October 18th
Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: Rejoice

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Richly was grace poured forth on thy lips,

O blest Apostle, by that Heaven-sent tongue of fire,

which made thee a fiery tongue that, through preaching, sent words of light, to illuminate those worthy of the light,

but scorching with searing beams those who rather desired the dark,

when thou didst write thy holy Gospel and taughtest it;

and thou wast the sweet scent of life for those wishing life,

even as Paul thy teacher hath declared, O all-lauded Luke,

but thou wast also the odor of death to those not desiring life. Now we implore thee:

grant God's peace and life and light and Great Mercy to us all.

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Verse: His sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and his words unto the ends of the world.

2) As thou thy self didst say, we have known the truth and certainy of those things thou didst declare, di vine ly inspired from Heav en, see ing thou took est in hand to write down for us the things surely believed, where of thou hadst been informed, even as the eye wit ness es de liv ered to thee; and their e qual didst thou become and the min is ter of the Word Who as sumed our flesh, Whom after His Ar is ing thou beheld est with burn ing heart, when with Him thou and Cle o pas went to Em ma us and ate with Him. With His god ly fer vor fill our souls as we re vere thee, O seer of mys ter ies.

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Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

3) Rejoice, thou who alone didst with joy
write that Rejoice of the good tidings the Virgin heard,
and how she was called the Mother of God by John in the womb, whose conception, thou also didst also write for us;
and how God the Word took flesh; His temptations and miracles;
His words, His Passion, Crucifixion and willing Death,
Rising from the dead and Ascension, which thou didst see;
like wise, the Spirit's dread descent, the Acts of Christ's messengers,
and of Saint Paul in particular, whose companion thou wast, O Luke, physician and teacher,
and thou light unto the Church, which do thou ever preserve.

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