

3 FEBRUARY**Afterfeast****± The God-bearer Simeon and Prophetess Anna C1****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.

Our Redeemer, the Creator of all, is carried to the Temple by his virgin Mother. The Elder received him and cried out with joy, "O good *Lord*, now your servant may depart in peace according to your word"

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.

From the Virgin Simeon received into his arms our Saviour fathered before all ages. He cried, "See, the ends of the earth are enlightened by your glory! O good *Lord*, now let your servant depart for I have seen you and am at peace."

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

O Simeon, you carry the Saviour in your arms; he was born in these last times in order to save the human race. You cry aloud with joy, "See, the Light of the nations and Glory of Israel! O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace as you have commanded."

Tone 4

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

Because you were just, reverent, worthy of praise and divinely inspired, you received the perfect God into your hands. He is the incarnate Word who came into the world to justify it. You took leave of your body and said to him, "O Lover of the human race, now you can dismiss your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen you today."

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord; every people, acclaim him!
O Simeon, you were young in spirit, but old in body. Through a divine revelation you knew that you would not die until you had seen the Creator of all; he would be the God who had existed before all ages, yet humbled himself *to be* in the flesh of a new-born Child. When you saw him, you rejoiced and asked to be set free from the flesh, so that you might joyfully pass on to the heavenly dwellings.

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

Holy Anna and blessed Simeon were radiant with prophetic inspiration; they were both perfect in the eyes of the Law. They saw the Giver of life appear as a Child for us and worshipped him. Today let us joyfully celebrate their holy memory as we glorify Jesus, the Lover of the human race.

Glory: Both now: Tone 5

The Ancient of Days, a young Child in the flesh, was brought to the Temple by his virgin Mother to fulfil the command of his own law.

When Simeon received him, he cried, "O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

*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***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*.

Apósticha

Tone 2

Today the Saviour is carried as an infant and brought into the Temple of the Lord. The Elder receives him with his aged arms.

S1: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace
according to your word. Lk 2
You were an infant in the flesh, but ageless in time. You have revealed yourself in a wonderful manner by entering the Temple.

S2: *He is* a light of revelation for *the* nations
and *the* glory of your people Israel. Lk 2
"O Simeon, receive him," cried the all-pure Virgin. "Carry him in your arms, for he is the Lord of glory and the Salvation of the world."

Glory: Both now: Tone 1

Today, the Ancient of Days, who gave Moses the Law on Sinai in former times, appears as a Child. As Maker of the Law, he fulfils the Law; he is brought into the temple according to the Law and is given over to the Elder. Simeon the just receives him and sees the fulfilment of the divine order now brought to pass. He rejoices aloud and cries, "My eyes have seen the mystery which was hidden from the ages and revealed in these latter days. *He is* the Light which disperses the foolishness of the faithless Gentiles and the

dead, “The Word whom I have seen become incarnate like us will come to you. O daughter of Phanouíl, you did not depart from the earth until you had seen the saving advent of our God. After Simeon had seen God and had discovered the boundaries of life to be too restrictive, he departed on the Third.

Together with them we remember:

Martyr Vlásios of Caesarea in Cappadokia C3

Bishop Laurence of Canterbury C7

Abbess Werburga of Chester C8

Enlightener Anskar of Denmark and Sweden C9

Prince Roman of Uglich C13

New Martyrs John, Nicholas and Stamátios of Spetsae C19

Archbishop and Enlightener Nicholas of Japan C20

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

Katavasías

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*

Exaposteiláron

From Triodion instead during Cheesefare Week

Tone 3

O godly Theotokos, in you the Word was united to our flesh without seed and without any change in his nature. He became a Child. You carried him in your arms like a cherubic throne and came to present him to God the Father. Simeon in his old age received him and was full of joy.

Praises

Tone 6

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.

O Simeon, take up the Creator of all into your arms. O Elder, take up Christ to whom the virgin Maiden gave birth without seed for the joy of the human race. *X2*

S2: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace
according to your word. *Lk 2*

O people, let us assemble and praise with hymns the only Benefactor for the salvation of our souls. He is the Giver of the Law, as also the Creator and God of the Law. The angels tremble before him.

S2: *He is a light of revelation for the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Lk 2*
O Master Christ, *you are* the pre-eternal Light of revelation for the Gentiles and for Israel. You have bound me in the bonds of the flesh; now let your servant depart in peace according to your word, for I have seen you.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

The holy Virgin brought the Holy One to the priest in the Temple. Simeon extended his hands, received him with joy and cried out, “O Lord and Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word.”

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 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

Antíphon 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:

Antíphon 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.

Kontáktion

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**Prokeímenon Ps 63 Tone 7**

R: The just will rejoice in the Lord.
S: O God, listen to my voice.

Apóstolos

Earthenware vessels can hold the Light.

From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:6-15)
Brothers, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthenware vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our bodies. ¹¹ For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak. ¹⁴ We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people, it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Alleluia Ps 96 & 111 Tone

S1: A light has dawned for the just
and gladness for the upright in heart.
S2: He has distributed *and* given to the poor.

Gospel

Simeon

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (2:25-38) *

At that time 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."

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!