January 17th

Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great
Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 8
Special melody: O strange wonder

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih
from various sources

1) O our righteous Father Anthony, taking the
yoke of Christ God on thy shoulders with fortitude,

thou didst cast down Satan's pride, overthrowing it
by the Cross. Thou madest cities of barren wilderness

through the divine way of life that thou didst lead.

O man most blest of God, boast of all ascetics,

ceaselessly entreat Christ our God that we find
mercy through thy holy prayers.

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2) O our righteous Father Anthony, seeking to gain the true life, thou wast shut up within a tomb, fearing no assaults or blows of the murderous enemy with cries and tumult, with dash- ing sounds of war, which by thy prayers thou didst drive away like smoke.

O man of stalwart soul! As the chief and leader of the wilderness, we all call thee blest, O Saint, as we now honor thee.
3) Gathered in faith, we all honor thee as an ascetic of Christ, great and God-bearing Anthony, who didst journey joyously in the wilderness notably. Its faithful teacher thou truly didst become; therefore, with great voice we all cry out to thee:

O man most blest of God, joy and boast of monks, cease never to entreat our Divine Deliverer that we may all be saved.
4) Father of Fathers, great Anthony, moved in thy soul with desire and insatiable love for Christ,
thou didst go in search of Him in the uttermost wilderness; thou fleddest far from the tumults of the world,
conversing solely with God in solitude,
joined unto Him in mind and completely filled with light, wherewith do thou make our souls to shine as

we now sing thy praise in hymns.