

9 SEPTEMBER
Afterfeast
± Forebears of God Joachim (Yoakim) and Anna
Martyr Sevirianós (Severian) of Armenia C4

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.

Tone 4

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
But there is forgiveness with you.

O lovers of the feasts of the Church, come and rejoice in song and celebrate in faith the memory of the blessed forebears, Joachim and Anna, the venerable couple who gave birth to the holy virgin Mother of God for us. Now they have left behind this passing life for the eternal homes, they continually pray that we may be saved.

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.

All-praised Theotokos, today all creation rejoices with gladness and unites to celebrate the annual memory of your parents. Joachim and Anna sing together about the wonder; they have been filled with joy by your birth. Our hope, the Mother of Light and the nourisher of our life, has bloomed from them.

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

Today Anna's spirit leaps for joy. She rejoices now that she has attained her desire. Just as her namesake believed and was blessed with children of old, so she has borne the fruit of the promise, the divine blessing, the all-pure Mary who gave birth to our God. From her the Sun has risen on those who sat in darkness.

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

O blessed martyr *Sevirianos*, you were whipped for Christ, hung on a gibbet and your flesh was cruelly torn, yet you did not deny the Lord of all when you were ordered to sacrifice to the false gods. Though your sufferings you proved the weakness of idols and their lack of power; you became a companion of the angels.

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

O blessed *martyr*, when you were led away as a captive and covered with wounds, you inspired those who saw you to follow in your footsteps. They regarded the incorruptible heavenly reward and obtained the blissful joy of goods that remain for ever, the inheritance of the servants of Christ our God.

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

O renowned martyr, your jaw was broken. Your flesh was torn and cruelly broken as it was scraped by a large rock from head to foot. You crushed the head of the dragon through your perseverance in the struggle and through your patience which the barbarity of the tortures could not overcome.

Glory: Tone 5

O blessed couple, you are exalted above all other parents, for the one who is above all creation bloomed from you. O Joachim, you are

1

happy indeed to be called the father of such a child. O mother Anna, joy is yours, for the mother of our Life came from your womb. Blessed are her breasts which nourish the one who feeds everything that breathes. All-blessed *couple*, implore him to have mercy on our souls.

Both now:

A womb that had previously been infertile yielded the divine Mother who was the holy branch from which Christ our God, the salvation of the world, would spring. The holy couple, Joachim and Anna, have passed to the heavenly courts. They now rejoice with their daughter, the spotless Virgin, in the company of the angels, and they continually intercede for the world. We join them in faith, sing to them and say, "Through the Maid of God, the all-pure Mary, you have become the grandparents of her Son, Jesus Christ. Intercede for our souls."

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

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

Joachim and Anna keep the feast, for they have brought into the world the only Theotokos, the first fruit of our salvation. Together with them we celebrate the feast today and bless the pure Virgin from the root of Jesse.

S1: O daughter, listen, see and bend your ear;
forget your people and your father's house. Ps 44

Today, the Maiden in whom God came to live - the pure Theotokos, the glory of the prophets, the daughter of David - is born of Joachim and the just Anna. By her childbearing she overthrows the curse of Adam which had weighed us down.

S2: The rich people will beg your favour. *Ps 44*
The earth which was once infertile gives birth to fertile ground. She nourishes with milk the holy fruit sprung from her infertile womb. O awesome wonder! The one who sustains our life and who received within her body the Bread of Heaven, feeds on her mother's breast.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8
O Joachim and Anna, holy couple, a holy root has sprung from your infertility from which Christ our God, the Saviour of the world, has shone. You have gone to live in the heavenly mansions and to join the most pure Virgin, your daughter. You dance with the angels as you pray for the world. We gather this day to praise your justice with song. Through all-holy Mary, the child of God, you became forebears to Christ. Intercede with him 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 8
O Lord, we celebrate the memory of your holy forebears and implore you to save our souls through them.

Tone 4
O Theotokos, your birth has proclaimed joy to the whole inhabited earth, for the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, has shone from you. He granted a blessing by annulling the curse and has given us eternal life by destroying 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 8
O Lord, we celebrate the memory of your holy forebears and implore you to save our souls through them.

Tone 4
O Theotokos, your birth has proclaimed joy to the whole inhabited earth, for the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, has shone from you. He granted a blessing by annulling the curse and has given us eternal life by destroying death.

Kathisma 1

Tone 1
You were born all-gloriously from an infertile womb and gave birth beyond nature from your virginal womb. You were revealed as a well-formed root which caused Life for the world to come into bud. Therefore, O Theotokos, the hosts of heaven cry out to you, "O pure *Lady*, glory to your coming! Glory to your birth! Glory to your virginity, O unwedded Mother! *X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 5
Everyone in heaven now rejoices and the human race is festive with them. The prophets are mystically excited with joy, for today is born

2

the woman whom they had seen in previous generations as a vessel, a sceptre, a bush, a gate, a throne, a bright cloud and a holy mountain. *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.

Kontákia

Tone 2
Now that Anna is no longer infertile and nurses the all-pure *Lady* she rejoices and calls us to sing a hymn of praise to Christ who gave the human race the only ever virgin Mother.

Íkos

Since she was rescued from the bonds of previous infertility, holy Anna invites us to celebrate this wonder with joy. Let us offer presents to her daughter and address the one before whom the virgin choirs once assembled and said, "See the *Lady* who turns us back to God and who rescued Adam from his bonds, for Anna has given birth to the only ever virgin Mother."

Synaxáron

Today we remember the just Joachim and Anna. They rejoice today because the salvation of the world is near. On the Ninth the forebears of the one who frees us from evil have their festive day.

On the same day we also commemorate the holy martyr Sevirianos of Armenia who lived in the Fourth Century.

Together with them we remember:

Confessor Theophanis C4

Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council C5

Holy Kieran of Clonmacnois C6

Abbot Joseph of Volokolamsk C16

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

Katavasías

1: Moses inscribed the invincible weapon of the cross on the waters and marked a straight line before him with his staff. He divided the Red Sea and opened a path for Israel who went over dry shod. Then he marked a second line across the waters, united them in one and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh. Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, for he has been glorified.

3: The rod of Aaron is an image of this mystery; it comes into bud to show who should be priest. So also the wood of the Cross has now flowered in the Church that once was infertile. It has filled her with strength and steadfastness.

4: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of your dispensation. I have considered your works and glorified your divinity.

5: O three times blessed tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched, the beguiler who tempted the human race with the tree fell because of you. He was caught in the trap set by God who was crucified on you in the flesh and grants peace to our souls.

6: Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross within the belly of the whale and plainly prefigured your redeeming passion. He was cast out after three days and foreshadowed the mighty resurrection of Christ our God who was crucified in the flesh and enlightened the world by his rising on the third day.

7: The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant confused the people and breathed out threats and blasphemy hateful to God. Yet neither the fury of wild beasts nor the roaring of the fire could frighten the three children. As they stood together in the flame and were fanned by the wind which brought refreshment like the dew, they sang, "Blessed are you and praised above all, our God and the God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
O children, equal in number to the Trinity, bless God the Father and Creator. Sing the praises of the Word who descended and changed the fire to dew and exalt above all for ever the most Holy Spirit who gives life to all.

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: O Theotokos, you are a mystical Paradise in which Christ blossomed. Through him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its elevation we bow in worship before it and glorify you.

Exaposteilária

Tone 3

The woman who removed the curse from the mother of everyone who lives, is born from Joachim and Anna in their infertile old age. O faithful, together with the angels let us praise her because that is right.

O blessed Sevirianos, you were the leader of forty holy martyrs who witnessed in the pool. Together with them, O renowned martyr, O victorious witness for Christ, remember all the faithful who celebrate your brilliant memorial and honour you with their whole heart.

O Adam and Eve, be clothed with a new glory! O prophets, together with the holy apostles, sing and rejoice with all the just. Let there be a united joy among angels and men, for on this festive day the just Joachim and Anna have brought into the world the mother of our God.

Praises

Tone 2

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.

Tone 2

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

Let us thank the Redeemer, the Sustainer of the inhabited earth, for he determined that the infertile *woman* should give birth to the Theotokos, against all hope. X2

S2: O daughter, listen, see and bend your ear;
forget your people and your father's house. Ps 44

Come and let us continually glorify Mary. She is the descendent of David who has sprung from the tribe of Judah and is the Theotokos. Salvation has come to us through her.

S1: The rich people will beg your favour. Ps 44
Today Anna gloriously and miraculously gives birth to the gate of Light, the Virgin Mary. O people and tribes, be triumphant with joy.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

Today the most immaculate and pure *Lady* has come from the infertile woman. Today all things rejoice on her birthday. The bonds of Adam have been broken and Eve has been freed from the curse.

All those in heaven rejoice and peace is given to men. As we glorify her, we cry aloud, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men."

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 8

O Lord, we celebrate the memory of your holy forebears and implore you to save our souls through them.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 131, 86 & 45 Tone 8

S1: O Lord, remember David and all his humility.

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

S2: See, we heard about it in Ephratha

and found it in the plains of the wood.

S3: O City of God, glorious things are spoken about you.

S4: God is within her and she will not be moved.

S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 131 Tone 8

S1: The Lord has sworn in truth to David
 and will not set it aside.

R: Save us, O Son of God.

You are wonderful in your saints.

We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: I will place a king on your throne from the fruit of your loins.

S3: I will make a horn grow there for David
 and have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

S4: For the Lord has selected Zion
 and chosen her to be his home.

S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 131, 45 & 64 Tone 4

S1: I will settle here for I have chosen her.

R: O Theotokos, your birth has proclaimed joy to all the inhabited earth, for the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, has radiated from you. He granted a blessing by annulling the curse and has granted us eternal life by destroying death.

S2: The Most High has made his tabernacle holy.

S3: Your temple is holy, wonderful in justice.

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!"

Apolytíkia

Tone 8

O Lord, we celebrate the memory of your holy forebears and implore you to save our souls through them.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, your birth has proclaimed joy to all the inhabited earth, for the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, has radiated from you. He granted a blessing by annulling the curse and has granted us eternal life by destroying death.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 4

O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from infertility through your birth. Adam and Eve *are freed* from the corruption of death and we, your people, who are freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you, "The infertile woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life."

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 infertile *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 33 Tone 4

S1: The just cried and the Lord heard them.

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

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10:38-42, 11:27-28)

The Lord said to those who followed him, "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!