

28 OCTOBER
+ Protecting Veil of the Theotokos (Church of Greece)
Martyrs Terentios (Terence) and Neonilla with their Children
Venerable Stephen of Sávvas' Monastery C8

Lord I have cried

Tone 1

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

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

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you.
 Most pure Mother of God, ever-present helper for us, *you are* the
 intercessor and shelter for the human race, the boundless sea of
 mercy, the spring of divine wisdom and the protection of the world.
 Those of us who are faithful loudly sing about your brilliant veil.
 Hail, *Lady*, for you have found favour! The Lord is with you and
 grants the world great mercy through 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.
 Isaiah amazingly prophesied that the mountain of the Lord would
 appear in the last days and that the home of God would be on it.
 Truly we have observed in connection with you that mountains and
 hills are beautified, and countless churches are dedicated with the
 titles of your feasts. Therefore we cry out to you, "Hail, most blessed
 Maiden! The Lord is with you and grants the world great mercy
 through you."

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

You fulfilled the prophecies and are the glory of the apostles and
 martyrs; you are the splendour of all the faithful. O protector of the
 world, you are the pride of virginity. O Lady, shelter under the veil
 of your mercy all those who sing, "Hail Full of Grace! The Lord is
 with you and grants the world great mercy through you."

Tone 4

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.
 He will redeem Israel from all his offences.
 You are the beauty of Jacob and the heavenly ladder on which the
 Lord came down to earth. O Theotokos, these images were
 revelations of your honour and glory. Angels in heaven and men on
 earth call you blessed, for you gave birth to the God of all. Through
 your mercy you pray for the whole world and protect those who keep
 your holy feast.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!
 O Theotokos, you are like a divinely planted Paradise, the place
 where the tree of life was watered by the Holy Spirit. We
 acknowledge that you gave birth to the Creator of all who feeds the
 faithful with the bread of life. Together with the Forerunner, plead
 with him for us and protect your people from all attacks with your
 precious veil.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.
 Heaven and earth are sanctified, the Church is radiant and all the
 people celebrate, for see, the Mother of God enters invisibly with the
 armies of the angels, the Forerunner and the Theologian, the prophets
 and the apostles. She prays to Christ for Christians and implores him
 to have mercy on this land and on the people who glorify the feast of
 her protection.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

Today the powers of heaven rejoice with us and the souls of the just
 are spiritually assembled to see the Queen and Mother glorified by
 the faithful. They witness the vision of the Mother of God with her
 arms stretched out on the clouds in prayer, as she begs peace for the
 world, strength for Orthodox Christians and salvation 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

Prophecy 1

Jacob's ladder is an antitype of the Theotokos.

From the Book of Genesis (28:10-18)
 Jacob went away from the well of the oath and left for Haran. ¹¹ He
 came to a certain place and slept there, for the sun had gone down.
 He took one of the stones of the place, put it under his head and lay
 down to sleep in that place. ¹² He dreamed and see there was a ladder
 fixed on the earth, whose top reached heaven, and the angels of God
 ascended and descended on it. ¹³ Then the Lord stood on it, and said:
 I am the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. Do not
 fear; the land on which you lie, to you I will give it, and to your seed.
¹⁴ Your seed will be like the sand of the earth; it will spread out to the
 sea, to the south, to the north and to the east. In you and in your seed
 will all the tribes of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ See I am with you to
 preserve you continually along all the way on which you will go. I
 will bring you back to this land, for I will not desert you, until I have
 done all that I have said to you. ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep
 and said: The Lord is in this place and I did not know it. ¹⁷ He was
 afraid and said: How fearful is this place! This is no other than the
 house of God and this is the gate of heaven.

Prophecy 2

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

From the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)
 It will come to pass that from the eighth day onwards, the priests will
 offer your whole-burnt-offerings on the altar, together with your
 peace-offerings, and I will accept you, says the Lord. ¹ Then he
 brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that
 looks eastwards, but it was shut. ² And the Lord said to me: This gate
 will be shut, it will not be opened, and no one will pass through it,
 for the Lord God of Israel will enter through it, and it will be shut. ³
 For the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will
 go through it by the way of the porch of the gate, and he will go out
 by the way of the same *gate*. ⁴ Then he brought me in by the way of
 the gate that looks northwards, in front of the house. I looked, and,
 see, the house was full of the glory of the Lord.

Prophecy 3

*Christ, our Wisdom, chose the house of the Theotokos for his
 incarnation.*

From the Book of Proverbs (9:1-11)
 Wisdom has built a house for herself, and set up seven pillars. ² She
 has killed her sacrifices; she has mingled her wine in a bowl, and
 prepared her table. ³ She has sent out her servants, calling with a loud
 proclamation to the feast, as though in a hollow, saying: ⁴ Whoever is

foolish, let him turn aside to me; and to those who want understanding she says: ⁵ Come, eat my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. ⁶ Leave folly and seek; search for wisdom so that you may live. Improve understanding by knowledge. ⁷ The one who disciplines evildoers will obtain dishonour for himself. The one who rebukes an ungodly man will disgrace himself. ⁸ Do not rebuke evildoers, in case they hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. ⁹ Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct someone just, and he will receive more instruction. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of holy ones is understanding, for to know the law is good understanding. ¹¹ For in this way you will live long, and years of your life will be added to you.

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Lití

Tone 2

Let us cleanse our thoughts and minds. Let us join the angels by observing the feast. Let us joyfully begin to sing a psalm of David to the Maiden who is the bride of Christ our God, the King of all, and say, "O Lord, rise and go up to your resting place, you and the Ark of your holiness." When you had adorned her as a beautiful room, you placed her in your city, so that she could positively order our lives through her prayers and protect us with your power from heathen enemies.

Apósticha

Tone 2

Since you are higher than all in heaven and on earth, more glorious than the Cherubim and most honourable among all creation, Christ has given you to Christians as defender and protector. Therefore, O Lady and Refuge of all, we sing to you and celebrate with joy the holy feast of your protection. Pray to Christ to grant us great mercy.

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

O people, let us joyfully sing a song of David to the servant and bride of God, the mother of Christ *who is* the King of all, "O Master, at your right hand stood the queen, clothed in robes of gold and adorned in divine clothing." When she, the chosen among women, had been made more beautiful than the whole world, you were pleased in your great mercy to be born from her. You have given her, the only blessed *Lady*, to your people as a helper, to guide and protect them from all tribulation.

S2: The rich people will beg your favour. Ps 44
O Theotokos, you are a mountain greater and more glorious than Sinai. Sinai could not bear the descent of God's glory in images and figures; it caught fire and there was thunder and lightning. But at the command of the one who encompasses all, you bore in your womb without being consumed the divine fire himself, the Word of God

who holds all things in the palm of his hand. As his mother you have boldness to approach him, therefore, O Lady, help those who keep your holy feast in faith. In your mercy do not forget to visit us, for you received the gift from God of guiding and protecting your servants, the Christian flock.

Glory: Both now: Tone 7

O Theotokos, the Church of God is adorned as with a shining crown by your precious veil. Today she shines with joy, celebrates mystically and cries to you, "Hail, O precious robe and crown of the God's glory! Hail, only fulfilment of glory and eternal joy! Hail, haven of those who run to you, our redeemer and our 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

Apolytíka

Tone 4

O Mother of God, today the faithful are illuminated by your coming, and celebrate the feast with joy. As we see your pure image, we fervently cry to you, "Shelter us beneath the precious veil of your protection and save us from every form of evil by imploring Christ, your Son and our God, to save our souls."

Tone 4

O Lord our God, your holy martyrs have received incorruptible crowns from you because of their struggles. For, since they had your strength, they laid low the tyrants and shattered the powerless audacity of demons. Save our souls through their prayers.

Tone 8

O Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of reverence and holiness, star of the world, companion of bishops, divinely-inspired and wise Stephen you enlighten us all through your teaching. Intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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.

Apolytíka

Tone 4

O Mother of God, today the faithful are illuminated by your coming, and celebrate the feast with joy. As we see your pure image, we fervently cry to you, "Shelter us beneath the precious veil of your protection and save us from every form of evil by imploring Christ, your Son and our God, to save our souls."

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you enlighten us all through your teaching. Intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 3

Visit us, your servants, and implore Christ our God to grant us great mercy, for you are surrounded by the divine light of the angelic hosts, by the company of prophets and apostles. They glorify you as the Theotokos. *X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 6

Most pure Theotokos, you are indeed the strength of the helpless. The lowly are exalted by you; through you we reach the heights. You are the protection of the whole human race, our true intercessor before our God. *X2*

(Polyeleos)

Kathisma 3

Tone 4

The holy veil is more precious than the old ark of the covenant and shines more brightly than gold. O Lady, it is mystically extended by your pure hands and mercifully protects those who gather today to celebrate your feast. *X2*

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

- 1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth, but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*
 2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord; they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*
 Glory:
 3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.
 Both now:
 4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit; they water all creation and produce life.

Prokéimenon Ps 44 Tone 4

R: I will remember your name.
 S: O daughter, listen and see.

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*
 P: For you, O God, are holy and rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.
 R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*
 Praise God in his saints;
 praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*
 P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*
 P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.
 P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*
 P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to 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)
³⁹ 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 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 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 servant. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the one who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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

Psalm 50

- O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean; you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood; O God of my salvation, my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit; God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice, with an offering and burnt sacrifices; then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 4

Today the powers of heaven rejoice with us. The souls of the just are spiritually assembled to see the Queen and Mother *who is* glorified by the faithful. They witness the vision of the Mother of God, with her arms stretched out on the clouds in prayer, as she begs peace for the world, strength for Orthodox Christians and salvation for our souls.

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the Martyrs Teréntios, Neonilla and children, of the Venerable Stephen, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. X12

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and bishops worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since she prays to the pre-eternal God for us

Íkos

O people, come and let us delight in her all-glorious miracles. Through her, Adam has been saved from corruption. She is the ark fashioned, not by Noah, but by God. In days of old, Moses was not able to see God in the burning bush, but now the whole earth acknowledges the Son of God who was born from her. She prays to him for us. Therefore, we glorify her as the Theotokos, since she prays to the pre-eternal God for us.

Synaxáριον

Today we celebrate the protection of the all-holy Theotokos. In 911 Constantinople was under military threat. As people prayed in the suburban church at Blachérnae during at all-night vigil, the fool-for-Christ, Andrew, and his disciple Epiphánios had a vision of the Theotokos holding her veil over them and concluded that she would protect the city.

Today we remember the holy martyrs Teréntios and Neonilla together with their children Nitás, Sárvilos, Iérax, Theódoulos, Phokás, Vīlis and Evníki. They lived in the Third Century. On the Twenty Eighth the triumphant couple led their sons and daughters to the Master.

On the same day we commemorate the hymnographer Stephen of Savvas' Monastery who lived in the Ninth Century. He composed canons and left an account of the massacre of twenty monks from his monastery who died in 797. He was named after a crown and a crown of virtues was woven by his life.

Together with them we remember:
Archbishop Arsénios of Serbia C13
Abbot and Wonderworker Job of Pochaev C17
Metropolitan Dimítrios of Rostov C18
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.

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 fearful at your divine glory, for you knew no man, yet bore the God of all. You held in your womb the Eternal Son who grants peace to those who praise you in song.

6: O believers, let us clap our hands in festivity and fulfil the most precious feast. Since we know God through the Theotokos, let us glorify the one who was born from her.

7: The godly youths worshipped the Creator rather than the creature. They courageously trampled on the flames and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The One 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 all creation to sing, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Canticle Nine

The Magnificat is not sung

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Let every mortal born on earth be radiant and spiritually leap for joy; let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the holy feast of the Mother of God and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin!"

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O exalted King, you are seated with the Father and praised by the Seraphim. Look down on the pleading of your mother, and wash away our sins, for she prays to you for us, "Save this land and increase your people." Grant health and victory to the Orthodox over their adversaries through the prayers of her who gave birth to you.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O divinely-chosen Virgin, we cry out to you with the voice of the angel, "Hail, for you have led Adam back into Paradise! Hail, for you drive the demons away with your name! Hail, O hope of Christians! Hail, O sanctification of souls! Hail, O preserver of our land!"

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

O virgin Lady Theotokos, remember us in your prayers, so that we may not perish because of our many sins. Protect us from all evil and grave dangers, for we place our trust in you. We glorify you as we honour the feast of your Protection.

9: Let every earthborn mortal be radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the holy feast of the Theotokos and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!"

Exaposteiláριον

Tone 3

O Theotokos, most holy Lady, you protect us with your precious veil and so preserve all Orthodox Christians from evil. O holy Virgin, as you did when the holy Andrew saw you praying in the Church of Blacherna, send down your great mercy on us. *X3*

Praises

Tone 8

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.

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

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O Lady, we fall before you in petition and greet you with tenderness,
"Hail, O Queen whom God has blessed. Hail, renowned Virgin, truly
proclaimed by the prophets! For Christ our God came on you like
the dew and you gave birth to him in purity, without knowing a man.
You carried in your arms the Creator and Lord of all. Pray to him for
us as we glorify in faith the feast of your Protection. X2

S2: The king will desire your beauty,
for he is your lord and you will bow before him. Ps 44

O virgin Theotokos, the hosts of angels sing your praises. O Mother
of God, the patriarchs and bishops glorify you, and the holy apostles
serve you, when they see you pleading for the whole world to Christ
our God, the Saviour of all. Implore him to save the city and people
who glorify and honour in faith the feast of your Protection.

S1: The rich people will beg your favour. Ps 44
O Theotokos, with your veil which shines brighter than the rays of
the sun, God sanctified you with the Holy Spirit *even* more than the
ark of Aaron. You enlighten the Church and the people, and drive
away the darkness of our sins. save from tribulation and affliction
those who honour with faith the feast of your holy Protection.

Glory: Both now: Tone 6

O Lady, the glorious Andrew saw you in the air, together with a host
of angels, apostles, prophets and a great crowd of martyrs, as you
prayed to your Son and our God for the city and people, while you
protected them with your precious veil. So now also, most pure
Mother, hurry to rescue us who are the chosen flock of your Son, as
we honour the memory of your vision in hymns and songs.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144
⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.
⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3
¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.
¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118
¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89
I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40
¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142
¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35
¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 4

O Mother of God, today the faithful are illuminated by your coming,
and celebrate the feast with joy. As we see your pure image, we
fervently cry to you, "Shelter us beneath the precious veil of your
protection and save us from every form of evil by imploring Christ,
your Son and our God to save 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 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

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

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 4

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

R: O Mother of God, today the faithful are illuminated by your
coming and celebrate the feast with joy. As we see your pure image,
we fervently cry to you, "Shelter us beneath the precious veil of your
protection and save us from every form of evil by imploring Christ,
your Son and our God to save our souls."

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

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!"

Apolytikia

Tone 4

O Mother of God, today the faithful are illuminated by your coming,
and celebrate the feast with joy. As we see your pure image, we
fervently cry to you, "Shelter us beneath the precious veil of your
protection and save us from every form of evil by imploring Christ,
your Son and our God, to save our souls."

Tone 4

O Lord our God, your holy martyrs have received incorruptible
crowns from you because of their struggles. For, since they had your
strength, they laid low the tyrants and shattered the powerless
audacity of demons. Save our souls through their prayers.

Tone 8

O Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of reverence and holiness, star of the world, companion of bishops, divinely-inspired and wise Stephen you enlighten us all through your teaching. Intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and bishops worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since she prays to the pre-eternal God 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, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. ²For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand, the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. ³Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold. *This* contained a golden urn holding the manna, Aaron's rod that came into bud and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory who overshadowed the mercy seat. We cannot now speak in detail about these things. ⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; ⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking 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 (10:38-42, 11:27-28)

At that time Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; ⁴² one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." ²⁷ As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Communion Ps 115

I will take up the cup of salvation

and address the name of the Lord. Alleluia!