

20 JULY
+ Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah (Ilias) C9 BC
Associated memorial of Elisha (Elisséos)

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 1

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
 O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
 the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
 O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you.
 All-compassionate Word you carried Elijah the Tishbite from the earth in a fiery chariot. Through his prayers save us who glorify you in faith while we celebrate his divine and honourable memory with joy.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
 my soul has waited for your word,
 my soul has hoped in the Lord.
 O Elijah, blessed of God, you saw the presence of God which enlightened you, not in an earthquake, but in a still small voice. You ascended to heaven in a marvellous manner as you sat in a chariot drawn by four horses. O God-inspired *prophet*, you are a wonder for us all.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
 from morning watch until night,
 from morning watch.
 O wise Elijah, in your burning zeal for God you slaughtered the priests of confusion with the sword. By your word the heavens were bound so that it might not rain on the earth. By giving your cloak to Elisha he grew and was filled with a double portion of divine grace.

Tone 2

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences. Two lights have shone in the inhabited earth; *they are* the bright stars of Elijah and Elisha. One of them stopped the rain from the heavens with the word of God and so convicted the king. He ascended into heaven in a fiery chariot. The other received a double portion of grace. He purified the polluted water and parted the stream of the Jordan. Now they rejoice with the angels and pray for the salvation of our souls.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!
 O Elijah the Tishbite, you were lifted into the sky to the gates of heaven by a fiery chariot. The grace of the fire worked a miracle in you. Although you were created in the flesh you did not see death, so that you might preach in every place until the end. Therefore come and grant us your correction and instruction.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.
 O never-setting light of the Church, O prophet Elijah, you were ablaze with zeal for God. You made the rain cease from heaven and you were fed by a raven. You convicted kings, caused priests to die and called down fire from heaven. Twice you caused the death of fifty men. The widow's jar of flour did not give out because of you, nor did her flask of oil fail; her son was raised from the dead

through your prayers. You made fire burn the water and caused the streams of the Jordan to be turned back. You ascended into heaven in a fiery chariot; Elisha received a double portion of your grace. Continually intercede for us before God that he will save our souls.

Glory: Tone 6

Come, all Orthodox people! Let us assemble in the holy place in honour of the two prophets inspired by God. Let us sing together and give glory to Christ our God. Let us raise our voices and say joyfully, "Hail, O earthly angel, and heavenly man, Elijah of great name! Hail O Elisha, for you received double grace from God! Hail, O pillars, champions and physicians of the Christian people! Rescue from every obstacle and tribulation those who celebrate with faith your all-glorious feast.

Both now:

Most holy Virgin, who will not bless you? Who will not sing about your most pure childbearing? O pure *Lady*, the only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, but was ineffably incarnate from you. He was God by nature, but became man for our sake. He was not divided into two persons, but known as one in two natures. O honoured and all-blessed Lady, implore him to have mercy on our souls.

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!
 O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
 of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
 when we come to the setting of the sun
 and see the light of evening,
 we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
 with voices of praise,
 O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
 Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon
Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Third Book of Kingdoms (17:1-24)
 Elijah the prophet, the Tishite of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab: As the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years, except by the word of my mouth. ² And the word of the Lord came to Elijah, *saying*: ³ Depart from here towards the East, and hide beside the brook of Cherith that is near Jordan. ⁴ And it will come to pass *that* you will drink water from the brook, and I will order the ravens to feed you there. ⁵ So Elijah acted according to the word of the Lord, and he sat by the brook of Cherith near Jordan. ⁶ And the ravens brought him loaves in the morning, and flesh in the evening and he drank water from the brook. ⁷ And it came to pass after some time, that the brook was dried up, because there had been no rain upon the earth. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah, *saying*: ⁹ Arise, and go to Zarephath in Sidonia. See, I have there commanded a widow to support you. ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath and came to the gate of the city. See, a widow was there collecting sticks. Elijah cried after her and said to her: Fetch me, I pray you, a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink. ¹¹ So she went to fetch it. Then Elijah cried after her and said: Bring me, I pray you, a piece of the bread that is in your hand. ¹² But the woman said: *As* the Lord your God lives, I have no loaf, but only a handful of meal in the container, and a little oil in a cruse, and, see, I am going to collect two sticks, then I will go in and prepare it for myself and for my children, then we will eat it and die. ¹³ And Elijah said to her: Be of good courage, go in and act in accordance with your word, but make me from it a

little loaf, and you must bring *it* out to me first, then you must prepare *some* for yourself and your children last. ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord: The vessel of meal will not fail, and the cruse of oil will not diminish, until the day that the Lord gives rain on the earth. ¹⁵ So the woman went and did *so*. She ate, she, he and her children. ¹⁶ The container of meal did not fail and the cruse of oil was not diminished, in accordance with the word of the Lord which he spoke by the hand of Elijah. ¹⁷ And it came to pass afterwards, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house was sick; and his sickness was very severe, until there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah: What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sins to remembrance, and to kill my son? ¹⁹ And Elijah said to the woman: Give me your son. And he took him from her bosom, and took him up to the room in which he himself lodged, and laid him on the bed. ²⁰ And Elijah cried aloud, and said: Alas, O Lord, the witness of the widow with whom I lodge, you hast caused evil *for her* in killing her son. ²¹ And he breathed on the child three times, and called on the Lord, and said: O Lord my God, let, I pray you, the soul of this child return to him. ²² And it was so, and the child cried out, ²³ and he brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said: See, your son lives. ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah: See, I know that you *are* a man of God, and the word of the Lord in your mouth *is* true.

Prophecy 2

From the Third Book of Kingdoms (18:1, 17-24, 19:1-14)

It came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, and appear before Ahab, and I will bring rain upon the face of the earth. It came to pass that when Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to Elijah: Are you the one who troubles Israel? ¹⁸ And Elijah said: I do not trouble Israel, but it is you and your father's house, because you forsake the Lord your God and have gone after Baals. ¹⁹ Now send and assemble all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of shame, and the four hundred prophets from the groves that eat at Jézebel's table. ²⁰ So Ahab sent to all Israel and assembled all the prophets to Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah approached all of them and Elijah said to them: How long will you limp on both feet? If the Lord be God, follow him, but if Baal, follow him. And the people did not answer a single word. ²² So Elijah said to the people: I am left, the only remaining prophet of the Lord; the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men and the prophets from the groves four hundred. ²³ Let them give us two oxen, and let them choose one for themselves, cut it in pieces, lay it on the wood, but put no fire on the wood. And I will prepare the other bullock and put no fire on it. ²⁴ You must call loudly on the name of your gods and I will call on the name of the Lord my God, and it will come to pass that the God who answers by fire is God. All the people answered and said: The word which you have spoken is good. ²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of shame: Choose for yourselves one calf, and prepare it first, for you *are* many. Then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it. ²⁶ So they took the calf, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning till noon, and said: Hear us, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice and no one answered, so they ran up and down on the altar which they *had* made. ²⁷ It was noon and Elijah the Tishbite mocked them, and said: Call with a loud voice, for he is a god; perhaps he is thinking or perhaps he is engaged in business. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awaked. ²⁸ So they cried with a loud voice, and, according to their custom, cut themselves with knives and lancets until the blood gushed out over them. ²⁹ And they prophesied until evening came, then it came to pass that, as it was the time for the offering of the sacrifice, Elijah the Tishbite spoke to the prophets of the abominations, saying: Stand aside for the present and I will offer my sacrifice. So they stood aside and left. ³⁰ And Elijah said to the people: Come near me. And all the people came near him. ³¹ Then Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of Israel, as the Lord spoke to him, saying: Israel will be your name. ³² Then he built up the stones in the name of the Lord and repaired the altar that had been broken down. He

made a trench that could hold two measures of seed around the altar. ³³ Then he piled the chopped wood on the altar which he *had* made and divided the whole-burnt-offering. He placed *it* on the wood, laid *it* in order on the altar, and said, "Fetch me four pitchers of water, pour *it* over the whole-burnt-offering and over the wood." And they did so. ³⁴ Then he said: Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. Then he said: Do it a third time. And they did it a third time. ³⁵ So the water ran around the altar and they filled the trench with water. ³⁶ Then Elijah cried aloud to the heaven, and said: O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, answer me. O Lord, answer me this day by fire, let all this people know that you are the Lord God of Israel, that I *am* your servant, and that for your sake I have accomplished these works. ³⁷ Hear me, O Lord, hear me, and let this people know that you are the Lord God and have turned back the hearts of this people. ³⁸ Then fire fell from the Lord from heaven, consumed the whole-burnt-offerings, the wood and the water that was in the trench; and the fire licked up the stones and the earth. ³⁹ Then all the people fell on their faces, and said: Truly the Lord *is* God; he *is* God. ⁴⁰ And Elijah said to the people: Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them; and Elijah brings them down to the brook Kishon, and he slew them there. ⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab: Go up, and eat and drink, for *there is* a sound of coming rain. ⁴² And Ahab went up to eat and to drink; then Elijah went up to Carmel, stooped to the ground, and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ He said to his servant: Go up, and look towards the sea. And the servant looked, and said: There is nothing. And Elijah said: Then go again seven times. ⁴⁴ And the servant went again seven times. It came to pass at the seventh time, that, see, a little cloud like the sole of a man's foot brought water. Then he said: Go up, and say to Ahab, make ready your chariot, and go down, in case the rain overtakes you. ⁴⁵ And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. So Ahab wept, and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ And the hand of the Lord *was* on Elijah, and he gathered up his loins, and ran before Ahab to Jezreel. ¹ And Ahab told Jezebel his wife all that Elijah *had* done, and how he *had* slain the prophets with the sword. ² And Jezebel sent to Elijah, and said: If you art Elijah and I am Jezebel, God do so to me, and more also, if I do not make your life by this time tomorrow like the life of one of them. ³ And Elijah feared, rose, and departed for his life. He comes to Bershebah in the land of Judah, and he left his servant there. ⁴ He himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat under a juniper tree. He asked about his life that he might die, and said: Let it be enough now, O Lord, take, I pray you, my life from me, for I am no better than my fathers. ⁵ He lay down and slept there under a tree; and see, someone touched him, and said to him: Arise and eat. ⁶ And Elijah looked, and see, at his head there was a cake of meal and a cruse of water. He arose, ate and drank, then returned and lay down. ⁷ The angel of the Lord returned again, touched him, and said to him: Arise, and eat, for the journey *is* far for you. ⁸ So he arose, ate and drank, then went in the strength of that meat for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. ⁹ He entered a cave, and rested there, then see, the word of the Lord *came* to him, saying: What are you doing here, Elijah? ¹⁰ And Elijah said: I have been very jealous for the Lord Almighty, because the sons of Israel have forsaken you. They have pulled down your altars, slain your prophets with the sword and only I am left alone; they seek my life to take it. ¹¹ And he said: You must go out tomorrow and stand before the Lord on the mountain. See, the Lord will pass by. Then a great *and* strong wind came which tote at the mountains and crushed the rocks before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire. After the fire came the voice of a gentle breeze. ¹³ And it came to pass that when Elijah heard, he wrapt his face in his cloak, went out and stood in the cave. See, a voice *came* to him and said: What are you doing here, Elijah? ¹⁴ And Elijah said: I have been very jealous for the Lord Almighty, for the sons of Israel have forsaken your covenant, they have overthrown your altars and have slain your

prophets with the sword. I am left entirely alone and they want to take my life.

Prophecy 3

From the Third Book of Kingdoms (19:19-21, 4 Kingdoms 2:1, 6-14)

Elijah finds Elisha, son of Saphat, as he was ploughing with oxen; *there were* twelve yoke before him, and he with the twelve, and he passed beside him, and threw his cloak over him.²⁰ And Elisha left the cattle, and ran after Elijah and said: I will kiss my father, and follow you. And Elijah said: Return, for I have done *a work* for you.²¹ And he returned from following him, took a yoke of oxen, slew them, and boiled them with the tackle of the oxen. He gave to the people, and they ate: then he arose, went after Elijah, and ministered to him. And it came to pass that when the Lord was going to take Elijah with a whirlwind into heaven that Elijah and Elisha left Gilgal.² And Elijah said to Elisha: Stay here, I pray you, for God has sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said: *As* the Lord lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they came to Bethel.³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came to Elisha, and said to him: Do you know that the Lord this day is going to take your lord away from over you? And he said: Yes, I know *it*; be quiet.⁴ And Elijah said to Elisha: Stay here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho. And he said: *As* the Lord lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they came to Jericho.⁵ And the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him: Do you know that the Lord is about to take away your master today from over you? And he said: Yes, I know *it*; hold your peace.⁶ And Elijah said to him: Stay here, I pray you, for the Lord has sent me to Jordan. And Elisha said: *As* the Lord lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you. So they both went on.⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets *went also* and they stood at a distance from them as they both stood on *the bank* of Jordan.⁸ And Elijah took his cloak, bunched it up and struck the water. Then the water was divided on this side and on that side, so they both went over on dry ground.⁹ And it came to pass that while they were crossing Elijah said to Elisha: Ask what I can do for you before I am taken away from you. And Elisha said: Let there be, I pray you, a double *portion* of your spirit on me.¹⁰ And Elijah said: You have asked for a something hard. If you see me when I am taken up from you, then it will happen to you, but if not, it will not happen.¹¹ And it came to pass that as they were going, they continued to talk, when, see, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated both of them. And Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind to heaven.¹² And Elisha saw, and cried, Father, father, the chariot of Israel, and the horseman thereof! And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his garments, and rent them into two pieces.¹³ And Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah, which fell from off him upon Elisha; and Elisha returned, and stood upon the brink of Jordan;¹⁴ and he took the mantle of Elijah, which fell from off him, and smote the water, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and he smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither; and Elisha went over.

Ekteni

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Liti

Tone 4

O Elijah the Tishbite, you were seated in a fiery chariot which carried you to heaven as though in a whirlwind. It gave you the power to accomplish miracles in its fiery breath and made you immortal. Therefore you will never taste death until you announce the fulfilment of everything. Be present with us now and allow us to copy your holy virtues.

Apósticha

Tone 4

The one who was sanctified before he was conceived, the angelic in body, the flaming intelligence, the heavenly man, the herald of the second coming of Christ, the glorious Elijah, the pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, has called lovers of feasts to celebrate his feast in spirit. O Christ *our* God, through his intercessions save your people from every injury by the deceiver.

S1: Do not touch my anointed ones

or do evil to my prophets. ps 104

When Elijah saw with divine wisdom that all the people of Israel had departed from the Lord God and were drawn to the worship of idols, he was stirred with zeal. He held back the clouds. He burnt the earth and closed the heavens with a single word when he said, "Not a drop will fall on the earth without my word." As we celebrate his memory, he grants ineffable grace to those who keep his feast with faith.

S2: You are a priest for ever

after the order of Melchizedek. ps 109

O Elijah, prophet of ineffable mysteries, you divided the waters of the Jordan. You turned the deceits of idols into ashes by the lightning of your divine words. You rebuked the king when he disobeyed the law. You killed the priests of iniquity and burnt their sacrifice through prayer. Quench the flames of our passions and sorrows with the fire of your intercessions.

Glory: Tone 6

O Prophet, you foretold the coming of Christ. You are now standing at the throne of greatness and are always present at the side of those who lie in sickness. Now, O minister of the Highest, you bless the inhabited earth and are glorified throughout the world, so seek forgiveness for our souls.

Both now:

O Theotokos, you are the true vine loaded with the Fruit of life. Therefore, O Lady, we beg you to intercede, together with the apostles and all the saints, that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,

² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before all peoples,

³ a light of revelation for the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 4

O venerable and glorious Elijah, bodily angel, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, forerunner of the coming of Christ, you sent

grace from on high to Elisha. You dispel diseases, cleanse lepers and abound with healing for those who honour you.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in a union without confusion and freely endured the cross for us by his own will. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 4

O venerable and glorious Elijah, bodily angel, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, forerunner of the coming of Christ, you sent grace from on high to Elisha. You dispel diseases, cleanse lepers and abound with healing for those who honour you.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in a union without confusion and freely endured the cross for us by his own will. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

As a united choir we sing to you, for you are a shining star, the driver of a fiery chariot *and* an angel in the flesh. You were consumed with zeal for God, rebuked the evil king and queen, and drove away immorality. O pillar of the prophets, blessed man who saw God, holy Elijah, preserve us under your protection.

Glory: Both now:

O Mary, precious home of the Lord, help those of us who have fallen, rescue us from terrible despair, from sins and every sorrow. You are truly the refuge of sinners, the advocate, protection and salvation of your servants.

Kathisma 2

Tone 1

You were united to your God by profound virtue and led on earth a life worthy of heaven. Because you were filled with grace you raised a child from the dead by your breath. O Elijah, inspired prophet, you continue to live and are stronger than death.

Glory: Both now:

We all acknowledge you as the Theotokos who remained a virgin after giving birth. We seek refuge in your goodness, for we sinners have you as an advocate. All-pure Virgin, we have you as a rescuer in temptations.

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

Tone 8

O Elijah the Tishbite, fountain of miracles and adornment of the prophets, those of us who are faithful focus our hymns of praise on you. You are already immortal in your body and confirm the resurrection of the body as a mortal. You obtain healing for the faithful who appeal to you as you stand boldly before God. You continually plead with Christ to grant remission of sins to those who ardently honour your memory.

Glory: Both now:

I have fallen into a tangle of trials and temptations brought about by visible and invisible enemies. I have been captured by the storm of my offences, but I want the zeal with which you protect and help. I resort to refuge in the safe harbour of your goodness. All-holy *Lady*, implore the *Lord*, who was incarnate from you without seed, for all your servants who continually sing to you. May he grant forgiveness of sins to the faithful who bow down before your virginal motherhood.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

¹ Many passions have fought against me from my youth,
but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

² Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord;
they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

³ Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity
and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

⁴ The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit;
they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 109 & 104 Tone 4

R: You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

S: Do not touch my anointed or do evil to my prophets.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy

Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (16:13-19)

At that time when Jesus came into the district of Caesaréa Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" ¹⁴

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But

who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him,

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell

you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O Merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of holy Elijah.

Both now:

O Merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy:

O Elijah the Tishbite, you were seated in a fiery chariot and taken up to the land of light after you had denounced the priests of lawlessness. You bound the heavens with a word. Loosen the bonds of our sins by your prayers to the Lord and save our souls.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy,

through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the holy prophet Elijah and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, “Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us.”

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontákion

Tone 2

O prophet and seer of the great works of God, Elijah of great name, you held back the rains in the clouds by your command. Pray for us to the only Lover of the human race.

Íkos

When he saw the great evil of people and the immense love of God for the human race, the prophet Elijah was troubled and grew angry. He addressed unmerciful words to the Merciful *Lord* and cried out, “O just Judge, be angry with those who deny you!” But he did not move the compassion of the Good One to torment those who deny him, for he always waits for the repentance of all as the only Lover of the human race.

Synaxárian

Today we remember the fiery ascent to heaven of the glorious prophet Elijah who lived in the Ninth Century before Christ. He prophesied when many people in Israel were following a syncretistic Baal worship. He is accepted as the greatest prophet. The stories of his life are found in the Third Book of Kingdoms. On the Twentieth a fiery chariot came down to earth to take him up.

Together with him we remember:

Holy Ethelwida, Widow of King Alfred the Great C9

Holy Abramius of Galich C14

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise all her glory.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, in your divine glory spiritually establish your choir which is assembled in chorus. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your mercy.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, strengthen those who are united in spiritual fellowship and who sing your praises. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your divine glory.

4: The counsel of God cannot be scrutinised. The Most High was incarnate from a Virgin. The prophet Habakkuk foresaw this and cried, “Glory to your power, O God!”

5: O Virgin, all creation was amazed at your divine glory, for you knew no man. You held thee God of all in your womb and gave birth to the eternal Son. You order salvation for all those who praise you.

6: O devout people, come and clap hands while we observe this divine and most precious feast of the Mother of God. Let us glorify God who was born from her.

7: The devout youths worshipped the Creator rather than created things. They courageously trampled on the threatening fire and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The *Lord* who was born from the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. The one who was then prefigured has now been born on earth and gathers the whole inhabited earth to sing, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. **R**

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. **R**

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: Let every earthborn mortal spiritually rejoice and carry lamps. be radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the sacred wonders of the Theotokos and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!"

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

O prophet Elijah, the divine fire which made you a passenger in a fiery chariot when you ascended to heaven, did not in any way consume you. Your words on earth had the power to bring down fire from heaven and to dry up the rains.

O Virgin, you gave birth to the divine Fire. O Theotokos, in your prayers plead with your Son to have mercy on me and save me from eternal darkness, for I trust in your divine protection.

Praises

Tone 8

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

O wonder-working prophet, you were united to God by your virtue and good deeds. He gave you authority, ordered creation according to your will, closed the doors of the rain at your desire and called down fire from above to consume the heathen. Therefore pray for the salvation of our souls.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O wonder-working prophet, you were united to God by your virtue and good deeds. He gave you authority, ordered creation according to your will, closed the doors of the rain at your desire and called down fire from above to consume the heathen. Therefore pray for the salvation of our souls.

S2: Do not touch my anointed ones
or do evil to my prophets. Ps 104

You grew in your zeal for the Lord, fiercely rebuked the kings who offended against the law, and with stoutness, resolutely slaughtered the priests of confusion and kindled a miraculous fire in the waters. You secured fire without striking for it and divided the waters of Jordan into two with your mantle. Continually pray for the salvation of our souls.

S1: You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. Ps 109
O prophet, you demonstrated a truly heavenly life on earth and were yourself enriched in by the life of the Spirit. You raised the dead with your breath, remained beyond death yourself and ascended above in a chariot of fire. Therefore pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory:

O faithful, let us honour in song the leaders of the prophets. *They are* those two all-radiant lights of the inhabited earth, Elijah and Elisha. Let us raise our voices to Christ, rejoice and say, "O compassionate Lord, grant your people forgiveness of sins and great mercy through the intercessions of your two prophets."

Both now:

O Lady, receive the petitions of your servants and rescue us from every tribulation and sorrow.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,

for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!

Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. ^{Daniel 3}
¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
 for we have hoped in you. ^{Ps 32}
¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
 Teach me your statutes. ^{X3 Ps 118}
¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
 from generation to generation. ^{Ps 89}
 I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
 heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." ^{Ps 40}
¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
 teach me to do your will, for you are my God. ^{Ps 142}
¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
 and in your light we will see light. ^{Ps 35}
¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
 to those who know you. ^{Ps 35}

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 4

O venerable and glorious Elijah, bodily angel, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, forerunner of the coming of Christ, you sent grace from on high to Elisha. You dispel diseases, cleanse lepers and abound with healing for those who honour you.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
 and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
 and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
 and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
 and shout with gladness to him in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God
 and an exalted king over all the earth.

S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
 and the summits of the mountains are his.

For the sea is his and he made it;
 his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Pss 104 & 108 Tone 4

S1: Do not touch my anointed ones
 or do evil to my prophets. ^{Ps 104}

R: O venerable and glorious Elijah, bodily angel, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, forerunner of the coming of Christ, you sent grace from on high to Elisha. You dispel diseases, cleanse lepers and abound with healing for those who honour you.

S2: You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. ^{Ps 109}

Entrance

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
 Save us, O Son of God.

You are wonderful in your saints.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikion

Tone 4

O venerable and glorious Elijah, bodily angel, pillar of the prophets and their cornerstone, forerunner of the coming of Christ, you sent grace from on high to Elisha. You dispel diseases, cleanse lepers and abound with healing for those who honour you.

Of the Church

Kontákion

O unfailing protection of Christians and unchanging mediator before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to those of us who faithfully cry to you, "O Theotokos, you always protect those who honour you, so hurry to intercede for us and hasten to plead for us."

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 109 Tone 1

R: You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

S: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand
 until I make your enemies your footstool."

Apóstolos

From the Catholic Letter of James (5:10-20)

Brothers, take for an example of suffering and of patience, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ See, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the Lord in the outcome, and how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy. ¹² But above all things, my brothers, do not swear, neither by heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath; but let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no," so that you do not fall under judgement. ¹³ Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praises. ¹⁴ Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, ¹⁵ and the prayer of faith will heal the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your offences to one another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effective, earnest prayer of a just man is powerfully effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ He prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. ¹⁹ Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that the one who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Alleluia Ps 98 & 33 Tone 4

S1: Moses and Aaron *were* among his priests.

S2: The just cried and the Lord heard them.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (4:22-30)

At that time everyone testified about him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth, and they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will tell me this parable, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done at Capernaum, do also here in your hometown.'" ²⁴ He said, "Most assuredly I tell you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But truly I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶ Elijah was sent to none of them, except to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ There were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed, except Naaman, the Syrian." ²⁸ They were all filled with wrath in

the synagogue, as they heard these things. ²⁹ They rose up, threw him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill that their city was built on, that they might throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he, passing through the midst of them, went his way.

Communion

¹¹ O just, be glad in the Lord and rejoice;
all you upright in heart, boast *in the Lord*. Alleluia!