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# The Service of Vespers

**on Sunday Evening**

**for Monday, November 25, 2019**

**Menaion - November 25**

**Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entry, and Memory of the Holy  
Great Martyr Catherine**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - November 25**

Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entry, and  
Memory of the Holy Great Martyr Catherine

**VESPERS**

**PRIEST**

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,  
and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**READER**

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down  
before Him, Christ our King and God.

**Psalm 103 (104).**

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my  
God, You are magnified exceedingly; You  
clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and  
majesty, who cover Yourself with light as  
with a garment, who stretch out the heavens  
like a curtain; You are He who covers His  
upper chambers with water, who makes the  
clouds His means of approach, who walks  
on the wings of the winds, who makes His  
angels spirits and His ministers a flame of  
fire. He established the earth on its stable  
foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of  
ages. The deep like a garment is His covering;  
the waters shall stand upon the mountains;  
at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound  
of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The  
mountains rise up, and the plains sink down  
to the place You founded for them. You set  
a boundary they shall not pass over; neither  
shall they return to cover the earth. You are

He who sends springs into the valley; the  
waters shall pass between the mountains;  
they shall give drink to all the wild animals  
of the field; the wild asses shall quench their  
thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside  
them; they shall sing from the midst of the  
rocks. You are He who waters the mountains  
from His higher places; the earth shall be  
satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are  
He who causes grass to grow for the cattle,  
and the green plant for the service of man, to  
bring forth bread from the earth; and wine  
gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face  
with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.  
The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit,  
the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted;  
there the sparrows shall make their nests;  
the house of the heron takes the lead among  
them. The high mountains are for the deer; the  
cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the  
moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting.  
You established darkness, and it was night,  
wherein all the wild animals of the forest  
will prowl about; the young lions roar and  
snatch their prey, and seek their food from  
God. The sun arises, and they are gathered  
together; and they shall be put to bed in their  
dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his  
labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall  
be magnified greatly; You made all things  
in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your  
creation. There is this great and spacious sea:  
the creeping things are there without number;  
the living things are there, both small and  
great; there the ships pass through; there is  
this dragon You formed to play therein. All  
things wait upon You, that You may give  
them food in due season. When You give

it to them, they shall gather it; when You open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

*While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.*

**PRIEST** (*inaudibly*)

### **1st Prayer**

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **2nd Prayer**

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **3rd Prayer**

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **4th Prayer**

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### **5th Prayer**

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

### 7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

*When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.*

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Mode 1.**

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.



The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,  
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner  
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of  
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the  
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.  
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so  
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in  
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from  
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,  
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I  
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I  
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew  
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one  
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared  
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,  
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled  
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are  
stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your  
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward  
me.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O  
Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my  
supplication.

### Stichera for the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

#### Mode 1. *What a paradoxical miracle.*

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O  
Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness  
with You.* [SAAS]

O believers, let us dance today, \* singing  
to the Master in the words of Psalms and  
hymns, \* and honor His tabernacle that He  
sanctified, \* the animate Ark that held \* the  
uncontainable Logos within herself. \* For she  
is offered to God, \* being a babe in the flesh  
supernaturally. \* And the great and holy high  
priest \* Zacharias feeling joy \* in his heart now  
receives her \* who in time will be the dwelling  
of God. [SD]

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You;  
my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in  
the Lord.* [SAAS]

On this day the living temple \* of the holy  
glory of Christ our Lord and God, \* the only  
woman to be all-holy, blessed and pure, \* is  
brought to the holy Temple of the Lord to  
inhabit the holy place. \* And therefore does  
Joachim \* along with Anna rejoice in the spirit  
now. \* And the choruses of virgins \* chanting  
hymns to the Lord, \* sing to Him and His  
Mother, \* whom they honor in the words of  
Psalms. [SD]

*From the morning watch until night; from the  
morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the  
Lord.* [SAAS]

You are she of whom the Prophets  
preached, \* the Apostles' glory, and the  
martyrs' pride and joy. \* Renewal are you



of all us who were born on earth, \* O Virgin Mother of God, for we have been reconciled to God through you. \* And therefore we honor your procession into the Temple of God the Lord. \* And together with the Angel, we cry out in psalms, Rejoice, \* to you, all-holy Lady, \* at whose intercession we are saved. [SD]

**For the Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 1.** *For the celestial orders.*

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions.* [SAAS]

O Martyr Catherine, the city of Alexandria \* today rejoices greatly, \* for it proudly possesses \* your swaddling-bands in your holy temple. And we \* also piously celebrate \* the feast of your holy memory, and we ask \* that you pray for us who honor you. [SD]

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples.* [SAAS]

Let us observe the all-festive mem'ry of Catherine today. \* She roundly devastated \* both in word and in action \* the full array of enemy forces indeed \* and their rhetorical arguments. O God, by her intercessions deliver us \* and protect us from the heresies. [SD]

*For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.* [SAAS]

All-wise and glorious Martyr all-holy Catherine, rejoice! \* Our Savior Christ transported \* your most God-pleasing body \* to Sinai, that Mountain where Moses of old \* saw the bush that was burning not; \* and He preserves and protects it there till the time \* that He comes again to judge the world. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

O martyr fans, let us joyfully run to the festival of the Martyr Catherine, who was wise in God, and let us crown her with praise as if with flowers. Let us shout salutations to her, "Rejoice, for you refuted the insolent speech of the babbling Orators, since it was brimming with stupidity, and you led them to the true Faith in God! Rejoice, for you gave your body over to elaborate tortures, for the love of your Creator, and like an indestructible anvil you did not break. Rejoice, for you were given entrance to the mansions on high, a worthy compensation for your labors, and you bask in everlasting glory! We also long for this, and as we extol you, we hope that we will not be disappointed." [SD]

Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 4.**

After you were born, O Lady Bride of God, you went to the Temple of the Lord to be raised in the Holy of Holies, as one who was sanctified. Then Gabriel was sent to you, the all-blameless one, and he brought you food. All beings in heaven were astounded, seeing the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Therefore, O spotless and unstained Mother of God, glorified in heaven and on earth, ever keep us safe. [SD]

**DEACON** *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

**Prayer of the Entrance**

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer

before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise.

**CLERGY AND PEOPLE**

**Mode 2.**

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; \* and therefore the world glorifies You. <sup>[SD]</sup>

**DEACON**

The evening Prokeimenon.

**CHOIR**

**Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 4.**

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. (2) <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

**Verse:** *Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord.

**The Readings**

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

WSol 4:7a, 16a, 17a, 19b-20; 5:1-7

But though a righteous man may die before his time, he shall be at rest. But a

righteous man who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living. For they will see the end of the wise man, but will not understand what the Lord purposed for him, because He will dash them headlong and speechless to the ground and shake them from the foundations. They shall be left dry and barren to the very end; they shall be in pain, and their memory shall perish. They will come with dread in the day of reckoning for their sins, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face. Then the righteous man will stand with confidence in the presence of those who afflict him; and those who reject his labors, when they see him, will be shaken with dreadful fear; and they shall be amazed at his unexpected salvation. They will speak among themselves with regret, and in anguish of spirit they will groan and say, "This is the man whom we fools once held in derision and made a byword of disgrace. We considered his life to be madness and his death as without honor. How has he been numbered among the sons of God? and how is his portion among the saints? Therefore we went astray from the way of truth, for the light of righteousness did not shine on us, and the sun did not rise upon us. We were satisfied with the paths of lawlessness, and we traveled through impassable deserts; but the way of the Lord we have not known. <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

WSol 3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torture will ever touch them. In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered to be misfortune, and their passage from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in man's view they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Though chastened in a few things, great kindness will be shown them, for God tested them and found them worthy of Himself. He tested them like gold in a furnace and accepted them as a whole burnt offering. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and they will run about like sparks through straw. They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful shall continue with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect [and He watches over His holy ones]. [SAAS]

**READER**

The reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon.

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

**READER**

WSol 5:15-6:3

The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; and their care is by the Most High. Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity and a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord, because He will shelter them with His right hand and protect them with His arm. He will take His zeal as His full armor and will turn His

creation into weapons against His enemies. He will wear righteousness as a breastplate and put on impartial judgment as a helmet. He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield and sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword; and creation will fight with Him against the senseless. Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike and leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds; and hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from an engine of war. The water of the sea will be vexed with them, and the rivers will wash over them severely. A powerful wind will oppose them, and like a storm it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth, and wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations. For power was given to you from the Lord, and your lordship from the Most High. [SAAS]

**DEACON**

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for (episcopal rank)  
(name).

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

*(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)*

#### **PRIEST**

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the

Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

#### **READER**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

*(Amen.)*

#### **DEACON**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST** *(in a low voice)*

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants

have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

**PRIEST**

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

*From Menaion - - -*

**CHOIR**

**Aposticha for the Theotokos.**

**Mode pl. 1. N/M (Rejoice.)**

Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual heaven,/the only Virgin without blemish, enters the house of God 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 round it in gladness./For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel/shall now come to dwell openly in our midst/and that from you shall be born God the Word,//Who grants the world great mercy! <sup>[OCA]</sup>

**Verse:** *Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house. For the King desired your beauty.* <sup>[SAAS]</sup>

Anna, truly blessed by God's grace/led with gladness into the Temple of the Lord/the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace,/and she called the young girls to go before her with lamps in hand./"Go, child," she said, "to Him Who gave you to me;/be to Him an offering and a sweet smelling incense./Go into the place which none may enter:/Learn



its mysteries and prepare yourself/to become  
the pleasing and beautiful dwelling-place of  
Jesus, // Who grants the world great mercy!"

[OCA]

**Verse:** *The rich among the people shall  
entreat your favor.* [SAAS]

The most holy Virgin, Temple that is to  
hold God, /is dedicated within the Temple  
of the Lord; /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, the all-pure, with rejoicing  
goes round the divine habitations, /and is fed  
by the hands of an angel. /She it is who will  
become Mother of Christ, // Who grants the  
world great mercy! [OCA]

Glory. **For the Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

You led a spiritual life, and thus you  
captivated the godless tribunal, and you  
stood victorious, O Catherine, with dignity,  
decked in divine brilliance as if with flowers.  
And having put on the power of God, you  
ridiculed the tyrant's decree, and you stifled  
the nonsensical chatter of the orators, O holy  
Martyr who suffered much. [SD]

Both now. **For the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Today let us the assembled faithful  
triumph in spirit! /Let us reverently praise the  
child of God, Virgin and Theotokos /as she is  
offered in the Temple of the Lord: /She who  
was forechosen from all generations /to be the  
dwelling-place of Christ, the Master and God  
of all. /Virgins bearing lamps, go before her, /

honoring the majestic advance of the ever-  
Virgin! /Mothers, set aside every sorrow to  
follow them in gladness, /singing the praises  
of her who became the Mother of God /and  
mediator of joy for the world! /With the angel,  
let us all joyfully cry: Rejoice! to her, // for she  
is the joyous one who ever intercedes for our  
souls! [OCA]

**PRIEST**

**Song of Simeon.**

Lord, now You are letting Your servant  
depart in peace, according to Your word; for  
my eyes have seen Your salvation which You  
have prepared before the face of all peoples.  
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and  
the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

**PEOPLE**

**Trisagion Prayers.**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages  
of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.  
Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our  
transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our  
infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the  
Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages  
of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed  
be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will  
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us

this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**PRIEST**

For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Apolytikion of the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

[SD]

Glory. **For the Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 1. Let us worship the Word.**

Let us praise and extol the all-lauded Bride of Christ,\* the Protectress of Sinai, divine Saint Catherine,\* as the one who gives aid and her assistance to us;\* for she brilliantly suppressed the impious orators,\* with the sword of the Spirit.\* And being crowned as a martyr,\* she asks that all receive the great mercy. [SD]

Both now.

**Apolytikion of the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Today is the prelude of God's good pleasure, and the proclamation of humanity's

salvation. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and in herself she announces Christ to all. Let us, then, with a great voice cry aloud to her: "Rejoice, you are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

[SD]

**DEACON**

Wisdom.

*(Father, bless!)*

**PRIEST**

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.  
*(Amen.)*

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

**READER**

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

**PRIEST**

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers,



(local patron saint); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, the holy Great Martyr and all-wise Catherine, whose memory we celebrate; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

*(Amen.)*