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The Service of Matins

for Monday, September 23, 2019

Menaion - September 23

The Conception of the Honorable Forerunner

Katavasias of Theotokos

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - September 23

The Conception of the Honorable
Forerunner

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself
to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: *Give thanks to the Lord and call
upon His name.*

*or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for
His mercy endures forever.*

Verse 2: *All the nations surrounded me, but
in the name of the Lord I defended myself against
them.*

Verse 3: *And this came about from the Lord,
and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. Come quickly.

Sing now, O barren one who did not
bear before, * for you have indeed conceived
the burning lamp of the Sun; * and he will
illuminate * all the world afflicted * with
spiritual blindness. * Dance, O Zacharias, and
now openly cry out: * "The one who is to be
born is a Prophet of the Most High God." [SD]

Glory. **Repeat.**

Sing now, O barren one who did not
bear before, * for you have indeed conceived
the burning lamp of the Sun; * and he will
illuminate * all the world afflicted * with
spiritual blindness. * Dance, O Zacharias, and
now openly cry out: * "The one who is to be
born is a Prophet of the Most High God." [SD]

From Octoechos - - -

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4.

O Theotokos, through you became
manifest to us on earth the mystery, which
was hid from eternity, and which the Angels
themselves knew not: that God, uniting
natures without confusion, becomes a man
and accepts crucifixion for our salvation
voluntarily. By virtue of this, resurrecting
man whom He had first created, He saved our
souls from death. [SD]

PRIEST

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.)

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

Kathisma I.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 1. N/M (Let us worship the Word.)

Elizabeth was freed from barrenness,
while the Virgin remained still a virgin, when
at Gabriel's voice each of them conceived in
the womb; but the Forerunner John leapt in

the womb when he recognized beforehand his God and Master incarnate in a virgin womb for our salvation ^[EL]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

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

Holy Mountain on which God himself has trod, rejoice. * Living bush that was burning and not consumed, rejoice. * O Rejoice, the only bridge that joins the world to God * and conducts the mortal human race to everlasting life. * Rejoice, immaculate Maiden, * who without knowing a husband * truly gave birth to Him who saves our souls. ^[SD]

Kathisma II.

From Menaion ---

Mode 4. *N/M (Come quickly.)*

The desert-loving dove, the sacred Baptist, who preached repentance and revealed Christ become man, has been born, a patron for all who sin, unfailingly helping all who are storm-tossed. At his entreaties, O Christ, save your world. ^[EL]

Glory. Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 4. *N/M (Come quickly.)*

You alone bore the Maker of the universe, you alone adorned humanity by your child-bearing, O Immaculate. Deliver me from the snares of crafty Beliar, stand me on the rock of Christ's wishes, as you insistently entreat him to whom you gave a body. ^[EL]

READER

Psalm 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For

I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. ^[SAAS]

Kontakion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. N/M (In heaven.)

Great Zachary with far-famed Elizabeth his wife is radiantly glad, for worthily she conceives John the Forerunner, of whom an Archangel brought the good tidings rejoicing, and whom we humans fittingly honour as an initiate of grace. [EL]

Oikos.

Let us open the sacred Gospel, which holy and wondrous Luke wrote for us, and let us contemplate the radiant and notable conception of the Forerunner. For, he says, when the Elder and righteous Zachary entered the Holy of Holies to offer incense at the moment of the daily service, Gabriel appeared to him brining good tidings and saying: You have a son, Hierarch, in your old age, the Prophet and Forerunner, voice and herald, ever-lighted lamp and initiate of grace. [EL]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On September 23 we remember the conception of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

On this day we commemorate the holy martyrs Andrew, John, Peter and Anthony who died in Africa.

On this day we commemorate the holy women Xanthippe and Polyxeni the sisters.

The holy New Martyr Nicholas the Grocer witnessed in Constantinople in 1672 and died by the sword.

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

CHOIR

Katavasias of Theotokos

Ode i. Mode 4.

I open my mouth and pray the Spirit fill it, like David said, * to pour out a good word to the Queen and Mother of God. * I will celebrate * her feast with joy and gladness * and sing to her merrily, lauding her miracles.

[SD]

Ode iii.

Establish your servants who extol you, * O Mother of God, for they have formed * a spiritual choir for you * the living and abundant fount; * and graciously in your divine glory give glorious crowns to them. [SD]

Ode iv.

When the Prophet Habakkuk heard the divine * and incomprehensible counsel of Your Incarnation * from the Virgin, O Most High, * considering, he cried aloud: * Glory to Your power, O Lord my God. [SD]

Ode v.

Amazed was the universe by your divine magnificence. * You who were perpetually virgin * carried the heavenly God of all in your womb * and gave birth to the eternal Son, * who awards salvation to all who sing hymns of praise to you. [SD]

Ode vi.

O godly-minded believers, come * and celebrate this sacred and venerable feast and thus extol * the Theotokos, and clap our hands, * and glorify our God who was truly born of her. [SD]

Ode vii.

Godly-minded three * did not adore
created things in the Creator's stead; * rather,
disdaining the threat * of fire, they trampled
it, and joyfully they sang: * "O supremely
praised * and most exalted Lord and God * of
the fathers, You are blessed." [SD]

Ode viii.

*We praise and we bless and we worship the
Lord.*

Guiltless were those Servants in the
furnace. * The Son of the Theotokos went and
rescued them. * He who was prefigured then,
* having been incarnate now, * is gathering
the whole wide world into His Church to sing:
* "O all you works of the Lord, to all ages *
sing praises to the Lord and exalt Him beyond
measure." [SD]

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the
Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

Ode ix.

Megalynarion. Mode 4.

Verse: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *For He has regarded the lowly state
of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all
generations will call me blessed.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *For He who is mighty has done great
things for me, and holy is His name. And His
mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to
generation.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has put down the mighty from
their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled
the hungry with good things, and the rich He has
sent away empty.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Verse: *He has helped His servant Israel, in
remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our
fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.* [NKJV]

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. [SD]

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode 4.

All you born on earth, * with festival
lamps in hand, in spirit leap for joy; * and
all you the heavenly angelic orders, join in
and celebrate; * and honoring the sacred
wonders of the Mother of God, * sing the
joyful salutation, "O rejoice, * Theotokos, all-
blest, ever-virgin pure!" [SD]

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 all the powers of heaven praise You
and give You glory, to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to
the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Exaposteilarion.

From Menaion ---

Mode 2. On the mountain.

Today the holy Forerunner's * wondrously
wrought conception * foretells the coming
of the King * to be born of the Virgin, * as he
himself will be also * from the childless and
barren * Elizabeth and elderly * Zacharias

the great priest. Save us, O Lord, * by their
prayers and those of the Theotokos * and
those of Your baptizer John, * and on us all
take pity. [SD]

Theotokion.

Mode 2. On the mountain.

We who have been delivered from *
the primal curse, O pure one, * through
your divine delivery, * shout the august
Archangel's * "Rejoice," and thus we salute
you * with great joy and thanksgiving. *
Adam's redemption, O rejoice, * Theotokos
and Virgin. Rejoice, through you * we have
been delivered from death, O Maiden. *
Rejoice, through whom we have obtained * the
Kingdom of the heavens. [SD]

Lauds. Mode 1.

Let everything that breathes praise the
Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise
Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn
to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise
Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a
hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you
stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you
waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's
name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He
commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages;
He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all
the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which
perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera for the Forerunner.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. [SAAS]

Now all the world is exultant * in your conception today, * O holy John the Baptist, * the Forerunner and Prophet. * For your divine childbirth is a signal for us * of the Lord's own nativity. * And therefore you are deservedly now extolled * here on earth by us in unison

[SD]

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]

Now all the world is exultant * in your conception today, * O holy John the Baptist, * the Forerunner and Prophet. * For your divine childbirth is a signal for us * of the Lord's own nativity. * And therefore you are deservedly now extolled * here on earth by us in unison

[SD]

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]

The Angel found the conception * of the infertile one * as a wonderful witness, * which he offered to Mary, * presenting it as proof. Therefore we extol * the once childless Elizabeth * and Zacharias her husband, the priest of God, * and their son, the holy Baptist John. [SD]

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

Now the divinely prepared lamp * of the eternal light, * and the friend of the Bridegroom, * the great star of the morning * before the Sun of glory, the living voice *

of God's Word, and the Forerunner * of the appearance of Christ is conceived today * at the sound of the angelic voice. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4.

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace, the Virgin the Lord of glory. The mothers greeted one another and the infant leapt for joy. For within the slave was praising the Master. Marvelling the mother of the Forerunner began to cry aloud: Whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? That he, who alone has great mercy, may save a people in despair. [EL]

Great Doxology

Glory be to You who showed the light. Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on earth, His good pleasure in mankind. [SD]

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. *Come quickly.*

Sing now, O barren one who did not
bear before, * for you have indeed conceived
the burning lamp of the Sun; * and he will
illuminate * all the world afflicted * with
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born is a Prophet of the Most High God." [SD]