

2 JULY (After All Saints)
± Robe of the Theotokos at Blacherne C5

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

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

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

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you.
 S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
 my soul has waited for your word,
 my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O Lover of the human race, you are compassionate and give your mother to your servants as a support. Through her you have worked your ineffable and awesome dispensation; you restore our first and divine life. Therefore, almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls, as we honour her all-holy feast, we sing about your might. *X2*

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

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

All-praised *Lady*, protect the people who honour and rightly glorify you with your precious robe. O immaculate *mother*, preserve them from godless enemies, famine, earthquake and civil war. Therefore, O unwedded Virgin, holy Bride of God and helper of the entire human race, we all glorify you. *X2*

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

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

O Lady full of divine grace, you have given your precious robe to your city. It is a wealth that cannot be diminished, a shelter, a glory, an impregnable wall, a treasure of healing, a perpetually-flowing source of wonders; a constant haven and a salvation for those tossed by storms. Therefore, all-praised and Pure Lady, we sing hymns to you. *X2*

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

Let us cleanse our hearts and minds, and so keep the feast together with the angels. Let us joyfully address the song of David to the maiden Bride of Christ our God, the King of all. Let us say, "Arise, O Lord, into your resting place, you and the ark of your holiness," for you have adorned her as a palace of delight. O Master, you have given her as an inheritance to your people, to preserve and shelter them by your mighty power from their enemies through her prayers.

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

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

Only you have been the living palace of our God. Your venerable robe is kept like a treasure in your holy temple. You have donated it to sanctify believers and serve as their invincible fortification. Therefore, O divine mother, the city which sings to you will be saved through your sovereign power.

S1: O Lord, rise into your resting-place,
 you and the ark of your holiness. *Ps 131*

O holy Theotokos, you have donated to us your venerable robe which covered your all-pure body. *It is* a glorious treasure and a spring which pours out grace in everlasting life-giving streams. Today we celebrate its placing at Blacherne and honour you as the one who restored respect to the entire human race.

S2: The rich people will beg your favour. *Ps 44*
 O Lady, your Church possesses your sacred robe as a holy treasure and sanctifies all the faithful who come to you and rightly call you blessed. It finds strength, support, hope for the soul and assured protection in you.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

All-pure Theotokos, the Church of Christ has received your venerable robe like a brilliant diadem. O Lady, today it is radiant with joy while it rejoices in the mystery and cries out, "Hail, O precious diadem! You are the crown of the Lord's glory, the only splendour of the assembly and my eternal joy. Hail, O protector of those who come to you! You are their peaceful harbour and our anchor of salvation.

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 8

Ever-virgin Theotokos, refuge and protection of the human race, you gave your robe and sash to your city of Blacherne as a powerful defence. These robes remained incorrupt because of your pure child-bearing. Both time and nature are renewed in you; so we pray that you may grant peace to the inhabited world and great mercy to our souls.

O good *Master*, you were born from a virgin for our sake. You suffered crucifixion, despoiled death through death and revealed the resurrection as God. O merciful *Lord*, do not despise those whom you have created with your own hand, but, reveal your love for the human race. O Saviour, receive the Theotokos, who gave birth to you, as an intercessor and save your despairing people.

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 8

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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 4

O Mother, totally worthy of our hymns, today your people celebrate the placing of your robe and they continually cry aloud to you, "Hail, O Virgin, pride of Christians!" X2

Kathisma 2

Tone 4

O Theotokos, today the whole world celebrates the placing of your robe as a feast. It cries out to you with love, "Hail, O Virgin, helper of believers!" 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. *Amen*

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.

Kontáktion

Tone 4

O pure *Lady*, God himself has blessed you. You gave your pure robe as a protection for the faithful. We celebrate and cry out, "Hail, O Virgin, glory of every Christian!"

Íkos

The Virgin Mary *is* the true temple, the pure tabernacle of God the Word, the vessel of manna, the living cloud and the Theotokos. In faith let all of us, who have been saved by her virginal giving-birth, call her blessed. Let us venerate the holy robe in which the Lord was held and carried as a Child when he assumed our flesh. For through that flesh human nature was raised to the life of the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore we joyfully cry out, "Hail, O most renowned Virgin! *You are* the glory of every Christian."

Synaxáron

Today we remember the placing in a holy reliquary of the venerable robe of the all-holy Theotokos at Blacherne in the Fifth Century. On the Second the city received the robe of Christ's mother as its inheritance.

We also remember:

Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem C5

Holy Monegonde of Tours C6

Metropolitan Phótiós of Kiev C15

Prince Stephen of Moldavia, Defender of Orthodoxy C16

Bishop John Maximovitch of San Francisco C20
O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. 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 the feast and praise all her glory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ode 9

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

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**
²For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**
³For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.
His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. **R**
⁴He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**
⁵He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.
He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. **R**
⁶He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: Hail, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins! No mouth however sweet or fluent is eloquent enough to praise you worthily. Every mind is overawed by your childbearing. Therefore with one voice, we glorify you.

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

Tone 3

O Theotokos, you alone have renewed time and nature, for your childbearing was incorruptible, as also was your robe. Through it you protect your people and uphold godly authority.

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.

O Theotokos, the reliquary which contains your robe is a holy ark for the faithful, a sacred fortification around them, as also their pride and glory. Every day it overflows as a healing spring. Therefore, since we have been assembled by God, we celebrate today the ocean of your miracles and your innumerable marvellous deeds.

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

O Theotokos, the reliquary which contains your robe is a holy ark for the faithful, a sacred fortification around them, as also their pride and glory. Every day it overflows as a healing spring. Therefore, since we have been assembled by God, we celebrate today the ocean of your miracles and your innumerable marvellous deeds.

S2: O Lord, rise into your resting-place,
you and the ark of your holiness. Ps 131
See the esteemed place! See the constantly-radiant home where grace is stored as a treasure! *It is* the revered robe of the Lord's servant. O mortals, come and draw pardon and illumination. In gratitude cry with your whole heart, "All-pure Virgin, you have rescued us all through your birth-giving and so we bless you."

S1: The rich people will beg your favour. Ps 44
O Theotokos, we celebrate today the holy placing of your robe, for it is a joyful feast. Today you have condescended to donate it to your city as a sacred fortification, an undefiled mascot, a precious connection, an invincible treasury of healing and a river which overflows with the gifts of the Spirit.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

Let us purify our hearts and minds so that we may joyfully celebrate this feast with the angels. Let us chant the psalm which David sang for the young bride of the King of all, Christ our God. He said, "O Lord, go up to your resting-place, you and the ark of your holiness." O Lord, you have adorned her as a delightful palace and given her as an inheritance to your city, so that she can surround, protect and rescue it from every enemy through your power and the through the prayer which she offers 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!
²We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴O 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 8

Ever-virgin Theotokos, refuge and protection of the human race,
 you gave your robe and sash to your city of Blacherne as a powerful
 defence. These robes remained incorrupt because of your pure
 child-bearing. Both time and nature are renewed in you; so we pray
 that you may grant peace to the inhabited world and great mercy to
 our souls.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

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

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

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

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

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

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

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

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
 and shout with gladness to him in psalms.
 For the Lord is a great God

and an exalted king over all the earth.

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

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

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 20 Tone 8

S1: The Most High has made his tabernacle holy;
 God is within her *and she will not be moved.* Ps 45

R: Ever-virgin Theotokos, refuge and protection of the human race,
 you gave your robe and sash to your city of Blacherne as a powerful
 defence. These robes remained incorrupt because of your pure
 child-bearing. Both time and nature are renewed in you; so we pray
 that you may grant peace to the inhabited world and great mercy to
 our souls.

S2: The rush of the river cheers God's city. Ps 45

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 8

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 you gave your robe and sash to your city of Blacherne as a powerful
 defence. These robes remained incorrupt because of your pure
 child-bearing. Both time and nature are renewed in you; so we pray
 that you may grant peace to the inhabited world and great mercy to
 our souls.

Of the Church

Kontákion

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

Triságion

Prokeímenon Lk 1 Tone 3

R: My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

S: For he has observed the humility of his servant.

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (9:1-7)

Brothers, indeed even the first tabernacle and covenant had
 ordinances of divine service, and an earthly sanctuary. ²For there
 was a tabernacle prepared. In the first part were the lampstand, the
 table, and the show bread; which is called the Holy Place. ³After
 the second veil was the tabernacle which is called the Holy of
 Holies, ⁴having a golden altar of incense, and the ark of the
 covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which was a golden pot
 holding the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the
 covenant; ⁵and above it cherubim of glory overshadowing the
 mercy seat, of which things we cannot now speak in detail. ⁶Now
 these things having been thus prepared, the priests go in continually
 into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the services, ⁷but into the
 second the high priest alone, once in the year, not without blood,
 which he offers for himself, and for the errors of the people.

Alleluia Ps 44 Tone 6

S1: O daughter, listen and see.

S2: The rich people beg your favour.

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, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah 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 sthe 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.

Communion Ps 115

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