September 26th

Repose of St. John the Evangelist & Theologian
Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 8
Special melody: *O strange wonder*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih from various sources


1) Seeing the excess of fervent love which thou didst have for thy Christ, O all-wise and most blessed John, thou wast loved more greatly than all thy fellow disciples were by God the Word, Who beholdest all that is and with a just measure judgest all the earth.

For thou didst brightly shine both in mind and body with the beauty of purity and chastity, O thou most blest of God.
2) When thou didst recline upon the breast of Wisdom,

thou drewest forth the clear streams of theology and didst water all the world,

John, unequalled in excellence; and with the knowledge of God the Trinity,

thou didst dry up the whole sea of godlessness,

since thou wast verily as a living cloud and pillar guiding all, showing us the way to the celestial heritage.
3) Come, let us extol and magnify with hymns and spiritual songs that fair bloom of virginity, wisdom's tuneful instrument and the Spirit's most sacred shrine; the hallowed virtues' well-pleasing dwelling place; the bright and venerable eye of all the Church; that chosen mouth of grace which hath brought the light to us; come let us laud John as the true servant of our Savior Jesus Christ.
4) O son of Thunder, as thou didst preach the Gospel
tidings to men, thou didst shine joy upon the world, gladness that no tongue can tell,
and the Well-spring of all good things; life ever-lasting, the Kingdom never moved;
the pure delight of the vision of our God;
and richly given gifts of the grace of Christ, which truly pass the mind and the thought of mortals,
O inspired Evangelist.

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