

SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018
+Annunciation to the Theotokos
2nd Sunday Tone 1 & Eothinón 2

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.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.
O holy Lord, accept our evening prayers and grant us remission of
sins, for you alone have revealed the resurrection to the world

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.
O people, encircle Zion and surround her. Give glory in her to the
Lord who rose from the dead, for he is our God, who has rescued us
from our offences.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;
O Lord listen to my voice.

O people, come, praise and fall down before Christ as we glorify his
resurrection from the dead, for he is our God, who has rescued the
world from the deceit of the enemy.

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.
Let the heavens, be glad and the foundations of the earth sound
trumpets. Let the mountains sing with joy. See Emmanuel has
nailed our sins to the cross. The Giver of life has killed death and
raised Adam, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Tone 6

6: O Lord *our* Lord, if you mark offences,
who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

5: O Lord, I have waited for you for the sake of your name;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O Maiden, Gabriel came and stood before you; he revealed to you
the pre-eternal counsel. In greeting you he said, "Hail, O earth
which has not been sown! Hail, O burning bush which remains
unconsumed! Hail, O unsearchable depth! Hail, O bridge which
leads to heaven! Hail, O ladder raised on high which Jacob saw!
Hail, O divine jar of manna! Hail, O deliverance from the curse!
Hail, O restoration of Adam, the Lord is with you." X2

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

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

He will redeem Israel
from all his offences.

"You appeared to me in the form of a man," said the undefiled
Maiden to the chief of the heavenly hosts. How then do you speak
to me about things which surpass man's power? For you have said
that God will be with me and will take up his lodging in my womb.
How can I become the spacious habitation and the holy place of the
one who rides on the Cherubim? Do not amuse me with deceit; for
I have not known pleasure; I have not entered into wedlock. How
then can I bear a child?" X2

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

1: For he has strengthened his mercy over us

and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Then the bodiless angel replied, "When God so wills, the order of
nature is overcome and what is beyond the human race comes to
pass. All-holy and blameless Lady, believe that my sayings are
true. And she cried aloud, "Let it be to me according to your word;
I will give birth to the one who is without flesh and who will borrow
flesh from me so that through this mingling he may lead the human
race to his ancient glory, for he alone has power so to do. X2

Glory: Both now:

Gabriel the archangel was sent from heaven to announce to the
Virgin the glad news of her conceiving. When he came to Nazareth
he pondered in amazement at this wonder, "How can the one who
lives in the heights, whom no one can comprehend, be born from a
virgin? How can the one, whose throne is heaven and whose
footstool is the earth, be held in the womb of a woman? The one on
whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim
cannot gaze, has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh
from this his creature. It is the Word of God who lives in her. Why
then do I stand here and not say to the maiden, "Hail, O Full of
Grace, the Lord is with you! Hail, O pure Virgin! Hail, O
unwedded Bride! Hail, O Mother of life! Blessed is the fruit of
your womb!"

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

P/D: The Evening Prokeimenon

R: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.

S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

Readings

From the Book of Genesis (28:10-18)

Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he came to a
certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set.
Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and
lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a
ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and
behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!
¹³And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the
God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on
which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; ¹⁴and your
descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread
abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south;
and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth
bless themselves. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you
wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not
leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."
¹⁶Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in
this place; and I did not know it." ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said,
"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of
God, and this is the gate of heaven."

From the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)

Thus says the Lord: From the eighth day onward the priests shall
offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings;
and I will accept you, says the Lord God. ¹The Lord brought me
back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was
shut. ²And he said to me, "This gate will remain closed *and* not be
opened. No one will enter through it; for the Lord, the God of
Israel, has entered through it; therefore it will remain closed. ³Only

the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord. He will enter by way of the vestibule of the gate and will go out by the same way." ⁴Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked, and see, the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord.

From the Book of Proverbs (9:1-11)

- ¹ Wisdom has built her house
and set up her seven pillars.
- ² She has slaughtered her beasts
and mixed her wine;
she has also laid her table.
- ³ She has sent out her maids
to summon from the highest places in the town.
- ⁴ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
She says to the one who is without sense,
- ⁵ "Come and eat from my bread;
drink from the wine which I have mixed.
- ⁶ Leave childishness and live;
walk along the way of insight."
- ⁷ The one who corrects a scoffer receives abuse
and the one who rebukes an evil man incurs injury.
- ⁸ Do not rebuke a scoffer, otherwise he will hate you;
reprimand a wise man and he will love you.
- ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man and he will be wiser still;
teach a just man and he will increase in learning.
- ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
- ¹¹ For your days will be increased by me
and years will be added to your life.

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 1

O Christ, we have been freed from passions by your passion and have been rescued from corruption by your resurrection. O Lord, glory to you!

S1: The Lord reigns and is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. ^{Ps 92}
Let creation rejoice! Let the heavens be glad! Let the nations clap their hands with joy! For Christ our Saviour has nailed our sins to the cross. He has given life by slaying death and raised fallen Adam, *for he is* the Lover of the human race.

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. ^{Ps 92}
O incomprehensible *Lord*, you were willingly crucified because of your love for the human race as King of heaven and earth. Hades was angry when it met you below. Adam rose when he saw you, the Creator, under the earth. Wonder! How has the Life of all

tasted death? He wished to enlighten the world which cries, "O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to you!"

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. ^{Ps 92}
The myrrh-bearing women came speedily and tearfully to your tomb. They did not find your most pure body, but learnt about the new and glorious wonder from the angel. They told the apostles, "The Lord is risen and has granted the world great mercy."

Glory: Both now: Tone 4

Today is the announcement of joy; it is the feast of the Virgin. Things below are joined to things above. Adam is renewed and Eve set free from her ancient curse. The tabernacle of human nature which the Lord took on himself is consecrated as a temple of God. The manner of his emptying is past knowledge and the fashion of his conception is ineffable. An angel ministers at the wonder and a virgin womb receives the Son. The Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high gives his consent, and so the covenant is brought to pass by common counsel. We are saved in him and through him. Together with Gabriel let us cry aloud to the Virgin, "Hail, O Full of Grace! The Lord is with you!" Christ our God and our salvation has taken human nature from you and raised it to himself. Pray to him that our souls may be saved.

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 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel announces the coming of grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"
X2

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 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"
X2

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

O Saviour, the soldiers who kept watch over your tomb fell down as dead at the lightning flash of the angel who appeared and proclaimed the resurrection to the women. We glorify you, *for you are* the destroyer of corruption. You alone are our God who rose from the tomb; we all fall down before you.

Glory:

O merciful *Lord*, you were willingly nailed to the cross. O Giver of life, you were laid in the tomb as though dead. Almighty *Master*, you wiped out the power of death by your death. The gatekeepers of Hades trembled before you. Only Lover of the human race, you raised with you the dead from all the ages.

Both now: Tone 1

The mighty captain of the companies of angels drew near to the city of Nazareth. O undefiled *Lady*, he announced to you the coming of the King and Lord of the ages, saying, "Hail, O blessed Mary, you are wonderful past speech and beyond understanding. You are the restoration of mortal man.

Kathisma 2

The women who came early to your tomb trembled at the sight of the angel. The tomb shone with life and this wonder amazed them. They returned and announced the resurrection to the disciples, "Christ, *who is* alone mighty and powerful, has despoiled Hades. He has raised up all those who are in corruption and released the human race from fear of condemnation through the power of the cross."

Glory:

The Life of all was nailed to the cross. The immortal Lord, the Saviour who rose on the third day and raised Adam from corruption, was counted among the dead. Therefore, O Giver of Life, the powers of heaven cry out, "Glory to your resurrection! Glory to your condescension, only Lover of the human race!"

Both now: Tone 3

Today all creation greatly rejoices, for the Archangel says "Hail" to you, all-pure and immaculate *Lady*. Today the proud arrogance of the serpent is brought low, for the chains of the curse which were laid on our forefather are loosened. Therefore with all the world we cry aloud to you, "Hail, O Full of Grace!"

Evlogitária

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them, Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb."

Glory:

We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:

O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)
O our God and our hope, glory to you.

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*

Ypakói*Read without note*

O Christ our God, the Thief stole Paradise through repentance. The wailing of the myrrh-bearing women brought joy to light, for you have risen and grant the world great mercy.

Anaváthmi Tone 1

Antiphon 1 Ps 119

I call to the Lord in my distress,
"Listen to my grief."

The longing for God is unceasing for those in the desert;
they are removed from the emptiness of the world.

Glory: Both now:

Honour and glory are due to the Holy Spirit,
as also to the Father together with the Son
and so we praise the Trinity, one in might.

Antiphon 2 Ps 120

O God, you have exalted me to the hills of your laws;
make me shine with virtues so that I may praise you.
O Word, take me by your right hand; guard and keep me,
so that the fire of sin does not burn me.

Glory: Both now:

The whole creation is renewed in the Holy Spirit.
It returns to its pristine state,
for he is equal in might with the Father and the Word.

Antiphon 3 Ps 123

My soul rejoiced and my heart is glad
with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the courts of the Lord." ^{Ps 123}
Great fear will be in the house of David for there,
when the thrones are placed,
every tribe and tongue of the earth will be judged.

Glory: Both now:

It is right to offer glory, might and power to the Holy Spirit,
as to the Father and the Son,
for the Trinity is one in being, but not in persons.

Prokeimenon Ps 95 Tone 4

R: Sing to the Lord *and* bless his name;
proclaim his salvation from day to day.
S: Sing to the Lord a new song;
all the earth, sing to the Lord.

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 his mighty firmament. *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 (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 Spirit⁴² 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.

Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord and praise his resurrection.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.

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 what is evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be right in your words
and overcome when you are judged,

⁷ for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother desired me in sin,

⁸ for see, you have loved truth
and shown me the mysteries and secrets 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;
humbled bones will rejoice.

¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.

¹² O God, make 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 your saving joy to me
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.

¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways

and the ungodly will return to you.

¹⁶ O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips

and my mouth will announce 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 just sacrifice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Psalm 50

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 2

Today Gabriel announces the good news to the one who is full of grace, "Hail, O unwedded maiden! Do not be struck with dismay by my strange form or be afraid; I am an Archangel. Once the serpent beguiled Eve, but now, O most pure *Lady*, I announce to you the joyful good news, 'You will remain inviolate and yet give birth to the Lord.'"

Small Litany

For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kontakion

Tone 8

O Theotokos, our leader in battle, I, your city which is (we your servants who are) rescued from calamity offer you songs of victory and hymns of thanksgiving. Since you possess invincible might, free us from every danger so that we may cry to you, "Hail, unwedded Bride!"

Ikos

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos. O Lord, as he saw you take bodily form at his bodiless word, he stood in awe and cried to her with these words.

"Hail, for through you joy will be kindled!

Hail, for through you the curse will be stifled!

Hail, O recall of fallen Adam!

Hail, O rescue of weeping Eve!

Hail, O height unattainable by human reason!

Hail, O depth unsearchable by angelic eyes!

Hail, for you are the throne of the King!

Hail, for you give birth to the one who upholds everything!

Hail, O star giving rise to the Sun!

Hail, O womb giving flesh to God!

Hail, for through you creation is renewed!

Hail, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child!

Hail, O bride unwedded!"

Synaxarion

Today we remember the Annunciation to the Theotokos. In some icons the Virgin is depicted spinning. The Archangel Gabriel said, "Hail, O Full of Grace! The Lord is with you." Mary was troubled, but he continued, "Mary, do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God. See, you will now conceive a Son and call his name Jesus." Mary accepted with the words, "See, the servant of the Lord. Let it happen to me in accordance with your word." O Woman, pure as a lily, on the Twenty Fifth Gabriel announced the wonder which the Spirit would work in you.

We offer glory and might to God for ever. Amen.

Katavasias

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 her conception and praise all her glory.

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 honourable conception.

4: The one who sits in glory on the throne of the Divinity, Jesus the true God, has come on a swift cloud. With his pure hand he has saved those who cry, "Glory to your power, O Christ!"

5: O Virgin, all creation was amazed at your divine glory, for you knew no man. You held the 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.
O pure virgin Maid, listen. Let Gabriel recount to you the decision of the Most High which is ancient and true. Be prepared to receive God, for the Incomprehensible comes to live among mortals through you. Therefore I cry with joy, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!"

Canticle Nine

The Magnificat is not sung.

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;
O heavens, praise the glory of God.
O Theotokos, as you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, but let the lips of all believers sing and continually glorify you in joy with the angelic salutation. O pure *Lady*, you are truly above all creatures.

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;
O heavens, praise the glory of God.
O Mother of the Most High, the Holy Scriptures speak about you mystically. For in time past Jacob said as he saw the ladder which prefigured you, "This is the ladder on which God will tread." Therefore you rightly hear the salutation, "Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;
O heavens, praise the glory of God.
The bush and the fire revealed a strange wonder to Moses, the initiate in sacred things. As he sought its fulfilment in the course of time, he said, "I shall see it come to pass in the pure Virgin. The salutation will come to her as Theotokos, 'Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!'"

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;
O heavens, praise the glory of God.
Daniel called you a 'spiritual mountain'; Isaiah 'the Mother of God.' Gideon saw you as a fleece and David called you 'the sanctuary.' Another called you 'the gate which was sealed' and Gabriel in his turn cries out to you, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

Intercession ?

Short form

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 XXX, 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 only-begotten 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.*

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*

Holy is the Lord

Holy is the Lord our God. *X3*
Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.
for he is holy.

Exaposteilária

Tone 2

The myrrhbearing women greatly rejoiced when they saw that the stone had been rolled away, for they saw a young man who sat at the grave and said to them, "Christ is risen. Go and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. You, his dear ones, will see him there as he told you."

Tone 2

The captain of the angelic hosts was sent by almighty God to the pure Virgin to announce the good news of a strange and secret wonder that God would be born as man and be her Child without seed. He would refashion the whole human race. O people, proclaim the good news about the re-creation of the world.

Hail, O Theotokos, rescue from the curse of Adam! Hail, O holy Mother of God! Hail, O living bush! Hail, O lamp! Hail, O throne! Hail, O ladder and gate! Hail, O divine chariot! Hail, O swift cloud! Hail, O temple! Hail, O golden vessel! Hail, O mountain! Hail, O tabernacle and table! Hail, o release of Eve!

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.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.
O Christ, we praise your saving passion and glorify your resurrection.

S7: Praise God in his saints;
praise him in his mighty firmament.
O Lord, you have endured the cross, made death of no effect and have risen from the dead. Grant peace in our lives, for you are the only almighty *Lord.*

S6: Praise him for his mighty *deeds*;
 praise him for the abundance of his majesty.
 You have plundered Hades and raised man by your resurrection. O
 Christ, make us worthy to praise and glorify you with purity of
 heart.

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp.
 O Christ, we praise you and glorify your divine condescension.
 You were born from a virgin, yet did not part from the Father. You
 suffered as man and willingly endured the cross. You rose from the
 grave as though from a bridal chamber so that you might save the
 world. O Lord, glory to you!

Tone 1

4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
 praise him with strings and flute.
 Gabriel flew down from the vault of heaven and came to Nazareth.
 As he stood before the virgin Mary, he cried to her, "Hail! You will
 conceive a Son more ancient than Adam, the Creator of everything
 and Saviour of those who cry to you, 'Hail, O pure Virgin!'"

3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
 praise him with joyful cymbals.
 Let everything with breath praise the Lord. Ps 150
 Gabriel flew down from the vault of heaven and came to Nazareth.
 As he stood before the virgin Mary, he cried to her, "Hail! You will
 conceive a Son more ancient than Adam, the Creator of everything
 and Saviour of those who cry to you, 'Hail, O pure Virgin!'"

² Sing to the Lord *and* bless his name;
 proclaim his salvation from day to day. Ps 95
 Gabriel brought the good news to the Virgin from heaven and cried
 to her, "Hail! You will conceive him whom the world cannot
 contain; he will be enclosed within your womb. You will bear him
 who shone from the Father before the morning star."

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
 his praise *is* in the assembly of the holy ones. Ps 149
 The co-eternal Word of the Father who has no beginning was not
 parted from the things on high, but has now descended here below
 for the sake of his boundless love which pities fallen men. He has
 assumed the poverty of Adam and clothed himself in a strange form.

Glory: Tone 2
 Today is revealed the eternal mystery. The son of God becomes the
 Son of Man. By accepting the lowest, he grants me the highest. In
 time past Adam was deceived; he tried to become God, but he did
 not receive his desire. Now God becomes man so that he may make
 Adam god. Let creation rejoice; let nature exult, for the Archangel
 stands in fear before the Virgin and says, "Hail!" He brings her the
 greeting by which our sorrow is healed. O Lord, glory to you, for in
 your compassion you became man!

Both now: Tone 2
 O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the One
 who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled.
 The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been
 slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good
 will it was. Glory to you!

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 144.2
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 32.22
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, "O 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 Stretch out your mercy
 to those who know you. Ps 35.11

Triságion

Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who
 rose from the dead, the Author of our life. When he destroyed death
 by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

LITURGY

John Chrysostom

Antiphon 1 Ps 71, 95 & 131 Tone 2

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

S1: O God, give your judgement to the king
 and your justice to the king's son.
 S2: The mountains will receive peace for the people
 and the hills justice.
 S3: Sing to the Lord *and* bless his name;
 proclaim his salvation from day to day.
 S4: The Lord has sworn in truth to David
 and will not set it aside.
 S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 71, 45 & 49 Own Tone

R: Save us, O Son of God; you were incarnate for our sake.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S1: He will come down like rain on a fleece
 and like drops which trickle on the earth.
 S2: The flow of the river makes the City of God glad;
 the Most High has made his tabernacle holy.
 S3: God will come openly;
 our God will not be silent.
 S4: In his days justice will dawn
 and abundant peace until the moon is taken away.
 S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 71 Tone 4

R: Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the
 eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin as
 Gabriel announces the coming of grace. Together with him let us
 cry to the Theotokos, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you."

S1: His name will be blessed for ever;

his name is permanent under the sun.
 S2: May the Lord God of Israel be blessed
 who alone accomplishes wonders.
 S3: Blessed is the name of his glory for ever
 and to the ages of ages.

Entrance Ps 95

Sing to the Lord *and* bless his name;
 proclaim his salvation from day to day.
 Save us, O Son of God.
 You arose from the dead.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Saviour, when the stone had been sealed by the Jews and while the soldiers were guarding your most pure body, you rose on the third day and granted life to the world. Therefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried to you, "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to your Kingdom! Glory to your dispensation, O Lover of the human race!"

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you."

NOT OF THE CHURCH

Kontákion

Tone 8

O Theotokos, our leader in battle, I, your city which is (we your servants who are) rescued from calamity offer you songs of victory and hymns of thanksgiving. Since you possess invincible might, free us from every danger so that we may cry to you, "Hail, unwedded Bride!"

Triságion

Prokeimenon Lk 1 Tone 3

⁴⁷ My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
^{47b} For he has observed the humility of his servant.

Apostolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)
 Brothers, both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying, "I will declare your name to my brothers. In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." ¹³Again, "I will put my trust in him." Again, "See, here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶For most assuredly, not to angels does he give help, but he gives help to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he was obligated in all things to be made like his brothers, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia Ps 71 Tone 2

⁶ He will come down like rain on a fleece
 and like drops which trickle on the earth.
¹⁷ His name will be blessed for ever;
 his name is permanent under the sun.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:24-38)

In those days Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ³⁵ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Especially

O Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy;
 O heavens, praise the glory of God.
 O Theotokos, as you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, but let the lips of all believers sing and continually magnify you in joy with the angelic salutation, "O pure *Lady*, you are truly above all creatures."

Communion Ps 131

¹³ For the Lord has selected Zion
and chosen her to be his home. Alleluia!