

eMatins powered by AGES

The Service of Vespers

on Wednesday Evening

for Thursday, November 21, 2019

Menaion - November 21

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

Text in English

Sources

AC Copyright © 2019 by Anthony Cook

VPA Copyright © 2016 by Virgil Peter Andronache

RB Copyright © 2019 by Richard Barrett

SD Copyright © 2019 by Fr. Seraphim Dedes

GKD Copyright © 2017 by Geroge K. Duvall

GOA © The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

HC Liturgical Texts courtesy and copyright of Holy Cross Press, Brookline, MA

JMB Copyright © 2015 by John Michael Boyer

EL Copyright Archimandrite Ephrem [Lash] ©

KW © Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

NKJV Scripture taken from the New King James Version™. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

OCA Copyright © 1996–2015. All rights reserved.

RSV Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SAAS Scripture taken from the St. Athanasius Academy Septuagint™. Copyright © 2008 by St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

Disclaimer

The translation, rubrics, Greek and English texts are for the purposes of worship only and is subject to change without notice and should not be construed as a commitment by the authors, translators, developers, and personnel associated with its publication. Efforts are taken to make this booklet complete and accurate, but no warranty of fitness is implied.

All rights reserved. The materials contained within this booklet remain the property of all contributing translators. It is published solely for the purpose of providing a source of worship materials to the parishes of the Orthodox Church and may be copied and otherwise reproduced as needed by the parish toward this end; however, it may not be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or translated into any language in any form by any means — electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise — for the purpose of sale without the express written permission.

AGES DCS Website

<https://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs>

The AGES Digital Chant Stand is supported in part by generous grants from Leadership 100 and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

This document was produced using the AGES Liturgical Workbench. For more information, contact AGES Initiatives: info@agesinitiatives.org

Menaion - November 21

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

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.)

The first stanza of Kathisma 1 of the Psalter may be read, followed by the short litany.

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, 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 Yours is the dominion, and Yours 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

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]

Additional Stichera.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. To a brave one.

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

Now the holy and blameless girl * to the Holy of Holies is * by the Holy Spirit brought in to be at home. * A holy Angel provides her

food. * And she is indeed a most * holy temple of our God, * who is Holy and who has made the entire world * to be holy, by making her His dwelling, and who deified the fallen * nature of mortal humanity. [SD]

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

The young maidens, rejoicing now * with processional lamps in hand, * go before the Virgin, the spiritual lamp. * Singing with gladness they bring her to * the Temple of God today, * sacredly foretokening * the ineffable radiance * that in coming years * will shine forth from her womb and will enlighten in the Spirit all the people * sitting in darkness of ignorance. [SD]

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

With great joy did the venerable * aged Anna cry out and say, * "Zacharias, welcome today the Virgin, whom * inspired Prophets of God announced; * and bring her into the Lord's * holy Temple, there to dwell * and be sacredly fed and reared, so that she become * the divine throne and palace and the royal bed and brightly shining dwelling * of the Master of the universe." [SD]

Glory. Both now.

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. [SD]

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 1.

Save me, O God, in Your name, and judge
me in Your power. (2) [SAAS]

Verse: *O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the
words of my mouth.*

Save me, O God, in Your name, and judge
me in Your power.

The Readings

From Menaion ---

READER

The reading is from the book of Exodus.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Ex 40: 1-5, 8-9, 14, 28-29

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
"On the first day of the first month, the new
moon, you shall set up the tabernacle of
testimony. You shall put in it the ark of the
testimony and cover the ark with the veil.
You shall bring in the table and lay out its
offering, and bring in the lampstand and
install its lamps. You shall also set the altar
of gold for the incense before the ark, and
put up the veil for the door of the tabernacle
of testimony. You shall take the anointing
oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything
in it; and you shall consecrate it and all its
utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint
the altar of burnt offerings and all its utensils
and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be
most holy." Thus Moses did; according to all
the Lord commanded him, so he did. Then
the cloud covered the tabernacle of testimony,
and the tabernacle was filled with the Lord's
glory. But Moses was not able to enter the
tabernacle of testimony because the cloud
overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord
filled the tabernacle. [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Third Book of the
Kingdoms (1 Kings).

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

3Kg 8:1-11

When Solomon finished building the house of the Lord, [he] assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion. The priests took up the ark and the tabernacle of testimony and all the holy furnishings in the tabernacle of meeting. King Solomon and all Israel were before the ark. Then the priests brought in the ark to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the holy of holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and the holy things. Nothing was in the ark except the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant. When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the house, so the priests could not stand there ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house. [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

Ezk 43:27-44:4

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it

was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [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.)

Litany and Blessing of Loaves.

CHOIR

Idiomelon 1.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1.

Let heaven above greatly rejoice today, and let the clouds rain down gladness, because of the very extraordinary great works of our God. For behold, the Maiden, prefigured by the gate that faces east, has been born of a barren and fruitless mother, according to a promise; and she is dedicated to God to be His dwelling, as she is brought to the Temple today as a blameless offering. Let David greatly rejoice, playing his psaltery and singing, "The virgins behind her shall be brought to the King; her neighbors shall be brought." And she is taken inside the tabernacle of God, to where the mercy seat is, to be raised to become the dwelling of the Son, who was born of the Father without flux before the ages, for the salvation of our souls.

[SD]

Idiomelon 2.

Mode 4.

Today the Theotokos, the temple that contains God, is led into the Temple of God; and Zacharias welcomes her. Today the Holy of Holies is exultant, and the chorus of Angels mystically celebrates. Together with them let us also keep the feast today, and with Gabriel let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace, the Lord is with you; and He has the great mercy. [SD]

Idiomelon 3.

Mode 4.

Come, all people, let us sing hymns in praise of the only blameless Maiden. The Prophets announced in advance, that she would be brought to the Temple. Before the ages, she was fore-ordained to be the Mother; and in the latter times, she was shown to be Theotokos. O Lord, at her intercessions, grant to us Your peace and the great mercy. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Idiomelon. Mode pl. 1.

A joyous day has dawned, a most venerable feast day. For today, she who would be a virgin before childbirth, and would remain a virgin after childbirth, is brought to the Temple. Zacharias the elder, the father of the Forerunner, rejoices, and in ecstasy he announces: "She has arrived, she who is anticipated by an afflicted people! She comes, as one holy, to the holy Temple, to be dedicated as the dwelling place of the King of all!" Let Joakeim the forefather be glad, and let Anna be exultant, for they offered to God the blameless Maiden, like a three-year old heifer. Mothers, rejoice with them, and virgins, leap for joy, and barren women, join in dance; for the kingdom of heaven has been opened to us, by the girl who was fore-ordained to be the Queen of all. O people everywhere, rejoice and be glad! [SD]

DEACON

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy church, and the servants of God [names] who celebrate this holy feast.

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

Again we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

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

Again we pray that the Lord our God may hear the prayer of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

PRIEST

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all those who live everywhere on earth and those

far out at sea or in the air. Be gracious toward our sins, Master, and have mercy on us.

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, whose Entry into the Temple we celebrate, the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; **(local patron**

saint); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your Saints.

Accept our prayer; grant us forgiveness of our transgressions; protect us under the shelter of your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; grant peace to our life; Lord have mercy on us and on your world; and save our souls as a good and loving God.

PRIEST or: CHOIR

Hymn to the Theotokos.

O Virgin Theotokos, rejoice, Mary full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you have borne the Savior of our souls **[SD]**

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Blessing of the Loaves.

Lord, Jesus Christ. our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them five thousand men were filled. Bless now these loaves, the wheat, the wine and oil and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate today, and in Your whole world. And sanctify Your faithful servants who partake of them.

For You are He who blesses and sanctifies all things, Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory together with Your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CLERGY

Rich men turned poor and went hungry;
but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any
good thing. [SAAS]

CHOIR

Rich men turned poor and went hungry;
but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any
good thing. (2) [SAAS]

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Aposticha of the Feast.

Mode pl. 1. Rejoice.

Heaven and earth together rejoice, *
seeing the Virgin, who is blameless and
undefiled, * the girl, who will be the spiritual
heaven, entering * into the divine house
to be reared therein. * And struck with
astonishment, Zacharias cried out to her, *
"Gate of the Master, with great joy I open to
you * the most sacred gates of the Temple.
Dance round therein. * For now I know and
have believed that by and by Israel's * longed
for redemption is coming, indeed and He shall
be born of you. * He is God the Logos, * yes,
the Savior, who is granting great mercy to the
world." [SD]

Verse: *The virgins behind her shall be
brought to the King; her neighbors shall be brought
to You.* [SAAS]

Anna, whose name denotes grace divine,
* with joy and gladness leads the pure Maiden
full of grace, * yes, Mary the ever-virgin, into
the Temple of God. * And she has invited
maidens to proceed, * processional lamps in
hand. She encourages her and says, * "Go on,
my child, to the One who gave you to me. * Be
an offering to the Lord like a fragrant scent.

* Enter the Holy of Holies, and know sacred
mysteries, * as you yourself are preparing to
be the beautiful dwelling place, * all-holy and
splendid, of Lord Jesus, who is granting great
mercy to the world." [SD]

Verse: *They shall be brought with gladness
and rejoicing; they shall be led into the temple of
the King.* [SAAS]

Into the holy Temple of God * the holy
Virgin is admitted, being herself * a temple
able to hold God. She is preceded by *
maidens in procession, with their lamps
in hand. * Her excellent parents, that aged
couple, are full of joy, * the righteous Joachim
and Anna, exult indeed, * for they bore the
one who would bear Him who made all
things. * She entered and she danced around
within the divine abodes, * and she was fed by
an Angel, being all-blameless and undefiled, *
the Mother of Christ God, * our Savior who is
granting great mercy to the world. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

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

From Menaion - - -

Apolytikion of the Feast.

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."

(3) [SD]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, 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.

Optional:

PRIEST

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

READER

*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.*

PRIEST

Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope.
Glory to You.

READER

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, whose Entry into
the Temple we celebrate, 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, 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.)