

September 28th. Our Venerable Father Chariton the Confessor.

Readings at Vespers

1. The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon [5:15-23 & 6:1, 3]

The just live forever and their reward is in the Lord, and their care with the Most High. Because of this they will receive a glorious kingdom and a crown of beauty from the Lord's hand; because he will shelter them with his right hand, and shield them with his arm. He will take his zeal as his panoply and he will arm creation to repel his foes. He will put on justice as a breastplate, and wear impartial judgement as a helmet. He will take holiness as an invincible shield. He will sharpen stern wrath as a sword. The world will fight with him against the frenzied. Well-aimed bolts of lightning will go forth and will leap from the clouds to the target as from a well-strung bow. Hailstones full of wrath will be hurled from a catapult. The water of the sea will rage against them, while rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them. A spirit of power will stand against them, and will winnow them like a tempest. Lawlessness will make the whole earth a desert, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of kings. Listen then, you kings, and understand. Learn, you judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that hold sway over a multitude and boast over crowds of nations: because might was given you from the Lord, and power from the Most High.

2. The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [3:1-9]

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment will touch them. In the eyes of fools they seemed to have died, their departure was reckoned a disaster and their going from us a destruction; but they are in peace. For though in the sight of mankind torment came to them, their hope is full of immortality. And having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good; because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. He proved them like gold in a furnace and accepted them as a sacrificial whole burnt offering. At the moment of their visitation they will shine out, and they will run like sparks through stubble. They will judge nations and hold sway over peoples, and the Lord will be their king to the ages. Those who have put their trust in him will understand truth; and the faithful in love will abide with him; because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and his visitation upon his chosen ones.

3. The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon. [4:7-15]

A just man even if he die early, will be at rest. For an honoured old age is not so for length of time, nor is it measured by the number of years. Understanding is grey hairs for people, and a ripe old age a spotless life. Having become pleasing to God, he was loved; and while living among sinners, he was taken away. He was snatched away lest wickedness pervert his understanding, or trickery deceive his soul. For the bewitching of meanness dims what is good, and the inconstancy of desire undermines an innocent mind. Made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord: therefore he hurried him from the midst of evil. But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they lay such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his presence with his chosen ones