

AT THE GREAT VESPERS

After the Introductory Psalm there shall follow, Blessed is the man:

And at, Lord, I cry: six stichera shall be sung.

Tone 1

O strange wonder! In the last times, as a burning and a shining light, wise Nectarius hath lightened the world, and shed upon the faithful the abundant light of the gospel, by his divine word, by a life that was blameless and sublime. Wherefore he hath been glorified with the gift of the Comforter: and to them that ask he ever granteth healing.

How marvellous is thy providence, O Christ! For so as thou hast promised, thou hast glorified wondrously wise Nectarius as thine own friend with the gift of miracles; who by his glorious life glorified thee, O Saviour, who manifestly declarest unto all the power of love toward thee. Wherefore by his prayers, O thou supremely good, grant us remission of sins and perfect peace.

Today the congregations of the faithful rejoice for joy in the new solemnity of thy memorial, O holy Nectarius, and sing aloud thy praises; and the Church of Christ mystically rejoiceth in thy glory, having found thee in the last days a sure foundation. And especially the island of Aegina maketh glad: for that she possesseth for her wealth thy fragrant relics.

Tone 2

With what crowns of praise shall we wreath Nectarius? who lately manifest hath shone forth and illuminated the Church with the brightness of godliness: who is the new adorning of the faithful, of like zeal with the hierarchs of old; for having walked wisely in their ways, he hath been glorified of Christ, who granteth great mercy to all by his prayers.

With what sweet melody and song shall we praise Nectarius? the divine servant of God; treasure of virtues and harp of theology: who but now hath refreshed the Church with the heavenly sweet wine of godliness, by the divine word of grace proceeding from wise lips; who hath shed abroad the gift of miracles that he received from on high, being chosen of God.

With what spiritual utterance shall we bless thee, O Nectarius? who in the midst of the world didst live a life truly most godly, holy and blameless in deed; who then didst establish a monastery holy unto God, for another tranquil haven for souls, in the island of Aegina: which do thou continually preserve, O Saint, together with her bishop Dionysius wise in God.

Glory: Tone 6

Today is risen upon us, as a newly shining star, the joyful solemnity of bishop Nectarius, illumining the Church. Come therefore, ye multitudes of the faithful, let us cry unto him with the voice of rejoicing: Hail, thou whose life did mirror that of the saints of old, in the evil days, when the love of many hath waxed cold, as spake the Saviour; Hail, thou that unitedst virtue with instruction: who by the word of thy wisdom hast enlightened the souls of the faithful; Hail, thou beauty of the episcopate, defence of Aegina, and thy monastery's very present help. Wherefore, O most blessed Nectarius, forasmuch as thou standest before the throne of the divine Majesty, make perpetual intercession for them that keep with faith thine ever-venerable memorial.

Now: To the Mother of God

Who shall not call thee blessed, O most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy childing without travail? For the only-begotten Son, who shone forth eternally from the Father: this same came forth from thee, O undefiled, ineffably made flesh; being God by nature, and become man by nature for our sake: not divided into a duality of persons, but known in two natures without confusion. Beseech him, O Virgin most blessed, that our souls may obtain mercy.

And the Entrance, and the Hymn, O tender Light; and the Prokeimenon of the day, and the Lessons.

The Reading from the Proverbs (Chapter 10, verse 7)

THE memory of the just is praised: and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than treasures of gold and silver. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things that are prized are not to be compared unto her. For out of her mouth proceedeth justice: and in her tongue is law and mercy. Hear therefore, O ye children; for I will speak of excellent things; and blessed is the man that keepeth my ways. For my outgoings are the issues of life, and in them is prepared favour of the Lord. For this cause I call unto you; and my voice is to the sons of man. For I wisdom dwell with counsel, and summon knowledge and thought. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: understanding is mine, and strength. I love them that love me; and those that seek me shall find grace. Therefore, O ye simple, understand subtilty: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear me yet again; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. For I shall teach you truth, that your trust may be in the Lord, and ye be filled with the Spirit.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (Chapter 4, verse 7)

THOUGH the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old

age. He pleased God, and was beloved of him: so that living among sinners he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of concupiscence doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened he to take him away from among the wicked. This the people saw, and understood it not, neither laid they up this in their minds, That his grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect unto his chosen.

The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (Chapter 10, verse 31)

THE mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom, and the lips of the righteous know what is acceptable. The mouth of the wise speaketh wisdom: and righteousness delivereth them from death. When a righteous man dieth, his hope perisheth not: for a righteous son is born unto life; and in prosperity shall he gather the fruit of righteousness. The righteous ever have light, and they shall obtain grace and glory of the Lord. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright, and wisdom resteth in their heart. The Lord loveth hearts that are holy, and all are acceptable unto him that are undefiled in the way. The wisdom of the Lord maketh the face to shine of him that hath understanding. For she preventeth them that desire her, in making herself first known unto them: yea, she is easily seen of them that love her. Whoso seeketh her early shall have no great travail: and whoso watcheth for her shall quickly be without care. For she goeth about seeking such as are worthy of her, and sheweth herself favourably unto them in the ways. Vice shall not prevail against wisdom. For this cause I was a lover of her beauty. I loved her, and sought her out from my youth, I desired to make her my spouse. For the Lord of all things himself loved her. For she is privy to the mysteries of the knowledge of God, and a lover of his works. Her labours are virtues: for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude: which are such things, as men can have nothing more profitable in their life. If a man desire much experience, she knoweth things of old, and conjectureth aright what is to come: she knoweth the subtilties of speeches, and can expound dark sentences: she foreseeeth signs and wonders, and the events of seasons and times. And she is a good counsellor unto all, because in her is immortality; and in talking with her, a good report. For this cause I prayed unto the Lord, and besought him, and with my whole heart I said, O God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy, who hast made all things with thy word, and ordained man through thy wisdom, that he should have dominion over the creatures which thou hast made, and order the world according to equity and righteousness: Give me wisdom, that sitteth by thy throne; and reject me not from among thy children: for I am thy servant and son of thine handmaid. O send her out of thy holy dwelling place, and from the throne of thy glory, that being present she may teach me what is pleasing unto thee. And she shall lead me in knowledge, and preserve me in her power. For the thoughts of mortal man are miserable, and our devices are but uncertain.

At the Lite, the Stichera,

Tone 1

Rejoice in the Lord, O Church of God: be glad and rejoice, thou chosen bride of the heavenly King. For, behold, in our generation the true high priest of Christ, righteous Nectarius, sealeth yet once more the things taught thee of God of old, and loudly proclaimeth them by the glory wherewith he hath been glorified by the only God. Wherefore possessing him for pillar and ground, beholding the grace of his miracles, cry unto thy bridegroom: O Lord, glory be to thee.

Tone 2

Who will not leap for joy? Who rejoiceth not in spirit in the new solemnity of bishop Nectarius? For every soul maketh glad to see him glorified, of like eminence with the saints: resplendent with miracles. Wherefore as we call blessed his glorious life and the holiness of his excellencies, let us cry aloud: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.

Tone 3

Let us take the words of David, and unto Nectarius, initiate in sacred things, rightly cry: Happy art thou, and it shall be well with thee, O most blessed father: for thou hast lived in integrity, blamelessly, minding heavenly things while in this life, shewing thyself an high priest holy and harmless; and fitly fulfilling things pertaining to God, wisely hast thou ministered to the Church of Christ: and being glorified worthily with the gift of miracles, thou preventest those in tribulation, and grantest each his petitions that are unto salvation.

Tone 4

The word of grace distinguished thee: thou didst shew thyself approved unto God, a workman of the gospel of peace, O Father Nectarius, from whose divine mouth came forth words of prophecy. And departing from the confusion of the world, by stillness thou wast oned with God, abiding in the isle of Aegina; and there didst thou raise a house of prayer, and to the nuns becamest a type of the virtues, a father and teacher: and like the saints hast thou fallen asleep, and prayest continually for our souls.

Same Tone

How holy thy life, how acceptable unto God, O divinely inspired Nectarius. How strange the wonders which thou daily performest through the grace given thee. Who then shall not be astonished at thee, who truly art wonderful? Who shall not glorify thee, who art glorified of God? For thy relics are found a well-spring of healing: for they cure grievous sicknesses and cast out unclean spirits; and all who turn to thee in faith obtain salvation of soul and healing of body, and glorify Christ, who wondrously hath glorified thee.

Glory: Tone 5

Come, ye kindreds of the faithful: let us hasten to Aegina. Come, behold strange wonders which of late the hand of the most High hath wrought. For he that cannot lie hath glorified, according to his promise, with eternal gifts Nectarius wise in God, for that he hath won renown conformable to the gospel. Wherefore his venerable relics are filled with fragrance and made a fount of healing for those who draw nigh with devotion. Let us, being replenished therefrom with the savour of life, cry like David: Great art thou, O Lord: there is no end of thy greatness. Whereby, O lover of mankind, do thou save our souls.

Now: To the Mother of God

We bless thee, O Mother of God and Virgin; we faithful rightly glorify thee: thou strong tower that cannot be shaken, impregnable house of defence, invincible help and shield, and refuge of our souls.

At the Aposticha, the Stichera, Tone 5

Hail, thou who in the last times art risen as a star resplendent in the heavens, who by the brightness of thy miracles hast enlight-ened in spirit those darkened by passions; thou mind inspired of God, filled with divine light; who with understanding didst meditate, as it is written, in the law of our God. O Father Nectarius, thou radiant luminary, who while yet in the midst of life didst send forth the light of godliness unto the ends of the earth: entreat Christ that great mercy be granted our souls.

V. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Living the spiritual life, minding heavenly things, O bishop Nectarius, thou didst shew thyself a worthy receptacle of the Holy Spirit, being exalted by humility. And by the goodness of thy ways and simplicity of manner, thou didst manifest the brightness of thy soul, whereby thy lot is among the saints. Wherefore encompassing the fragrant shrine of thy relics, let us cry in compunction: Grant each of us salvation of soul and body.

V. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. The Church of Christ rejoiceth, O Nectarius, to see thee glorified with heavenly glory, and she magnifieth him who gave thee the gift of miracles. And especially the island of Aegina is filled with gladness: for to her belong thy relics for a treasure of sanctification which faileth not. And more than they doth thy holy monastery rejoice, looking continually to thee and crying with tears: Thou art my glory, and the lifter up of mine head; thou art my shield, O my father and protector.

Glory: Tone 8

Thy soul, being now sanctified, dwelleth in the heavenly Jerusalem with the spirits of the saints, O illustrious Nectarius; while thy grace-filled relics lie in the island of

Aegina; which are a God-given treasure, a remedy freely given for all manner of sickness and every affliction: for sufferers having recourse to them from every place, receive healing and the granting of their petitions that are unto salvation; and with the voice of thanksgiving they glorify the Lord who hath glorified thee. Make supplication unto him, we pray thee, for our souls.

Now: To the Mother of God

O Virgin unwedded, who ineffably conceivedst God in the flesh, Mother of the most High God: receive the supplications of thy servitors; O thou most blameless, who hast obtained for all the purging of their sins: be favourable at this present to our entreaties, and pray that all we may find salvation.

Then, Lord, now lettest: Trisagion, and after. Our Father:

Troparion: Tone 1

O ye faithful, let us honour Nectarius: child of Selybria and patron of Aegina; true friend of virtue, manifest in the last times a godly servant of Christ: for he poureth forth healing abundantly upon them that cry in reverence: Glory be, to Christ who hath glorified thee; glory be to him who hath magnified thee; glory be to him who through thee worketh healing for all.

Glory: Another Troparion: Tone 4

Thou hast lived holily, being a bishop rich in wisdom; thou hast glorified the Lord by thy virtuous life, O Saint Nectarius. Wherefore, being glorified by the power of the Comforter, thou drivest out evil spirits and healest the sick who come unto thy sacred relics in faith.

Now: To the Mother of God

The mystery which hath been hid from ages, being unknown of the angels, through thee, O Mother of God, is made manifest to those on earth: God incarnate in a union without confusion, and willingly accepting the cross for us men; through which he hath raised up him that was first made, and saved our souls from death.

And the Dismissal.