

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Day of April

### Our Venerable Father John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine.

#### Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 3 Stikhera, in Tone 5: *To the melody, “Rejoice....”*

Aroused by the divine desire to follow after Christ God, /  
Who willingly clothed Himself in the flesh of the Virgin, /  
And for thy sake became a wanderer here on earth, /  
O venerable and wondrous father John, /  
Thou didst come into a foreign land, /  
And didst estrangle thyself from all the sweetness of this world, /  
And didst live as a pilgrim, acquiring the virtues, /  
In contemplation of death, /  
By keeping vigil all night and standing in constant prayer /  
Thou didst restrain the passions by thine abstinence, /  
In likeness of them that have followed the way of fasting before thee ///  
And with them thou hast attained glory.

O venerable and most glorious father John, /  
Having been trained as a disciple of blessed Chariton /  
Thou didst eagerly learn by his example; /  
And emulated his divine ways /  
Thou didst live a life of silence [and prayer] /  
And wast found worthy of the honored priesthood; /  
Ever offering the Blameless Sacrifice /  
Thou was swathed in glory and enlightened in wisdom ///  
And uplifted in mind to mystical visions and indescribable bliss.

O venerable and all-blessèd father John /  
Being strengthened by the power of the Trinity /  
Thou didst escape the harm of heresies /  
And didst cleave to the Truth, O wise one /  
And through foresight and action didst truly attain divine glory, /  
The ultimate of all desires, at thy repose, O blessèd one. /  
And standing now together with the angelic host, /  
Resplendent in glory before the Throne of God ///  
Pray for those who worthily celebrate thy memory with faith, O truly wondrous one.

**Glory... now and ever..., Theotokion, in the Same Tone: *(and melody)***

To whom hast thou likened thyself, O my soul? /  
Why dost thou run after the most terrible of things, /  
Mindlessly adding painful lashes to thine already festering wounds? /  
With no heed to what will become with the rest of thee, /  
Nor that the Judge is already approaching. /  
Before Whom, thou shalt stand and receive the just reward of thy deeds. /  
But turn back, and fall down before the Virgin crying out: /  
Do not despise me, O Lady! /  
For I have angered the Just and Merciful God Who was born of thee ///  
And was crucified in the flesh for our salvation.

**Or the Stavrotheotokion: *(in the Same Tone and melody)***

When she beheld Him suspended on the Tree /  
The unplanted Cluster of grapes,  
Which had put forth from within her womb, /  
His divine side pierced by a spear,  
The all pure one cried aloud: /  
“What is this, O my Son and God? /  
How is it that Thou acceptest suffering, /  
Who hast healed all infirmities and passions, /  
Being in Thy divinity dispassionate by nature? /  
What have these ungrateful people done to Thee,  
Their Benefactor, for all the good Thou hast done to them?” /  
But entreat thou Him unceasingly, O Lady, /  
That He deliver me from my passions by His sufferings, ///  
That I may ever glorify thee.

*Or Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection service*

**[No Troparion is given for the saint in the Menaion]**

**Morning Service**

**[The Canon for the Saint ... *incomplete as of 3/2013***

**[No Kontakion is given for the saint in the Menaion]**