O right laudable Paul! Marveling thereat, let us bless and glorify Christ supremely, as the Bestower thereof.

Theotokion: **F**rom the divine lips of Jesus thou didst hear of their adoption, standing at the foot of His Cross, O Theotokos; therefore, by thine intercession deliver them from temptations, covering them with thy precious omophorion.

ODE VIII

Irmos: **O**nce, the fiery furnace in Babylon divided its effect at the command of God, consuming the Chaldeans, but bedewing the youths that sang: **Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

Accustomed to obedience and boundless abstinence, thou didst extinguish the flame of the passions, O Paul, and delighting in the coolness of dispassion thou didst cry out to Christ God: **Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

Like an eagle in flight thou didst soar to the heavens in spirit, gazing fearlessly upon Christ, the Sun of righteousness, and revealing thy desires to Him in thy purity of heart; wherefore, quickly receiving the fulfillment thereof, thou didst cry out in thanksgiving: **Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

O most simple, most wise, most obedient, guileless, very patient Paul our father, what shall we call thee? With what manner of praises shall we praise thee? Yet in the compunction of our hearts let us cry out to Christ Who hath glorified thee: **Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

Theotokion: **D**ispel from us the slumber of the eyes of our hearts, O Theotokos; free thou our mind which is held captive by sin; and sanctify our lips, that we may unceasingly cry out to thy Son and God: **Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!**

ODE IX

Irmos: **O**ur God and Lord, the Son of the unoriginate Father, hath revealed Himself to us incarnate of the Virgin, to enlighten them that are in darkness and to gather the dispersed. Wherefore, let us magnify the all-hymned Theotokos.

Wondrous are thy works, O venerable father; and wondrous was thy life. Wherefore, celebrating thy memory with love and invoking thy name in prayer, we magnify thy struggles.

Thou art a servant that hath entered into the joy of thy Lord; thou art a partaker of everlasting life; thou hast boldness, O father; wherefore, entreat the consubstantial Trinity on behalf of us that glorify thee with all our soul.

Boldly standing before the throne of God, O Paul, remember them that honor thy memory and hymn thy struggles with love, that with thankful lips we may ever magnify thee.

Theotokion: O Theotokos, strength of martyrs and patience of the venerable, dominion of kings and exalted boast of virgins, help of Christians: commending our life to thine intercession, we magnify thee.

*After the Exapostilarion. Glory ..., and this Exapostilarion to the venerable one,
In Tone VIII:*

Come, ye that have forsaken the tumult of cities and towns, and let us make haste to the desert to see a wondrous and righteous man, a beacon of the virtues, who shone forth in simplicity and obedience, and hath acquired great boldness before Christ; and falling prostrate before him, let us cry: Remember us at the throne of God, O thrice blessed father!