

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

On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 6 Stichera: 3 of 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 most wise one. * Thou didst traverse the rushing torrents of the Nile, * making thy passage over its waters dryshod, ** O all-famed 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 of 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 ..., Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion,
or this Theotokion, in Tone IV:

Rejoice, O beam of solar radiance, * throne of the never-setting Sun, * having shone forth the ineffable Sun! * Rejoice, O mind * shining with divine splendor, * flash of lightning illumining the ends of the earth, * true luster of gold. * O most comely and most immaculate one ** who hath caused the unwaning Light to shine upon the faithful!

Troparion of the venerable fathers, in Tone IV:

O God of our fathers, * ever deal with us according to Thy meekness. * Take not Thy mercy from us, * but by the prayers of these saints ** direct our life in peace.

AT MATINS

ODE I

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

Irmos: Come, O ye people, * let us sing a song to Christ our God, * Who divided the sea, * and made a way for the nation * which He had brought up out of the bondage of Egypt; * for He hath been glorified.

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 wast revealed 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 passed through the water as upon dry land, * and having escaped the malice of the Egyptians, * the Israelites cried aloud: * Unto our God and Redeemer let us sing.

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 partaken of virtue from thine infancy, thou didst attain unto manhood by the pangs of abstinence and the sweat of fasting, reaching unto 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 a man, thou hast given birth without father to the Word, Who was begotten of the Father without mother.

ODE III

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

Irmos: Thou hast established me on the rock of faith, * and my mouth hath been emboldened against mine enemies. * For my spirit rejoiceth when I sing: * There is none as 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 there receive the divine law within thy heart; and, strengthened thereby, thou didst become a most 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 Sovereign Lady, and entreat thee to have compassion and save me, making me steadfast through models of repentance.

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **O Lord, thou art the confirmation of those who flee to Thee, * 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, cooling 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 Sovereign Lady, 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!

Sessional Hymn 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 ..., Sessional Hymn of St. Hilarion, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: “Go thou quickly before ...”:

Thou didst dedicate thy life to God, O all-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.

Both now ..., from the Pentecostarion, or this Theotokion in Tone IV:

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

Stavrotheotokion: **O** most immaculate Virgin, * Mother of Christ God, * a sword pierced thy most holy soul * when thou didst behold thy Son and God * crucified of His own will. * Him do thou never cease to entreat, O blessed one, ** that He grant us the forgiveness of our transgressions.

ODE IV

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

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

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 within me, wretch that I am, and illumine my thoughts, 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: **O** Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation; * I have considered Thy works, * and I 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 all-blessed Hilarion; wherefore, thou dost ever dance with the angels.

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

Theotokion: **W**e hymn thee, O most 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, the enlightenment of those lying in the darkness of sin. * I rise early to hymn Thee O King of Peace, * enlighten me with Thy radiance, * for I know no other God than Thee.

The effulgence of the Comforter which abode within thy soul, O most 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 ask for the cleansing of us who honor thee.

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: Rising early we cry to Thee, O Lord; * save us, for Thou art our God, * and we know none other besides 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 made His abode.

ODE VI

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

Irmos: From within the sea monster Jonah cried unto the Lord: * “Lead me up from the abyss of Hades, I pray Thee; * for with a voice of praise as to my Redeemer, * in the spirit of truth * I offer myself to Thee.”

Thou didst not fail when undertaking 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 now dwellest 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 was born of thee in the flesh, making thee the Sovereign Lady 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: **C**leanse me, O Savior, * for many are mine iniquities; * lead me up from the abyss of evils I pray Thee, * 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 give birth unto Him supra-naturally, O all-immaculate one. By thy supplications entreat Him on 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; * putting transitory things far from thy mind, * thou wast led to the heavenly beauties of Christ the King * by thy constant desire, thou didst come even unto Him. * O Bessarion, unceasingly entreat Him ** on behalf of us all!

ODE VII

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

Irmos: **T**he wise children did not adore the golden idol, * but went themselves into the flame and defied the pagan gods. * They prayed in the midst of the flame, * and an Angel bedewed them saying: * ‘The prayer of your lips hath been heard’.

Having renewed thy soul with the pious plough of abstinence, O father, thou didst cultivate the 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 didst become a pure light; and traverse the rushing torrent of the river without thy feet becoming wet, and treading the straight paths, O divinely wise Bessarion, thou didst 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 were undrinkable, and traversed the rushing torrent of the river, and stayed the passage of the sun, O divinely wise Bessarion, who hast been magnified by sacred and divine signs!

Theotokion: **T**he hypostatic Wisdom of God was born from thee, O pure one, He Who destroyed the evil philosophers and gave the multitude of monastics and the venerable ones, the wisdom to chant with grace: Blessed art thou who hast given birth to God in the flesh!

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: **T**he Children of Judaea, * who of old came to dwell in Babylon, * trampled underfoot the flame of the furnace * through their faith in the Trinity, * as they sang: ‘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, and chanting: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

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

Theotokion: **I**n a manner transcending nature and speech thou didst give birth unto the Master of all, and nourished at thy breast Him Who will prepare a table for all in good time. Do thou earnestly beseech Him on our behalf, O most pure one.

ODE VIII

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

Irmos: **G**od Who descended into the fiery furnace * with the Hebrew children, * and transformed the flame into dew, * do ye works hymn, * and supremely exalt as Lord throughout all ages.

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, splendidly adorned, thou didst attain the city on high.

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, co-beginningless with the beginningless Father, and 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: **I**n his wrath the Chaldean Tyrant made the furnace blaze, * with heat fanned sevenfold for the servants of God; * but when he perceived that they had been saved by a greater power * he cried aloud to the Creator and Redeemer; * ‘ye children bless, ye priests praise, * ye people, supremely exalt Him throughout all ages’.

With the 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 praise, ye people, supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Possessing thine admonitions for abstinence like an adamant 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 praise, ye people, supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Having caused the passionate nature of the flesh to wither through abstinence and temperance, O venerable one, thou didst fill thyself with the spiritual activity of the Spirit and attained unto the paths of dispassion, O most wise one, crying aloud: Ye children bless, ye priests praise, ye people, supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: **B**eneath the shelter of thy holy wings, O Sovereign Lady, do we all flee, afflicted by cruel offenses, temptations and tribulations. For, having thee as our intercessor, we cry aloud: Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, supremely exalt God throughout all ages!

ODE IX

Canon of the venerable Bessarion

Irmos: **G**od the Word, God of God, * Who by ineffable wisdom came to create Adam anew * after his grievous fall to corruption through eating * and Who took flesh beyond all telling from the Holy Virgin for our sake, * Him we faithful with one accord magnify in song.

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

The greatness of thy glory hath, through God, been manifest unto all creation, illumining 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 sins and from all demonic afflictions.

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

Canon of the venerable Hilarion

Irmos: Heaven was stricken with awe, * and the ends of the earth were filled with amazement, * for God hath appeared in the flesh, * and thy womb was rendered more spacious than the heavens. * Wherefore, the ranks of men and of angels * magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Christ hath truly revealed 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 most blessed one.

Spiritually flourishing like a palm-tree in the house of God, O most glorious one, thou didst bring forth the fruit of abstinence like sweetness, by which thou hast sweetened thy noetic flock, O most 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: Thee 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 sins and temptations. Wherefore, as is meet, we honor thee, the Theotokos, and magnify thy birthgiving.

AT LITURGY

Troparion of the venerable fathers, in Tone IV:

O God of our fathers, * ever deal with us according to Thy meekness. * Take not Thy mercy from us, * but by the prayers of these saints ** direct our life in peace.

Kontakion of St. Hilarion, in Tone II:

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!

Kontakion of St. Bessarion, in Tone II:

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