

25 JULY
+ Dormition of the Just Anna

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.

Tone 1

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

O faithful, let us celebrate with sacred hymns the memory of the holy and marvellous ancestors of the Lord, Yoakim and Anna. Let us glorify the compassionate *Lord*, who has made them fervent intercessors for our salvation.

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 woman who was previously infertile and childless, and who gave birth to the first fruit of our salvation, is transferred from this life to the next. She implores the Lord to grant forgiveness of sins to those who sing to her with faith.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

O Christ, as we celebrate the memory of your just ancestors, we sing to you, for today you removed Anna from this temporal life to the eternal life

in the presence of God. She is the mother who gave birth to the divine and ever-virgin Mary who amazingly gave birth to you without human seed.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

See, the radiant solemnity arrives. It is a feast for the whole world, the holy and glorious dormition of Anna, the amazing mother who gave birth to the Mother of Life. Her daughter was the living ark who enclosed the uncontainable Word. She has rescued us from suffering, brought us endless joy and granted great mercy to the faithful.

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

O amazing wonder! The woman who gloriously gave birth to the Virgin who alone is blessed among women and the source of our Life, passes from this temporal life to the eternal life. Today glorious Anna is raised from the earth to heaven, there to rejoice together with the choirs of angels. Today we celebrate her sacred feast.

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

Today those of us who are faithful celebrate the glorious feast of your holy dormition. See, you are still with us, grant the grace of healing and consume every evil spirit around us. You enlighten the hearts of the faithful who sing about your notable passing.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

The Theotokos came from a barren womb and through her we were saved by Christ our God. The chaste Bridegroom's grandparents were Yoakim and Anna. He placed them in the heavenly realm. They sing, together with their daughter the Holy Virgin, and with the angels, as they pray for the world. We honour them and cry aloud, "O ancestors of God, for the sake of the Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, pray that our souls may be saved."

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.

Prokeímenenon

Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Wisdom of Solomon (5:15-6:3)

The just live for evermore and their reward is with the Lord, and their care is with the most High. ¹⁶ Therefore they will receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand, for he will shelter them with his right hand, and protect them with his arm. ¹⁷ He will take his fervour to himself for complete armour, and make the creature his weapon for revenge on his enemies. ¹⁸ He will put on justice as a breastplate, and judgment as a helmet. ¹⁹ He will take holiness for an invincible shield. ²⁰ He will sharpen his severe wrath for a sword; the world will fight with him against the foolish. ²¹ Then rightly-aimed thunderbolts will go out; from the clouds, as though from a well-drawn bow, they will fly to the mark. ²² Hailstones full of wrath will be fired as though from a stone bow, the water of the sea will rage against them and the rivers will cruelly drown them. ²³ Truly a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a storm will blow them away. Therefore lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and ill-dealing will overthrow the thrones of the mighty. ¹ Hear therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, you who are judges of the ends of the earth. ² Give ear, you who rule many people and glory in the throng of nations. ³ For might is given to you from the Lord, and sovereignty from the Most High.

Prophecy 2

From the Wisdom of Solomon (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment will touch them. ² In the sight of the foolish they seemed to die and their departure is taken for misery, ³ and their going from us to be utter destruction, but they are in peace. ⁴ For although they may be punished in the sight of men, yet their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Having been a little disciplined, they will be greatly rewarded, for God tested them and found them worthy for himself. ⁶ Like gold in the furnace he has tried them and received them as a burnt offering. ⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. ⁸ They will judge the nations, have dominion over the people, and their Lord will reign for ever. ⁹ Those who put their trust in him will understand the truth. Those who are faithful in love will live with him, for grace and mercy *belongs* to his saints and he visits his chosen.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

Although the just may be overtaken with death, yet he will be at rest. ⁸ For honourable age is not in length of time, nor what is measured by the number of years. ⁹ But wisdom is the gray hair to people, and an unspotted life is old age. ¹⁰ He pleased God, and was loved by him, so that living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was snatched, in case evil should alter his understanding, or deceit charm his soul. ¹² For the bewitching of waywardness obscures things that are honest, and the wandering of desire undermines the simple mind. ¹³ Since he was made perfect in a short time, he completed long years, ¹⁴ for his soul pleased the Lord, therefore he hurried to take him away from among the wicked. ¹⁵ The people saw, and did not understand, neither did they perceive that grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he has visited his chosen ones.

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 5

Rejoice, O spiritual swallow, for you announced the spring-time of grace to us. You lived well and blamelessly in chastity and preserved the treasure of virginity. You gave birth with the pangs of a mother to the all-pure Theotokos who alone did not know a man. You are the honoured ewe lamb who gave birth to the heifer and who, at the angel's word, bore the Word, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. O Anna, grandmother of the Lord, he has translated you from the earth. Now plead with him to have great mercy on our souls.

S1: O just *people*, rejoice in the Lord. Ps 32

Hail, O honourable couple, dear to God and chosen by the Lord for the radiance of your holiness! You prepared the way for the fulfilment of the Law through divine grace, when you gave birth to the one who would give birth to the Author of our life. Holy Anna and blessed Yoakim, you are lights who have kindled the radiant lamp, resplendent with grace, the pure Theotokos. Together with her, implore the Lord to grant our souls great mercy.

S2: Blessed are all those who fear the Lord. Ps 127

Hail, O blessed land, for you caused the branch, from whom the Lord would bloom, to blossom in this world! You continually studied the Law of God and grace was fulfilled in you. In giving birth you broke the bond of barrenness and overcame death with incorruption. You passed over to

divine splendour after you gave birth to the Theotokos, the light-bearing lamp. Pray, together with her, for our souls to be granted great mercy.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

Come together, all creation! Let us praise the divinely-wise Anna with cymbals and psalms who through her womb gave birth to the divine mountain. Today she is translated to the spiritual mountain and homes of Paradise. Let us cry out to her, “Blessed is your womb which bore the one who carried the Light of the world in her womb. Plead with him to rescue us from all tribulation and assaults of the enemy and to save our souls.”

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 4

O divinely wise Anna, you carried in your womb the Theotokos, the immaculate *Lady* who gave life to Life. O ever-blessed *saint*, you are carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the home of those who rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honour you.

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in union without confusion and of his own volition freely endured the cross for us. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

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 4

O divinely wise Anna, you carried in your womb the Theotokos, the immaculate *Lady* who gave life to Life. O ever-blessed *saint*, you are carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the home of those who rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honour you.

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in union without confusion and of his own volition freely endured the cross for us. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

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

Holy Anna, the renowned ancestor who is worthy of praise and honour, is carried up from the transient life here below to the immortal life of the eternal ages. She will rejoice there with the angels. Together with her daughter, the pure Theotokos, she continually intercedes before God for the salvation of the faithful who call her blessed. *X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 1

O Holy Anna, grandmother of Christ, as you kept the precepts of the Law in a way pleasing to the Lord, you surpassed all mothers in Israel when

you gave birth to the unique and ever-virgin Theotokos. You passed from earth to the abode of God where you rejoice with the just from all the ages.
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.*

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.

Kontákion

Tone 2

Let us celebrate the memory of the ancestors of Christ and fervently ask for their help. In this way salvation will be given to all those who cry out, “O God, always remain with us, for you glorified them according to your will.”

Íkos

As the prophet proclaims, come and sing joyfully about the holy dormition of Christ’s grandmother. She enters the heavenly home today from this transient life and opens the way. As the mother of the Theotokos, she sings in joy and faith, “My soul glorifies the Lord, for I have brought into the world the mother of the one who glorifies us according to his will.

Synaxáron

Today we remember the dormition of holy Anna, the mother of the all-holy Theotokos. She took away tears from women giving birth because she gave birth to the Virgin Mary. On the Twenty Fifth the grandmother of God lay down on her bed.

Together with her we remember:

Deaconess Olympias of Constantinople C5

Virgin Efpraxia of Tabennesi C5

165 Fathers of the Fifth Ecumenical Council C6

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

Katavasías

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.

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 divine glory.

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

My soul glorifies the Lord

and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**

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.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**

³ For 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**

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**

⁵ He 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**

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: Let every earthborn mortal spiritually rejoice and carry lamps. be
radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers
celebrate as they honour the sacred wonders of the Theotokos and cry,
“Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!”

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 2

We rightly praise Anna, for she was called by God. When she was past all
hope, she gave birth to the Theotokos and Virgin Mary who was revealed
as the mother of Christ in the flesh, our Rescuer, who today divinely

receives her in the highest. She prays for us and for the peace of the world.

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 Christ, as we celebrate the respected memory of Anna, we sing praises to you, for you have now translated her to unending glory from this passing life. She is the mother of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who gave birth to you without seed, in a manner surpassing nature.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;

praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O Christ, as we celebrate the respected memory of Anna, we sing praises to you, for you have now translated her to unending glory from this passing life. She is the mother of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, who gave birth to you without seed, in a manner surpassing nature.

S2: O just *people*, rejoice in the Lord. Ps 32

As we celebrate the holy memory of Yoakim and Anna, the honoured and blameless forebears of Christ, we always glorify our compassionate Lord and Deliverer who has translated them to imperishable and incorruptible life.

S1: Blessed are all those who fear the Lord. Ps 127

The joy of those who keep the feast is perfected with the immaterial choirs and the homes of the just, where the ranks of angels live with the assembly

of saints. Now joy has caused the souls of just Yoakim and Anna to be brought there. We rightly praise them and call them blessed.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

Come, all lovers of virginity and purity! Come, let us celebrate the honourable dormition of Anna. For in a manner transcending nature, she gave birth to the divine maiden, Mary, the fountain of Life, from whom was born the Deliverer who enlightens and sanctifies our souls.

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

Apolytíkion

Tone 4

O divinely wise Anna, you carried in your womb the Theotokos, the immaculate *Lady* who gave life to Life. O ever-blessed *saint*, you are carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the home of those who rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honour you.

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 44 Tone 3

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

R: O divinely wise Anna, you carried in your womb the Theotokos, the
immaculate *Lady* who gave life to Life. O ever-blessed *saint*, you are
carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the home of those who
rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who
faithfully honour you.

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

O divinely wise Anna, you carried in your womb the Theotokos, the
immaculate *Lady* who gave life to Life. O ever-blessed *saint*, you are
carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the home of those who
rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who
faithfully honour you.

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 Ps 67 Tone 4

R: God is wonderful in his saints.

S: Bless God, in *the* churches.

Apostolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (4:22-27)

Brothers, it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. ²⁴ Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, who bears children for slavery; she is *called* Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren *woman* who cannot give birth! You who are not in travail, break out and shout, for the children of the desolate *woman* are many more than the children of the one who is married."

Alleluia Ps 39 & 33 Tone 4

S1: I truly waited for the Lord.

S2: The afflictions of the just are many,
but the Lord will rescue them from everything.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (8:16-21)

The Lord said to his disciples, "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter

may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” ¹⁹ Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him for the crowd. ²⁰ And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” ²¹ But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

Communion Ps 111

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!