

**9 DECEMBER**  
**± Maternity of Anna**  
**± Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection C7**

**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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

The infertile Anna leapt for joy when she conceived Mary the Virgin, who in turn will conceive God the Word in the flesh. In the fullness of her joy, she cried out. "Rejoice with me, all you tribes of Israel, for I have conceived according to the will of God my Saviour. He has answered my prayer and ended my shame in fulfilment of his promise. He will heal the pains of my heart through the pains of child-bearing."

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.

The *Lord* who made waters gush from the rock permitted your womb to carry the ever-virgin Mary through whom our salvation will come. By this, you were saved from shame. No longer will you live on earth as infertile, for you will bear the Earth which produces the Tree of Life. In accordance with his will he has rescued the human race from every shame by taking on our human form and becoming man, for he is rich in mercy.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord

from morning watch until night,

from morning watch.

See, the promises of the prophets are fulfilled. The holy mountain is planted in the womb. The divine ladder is set up, the great throne of the King is ready. The place for the Lord's passage is prepared. The dry bush which the fire could not consume is blooming. The treasury of grace is an abundant flow of blessing which heals the infertility of Anna; we glorify her with faith.

Tone 6

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

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O Christ our Master, immortal Wisdom of God, observe this temple from the heights of heaven and preserve it unshaken until the end of time. O Lord, in your goodness, judge the faithful, who constantly visit it, worthy to receive your unapproachable light.

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

Solomon built the temple of old and offered you the blood of animals in sacrifice. In this way, O Lord, he prefigured your own temple which you determined to construct with your blood. Together with him we now ask you to send your Spirit of Truth on this temple in the tenderness of your heart.

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

O Brothers, come on this joyful feast and form spiritual choirs with our souls kindled like lamps. As we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication, we glorify the Creator in the renewal of the hearts of all men; we raise our souls to the heights.

Glory: Tone 6

O Lord, we celebrate the memory of the dedication and glorify you as the source of all holiness. O God of all goodness, all-powerful Lord, we ask you to sanctify our thoughts at the prayers of your renowned martyrs.

Both now: Tone 1

Today the great Mystery announced from all eternity, whose depths angels and men cannot perceive, appears in the infertile womb of Anna. Mary, the Maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the eternal King who will renew our human nature. Let us implore her with a pure heart and say, "Plead for us with your Son and our God that our souls may be saved."

### **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 5

Anna, named for divine grace, cried out in her prayer. She implored the Creator and God of all, “O Master, you perceive the shame of infertility; heal the pain of my heart. Open my womb to make it fruitful, so that we may offer you the child as a gift and give glory and praise with hymns and songs to your love through which the world receives great mercy.

S1: The Lord has sworn in truth to David

and will not set it aside. Ps 131

With fervent prayer Anna implored the Lord for a child. The voice of the angel announced to her, “God has granted you the desire of your prayer. Do not weep, for you will be a fruitful olive tree and bear the marvellous branch of the Virgin. She will produce in the flesh the bloom of Christ who grants the world great mercy.

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

The honourable parents Joachim and Anna have given birth to the lamb who will give birth past understanding to the Lamb of God who is to be sacrificed for the whole human race. They offer God continuous and humble praise. Therefore let us rejoice and give them ardent glory for the birth of the one who was born from them in a marvellous manner, the Theotokos through whom the world receives great mercy.

#### Glory: Tone 2

O Lord, we glorify you as we celebrate the dedication of the sacred Church of your Resurrection. You have consecrated it and filled the Church with your totally adequate grace. You are pleased with the divine and mystical services, the bloodless and pure sacrifices which are celebrated by the faithful and accepted from the hands of your servants. In return for those who rightly offer the Mysteries, you grant the cleansing of their sins and your great mercy.

Both now:

Today a royal cloak of purple and fine linen is woven from the loins of David, and the mystical Flower of Jesse is blooming. Christ our God, the Saviour of our souls will come from it.

### **Song of Simeon**

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace  
according to your word,

<sup>2</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before all peoples,

<sup>3</sup> a light of revelation for *the* nations  
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

### **Triságion Prayers**

#### **Apolytíkiá**

Tone 4

Today the bonds of infertility are broken; God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God by whom the *Lord* who cannot be contained will be born as mortal man. He commanded an angel to cry to her, “Hail, Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!

Tone 4

O Lord, in the same way that you have determined the splendour of the heavenly firmament above, so you have prepared the beauty of the holy tabernacle of your glory here on earth. Strengthen it to the ages of ages. O Lord, at the prayers of the Theotokos, receive the constant prayers which we send you from this temple, for you are the life and resurrection of us all.

Tone 4

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 a union without confusion and freely endured the cross for us by his own will. 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

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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*

## **Kathísma 1**

Tone 1

A new heaven is fashioned in the womb of Anna by the command of God, the Creator of all. From her the Sun which never sets will shine and illuminate the whole world with rays of divinity in the abundance of his loving kindness, for he alone is the Lover of the human race.

Glory: Both now:

In time past the prophetic choirs foretold the Virgin, blameless and pure, the child of God. She was conceived today by holy Anna, who was infertile and childless. Let us bless her today with joyful hearts as the only blameless *Lady*, for we have been saved through her.

## **Kathísma 2**

Tone 4

O Adam, look at your renewal! O Eve, rejoice with joy! The infertile wasteland without water has produced the most beautiful fruit. She will produce the Bread of immortality for the world which will cause all infertility to end. Today let us rejoice with them. *X2*

*Polyeleos*

## **Kathisma 3**

Tone 4

O David, cry out! What has the Lord promised you? You say, “God has now fulfilled what he swore to me. He has given the Virgin from the fruit of my loins. Christ the Creator, the New Adam, is born from her. *He is a King to sit on my throne. He reigns today and his kingdom will have no end. The infertile woman gives birth to the Theotokos who supports our life.*” *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.

- <sup>4</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>5</sup> For I know my lawlessness  
and my sin is always before me.
- <sup>6</sup> I have sinned against you alone  
and done this evil before you
- <sup>6b</sup> so that you might be justified in your words  
and overcome when you are judged.
- <sup>7</sup> For see, I was conceived in lawlessness  
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
- <sup>8</sup> For see, you have loved truth  
and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
- <sup>9</sup> You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
- <sup>10</sup> You will make me hear about joy and gladness;  
the humbled bones will rejoice.
- <sup>11</sup> Turn your face from my sins  
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
- <sup>12</sup> O God, create a pure heart within me  
and renew an upright spirit within me.
- <sup>13</sup> Do not banish me from your presence  
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>14</sup> Restore the joy of your salvation to me  
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
- <sup>15</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways  
and the ungodly will return to you.
- <sup>16</sup> O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;  
O God of my salvation,  
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
- <sup>17</sup> O Lord, you will open my lips  
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
- <sup>18</sup> For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;  
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
- <sup>19</sup> Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;  
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
- <sup>20</sup> O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
- <sup>21</sup> 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 3

Today the entire inhabited earth celebrates the conceiving of Anna which has been accomplished by God himself. Anna has carried the pure Lady who will give birth to the Word of God in a manner which is beyond words.

### **Íkos**

The infertile Anna spoke with tears, “You once granted Sarah a son, the Patriarch Isaac, despite her advanced age, because of your promise and protection. You opened the infertile womb of Anna, the mother of Samuel. Observe me at this time and accept my prayers. Fulfil my request.” The Benefactor heard her. Because of it, she joyfully conceived the Virgin who will give birth to the Word of God in a way which is beyond description.

### **Synaxáron**

Today we celebrate the conceiving by Anna of the All-holy Theotokos. On the Ninth she became the grandmother of God, for she conceived the mother of her King.

On the same day we also commemorate the rededication of the Church of Resurrection in Jerusalem after the Seventh Century Persian invasion. The principal feast is on 13 September.

We also remember:

Prophetess Anna, mother of Samuel C10 BC

Abbess Ethelgiva of Shaftesbury C9

Stephen the "New Light" of Constantinople C19

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

### **Katavasías**

1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ is from heaven, receive him! Christ is on earth, be raised! All the earth, sing to the Lord! All you people, praise him with joy, for he has been glorified!

3: Let us cry out to Christ our God, to the Son begotten of the Father before all ages and incarnate from the Virgin without seed in these latter days, “O Lord, you have raised our horn and are holy.”

4: O Rod of the stem of Jesse and Flower which bloomed from a virgin, O all-praised Christ, you have come from the mountain covered with darkness. You have been made flesh from her who did not know marriage. O God not formed from matter, O Lord, glory to your might!

5: God of peace and Father of mercies, you have sent us the Angel of Great Council who grants us peace. So we are guided to the light of the knowledge of God. O Lover of the human race, we wake early from the night and praise you.

6: The sea-monster threw out Jonah unharmed as it had received him, like a baby from the womb. When the Word came to live in the Virgin and was made flesh, he came out, yet preserved her incorrupt, for he himself was not subject to decay and he kept his mother free from harm.

7: The children brought up together in godliness, despised the unjust command, and were not afraid of the threat of fire, but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang, “Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!”

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The furnace which was moist with dew was the image of a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, just as the fire of divinity did not consume the Virgin's womb when it entered. So let us raise the song, “Let tthe one whole creation 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.

<sup>2</sup> For he has regarded his servant's humility;  
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

<sup>3</sup> 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:

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

<sup>5</sup> 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:

<sup>6</sup> 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: I see a strange and most glorious mystery. Heaven is the cave and the cherubic throne is the Virgin. The manger is the place where Christ lay. *He* is the God who cannot be contained and whom we glorify in song.

### 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*

### Exaposteilária

Tone 3

O Word, you redeemed your holy Church with *your* most-pure blood which is worthy of all praise and honour. O God of all goodness, keep her in your Spirit and clothe her with your divine splendour. In your majesty glorify those who worthily celebrate the dedication of your house.

The Lord listened to the sighing of the holy Anna in his mercy. He granted her the Virgin who would give birth to the Light which would illuminate all the ends of the earth in a marvellous manner. Joachim celebrates with joy and is filled with wonder as he muses about her.

The Wisdom of God has built a house for himself from an infertile womb. She is the Theotokos Mary. Therefore all generations correctly called her blessed.

### **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.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;  
praise him with strings and flute.  
O Adam and Eve, lay aside your sorrow. See, an infertile womb  
marvellously produces fruit today. She is the mother of our Joy.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;  
praise him with joyful cymbals.  
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.  
O father Abraham, and all you patriarchs, rejoice greatly when you see  
your seed bloom. She is the Theotokos.

S2: I truly waited for the Lord. Ps 39  
O choir of the prophets, rejoice exceedingly. For see, today Anna  
produces the holy Fruit which you prophesied.

S1: He set my feet on a rock. Ps 39  
O ends of the earth, rejoice! See, the infertile mother today conceives the  
one who, without seed, will bear the Creator of all.

Glory: Tone 5

O Word, you rest in the bosom of the Father with the Holy Spirit; renew  
the temple which has been built in your name.

Both now: Tone 2

Today a royal cloak of purple and fine linen is woven from the loins of David and the mystical flower of Jesse is blooming. Christ our God, the Saviour of our souls will come from it.

### Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!

Glory to God in the highest!

Let peace *come* to earth and goodwill to men!

<sup>2</sup> We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,  
we glorify you *and* thank you for your great glory,

<sup>3</sup> O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,  
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,  
and you, O Holy Spirit!

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right hand of the Father,  
and have mercy on us.

<sup>6</sup> For only you are holy, only you are Lord,  
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. \*

<sup>7</sup> I will bless you every day  
and constantly praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144.2

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
to be protected from sin.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!  
Your name is praised and glorified for ever. Amen Dan 3

<sup>10</sup> O Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.22

<sup>16</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord!  
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118.12

<sup>12</sup> O Lord, you have been our refuge  
from generation to generation. Ps 89.1

I said, "Lord, have mercy on me;  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40.5

<sup>14</sup> O Lord, I have fled to you;  
teach me to do your will,

for you are my God. Ps 142:10

<sup>15</sup> For with you is the source of life  
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35.10

<sup>16</sup> Extend your mercy  
to those who know you. Ps 35.11

### **Triságion**

### **Apolytíkion**

Tone 4

Today the bonds of infertility are broken, God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God by whom the *Lord* who cannot be contained was born as mortal man. He commanded an angel to cry to her, “Hail, Full of Grace; the Lord is with 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 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*

### **Antíphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 4**

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

R: Today the bonds of infertility are broken, God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God by whom the *Lord* who cannot be contained was born as mortal man. He commanded an angel to cry to her, “Hail, Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!

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

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*Of the Church*

### **Kontákion**

Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will ineffably give birth to the pre-eternal Word. O inhabited earth, rejoice when you hear the news!

Glorify with the angels and shepherds the one who chose to be revealed as a new born Child, *yet was* God before the ages.

### **Triságion**

#### **Prokeímenon Ps 63 Tone 7**

R: The just will rejoice in the Lord.

S: O God, listen to my voice.

### **Apóstolos**

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. <sup>23</sup>But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. <sup>24</sup>Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, who bears children for slavery; she is *called* Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>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 91 Tone 4**

S1: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

S2: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord  
will blossom in the courts of our God.

### **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. <sup>17</sup> For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup> Take heed then how you hear; for to the one who has will more be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away." <sup>19</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him for the crowd. <sup>20</sup> And he was told, "Your mother and your

brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.”<sup>21</sup> But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

### **Communion Ps 31**

O just, be glad in the Lord and rejoice;  
all you upright in heart, boast *in the Lord*. Alleluia!