January 25th

Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 4
Special melody: Thou who wast called from on high
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) When thou hadst parted the darkness of the letter,
   thou in spirit wentest into the highest Light;
   and thou, receiving therefrom the flood and streaming brightness
   of true theology, madest all men rich,
   luminary of the Church, O all-wise Gregory;
   then with the lightning-bolts of thy words, thou didst diminish
   the gloomy clouds of the wicked heresies.

Therefore, thou dwellest where there is the joy
   and the sound of all them that keep festival,

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 1, 12/16/18, CAH
O companion of Angels, ever praying that our souls be saved.

2) Thou who art truly a second Theologian, and a wise initiate of God's enlightenment, the joyous scribe of the Trinity, thou past our nature hast taught of God's nature, which transcendeth speech.

And as thou enjoyest God more clearly now in light do thou remember, O Gregory, them that revere thee; defend the Church thou hast taught and disciplined;
for into every quarter of the earth
hath thy sound gone abroad and hath taught us all
to give glory and worship
to the consubstantial Trinity.

3) Till ing the fur rows of heart and understanding
with thy tongue, O proclaimer, thou thus madest rich
all of the plenitude of the Church with the divine seed
of the theology coming from on high;
then thou wholly burnt est up the tares of heresies
with God the Spirit's consuming fire, since thou wast nourished
with fervent love of divine philosophy,

O light of priests and boast of all the world,

thou great Father of Fathers, blest Gregory,

wisest shepherd of shepherds,

and the glory of all faithful men.

4) Thine honored mouth didst thou bring, O blessed Father,

to the cup of wisdom, and thou drewest forth there-from

the godly draught of theology, which thou didst freely

share with the faithful, O righteous Gregory,
stopping up the soul-destroying stream of heresies,
which brimmed over with blasphemy. Then as a helmsman,
the Holy Spirit found thee to be approved,
who didst drive off and banish all assaults
of the impious like empty blasts of wind,
by declaring one Essence
of a Trinity in Unity.