

NOVEMBER 21

Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: (Reads text from service book)

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.*

Tone 1 (Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)

Today, let us dance, O faithful,
singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns
and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark,
that contained the Word Who cannot be contained;
for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord
as a young child in the flesh,
and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her//
as the dwelling place of God.

- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.*

(Repeat "Today, let us dance, O faithful, ...")

- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God,
the pure Maiden who alone is blessed among women,
is offered in the Temple of the Law
that she may make her dwelling in the Holy Place.

Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit,
and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord, //
chanting psalms, and honoring His Mother.

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

You are the preaching of the Prophets, O Virgin Mother of God;
the glory of the Apostles and the boast of Martyrs,
and the renewal of all the earth-born,
for through you, we are reconciled to God.
Therefore, being saved by your intercessions,
we honor your coming into the Temple of the Lord;
and with the Angel we all cry out to you in song: //
“Rejoice, O all-revered Lady!”

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.

Tone 4 (As one valiant among martyrs)

Led by the Holy Spirit,
the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of
Holies,
where she is fed by an Angel.
She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God,
Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her, //
and has made Godlike the fallen nature of mortals.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

(Repeat “Led by the Holy Spirit”)

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

The young girls rejoice today,
and with lamps in hand they go before the spiritual Lamp,
as she is led with reverence into the Holy of Holies.
They foreshadow the Brightness past telling
Who is to shine forth from her //
and enlighten by the Spirit those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Anna the all-praised cried out rejoicing:
“Receive, O Zachariah, her whom God’s Prophets proclaimed in the Spirit,

and bring her into the holy Temple,
there to be brought up in reverence,
that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, //
His palace and resting place and dwelling filled with light!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 8

After your birth, O Lady and Bride of God,
you came to the Temple of the Lord
to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, since you yourself are holy.
And Gabriel then was sent to you, all-blameless Maiden, to bring you food.
All in heaven were amazed
to see how the Holy Spirit had made His abode in you.
Therefore, O spotless and undefiled Mother of God,
glorified in heaven and on earth, //
save the human race!

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Second Book of Moses called Exodus. (*Exod. 40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the Tabernacle of the Testimony. and you shall put in it the Ark and cover it with the veil. You shall bring in the table and the lampstand; and you shall set there a golden altar to burn incense before the Ark of the Testimony. And you shall put a covering on the door of the Tabernacle of the Testimony.

"Then you shall take the oil of anointing and anoint the Tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its vessels; and it shall be holy. And you shall consecrate the Altar of Burnt Offerings; it shall be most holy."

And Moses did all that the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel had commanded him. And a cloud covered the Tabernacle of the Testimony and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the Tabernacle of the Testimony, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Third Book of Kings. (*1 Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: And it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tabernacle of the Testimony.

And the King and all Israel went before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Oracle of the Temple-into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant.

And when the priests came out from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. (*Ezekiel 43:27-44:4*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: It shall be from the eighth day and upwards, the Priests shall make your holocausts upon the altar, and those for your salvation; and I shall accept you, says the Lord. And he turned me back by the way of the outer gate of the Holy Place, which looks towards the east, and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, will enter through it, and it shall be shut. Therefore this prince shall sit in it to eat bread. By the way of the Elam of the gate he shall enter, and by that way he shall go out. And he brought me by the way of the gate towards the North, opposite the House; and I saw, and behold the whole house of the Lord was full of glory.

Then, the Augmented Litany

Aposticha

Tone 5

(Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross)

Heaven and earth rejoice,
beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish,
as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence.
Zachariah cried to her in amazement:
“Gate of the Lord, to you I open the gates of the Temple;
rejoice and go around it dancing.
For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel
will now come to dwell openly in our midst,
and that from you shall be born God the Word, //
Who grants the world His great mercy!”

*v: Virgins shall be brought to the King after her; her companions
shall be brought to You. (Psalm 44/45:15)*

Anna, being the namesake of grace,
joyfully brings into the Temple of God
the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace,
and calls young girls to go before her with lamps in hand.
She says: “Go, child, to Him Who gave you to me;
to be an offering and a sweet smelling incense.
Go into the inner sanctuary that none may enter:
learn its mysteries,
and prepare yourself to become the pleasing and fair dwelling-place of
Jesus, //
Who grants the world His great mercy!”

*v: They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be led into
the Temple of the King. (Psalm 44/45:16)*

The most holy Virgin, the Temple that is to contain God,
is dedicated within the Temple of God;
and young girls, bearing lamps, now go before her.
Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance,
for they have borne her who is to bear the Creator.
And she who is all-pure dances around the divine habitations
and is fed by the hand of an Angel.

She has been revealed as the Mother of Christ, //
Who grants the world His great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6 (by *Sergius of Jerusalem*)

Today let us the crowds of the assembled faithful
celebrate a spiritual feast:
let us reverently praise the Virgin Theotokos and child of God,
as she is brought into the Temple of the Lord!
She was forechosen from all generations
to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Lord and God of all.
O Virgins, bearing lamps, go before her,
honoring the majestic progress of the ever-Virgin!
Mothers, lay aside every sorrow and accompany them with joy,
singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God,
the cause of joy for the world!
Therefore, let us all join with the Angel,
and joyfully cry out: "Rejoice!" to her who is full of grace, //
and who ever intercedes for our souls.

Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

(at Great Vespers)

Troparion Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice
and sing to her: //
"Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Troparion Tone 4

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of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.

The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.

Let us rejoice

and sing to her://

“Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 4 Kontakion

The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,
is presented today to the house of the Lord.

She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:

“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

Tone 3 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

*v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all
generations will call me blessed. (Lk 1:48)*

Epistle Hebrews 9:1-7

Brethren, even the first covenant had justifications of divine service and an earthly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle prepared, in the first part of which were the candlestick and the table and the setting forth of loaves, which is called “the Holy”; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the “Holy of Holies”, which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, and Aaron’s rod that had blossomed, and the tablets of the covenant; and over it were the Cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus ordered, the priests

always went into the first part of the tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second part the High Priest went alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for his own and the people's ignorance.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Harken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps 44/45:10)

v. The rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps 44/45:13)

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 4:)

The Angels beheld the Entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.

How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since she is a living Ark of God

let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.

But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her,

praising her in joy with the Angel's song:

"Truly, you are more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!"

Communion Hymn

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

(Ps 115/116:13)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!