

THE 6th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JUNE
COMMEMORATION OF OUR VENERABLE FATHER BESSARION THE
WONDERWORKER & THE VENERABLE HILARION THE NEW OF THE
MONASTERY OF SAINT DALMATUS
AT VESPERS

At "Lord, I have cried ...", 6 stichera: 3 for St. Bessarion, in Tone VIII:
Spec. Mel.: "O most glorious wonder ...":

Thou wast the light of monastics, O wise Bessarion, * and by the rays of thy virtues * and the effulgence of grace * thou wast like a most radiant lamp unto the desert. * From the gloom of the passions and the darkness of the wicked, * from all sorrow and temptation, * deliver those who fervently honor thee * and hymn with faith * thy divine repose.

Enduring to stand amid thorns * in thy divine love * of ineffable struggles, * thou didst show forth an effort equal to that of the martyrs. * Thou dost sweeten the bitter waters of the sea * and givest drink to souls in thirst, O all-wise one. * Thou didst traverse the rushing torrents of the Nile, * making thy passage over its waters dryshod, * O all-lauded one.

Knowing thee to be like unto the wise Elijah, * we all manifestly praise thee, O Bessarion, * for thou didst cause torrents of water to fall as rain from the sky * through God's mercy unto thee, * and by thine honored supplications * thou bestowest fountains of rain and divine dew from on high * upon all the faithful * as well as grace and power * and invincible protection.

And 3 stichera for St. Hilarion, in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given as sign ...":

Having attained a life undefiled, * patience, meekness and love unfeigned, * boundless abstinence, * standing all night, * divine compunction, * faith, true hope and mercy, * thou didst live on earth like an angel in the body, * O blessed father Hilarion, * intercessor for our souls.

Thou wast an earthly angel and a heavenly man, O venerable one, * a well-spring of compunction, * a torrent of mercy, * an abyss of miracles, * a surety for sinners, * a truly fruitful olive-tree of God, * anointing with the oil of thy works * the faces of those who praise thee with faith, * O wondrous Hilarion.

Thy mind shining * with divine understanding, * thou didst transcend the passions of the flesh, * unconfused by things below, * bearing the lineaments * and depicting the beauty of God within thyself, * and known as wholly luminous * through the activity of the Spirit, O Hilarion our father, * thou adornment of monastics.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion, in the same melody:

Rejoice, beam of sun-like radiance, * throne of the never-setting Sun, * who shone forth the veritable Sun! * Rejoice, mind which sheddest light upon all by divine effulgence, flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * true luster of gold, * O all-good and most immaculate one, * who hast shone upon the faithful * the never-waning Light!

Troparion, in Tone IV:

O God of our fathers, deal with us ever according to thy meekness, and take not thy mercy away from us, but through their supplications direct our life in peace.

AT MATINS

ODE I

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion, the composition of Joseph, in Tone II:

Irmos: Come, ye people, let us chant a hymn to Christ God, Who divided the sea and guided the people, whom He brought out of the slavery of Egypt, for He is glorious.

The Church chanteth unto God, joining chorus today in thy memory, O divinely inspired father Bessarion, and with faith it glorifieth thy great struggles.

Shown to be a slave of God, thou didst enslave the passions of the body by the powers of thy soul, and didst show thyself to be free of all evil, O most wondrous father.

Adorned with the beauties of thy struggles, thou wast shown to be a right suitable vessel of the divine Spirit, containing His activity, O blessed Bessarion.

Theotokion: The deceiver of souls hath dragged me down into the pit of destruction; but extend unto me thy mighty hand, O Theotokos, and quickly bring me up into the light.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion, in Tone VIII:

Irmos: Having traversed the water as though it were dry land, and escaped the evil of Egypt, the Israelite cried aloud: Let us chant unto our Deliverer and God!

Having fled to the immaterial and noetic Light out of the darkness of material things, O venerable Hilarion, illumine me by thy supplications unto God.

Having drunk in virtue from thine infancy, thou didst attain unto manhood by the pangs of abstinence and the sweat of fasting, and didst reach the spiritual measure of the stature of Christ.

Having traversed the abyss of the passions and escaped; the threefold waves of the demons, thou didst make haste to the dry haven of dispassion, O venerable father.

Theotokion: As thou art higher than all creation, O only Mother of God, in the latter times, without knowing man, thou gavest birth without father to the Word, Who was begotten of the Father without mother.

ODE III

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: Having established me upon the rock of the Faith, thou hast enlarged my mouth against mine enemies; for my spirit hath rejoiced to sing: There is none holy as our God, and none more righteous than Thee, O Lord!

Thou didst mount to the heights of dispassion, didst enter into the darkness of the vision of God, and didst receive the divine law within thy heart; and, strengthened thereby, thou becamest an all-radiant beacon for monastics, O venerable one.

Thou wast shown to be a fruitful olive-tree manifestly planted in the house of God, O father, and with the oil of thy struggles thou hast anointed the faces of us who praise thy miracles, O venerable Bessarion.

Having lived a life of non-acquisition, like that of the birds, O blessed one, soaring on wings of dispassion thou didst attain unto the mansions of heaven, rejoicing; wherefore, with faith we call thee blessed.

Theotokion: **H**aving lived my life in slothfulness and defiled my heart with passions, I approach thee with compunction of soul, O Mistress, and entreat thee to have compassion and save me, making me steadfast through models of repentance.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **T**hou art the confirmation of those who have recourse unto Thee, O Lord; Thou art the light of those in darkness, and my spirit doth hymn Thee.

With the burning ember of abstinence thou didst utterly consume the thorns of the passions, O venerable one, and dost cool the thoughts of the faithful.

Having acquired through the Spirit the sharp arrows of virtue, as one mighty thou didst wound the heart of the cruel adversary.

Armed with the sword of abstinence, and with prayer as thy breastplate, O venerable one, thou didst vanquish legions of the invisible foe.

Theotokion: **O**n the day of judgment be merciful unto me, I pray thee, O Mistress, in thy boldness before Him Who was born of thee.

Kontakion of St. Hilarion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: "The steadfast ...":

Like a shepherd didst thou preserve within thy fold the flock of thy life-bearing pasture, and wast shown to be great by the loftiness of thy works, O Hilarion the New, having undergone much suffering and sorrow in thy piety. Wherefore, thou hast made thine abode in the most joyful life in heavenly Sion. Pray for us, O venerable one!

Sedalion of St. Bessarion, in Tone I:

Spec. Mel.: "Thy tomb, O Savior ...":

Having burned up the passions with the fire of abstinence, thou wast shown to be a radiant lamp of dispassion, dispelling the darkness of our souls by grace. Wherefore, with gladness of heart we celebrate thy light-bearing memory today, O Bessarion our father.

Glory ..., Sedalion of St. Hilarion, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Go thou quickly before ...":

To God didst thou dedicate thy life, O most blessed one, as a truly exemplary cleric, O priest of Christ. Wherefore, after much toil and pain, thou didst pass over to the immaterial habitations, rejoicing. And now thou pourest forth upon us streams of healings.

Now & ever ..., Sedalion from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion:

O most immaculate virgin who gavest birth to the transcendent God: with the incorporeal ones unceasingly entreat Him, that before the end He grant remission of transgressions and correction of life unto us who hymn thee with faith and love as is meet, O thou who alone art all-hymned.

Stavrotheotokion: **O** all-immaculate Virgin, Mother of Christ God, a sword pierced thine all-holy soul, when thou didst see thy Son and God crucified of His own will. Cease not to entreat Him, O blessed one, that He grant us forgiveness of transgressions.

ODE IV

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: **I** hymn Thee, O Lord, for I have heard report of Thee and was afraid; for Thou comest to me, seeking me who am lost. Wherefore, I glorify Thy great condescension unto me, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

Drops of healing didst thou receive from the depths of grace, from whence thou didst, by thy supplication, transform the water of the sea into sweetness, O wise and right wondrous one, healing the thirst of thy disciple.

Never didst thou fail in thy life, even unto old age, O divinely wise father, wandering in the desert places and the mountains, seeking God by thy will, Who illumined thee with splendors surpassing noetic miracles.

Thou wast lowly and small, yet elevated by dispassion; wherefore, thou didst put down the uprisings of the demons, as a beacon for monastics who piously praise thee with faith, O father.

Theotokion: **H**eal thou the passions of my soul which grow up within me, wretch that I am; illumine my thought, O pure one, driving far away the darkness of the demons which afflict me and ever set their snares for me.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **I** have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have understood Thy works, and have glorified Thy divinity.

Planted by the waters of abstinence, O blessed father, thou wast shown to be a flourishing vine producing the grapes of piety.

Being wholly godly and Spirit-bearing, thou didst depart wholly unto God, O most blessed Hilarion; wherefore, thou dost ever dance with the angels.

Thou didst set the feet of thy heart upon the rock of faith, and didst remain unshaken, undaunted by the assaults of the demons.

Theotokion: We hymn thee, O all-pure one, who art more exalted than the cherubim and seraphim; for thou didst bear on thine arm our God before Whom they tremble.

ODE V

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: O Christ my Savior, Thou enlightenment of those who lie in darkness and salvation of the despairing: I rise at dawn unto Thee, the King of peace. Illumine me with Thy radiance, for I know none other God than Thee.

The effulgence of the Comforter which abode within thy soul, O all-blessed one, showed forth the path which leadeth to the kingdom; and treading it, thou didst elude the snares of the demons and spiritual darkness.

Shown forth as a new Joshua, O blessed God-bearer, adorned with divine words, enlightened with the splendor of miracles and made comely by the many wonders of God, thou didst halt the passage of the sun by thy luminous entreaty.

Thou wast recorded in the book of life as is meet, having fulfilled all that is written in the divine books. Wherefore, I cry out to thee: By thine entreaties unto the all-seeing God rend asunder the record of mine evil deeds, O father.

Theotokion: Following the steps of Him Who shone forth from thy womb in an ineffable birthgiving, O Virgin Mother, the assembly of the venerable joined the choirs of heaven. Pray thou with them, and beg cleansing for us who honor thee.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: Rising at dawn, we cry to Thee: Save us, O Lord! for Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee.

The unsleeping eye of thy heart didst thou keep unwaveringly upon the divine commandments, O glorious one.

O God-bearer, by thine activity and through abstinence thou didst ascend the mount of the virtues to the vision of God.

In pouring forth oil for the poor, O venerable Hilarion, thou didst draw forth heavenly richness from thy heart.

Theotokion: The Lord of the law showed thee to be the ark of the Word, O Theotokos, wherein He ineffably madeth His abode.

ODE VI

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: **Out of the whale Jonah cried unto the Lord: Lead me up from the depths of Hades, I pray, that I may sacrifice unto Thee, the Deliverer, with a voice of praise and in the spirit of truth.**

Thou didst not fail when thou didst approach thy many struggles, O venerable one; for thou didst remain standing for forty days and nights, unmoved by the demands of nature.

Having mortified thy members which are on earth, O wondrous one, thou wast enriched with the vital activity of healing, and thou livest in the heavens, ever healing the passions of our dying souls.

Ever lamenting thy life, thou didst repose; for divine desire kindled a fire within thee, O father. And now thou hast found consolation in the heavens, joining the choirs of the venerable.

Theotokion: **T**he Lord is born of thee in the flesh, making thee the Mistress of all creatures. O pure one, entreat Him to deliver our souls from the enemy who hath dominion over them.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **Cleanse me, O Savior, for many are mine iniquities, and lead me up from the abyss of evils; for unto Thee have I cried, and Thou hast hearkened unto me, O God of my salvation.**

With faith thou didst slay with dust the noetic Goliath, who rose up in malice against thine unarmed conflict; and, uprooting his trophies of victory, thou didst fell him who boasted greatly.

Thou didst emulate Hilarion in the virtues and, spiritually following in his steps, in abstinence wast shown to be supreme and a model for thy flock, O venerable one.

With the sweat of abstinence thou didst utterly quench the burning darts of the enemy, and having kindled the fire of faith, thou didst consume the insolence of the heretics' unbelief.

Theotokion: **T**hou didst truly conceive God the Word in thy womb, and gavest birth unto Him supernaturally, O most immaculate one. By thy supplications entreat Him in behalf of those who hymn thee as the true Theotokos.

Kontakion of the Venerable Bessarion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: The steadfast ...":

Emulating the powers on high, by example thou didst live the life of the birds, O venerable one; and putting transitory things from thy mind, led to the heavenly beauties of Christ the King by thy constant desire, thou didst come even unto Him. O Bessarion, entreat Him unceasingly in behalf of us all!

ODE VII

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: The all-wise children did not worship the golden figure, but themselves walked into the flame and mocked the gods of the pagans. In the midst of the flame they cried aloud, and the Angel bedewed them. The prayer of your lips was heard.

Having renewed thy soul with the pious plough of abstinence, O father, thou didst cultivate a most fruitful grain; and stored up in the granaries of heaven, thou dost nourish therewith those who chant with faith: O Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Having been united to the immaterial Light, thou becamest a pure light; and thou didst traverse the rushing torrent of the river without thy feet becoming wet. Thou didst tread the straight paths, O divinely wise Bessarion, having dried up the turgid waters of sin.

What an awesome wonder it is that, by the invocation of God, thou didst render potable waters which once could not be drunk, didst traverse the rushing torrent of the river, and didst stay the passage of the sun, O divinely wise Bessarion, who art magnified by sacred and divine signs!

Theotokion: The hypostatic Wisdom of God was born of thee, O pure one, Who destroyed the evil philosophers and gaveth to the multitude of monastics and the venerable the wisdom to chant with grace: Blessed art thou who gavest birth to God in the flesh!

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: The children who came down from Judea, once, in Babylon, trod down the flame of the furnace by their faith in the Trinity, chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

In the pasture of the kingdom on high thou didst nurture thy flock, O father; and, driving away the wild beasts of heresy with the staff of thy teachings, thou didst chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Putting forth the radiance of miracles, thou dost dispel the gloom of infirmities and dost emit beams of health and healing today upon those who cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou didst enter in to the wedding feast of Christ the King in the highest, clad in vesture befitting an invited guest. Wherefore, having reclined, thou hast cried out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: In manner transcending nature and speech thou didst give birth unto the Master of all, and thou hast nourished at thy breast Him Who will prepare a table for all in good time. Him do thou earnestly beseech in our behalf, O all-pure one.

ODE VIII

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: God Who descended unto the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and transformed the flame into dew, hymn ye as Lord and exalt supremely forever!

The light manifestly shone upon thee as a righteous man; joy and gladness were given thee, O father, as one who wept earnestly on earth and wast a stranger to it in thy lack of acquisition and thine endurance of all manner of evils.

Without attaining thine ultimate desire, O venerable father, thou didst pass through many cities and areas of wilderness until thou didst attain the city on high, splendidly adorned.

With the bright radiance of virtue thou hast shone forth the dawn upon us, ever illumining our thoughts. Wherefore, we celebrate this day in thy light-bearing memory, O father Bessarion.

Theotokion: O pure one, thou hast given birth unto a new Son, equally unoriginate with the unoriginate Father, and thou alone hast renewed our nature which hath grown old through grievous transgression. Wherefore, together we hymn thee, O Theotokos.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: Madly did the Chaldean tyrant heat the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones; but, seeing them saved by a greater power, he cried out to the Creator and Deliverer: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely for all ages!

With streams of thy tears thou didst drown the stirrings of the passions and constant thoughts, and wast an abyss of longsuffering, O venerable one, leading to the tranquility of quietude those who cry: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely for all ages!

Possessing thine admonitions for abstinence like a hard diamond, O venerable Hilarion, we make firm our hearts and vanquish legions of the passions, crying out in faith with our tongue: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely for all ages!

Having caused the passionate nature of the flesh to wither up through abstinence and temperance, O venerable one, thou didst fill thyself with the spiritual activity of the Spirit and didst attain unto the paths of dispassion, O all-wise one, crying out: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely for all ages!

Theotokion: Beneath the shelter of thy holy wings, O Mistress, do we all flee who are afflicted by cruel offenses, temptations and tribulations. For, having thee as our intercessor, we cry out: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely for all ages!

ODE IX

Canon of the Venerable Bessarion

Irmos: O ye faithful, let us with hymns magnify in oneness of mind the Word of God, Who came from God in His ineffable wisdom to renew Adam who had grievously fallen into corruption, and Who was ineffably incarnate for our sake of the holy Virgin.

Girded about with might, thou didst cast down the might of the deceiver, and wast shown to be powerful against the passions, O all-blessed one; wherefore, receiving the grace of miracles from God, thou healest the incurable ailments of the faithful.

The greatness of thy glory hath, through God, been manifest unto all creation, illuminating the faithful with the sacred scenes of thy blameless life, O divinely wise Bessarion, who art truly the adornment of monks and paragon of the fathers.

Groaning, lamenting and grieving, thou didst ever sprinkle the ground with tears of compunction, O divinely wise father, until thou didst acquire divine consolation, making thine abode in the city of God with all the saints.

Thou didst flourish like a lily with the fragrance of the virtues, perfuming our souls, O father. Wherefore, we keep thy memory, O Bessarion, entreating that, for thy sake, we may be delivered from the stench of offenses and from all demonic afflictions.

Theotokion: Sinning insanely, I remain uncorrected, having become foolish in my great senselessness. Wherefore, I cry out to thee, O Mistress: Visit me now, who find myself in such need, and cure the passions of my lowly heart.

Canon of the Venerable Hilarion

Irmos: Heaven is stricken with awe, and the ends of the earth are amazed that God hath appeared to men in the flesh, and that thy womb hath become more spacious than the heavens. Wherefore, the legions of men and angels magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Christ hath truly shown thee to be a wellspring of miracles, O blessed one, washing away the painful defilements of the passions and easily drowning the pangs of infirmity. Wherefore, we all call thee a river of spiritual cleansing, O all-blessed one.

Spiritually flourishing like a palm-tree in the house of God, O all-glorious one, thou didst bring forth the fruit of abstinence like sweetness, whereby thou hast sweetened thy noetic flock, O all-wise one. Wherefore, thou hast received heavenly crowns of glory, O ever-memorable father.

Thou wast shown to be a rule of abstinence, O father Hilarion, a model of meekness and a serene instructor for all. By thine entreaties to the Lord still thou also the tempest of my passions, and grant profound peace unto me who ask, that I may call thee blessed.

Theotokion: **T**hee do we have as a weapon amid tribulations and dangers, a haven and rampart amid sorrows, a noetic shield amid battles, and a great mercy-seat amid grievous offenses and temptations. Wherefore, we honor thee, the Theotokos, as is meet, and magnify thy birthgiving.