

21 NOVEMBER
§ Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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.
O faithful, today let us dance for joy, sing to the Lord with psalms
and hymns and venerate his holy tabernacle, the living ark, which
contained the Word who cannot be contained. For she, a young child
in the flesh, is offered in an amazing manner to the Lord and
Zacharias the great high priest receives her with rejoicing as the
dwelling place of God.

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.
Today the living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God - the one
who alone among women is pure and blessed - is offered in the
temple of the law, so that she may make her home in the sanctuary.
Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit and choirs of virgins sing
to the Lord as they chant psalms and honour his Mother.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.
O virgin Mother of God, you are the preaching of the prophets, the
glory of the apostles, the pride of martyrs and the restoration of all
those who live on earth, for we are reconciled to God through you.
Therefore we honour your entrance into the temple of the Lord. We
are saved by your intercession and all cry to you with the angel,
"Hail, most holy Lady!"

Tone 4

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.
The holy and immaculate maiden is led by the Holy Spirit and taken
to live in the holy temple. The *Lady* who is truly the most sacred
temple of our holy God is fed by an angel. He has sanctified all
things by her entry and made the fallen nature of mortals divine.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!
The young maidens rejoice today and with their lamps in *their* hands
go in reverence before the spiritual lamp as she enters the Holy of
Holies. They foreshadow the ineffable brightness which will radiate
from her and give light by the Spirit to those who sit in the darkness
of ignorance.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.
The all-blessed Anna cried out with rejoicing, "O Zacharias, take the
Lady whom the prophets of God spiritually proclaimed. Lead her
into the holy temple where she will be brought up in reverence so
that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, his
palace, resting place and home filled with light.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

O Lady and bride of God, after your birth you went to the temple of
the Lord to be raised as a child consecrated in the Holy of Holies.
Then, O undefiled virgin, Gabriel was sent to bring you food. All the

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powers of heaven stood amazed when they saw the Holy Spirit live
in you. Therefore, O pure and undefiled Mother of God, glorified in
heaven and earth, save your people.

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

The arrangement of the Tabernacle foreshadows the womb of the Virgin.

From the Book of Exodus (40:1-5, 7, 9, 10b, 16, 34-35)
The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² On the first day of the first
month, you must set up the Tabernacle of Witness. ³ You must place
in it the Ark of the Testimony and cover it with the veil. ⁴ You must
bring in the table and the candlestick and place its lamps on it. ⁵ You
must place the golden altar for burning incense before the Ark, put a
covering veil on the door of the Tabernacle of Witness. ^{7 8 9} You
must take the anointing oil, anoint the Tabernacle and everything in
it. You must sanctify it, together with all its equipment, and it will be
holy. ^{10b} You must sanctify the altar, and the altar will be most holy.
¹⁶ So Moses did everything which the Lord had commanded him; so
he did. ³⁴ Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle of Witness, and the
Tabernacle was filled with the glory of the Lord. ³⁵ Moses was
unable to enter the Tabernacle of Witness, because the cloud
overshadowed it, and the Tabernacle was filled with the glory of the
Lord.

Prophecy 2

The Ark of the Covenant foreshadows the Theotokos.

From the Third Book of Kingdoms (9:1, 3-7, 9-11)
It came to pass that when Solomon had finished building the House
of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Sion, to bring the
Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from the City of David, that is Sion.
³ Then the priests took up the Ark, ⁴ the Tabernacle of Witness and
the holy objects that were in the Tabernacle of Witness. ⁵ The king
and all Israel were before the Ark. ⁶ And the priests bring the Ark of
the Covenant of the Lord into its place, into the shrine of the house,
into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the Cherubim. ⁷ For the
Cherubim spread their wings over the place of the Ark, and the
Cherubim covered the Ark and its holy things above. ⁹ There was
nothing in the Ark except the two tables of stone, the tables of the
covenant, which Moses put there at Horeb, and which the Lord had
established. ¹⁰ It came to pass that when the priests had left the holy
place, the cloud filled the House of the Lord. ¹¹ So the priests could
not stand to serve in the face of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord
filled the House of the Lord.

Prophecy 3

Ezekiel's closed gate foreshadows the virginity of the Theotokos.

From the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27, 44:1-4)
It will come to pass that from the eighth day onwards, the priests will
offer your whole-burnt-offerings on the altar, together with your
peace-offerings. Then I will accept you, says the Lord. ¹ Then he
brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that
looks eastwards, but it was shut. ² And the Lord said to me: This gate

will be shut, it will not be opened, and no one will pass through it, for the Lord God of Israel will enter through it, and it will be shut. ³ For the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord; he will go in by the way of the porch of the gate, and will go out by the same way. ⁴ Then he brought me in through the way of the gate that looks northwards, in front of the house. I looked, and see, the house was full of the glory of the Lord, so I fell on my face.

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

See the joyful day and most venerable season are here! The *woman* who was a virgin before she gave birth remained a perfect virgin even after she had given birth. Today she is presented in the Holy Temple to the great admiration of Zacharias, father of the Forerunner, who joyfully cries out, "See, the hope of the distressed approaches! She is holy and promised as the home of the King of all. Let Joachim rejoice and Anna dance with delight, for they have presented the pure and all-blameless Lady to God when she is only three years old. O mothers, rejoice! O virgins, be glad! O infertile *women*, share your happiness! The Queen of all, the one whom God prepared from all eternity, has opened to us the Kingdom of Heaven. O nations of the inhabited earth, rejoice and be glad."

Apósticha

Tone 5

Heaven and earth rejoice as they see the spiritual heaven, the only virgin without blemish, enter the house of God to be reared in holiness. Zacharias cried to her in amazement, "O Gate of the Lord, I open the gates of the temple to you. Rejoice and go round it in gladness, for I know and believe that the Redemption of Israel will now come to live openly in our midst. *I know* that from you will be born God the Word who grants the world great mercy.

S1: The virgins following her will be brought before the king; her attendants will be led to you. ^{Ps 44}

Anna, truly blessed by God's grace, led the pure and Ever-virgin who is full of grace into the temple of the Lord with joy. She called the young maidens to go before her with lamps in hand. She said, "O child, go to the *Lord* who gave you to me; be an offering and a sweet smelling incense for him. Go into the place which none may enter, learn its mysteries and prepare yourself to become the pleasing and beautiful home of Jesus who grants the world great mercy.

S2: They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing *and* be led into the king's court. ^{Ps 44}

The most holy virgin Temple, which will hold God, is dedicated within the temple of the Lord and young maidens who carry lamps now go before her. Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance, for they have carried the one who will carry the Creator. She, the all-pure *Virgin*, goes round the divine house with

joy and is fed by the hands of an angel. She will become the Mother of Christ who grants the world great mercy.

Glory: Both now: Tone 6

O faithful who have gathered together, today let us be triumphant in spirit. Let us reverently praise the child of God, who is the Virgin and Theotokos, as she is offered in the temple of the Lord. She was chosen beforehand from all generations to be the home of Christ, the Master and God of all. Virgins bearing lamps, go before her and honour the majestic advance of the Ever-virgin. Mothers set aside every sorrow to follow them in gladness and sing the praises of the one who became the Mother of God and mediator of joy for the world. Let us all joyfully cry to her with the angel, "Hail!" for she is the joyful *Virgin* who always intercedes for our souls.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God and the preaching of salvation for the human race. The Virgin appears openly in the temple of God and proclaims beforehand to everyone *the coming of* Christ. Let us rejoice and sing to her, "Hail, O fulfilment of the Creator's dispensation." X3

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 name of the Lord. ^{Ps 117}

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

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I resisted them in the name of the Lord.

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

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God and the preaching of salvation for the human race. The Virgin appears openly in the temple of God and proclaims beforehand to everyone *the coming of* Christ. Let us rejoice and sing to her, "Hail, O fulfilment of the Creator's dispensation." 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

The fruit of the just Joachim and Anna who sustains our life, a young child in the flesh, is brought as an offering to God in the holy place. She receives the blessing of Zacharias the priest. In faith let us all call her blessed, for she is the Mother of the Lord. X2

Kathisma 2

Tone 4

O pure *Lady*, you were dedicated to God before your conception. Now that you have been born on earth, you are brought to him in order to fulfil your parents' vow. You were handed over with radiant lamps in the temple of God, as a pure and divine temple from your infancy. You were revealed as the receptacle of the unapproachable and divine Light. Unique Ever-virgin and bride of God, truly your entrance is great. X2

Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

Tone 8

Let David who wrote the psalms rejoice. Let Joachim and Anna exchange good news, for a holy child has been born from them. She is Mary, the light-bearing torch, who joyfully enters the temple. When the son of Barachias saw her, he blessed her, raised his voice with joy and cried, "Hail, O miracle of the whole world." 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.

Prokeimenon Ps 44 Tone 4

R: O daughter, listen, see and bend your ear;
forget your people and your father's house.
The king will desire your beauty.

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 John.

P/D: Let us attend

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

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:39-49, 56)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" ⁴³ And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she one who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the one who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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 4

Today the Theotokos, the temple which will hold God, is led into the temple of the Lord, and Zacharias receives her. Today the Holy of Holies rejoices greatly and the choir of angels mystically keeps feast. With them let us also celebrate the festival today and cry aloud with Gabriel, "Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord who has great mercy is with you!"

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 4

The most pure temple of the Saviour, the precious chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the divine Spirit. Therefore the angels of God sing praises, "Truly this *woman* is the heavenly tabernacle."

Íkos

I rejoice when I see the grace of the secret mysteries of God revealed and clearly fulfilled in the Virgin. I do not know how to understand the strange and secret manner in which the undefiled *Lady* has been revealed as uniquely chosen above all creation, both visible and spiritual. Therefore, while I want to praise her, I am struck dumb with amazement in both my thoughts and speech. Yet I still dare to proclaim and glorify her. Truly this *woman* is the heavenly tabernacle.

Synaxárium

Today we remember the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. The story is found in the "Protoevangelion." It emphasizes that Mary was chosen to be the true Holy of Holies of which the sanctuary in the Temple was only a prototype. She would be a physical home for God in human form. On the Twenty First she entered and was nourished by an angel.

O our God, have mercy on us and save us through the intercession of the Theotokos. Amen.

Katavasías

1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ is from heaven, receive him! Christ is on earth, be raised! All the earth, sing to the Lord! All you people, praise him with joy, for he has been glorified!

3: Let us cry out to Christ our God, to the Son begotten of the Father before all ages and incarnate from the Virgin without seed in these latter days, "O Lord, you have raised our horn and are holy."

4: O Rod of the stem of Jesse and Flower which bloomed from a virgin, O all-praised Christ, you have come from the mountain covered with darkness. You have been made flesh from the one who did not know marriage. O God not formed from matter, O Lord, glory to your might!

5: God of peace and Father of mercies, you have sent us the Angel of great council who grants us peace. So we are guided to the light of the knowledge of God. O Lover of the human race, we wake early from the night and praise you.

6: The sea-monster spewed Jonah unharmed as it had received him, like a baby from the womb. When the Word came to live in the Virgin and was made flesh, he came out, yet preserved her incorrupt, for he himself was not subject to decay and kept his mother free from harm.

7: The children brought up together in godliness, despised the unjust command, and were not afraid of the threat of fire, but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

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

The furnace which was moist with dew, was the image of a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, just as the Fire of Divinity did not consume the Virgin's womb when it entered. So let us raise the song, "Let the entire creation bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever!"

Canticle 9

The Magnificat is not sung.

Tone 4

The angels saw the entrance of the pure *Virgin* and were amazed. How has the virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

The angels were amazed when they saw the entry of the Virgin. How has she entered the Holy of Holies in glory? O Theotokos, you are the living ark of God. Let no impure hand touch you since you

are a living temple of God. Rather let the lips of all believers sing and constantly glorify you in joy together with the angelic salutation, "O pure *Lady*, truly you are above all creatures."

The angels saw the entrance of the pure *Virgin* and were amazed. How has the virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

The Law prefigured you most wonderfully as tabernacle, jar of manna, strange ark, veil of the temple, rod of Aaron, temple which will never be destroyed and gate of God. So we are taught to cry to you, "O pure *Lady*, truly you are above all creatures."

The angels saw the entrance of the pure *Virgin* and were amazed. How has the virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

David sang in your honour and called you the daughter of the King, for he saw you in the beauty of the virtues and in a robe of many-coloured needlework at the right hand of God. Therefore he cried aloud in prophecy, "O pure *Lady*, truly you are above all creatures."

The angels saw the entrance of the pure *Virgin* and were amazed. How has the virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Solomon foresaw how you were to receive God and spoke about you in dark sayings as gate of the King and sealed fountain of living water which flows in an unhindered stream to us. We cry aloud with faith, "O pure *Lady*, truly you are above all creatures."

9: I see a strange and most glorious mystery. Heaven is the cave and the cherubic throne is the Virgin. The manger is the place where Christ lay. *He* is the God who cannot be contained and whom we glorify in song.

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.*

Exaposteilárium

Tone 3

In faith let us praise Mary, the child of God, whom the prophets of old proclaimed as jar of manna, Aaron's rod, tablet of the Law and unhewn mountain. For today she is led into the Holy of Holies to be raised in the way of the Lord. X3

Praises

Tone 1

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.

The virgins bearing lamps, who with their light accompany the Ever-virgin, truly prophesy the future in spirit. For the temple of God, the Theotokos, enters as a little child with virginal glory into the temple.

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

The Theotokos, glorious fruit of a sacred promise, is truly revealed to the world as higher than all creation. She was faithfully led into the house of God, fulfils the vow of her parents and is preserved by the Holy Spirit.

S2: The virgins following her will be brought before the king;
her attendants will be led to you. ps 44

O Virgin, *you were* fed in faith by heavenly bread in the temple of the Lord and gave birth for the world to the Bread of Life who is the Word. As his chosen and spotless temple, you were betrothed mystically through the Spirit to be the bride of God the Father.

S1: They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing
and be led into the king's court. Ps 44
 Let the gate of the temple in which God dwells be opened. Today
 Joachim gloriously brings to it the temple and throne of the King of
 all. He consecrates *the Virgin*, whom the Lord has chosen to be his
 mother, as an offering to God.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2
 Today the unblemished Virgin is led to the temple to become the
 dwelling place of God the King of all those who sustains our life.
 Today the most pure sanctuary is led into the Holy of Holies like a
 three-year old victim of sacrifice. Let us cry out to her with the angel,
 "Hail, only blessed *Lady* among women."

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

Today is the prelude of the good will of God and the preaching of
 salvation for the human race. The Virgin appears openly in the
 temple of God and proclaims beforehand to everyone *the coming of*
 Christ. Let us rejoice and sing to her, "Hail, O fulfilment of the
 Creator's dispensation."

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 48 & 86 Tone 2

S1: Great is the Lord and highly praised
 in the city of our God *and* on his holy mountain.

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

S2: O City of God,
 glorious things are spoken about you.

S3: God is known in her great houses
 when he comes to help her.
 S4: As we have heard, so we have seen
 in the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of our God;
 God has established her for ever.
 S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 45, 95, 117, 64 Own Tone

S1: The flow of the river makes the City of God glad;
 the Most High has made his tabernacle holy.

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

S2: Confession and beauty *are* before him;
 holiness and splendour *are* in his sanctuary.

S3: This is the gate of the Lord;
 the just will enter through it.

S4: Your temple is holy
and you are marvellous in justice.

S5: Glory: Both now: #
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 44 Tone 4

S1: The daughters of Tyre will adore him with gifts
 and the rich people will beg your favour.

R: Today is the prelude of the good will of God and the preaching of
 salvation for the human race. The Virgin appears openly in the
 temple of God and proclaims beforehand to everyone *the coming of*
 Christ. Let us rejoice and sing to her, "Hail, O fulfilment of the
 Creator's dispensation."

S2: All the glory of the king's daughter is within;
 she is clothed with embroidered gold-fringed robes.

S3: The virgins who follow her will be brought to the king;
 her attendants will be brought to you.

Entrance Ps 94

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

Today is the prelude of the good will of God and the preaching of
 salvation for the human race. The Virgin appears openly in the
 temple of God and proclaims beforehand to everyone *the coming of*
 Christ. Let us rejoice and sing to her, "Hail, O fulfilment of the
 Creator's dispensation."

Kontákion

Tone 4

The most pure temple of the Saviour, the precious chamber and
 Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is presented today in
 the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the divine
 Spirit. Therefore the angels of God sing praises, "Truly this *woman*
 is the heavenly tabernacle."

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

The Theotokos may be compared with the Inner Sanctuary.
 From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (9:1-7)
 Brothers, the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an
 earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the
 lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the

Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now. When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Alleluia Ps 44 Tone 6

S1: O daughter, listen and see.

S2: The rich people beg your favour.

Gospel

Blessed is the Mother!

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10:38-2, 11:27-28)

At that time Jesus came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Communion Ps 115

⁴ I will take up the cup of salvation
and address the name of the Lord. Alleluia!