J anuary 17th
Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

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

1) Thou who didst shine with the splendor of the Spirit,
when thou wast enkindled with intense desire for God
and given wings to soar up in soul to seek with yearning
the very summit and pinnacle of love,
then didst thou completely set at naught all flesh and blood;
and thou didst rise far beyond this world by toilsome labors
and joining stillness to pure and fervent love.

Hence, as thou soughtest, so hast thou been filled
with the good things found yonder, and thou dost shine

as a star that doth brighten

and doth cheer our souls, O Anthony.

2) O thou who brakest the demons' darts and bowstrings

with the Holy Spirit's grace, O Father Anthony,

thou didst reveal their deep wickedness and snares to all men

through the divine teachings of thy blessed mouth;

shining bright as lightning with divine magnificence,

thou didst become the most splendid star of all monastics,
the desert’s foremost and fairest ornament,
the skilled and honored healer of the sick,
the preeminent pattern and archetype
of the practice of virtue
and the discipline of excellence.

3) Thou who wast filled with divinely given graces,

since Christ God found thee to be a spotless looking glass
for the reflections of things divine, He made His own light
to flash within thee like lightning with its beams.
Wherefore, thou becamest an unfailling spring of cures;

for them that hungered, their sustenance; for them that thirsted,

thou didst refresh them with rains that quenched desire;

and thou, as seeing what was in men's souls,

with wise counsels didst make of them better men

unto God, Whom entreat now

to enlighten and to save our souls.

O pure of soul and of heart and understanding,

Angel born of earth and mortal truly heavenly,
thou perfect measure of temperance and wise instructor

of true virginity, blessed Anthony,

since thou art united with thy Master evermore

and glorifiest Him ceaselessly in hymns of glory

with Angels, Martyrs, and all the choirs of Saints,

O Father rescue them that ever keep

thy most sacred memorial joyously,

and redeem them from failings,

bitter dangers, and adversities.