

2 FEBRUARY
§ The Meeting of our Saviour

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 8

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.

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 Simeon, tell us whom you bear in your arms who *makes* you rejoice so greatly in the Temple? To whom do you shout and cry aloud, "Now I am set free for I have seen my Saviour?" This is the one who was born from a Virgin; this is the *Lord* who is the Word, and God from God. He has assumed flesh and saved man for our sake; let us worship him. X2

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
 from morning watch until night,
 from morning watch.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.
 He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O Simeon, receive the *Lord*, whom Moses once saw in darkness, when he granted the Law on Sinai. He has now become a baby subject to the Law, yet this is the *Lord* who spoke through the Law. This is the one whose voice was heard in the prophets. He has assumed flesh and saved man for our sake; let us worship him! X2

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Come and let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs. Let us receive the *Lord* whose salvation Simeon saw. This is the one whom David announced; this is the one whose words the prophets spoke. He has assumed flesh and speaks to us in the Law for our sake; let us worship him. X2

Glory: Both now: Tone 6

Let the gate of heaven be opened today, for the Word of the Father who is without origin has made a beginning in time without forsaking his Divinity. The one who is a baby forty days old is brought of his own will by the Virgin, his mother, as an offering in the Temple of the Law. The Elder received him in his arms and cried as a servant to his Master, "Let me depart for my eyes have seen your salvation." Glory to you, O Lord, for you have come into the world to save the human race!

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.

Prokeimenon
Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Exodus (Composite)

The Lord spoke to Moses on that day when he brought the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt, saying: ² Sanctify for me every first-born, first produced, opening every womb among the sons of Israel. ³ So Moses said to the people: Remember this day, on which you came from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery, for with a strong hand the Lord brought you from there. ¹⁰ Observe his law. ¹¹ And it will come to pass that when the Lord your God brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to your fathers, ¹² that you must set apart for the Lord every male opening the womb. ¹⁴ And if your son asks you later, saying: What is this? Then you must say to him: With a strong hand the Lord brought us from Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ And when Pharaoh hardened his heart not to send us away, the Lord slew every first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of man and the first-born of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord every male that opens the womb and I will redeem every first-born from my sons. ¹⁶ It will be for a sign on your hand and immovable before your eyes, for thus says the Lord Almighty: You must give me the first-born from your sons. Whenever a woman has conceived and given birth to a male child ³ on the eighth day she must circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. ⁴ And for thirty-three days she must not enter the sanctuary of God before the priest, until the days of her purification have been fulfilled. ⁶ After this she must bring a year-old lamb without blemish for a whole-burnt-offering, and a young pigeon or turtle-dove to the door of the Tabernacle of Witness, to the priest. ⁸ Instead of these she may take two turtle-doves or two young pigeons and the priest will make atonement for her. ¹⁶ For these are given to me for a present from all the sons of Israel. I have taken them to myself instead of the first-born from the sons of Israel that open every womb. ¹⁷ For I redeemed and sanctified them instead of the first-born in Egypt on the day when I struck every first-born in the land of Egypt from human to animal, says God Most High, the Holy One of Israel.

Prophecy 2

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (6:1-12)

And it came to pass that in the year when king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, and the house was full of his glory. ² And Seraphim stood around him: each one had six wings: and with two they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: Holy, Holy, Holy *is* the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

⁴ And the lintel shook at the voice they uttered, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: Woe is me, for I am pierced to the heart; for being human, and having unclean lips, I live in the midst of a people having unclean lips, but I have seen with my eyes the King, the Lord of Hosts. ⁶ One of the seraphim was sent to me, who had in his hand a coal, which he had taken from the altar with the tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth, and said: See, this has touched your lips, and will take away your lawless deeds, and purge your sins.

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people? And I said: See, I am here, send me. And he said: Go, and say to this people: ⁹ You will truly hear, but not understand; and you will truly see, but not perceive. ¹⁰ For the heart of this people has become gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes, in case they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and be converted, and heal them. ¹¹ Then I said: How long, O Lord?

And he said: Until cities be deserted because they are not inhabited, and the houses because there are no people, and the land will be left desolate. ¹² And after this God will remove the men far away, and those who are left on the land will be increased.

Prophecy 3

I have called my Son from Egypt.

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (19:1, 3-5, 12, 16, 19-21)

See, the Lord sits on a swift cloud, and will come to Egypt. The idols of Egypt will be moved at his presence and their heart will faint within them. ³ Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be troubled within them and I will frustrate their counsel. ⁴ I will deliver Egypt into the hands of hard men, thus says the Lord of Hosts. ⁵ The Egyptians will drink the water that is beside the sea, but the river will fail, and be dried up. ¹² Thus says the Lord: Where now are your wise men? Let them declare to you and say: What has the Lord of Hosts determined for Egypt? ¹⁶ But on that day the Egyptians will be like women, in fear and in trembling because of the hand of the Lord of Hosts, which he will bring on them. ¹⁹ There will be an altar to the Lord in the land of the Egyptians, and a pillar to the Lord by its border. ²⁰ And it will be for an everlasting sign to the Lord for in the land of Egypt, for they will cry to the Lord and he will send them someone who will save them. ²¹ Then the Lord will be known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day; and they will offer a sacrifice and gift, make vows to the Lord and repay them.

Ektení

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.*

Lití

Tone 5

“Search the scriptures,” as Christ our God said in the Gospels. There we will see him born, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger, fed on milk, accepting circumcision and carried in the arms of Simeon. He appeared to the world not in fancy or imagination, but in truth. Therefore let us cry aloud to him and say, “Glory to you, O God before eternity!”

Apósticha

Tone 7

O Zion, adorn your bridal chamber and welcome Christ the King. Salute Mary, the heavenly gate who is fashioned as a throne of the Cherubim; she carries the King of glory. The Virgin is a cloud of light who has given birth in the flesh to the Son fathered before the Morning Star. Simeon took him into his arms and announced to the people, “This is the Lord of life and death; this is the Saviour of the world.”

S1: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace. Lk 2

The unwedded Mother has brought into the Temple the *Lord* who shone out before the ages from the Father. In these latter times he was born from a virgin womb. He gave the Law on Mount Sinai, yet makes himself obedient to the ordinance of the Law. She has brought him to the priest and just Elder, whose appointed task it was to see Christ the Lord. Simeon received him into his arms, rejoiced greatly and cried aloud, “This is God *who is* co-eternal with the Father *and* the Redeemer of our souls.”

S2: *Your salvation is* a light of revelation for *the* nations.

The Theotokos, Mary, carried in her arms the *Lord* who is carried high on the chariot of the Cherubim and praised in song by the Seraphim. The Giver of the Law who fulfils the commandment of the Law was made flesh from the unwedded *Lady*. She gave him into the arms of the priest and Elder. As he held the Life he asked to be released from life and said, “O Master, let me now depart to declare to Adam that I have seen the pre-eternal God and Saviour of the world who was made a baby without undergoing change.”

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

The *Lord* who is carried on high by the Cherubim and praised in hymns by the Seraphim is brought today according to the Law into the holy Temple and rests in the arms of the Elder as though on a throne. He receives the gifts from Joseph which are correct for God. *They are* a pair of doves, the symbol of the spotless Church and of the newly chosen people of the Gentiles, and two young pigeons, for he is the Originator of the two Covenants, both old and new. Simeon, now that he is granted the fulfilment of the prophecies about himself, blesses the Virgin and Theotokos Mary. He foretells in figures the passion of her Son. He begs release from him and cries aloud, “O Master, now let me depart as you have promised, for I have seen the pre-eternal Light.”

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

Apolytícion

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection. *X3*

Dismissal

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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.

Apolytikion

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection. *X3*

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

Let the choir of angels be amazed at this wonder and let us mortals raise our voices in song as we see the ineffable condescension of God. O aged arms now embrace him before whom the powers of heaven tremble, *for he is the only Lover of the human race. X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 1

The *Lord* who is with the Father on the holy throne comes to earth and is born from a virgin. The *Lord* who is not bound by time becomes a baby. Simeon received him in his arms and said with joy, "O merciful Lord, now let me depart in peace, for you have made your servant glad." *X2*

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

The Ancient of Days has become a little Child for my sake. The most pure God undergoes the rites of purification to confirm that he has taken my flesh from the Virgin. Simeon was initiated into this mystery and recognises him as God revealed in the flesh. The Elder greeted him as Life and cried with joy, "O Lord, let me depart, for I have seen you, the one who gives life to all." *X2*

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 44 Tone 4

- R: I will remember your name from generation to generation.
 S: My heart has poured out a good word.

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 Luke.
- P/D: Let us attend
- R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:25-32)

At that time when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

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 sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 6

Let the gate of heaven be opened today, for the Word of the Father who is without origin has made a beginning in time without forsaking his Divinity. The one who is a baby forty days old is brought of his own will by the Virgin, his mother, as an offering in the Temple of the Law. The Elder received him in his arms and cried as a servant to his Master, "Let me depart for my eyes have seen your salvation." Glory to you, O Lord, for you have come into the world to save the human race!

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, 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. X12

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 1

O Christ *our* God, you sanctified the Virgin's womb by your birth and blessed Simeon's hands. Now you have come and saved us. Grant peace to your people in time of war and strengthen the rulers whom you have loved, for you are the only Lover of the human race.

Íkos

Let us run to the Theotokos in our desire to see her Son as he is brought to Simeon. The bodiless powers observed him from above and were filled with wonder. They said, "Now we see wonderful and marvellous things which are beyond all understanding and telling. The *Lord* who created Adam is carried as an infant. The

one who cannot be contained is embraced by the arms of the Elder. The one who rests without limits on the bosom of his Father, is willingly limited in the flesh, but not in Divinity, for he is the only Lover of the human race.

Synaxáριον

Today we remember the Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ on which the just Simeon received him into his arms. The Feast was first kept in 544 AD. The arms of Simeon which carry Jesus Christ, resemble the bosom of the Father, where he is enthroned above. Simeon receives him into the Temple on the second.

We also remember:

The holy martyr Agathodóros

New Martyr Iordanes of Galata C17

New Martyr Gabriel of Constantinople C17

All glory and power be to our God in every age. Amen.

Katavasias

1: The sun's rays once shone on dry land in the midst of the deep, for the water on both sides became as firm as a wall while the people crossed over the sea on foot. They offered this song acceptable to God, "Let us sing to the Lord, for he has been greatly glorified."

3: O Lord, *you are* the firm foundation of those who put their trust in you. Strengthen the Church which you have purchased with your precious blood.

4: O Christ, your virtue has covered the heavens, for after you came from your undefiled Mother, the ark of your sanctification, you appeared in the Temple of your glory as a Child in arms and the whole world was filled with your praise.

5: Isaiah symbolically saw God on a throne. He was lifted high and carried in triumph by angels in glory. He cried, "Woe is me, for I have seen the incarnate God beforehand. He is the Lord of the light which knows no evening and the King of peace."

6: When the Elder with his eyes saw the Salvation which had come to the Gentiles, he cried aloud to you, "O Christ, *you* come from God and are my God."

7: O Word of God, you dropped dew on the children as they spoke about divine matters in the midst of the fire. You took up your home in the pure Virgin. We praise you as we sing with devotion, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

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

The youths who fought for godliness stood together in the unbearable fire, yet were not harmed by it. They sang a divine hymn, "Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all for ever!"

Canticle Nine

The Magnificat is not sung.

O pure virgin Mother, what is fulfilled in you is beyond the comprehension of angels and men.

R: Those of us who are faithful have seen the outline in the shadow of the Law and the scriptures, "Every male child who opens the womb will be holy for God." Therefore we also glorify the First-born Word and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

Simeon the Elder takes in his arms the Maker of the Law and Master of All.

R: Those of us...

The Creator wished to save Adam, so he made his home in the pure virgin womb.

R: Those of us...

O pure Virgin, the whole human race blesses you and glorifies you in faith as Mother of God.

R: In time past the people offered a pair of doves and two young pigeons. In their place the godly Elder and sober-minded prophetess Anna ministered and gave glory to the Child of the Virgin, the uniquely-fathered Son of the Father, as he was brought into the Temple.

Come and see Christ, the Master of all, whom Simeon carries into the Temple today.

R: In time past...

You look down on the earth and make it tremble. How can I, who am old and tired, hold you in my arms?

R: In time past...

Simeon had lived for many years when he saw Christ. He cried aloud to him, "Now I ask for my release."

R: Simeon cried, "O Christ, you have committed to me the great joy of your salvation". "Take your servant, who is weary of the shadow, and make him a new preacher of the mystery of grace, for he glorifies you with praise."

O Mary, you are the mystical tongs who have conceived in your womb the living Ember, Christ.

R: "O Christ, you have committed..."

O God, you existed before anything began. You became man through your own will and are carried as a forty-day Child into the Temple.

R: "O Christ, you have committed..."

Simeon the priest received the Lord of all who had come down from heaven.

R: "O Christ, you have committed..."

Illuminate my soul and the light of my senses so that I may see you in purity; I will announce that you are God.

R: "O Christ, you have committed..."

I now request dismissal from you, the Creator, for I have seen you, O Christ, my Salvation and my Light.

R: "O Christ, you have committed..."

O God, you are one in Nature, but three in Person; guard your servants who put their faith in you.

R: Holy Anna, sober in spirit and venerable in years, reverently, freely and openly acknowledged the Master in the Temple. She announced the Theotokos and glorified her before everyone present.

O pure virgin Mother, what is fulfilled in you is beyond the comprehension of angels and men.

9: Those of us who are faithful have seen the outline in the shadow of the Law and the Scriptures, "Every male child who opens the womb will be holy for God." Therefore we also glorify the First-born Word and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

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*

Exaposteláron

Own Tone

The Elder was brought to the Temple by the Spirit. He took the Master of the Law into his arms and cried, "Let me now depart in peace from the bond of the flesh according to your word, for my eyes have seen the revelation which brings light to the Gentiles and is the salvation of Israel." X3

Praises

Tone 4

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.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
The Lover of the human race is now brought into the Temple and so fulfils the written Law. Simeon receives him into his aged arms and cries aloud, "Let me now depart into the blessedness of the world to come, for today I have seen the one, who is Lord of life and Master of death, wrapped in human flesh." X2

S2: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace. Lk 2

O Lord, Sun of justice, you are seated on a swift cloud and have revealed yourself as a light to enlighten the Gentiles. You have fulfilled the shadow of the Law and revealed the beginning of the new grace. Therefore Simeon, when he saw you, cried out, "Let me depart from corruption, for I have seen you today."

S1: *He is a light of revelation for the nations.*
You were not separated from the bosom of the Father in your Divinity, yet were made flesh in accordance with your good will. You were carried in the arms of the Virgin and delivered into the hands of Simeon who received God, although you sustain the whole world with your hand. Therefore he cried out with joy, "O Lord, let your servant now depart in peace, for I have seen you."

Glory: Both now: Tone 6

O Christ our God, today you were pleased to recline in the arms of Simeon the Elder, as though on the chariot of the Cherubim. Now save from the tyranny of passions those who praise you, and save our souls,

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
Glory to God in the highest!
Let peace *come* to earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you *and* 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 hand 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 constantly praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144.2
- ⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be protected from sin.
- ⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Your name is praised and glorified for ever. Amen Dan 3
- ¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy be on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.22
- ¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118.12
- ¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89.1
- I said, "Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40.5
- ¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will,
for you are my God. Ps 142.10
- ¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35.10
- ¹⁶ Extend your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35.11

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection. X3

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 44 Tone 2

- S1: My heart has poured out a good word
and I speak about my works to the king.
- R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.
- S2: My tongue is the pen
of a fast writer.
- S3: Grace has been poured on your lips,
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
- S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 44 Own Tone

- S1: O champion, fasten your sword to your thigh
with your good looks and your beauty.
- R: O Son of God, you were carried in the arms of the just Simeon.
Save us who sing to you, "Alleluia!"
- S2: Bend *your bow*, prosper and rule
because of truth, gentleness and justice.
- S3: O champion, your arrows are sharp
and people will fall under you;

they are in the heart of the king's enemies.

S4: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 44 Tone 1

S1: O daughter, listen, see and incline your ear;
forget your own people and your father's house.

R: Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection.

S2: The daughters of Tyre will adore him with gifts
and the rich people beg your favour.

S3: I will remember your name from generation to generation;
therefore people will acknowledge you for ever and ever.

Entrance Ps 97

The Lord has made known his salvation
and revealed his justice before the nations. Ps 97
O Son of God, you were carried in the arms of the just Simeon.
Save us who sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikion

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection.

Kontákion

Tone 1

O Christ *our* God, you sanctified the Virgin's womb by your birth and blessed Simeon's hands. Now you have come and saved us. Grant peace to your people in time of war and strengthen the rulers whom you have loved, for you are the only Lover of the human race.

Triságion

Prokeimenon Lk Tone 3

R: My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour..
S: For he has regarded his servant's lowliness.

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (7:7-17)
Brothers, without any dispute the less is blessed by the better. ⁸
Here people who die receive tithes, but there one receives tithes of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ So to say, through Abraham even Levi, who receives tithes, has paid tithes, ¹⁰ for he was yet in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. ¹¹ Now if there was perfection through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people have received the law), what further need was there for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron? ¹² For the priesthood being changed, there is of necessity a change made also in the law. ¹³ For he of whom these things are said belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord has sprung out of Judah, about which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. ¹⁵ This is yet more abundantly evident, if after the likeness of Melchizedek there arises another priest, ¹⁶ who has been made, not after the law of a fleshly commandment, but after the power of an endless life. ¹⁷ For it is testified, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

Alleluia Lk Tone 4

S1: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace.
S2: *He is* a light of revelation for *the* nations

and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:22-40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law,²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,²⁹ "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."³³ And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him;³⁴ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity,³⁷ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

Especially

O pure virgin Mother, what is fulfilled in you is beyond the comprehension of angels and men. Those of us who are faithful have seen the outline in the shadow of the Law and the scriptures, "Every male child who opens the womb will be holy for God." Therefore we also glorify the First-born Word and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

Communion Ps 115

I will take up the cup of salvation
and address the name of the Lord. Alleluia!