

**Menaion - December 9**

The Conception of St. Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos; and Commemoration of the Dedication.

**LITURGY**

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**Antiphon I. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name. [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards. [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Verse 3:** The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all. [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Antiphon II. Mode 2.**

**Verse 1:** Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Verse 2:** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia.

**Verse 3:** The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia.

*Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

**Antiphon III.**

**Apolytikion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Today the bonds of childlessness are broken. For hearing the prayers of Joachim and Anne, God promised that against all hope they would give birth to the Maiden of God. He, the Uncircumscribed, would be born of her, when He would become man, and by

the Angel's example, He commands us to call  
to her: "Rejoice, Maiden full of the grace, the  
Lord is with you." [SD]

*An optional alternative to the Antiphons are the Typika (Psalms 102 and 145), and the Beatitudes with the appointed troparia, which are provided here.*

**Psalm 102.**

**Psalm 145.**

**The Beatitudes.**

**Mode 1.**

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [RSV]

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [RSV]

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [RSV]

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[RSV]

**Canon 1 for the Holy Woman.**

**Ode iii. Mode 1. N/M (Firmly established be.)**

From Menaion - - -

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.* [RSV]

Should you grant me a fruit of the womb, cried Anna to the Lord, I will be magnified and I will offer it to you. Therefore she conceives it, the pure mother of God. [VPA]

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* [RSV]

Should you grant me a fruit of the womb, cried Anna to the Lord, I will be magnified and I will offer it to you. Therefore she conceives it, the pure mother of God. [VPA]

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* [RSV]

As you are praying in the garden, the most high hears your voice, godly-minded Anna, and grants you a fruit of your womb, who opened the gate of grace of Paradise. [VPA]

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* [RSV]

**Theotokion.**

Drive away all the fruitlessness of my barren mind and show my soul a bearer of good fruit through virtues, all-holy Theotokos, the help of the believers. [VPA]

**Canon 2 for the Holy Woman.**

From Menaion - - -

**Ode vi. Mode 2. N/M (In the sea now.)**

*Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [for my sake].* [RSV]

Let our fore-mother greatly rejoice; for today, at the conception of the only Child of God, she receives glad tidings that drive away sorrow. [SD]

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.* [RSV]

Today, beyond all expectation, the crown of glory is formed, and the royal purple is woven, in an unfruitful womb. [SD]

Glory.

O Lady, behold, all creation honors your great and ineffable mysteries. You are the wonder of both mortals and Angels. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Behold, through the Creator's promise and gift, the spiritual fountain of divine

gifts begins to open, as it wellis forth from a  
withered womb. <sup>[SD]</sup>

**Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.**

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Hymns After the Small Entrance.  
Apolytikion of the Feast.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4.**

Today the bonds of childlessness are broken. For hearing the prayers of Joachim and Anne, God promised that against all hope they would give birth to the Maiden of God. He, the Uncircumscribed, would be born of her, when He would become man, and by the Angel's example, He commands us to call to her: "Rejoice, Maiden full of the grace, the Lord is with you." [SD]

**For the Consecration.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4.**

You have made the earthly beauty of the holy tabernacle of Your glory to be like the majesty of the firmament on high, O Lord. Make it strong forever and ever, and accept our supplications that we unceasingly bring to You there, at the intercession of the Theotokos. For You are the life and resurrection of all. [SD]

**Apolytikion of the Parish Church**

(The text of the Apolytikion of the local church goes here.)

From Menaion ---

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 4. *You appeared today.***

On this day the whole wide world is celebrating that Saint Anne conceived a child, which was a miracle of God. And she gave

birth to the one who bore the divine Logos, in ways passing speech and thought. [SD]

**THE TRISAGION HYMN**

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

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.

**The Epistle**

For the Holy Woman.

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 63.**

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord. [SAAS]

**Verse:** *Hear my voice, O God.* [SAAS]

Gal. 4:22-27

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married." [RSV]

**Alleluia. Mode 4. Psalm 91.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 1:** *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** *Those planted in the house of the Lord.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **The Gospel**

*For the Holy Woman.*

Lk. 8:16-21

The Lord said, "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away." Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him for the crowd. And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." [RSV]

### **Hymn to the Theotokos.**

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Logos. We magnify you, the true Theotokos. [GOA]

### **Communion Hymn. Psalm 32.**

Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia.

[SAAS]

*or:*

### **Communion Hymn. Psalm 115.**

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia. [SAAS]

### **Hymn after Holy Communion.**

#### **Mode 2.**

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

### **THE DISMISSAL**

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, whose conception 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.

### **Fasting Rule**

*Fish: fish, oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from meat, dairy and eggs.*

*It is the Christmas fast.*