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The Service of Matins

for Thursday, November 21, 2019

Menaion - November 21

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

Katavasias of Christmas I

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - November 21

The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos

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.*

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]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 13. It would be followed by the short litany.

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 1. The soldiers keeping watch.

The feeder of our Life, now an infant in body, * the offspring of the just Joachim and Anna, * is offered to God today in the holy Sanctuary. * She was blessed therein by the priest Zacharias. * Therefore let us all, with faith, proclaim she is blessed,* for she is the Mother of the Lord. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

The feeder of our Life, now an infant in body, * the offspring of the just Joachim and Anna, * is offered to God today in the holy Sanctuary. * She was blessed therein by the priest Zacharias. * Therefore let us all, with faith, proclaim she is blessed,* for she is the Mother of the Lord. [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 14. It would be followed by the short litany.

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.)

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.)

CHOIR

Kathisma II.

From Menaion ---

Mode 4. Joseph marveled.

Consecrated unto God * were you before you were conceived; * being born on earth, to Him * you now are offered as a gift, * O pure one, filling the promise made by your parents. * In purity returned unto the Temple divine * from infancy with lamps brightly shining, in truth * you were a temple divine and a vessel * of the divine unapproachable Light. * How truly great is your sacred entrance, * O only ever-virgin Bride of God. [SD]

Glory. **Repeat.**

Consecrated unto God * were you before you were conceived; * being born on earth, to Him * you now are offered as a gift, * O pure one, filling the promise made by your parents. * In purity returned unto the Temple divine * from infancy with lamps brightly shining, in truth * you were a temple divine and a vessel * of the divine unapproachable Light. * How

truly great is your sacred entrance, * O only ever-virgin Bride of God. [SD]

The Polyeleos.

Psalm 134 (135).

Psalm 135 (136).

Selected Psalm Verses

Selected Psalm Verses for the Entry of the Theotokos

In His holy mountain. Alleluia.

1. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Alleluia. (47:2) [SAAS]
2. Glorious things were said concerning you, O city of God. Alleluia. (86:3) [SAAS]
3. The city of the great King. Alleluia. (47:3) [SAAS]
4. In the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. Alleluia. (47:9) [SAAS]
5. God is known in her palaces when He helps her. Alleluia. (47:4) [SAAS]
6. God established her forever. Alleluia. (47:9) [SAAS]
7. The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. Alleluia. (45:5) [SAAS]
8. Holiness and majesty are in His holy place. Alleluia. (95:6) [SAAS]
9. Holy is Your temple, wondrous in righteousness. Alleluia. (64:5) [SAAS]
10. Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days. Alleluia. (92:5) [SAAS]
11. There are daughters of kings in Your honor. Alleluia. (44:10) [SAAS]

12. The queen stood at Your right hand in apparel interwoven with gold, and adorned and embroidered with various colors. Alleluia. (44:10) [SAAS]

13. Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house. For the King desired your beauty. Alleluia. (44:11) [SAAS]

14. The rich among the people shall entreat your favor. Alleluia. (44:13) [SAAS]

15. All her glory as the King's daughter is within. Alleluia. (44:14) [SAAS]

16. Adorned and embroidered with golden tassels. Alleluia. (44:14) [SAAS]

17. the virgins behind her shall be brought to the King; her neighbors shall be brought to You. Alleluia. (44:15) [SAAS]

18. they shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be led into the temple of the King. Alleluia. (44:16) [SAAS]

19. I shall remember your name from generation to generation Alleluia. (44:18) [SAAS]

20. Therefore, peoples shall give thanks to you forever and unto ages of ages. Alleluia. (44:18) [SAAS]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Mode 1.

Come, let us bow in worship and extol, * all together singing doxologies * to God the Father and the Son * and the Holy Spirit faithfully, * crying out and saying: Save us, all-holy Trinity.

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 1.

O Christ, your people now invoke the name * of Your holy Mother, O Good One, and pray: * By her entreaties for us, * will You give us Your tender love, * so that we may glorify * You, the hope of our souls, O Lord.

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 blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma III.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4. When he perceived.

Exult, O David, the composer of divine hymns; * and dance for joy, O Joachim along with Anna; * for from you has come forth a most holy offspring, * yes, Mary the divine lantern bearing the light. * And as she enters the Temple she does rejoice. * As he saw her, the priestly son of Barachiah blest her, * and full of joy he cried aloud, Rejoice, wonder of all the world. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Exult, O David, the composer of divine hymns; * and dance for joy, O Joachim along with Anna; * for from you has come forth a most holy offspring, * yes, Mary the divine lantern bearing the light. * And as she enters the Temple she does rejoice. * As he saw her, the priestly son of Barachiah blest her, * and full of joy he cried aloud, Rejoice, wonder of all the world. [SD]

Antiphon I.

Mode 4.

Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Savior, nonetheless help me and save me. (2) [SD]

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2) [SD]

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad. [SD]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [SD]

Prokeimenon. Psalm 44.

Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your father's house. For the King desired your beauty. (2)

Verse: *My heart overflowed with a good word; I tell my works to the King.*

Listen, O daughter, behold and incline your ear, and forget your people and your

father's house. For the King desired your beauty. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, 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.

CHOIR

Amen.

Mode 2.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (2) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

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

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

PRIEST

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

PRIEST (*from the gate*)

Lk. 1:39-49, 56

In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home. [RSV]

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

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]

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Glory. **Mode 2.**

Today the animate temple of the great King comes into the Temple, to prepare

herself to become His divine dwelling. O peoples, be exultant. [SD]

Both now.

Today the animate temple of the great King comes into the Temple, to prepare herself to become His divine dwelling. O peoples, be exultant. [SD]

Idiomelon. Mode 4.

Verse: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.* [SAAS]

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]

DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, 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. We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

The Canon.

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Ode i.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

Heirmos. 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 Entry. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O wholly immaculate, we know you well
as a treasury * of wisdom and grace, gushing
an ever-flowing fount. * Therefore we entreat,
O Lady, that you rain down * on us drops of
knowledge, so that we may ever praise you. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Since you are a temple and a palace far
more exalted than * the heavens, O all-pure
Maiden, in the Temple of God * as a gift to
Him are you now dedicated * preparing for
the divine dwelling of His presence. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The Birthgiver of our God, the Maid who
brought forth the light of grace, * has made us
all very bright and has assembled us * that we
might adorn her eminently splendid * holiday
with sacred songs. Come join us for the feast.

[SD]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. An anthem of victory.

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Today let us run unto the Theotokos * and
honor in canticles * and together celebrate *
her sacred spiritual feast. * For in the Temple
she is offered as a gift to God. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The glorious coming out of God's
Birthgiver * with odes let us now extol. * For
she is prophetically, * as a temple of God, *
unto the Temple offered as a precious gift
today. [SD]

Glory. For the Trinity.

O Trinity, one in essence, Father, Logos, *
and all-holy Spirit, * we glorify you loyally *

as being Maker of all, * and we cry out to You
in piety: O God, save us. [SD]

Both now. Theotokion.

Our King and our God came forth from
you, O Lady, * and put on the purple robe
* that was dyed in your own blood, * O all-
immaculate Maid, * and in His mercy He
refashioned all the human race. [SD]

Ode i. Katavasia. Mode 1.

Christ is born; glorify Him! * Christ is
come from heaven; go and meet Him. * Christ
is on earth; arise to Him. * Sing to the Lord, all
you who dwell on the earth; * and in merry
spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. * For
He is glorified. [SD]

Ode iii.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos. Mode 4.

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 Entry give glorious crowns to them. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Today the Temple has become a wedding
hall;/a fair chamber for the Virgin./It receives
the living Bridal Chamber of God,/the pure
and spotless One Who shines more brightly
than all creation. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

David leaps in gladness, leading the
dance,/and rejoicing with us, he calls you
the Queen,/clad in raiment of many-colored
needlework,/undefiled and all-pure Virgin,/

standing in the Temple before the King and God. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The transgression came upon mankind of old from Eve,/and now from Eve's stock our restoration and incorruption blossoms:/the Theotokos who is brought today into the house of God. [OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

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

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Let all of you who love the feasts,/celebrate and rejoice in spirit,/exulting today in the holy feast of the Daughter of the King/and the Mother of our God. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Joachim, be glad today,/and rejoice exceedingly in spirit, Anna,/for now you present your daughter to the Lord/as a three-year old victim of sacrifice,/holy and immaculate. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

The Father is Light, His Son is Light,/and the Spirit, the Comforter, is Light:/for shining forth as from one sun,/the Trinity divinely illumines and preserves our souls. [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

The prophets proclaimed you in ages past,/speaking of you as the ark of holiness,/the golden censer, the candlestick and table:/as we sing your praises as the Tabernacle that held God. [OCA]

Ode iii. Katavasia. Mode 1.

To the Son, begotten * without flux, of the Father, before the ages, * and who was lately

made incarnate * of the Virgin without seed; * to Christ God now let us cry aloud: * You have exalted the horn of our strength. Only You are holy, O Lord. [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 you are our 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.)

Mid-Ode Kathisma or Hypakoe

CHOIR

Kathisma.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. *Joseph marveled.*

Shout, O David, and declare: * What is this present feast? * Here is she, whom you extolled * in the inspired book of Psalms, * as a daughter and child of God and Virgin, * saying that virgins shall be brought * to the King mystically, * her neighbors shall be led * with joy and gladness to Him. * Now with your words add to the splendor of this feast day, * which is observed throughout the world by those who cry: * The Theotokos,

who brought salvation, * has come to us in the Temple. [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Ode iv.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

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]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Today the House of God / receives the Gate through which none may pass; / so it has brought to an end / the worship commanded by the shadow of the Law. / Now it cries aloud: / The truth indeed has appeared to those on earth! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The overshadowed mountain that Habakkuk foresaw / and prophetically announced in days of old, / has come to dwell within the sanctuary of the Temple; / there she puts forth flowers of virtue / and with her shadow she covers the ends of the earth. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us with all the earth, / behold these marvelous, strange and wondrous events: / how the Virgin, receiving food from an angel, / offers us an image of the divine dispensation.

[OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. (N/M)

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Prophet Isaiah, prophesy to us: / Who is the Virgin who shall conceive? / It is she who

comes forth from the root of Judah / and was born of David the King: / the glorious fruit of a holy seed. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Begin your songs, virgins, and keep feast with us: / with lamps in hand, praise the advance of the pure Theotokos / who now enters the Temple of the Lord. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

In reverence we glorify the true God, / in three Persons and one nature, / Whose praises the ranks of angels and archangels sing / for He is Master of creation / and we all worship Him in faith forever. [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Pure and undefiled Virgin, / pray without ceasing to your Son and God / Whom you have conceived in the flesh: / that He may deliver all your servants / from the manifold snares of the devil / and from every temptation that assails us. [OCA]

Ode iv. Katavasia. Mode 1.

Jesse's root produced a branch, O Christ, * and You its flower blossomed forth, * from the Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once was called * overshadowed, dense mountain. * From her who knew not man You came incarnate, * the immaterial God. * Glory to Your power, O Lord. [SD]

Ode v.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Amazed was the universe, * O Maiden, by your most august * Entry. For, O never-wedded Virgin, * you who appeared as a most pure temple yourself * did enter the Temple

of God, * now awarding peace to all who extol you with hymns of praise. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Today the most pure Virgin,/the glorious sanctuary and holy offering,/is dedicated in the Temple of God;/and in ways which He alone understands,/she is kept as a dwelling place for our God, the King of all. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Seeing the beauty of your soul, undefiled Virgin,/Zachariah cried out with faith:/You are our deliverance; you are the joy of all!/You are our restoration,/through whom the incomprehensible appears comprehensible to me! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Your wonders are past understanding,/all-undefiled Virgin!/The ways of your birth and growing are awesome;/awesome is everything concerning you, Bride of God,/and beyond the telling of mortals. [OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. (N/M)

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us, the Orthodox faithful,/hasten to gather with our lamps!/Let us glorify the Mother of God,/for today she is offered to the Lord as an acceptable sacrifice. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Lady, let the forefathers rejoice exceedingly today,/and let her who bore you celebrate with your father:/for their fruit is led to the Lord. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Let us glorify and worship the one Godhead in three Persons,/undivided by nature and equal in glory,/Which was before the beginning/and shall ever be. [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

We have your intercession, Mother of God,/as a fair haven and unassailable rampart in times of trouble,/and we are ever delivered from danger and affliction. [OCA]

Ode v. Katavasia. Mode 1.

God of peace and Father of mercies, Your Son * You have sent unto us as Your messenger, * the Angel of great counsel who is granting peace. * Therefore having been guided to the light of godly knowledge, * waking from the night to dawn, we sing Your glory, O Lover of man. [SD]

Ode vi.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos. Mode 4.

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]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

He Who supports all things with His word,/has listened in His mercy/to the prayer of righteous Joachim and Anna:/He has loosed them from the disease of barrenness/and given them her who is the cause of our joy. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

In His desire to make salvation known to the Gentiles,/the Lord has now chosen the

unwedded one from among people/to be a sign of reconciliation and renewal. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Being a dwelling of grace, undefiled One,/in which the treasure of God's ineffable dispensation is laid,/you partake of boundless joy in the Temple. [OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. (N/M)

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Faithful, let us celebrate the Mother of God in spirit,/singing her praises with goodness/for she is indeed more holy than the heavenly powers. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Faithful, let us praise the Mother of Light in spiritual songs,/for today she is manifested to us/entering the Temple of God. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Father, Son and Spirit of righteousness,/Unity in three Persons and undivided Trinity,/have mercy on those who worship Your divine power. [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

He whom nothing can contain was contained in your womb,/undefiled Theotokos,/and He has come forth from you in two natures,/both God and man. [OCA]

Ode vi. Katavasia. Mode 1.

Such as it received * Jonah as an embryo, the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels intact. * With the Virgin, though, when the Logos had dwelt in her taking on flesh, * He came forth from her preserving her yet incorrupt. * For from her no fluxion suffered

He, * and He kept her unaltered in childbirth. [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 You are the King of peace and the savior of our souls, 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.)

From Menaion - - -

READER

Kontakion.

Mode 4. *You who were lifted.*

The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she. [SD]

Oikos.

Seeing the grace of God's ineffable and divine mysteries evident and manifestly fulfilled in the Virgin, I rejoice; and I am at a loss to understand the ineffable and strange

manner in which the immaculate Maid alone proved to be chosen above all creation visible and invisible. Therefore, wishing to extol her, I am greatly perplexed in mind and speech. Nevertheless I dare to do it, and I proclaim and magnify: A heavenly tabernacle is she. [SD]

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On November 21, we commemorate the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple.

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

CHOIR

From Menaion - - -

Ode vii.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

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]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Behold, the joy of spring now lightens the universe,/bringing light to our soul and mind and understanding through grace,/for today is the feast of the Theotokos:/let us mystically rejoice! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Today let all creation attend the Queen and Mother:/heaven and earth, the ranks of angels and hosts of mortals,/and let them cry aloud:/Joy and deliverance is led into the Temple! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The written Law has passed away and vanished as a shadow,/and the rays of grace shine forth at your entry into the Temple of God,/undefiled Virgin Mother, blessed forever. [OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. (N/M)

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us exult today in the joy of the feast;/let us rightly honor Joachim and Anna,/and let us sing the praises of the undefiled Virgin.

[OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Let David prophesy, saying in the Spirit:/Virgins shall be brought after you;/they shall be brought into the Temple/to the Queen and Mother. [OCA]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Let us glorify the undivided Trinity,/let us sing the praises of the one Godhead:/the Father, Word, and Most Holy Spirit! [OCA]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Theotokos, pray to the Lord whom you have borne,/that He may save the souls of those who sing your praises,/for He is the compassionate One. [OCA]

Ode vii. Katavasia. Mode 1.

The Servants nurtured piously together, * with contempt regarding the impious king's decree, * intrepidly faced the threat of holocaust, * and while standing in the midst of flames they chanted thus, * saying: O God of the fathers, You are blessed. [SD]

Ode viii.

Canon 1 of the Feast.

From Menaion ---

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Hearken, O Damsel, let Gabriel say. *
Incline your ear, O Virgin pure, * and hear the
counsel of the Most High, ancient and true;
* and make ready for your own reception of
God. * For through you the Uncontainable
associates with mortal men. * And I am
therefore rejoicing and shouting: * O all you
works of the Lord, * praise and bless the Lord.

[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Leading the undefiled Temple into the
House of God, / Anna cried aloud, saying with
faith to the priest: / take the child given me
by God, / lead her into the Temple of your
Creator, and sing to Him with joy: / All works
of the Lord, bless the Lord! [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

When he saw Anna, Zachariah said to her
in spirit: / You are bringing the true Mother
of Life / whom the prophets of God heralded
from afar as the Theotokos. / And how shall
the Temple contain her? / Therefore in wonder
I cry: / All works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

[OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Anna replied to him: / I stand here as the
suppliant of God, / calling upon Him with
faith and prayer / to receive the fruit of my
travail. / For I promised that after childbirth / I
would present my child to Him Who gave her
to me. / Therefore I leap for joy and cry: / All
works of the Lord, bless the Lord! [OCA]

Canon 2 of the Feast.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1. (N/M)

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Joachim is bright with joy today, and
celebrates, / and without reproach Anna offers
to the Lord / the sacrifice given her according
to the promise: / her holy daughter. [OCA]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The saints David and Jesse exult today /
and Judah is filled with pride. / For from their
root a branch has sprung: / the pure Virgin
from whom the pre-eternal God is to be born.

[OCA]

Glory. For the Trinity.

Let Holy, Holy, Holy! be sung / to the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit: / Indivisible
Unity, one Godhead / holding creation in the
palm of His hand throughout all ages. [OCA]

Both now. Theotokion.

He Who is without beginning now begins
to be: / according to His good pleasure /
the Word is born in the flesh from a Virgin
Maid, / both God and mortal man, / and in His
extreme compassion / He refashions us who
had fallen. [OCA]

Ode viii. Katavasia. Mode 1.

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

Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the
image * of an extraordinary wonder. * For
it did not burn the youths it accepted, *
nor did the fire of Divinity consume the
Virgin's womb wherein it went. * So let us
melodiously chant in praise: * Let all creation
bless and extol the Lord, * and let it exalt Him
supremely to the ages. [SD]

DEACON

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

CHOIR

The Magnificat is omitted.

From Menaion - - -

Ode ix.

Canon I.

Mode 4. Heirmos.

When they saw the Entry of the Virgin Maiden, the Angels were astonished, at how she entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

Now let no uninitiated hand * approach the living Ark of God to touch it. * Rather let believers' lips sing out in exultation * the Angel's salutation unceasingly * to the Theotokos and cry out: * You, O pure and virgin Maiden, are truly superior to all. [SD]

Troparia.

When they saw the Entry of the all-pure one the Angels were astonished at how she entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

O pure Mother of God, since you have * the beauty of your soul clear and resplendent, * and since you are full of the Grace of God from heaven, * you ever illumine with eternal light * those who cry aloud with a glad heart: * You, O pure and virgin Maiden, are truly superior to all. [SD]

When they saw the Entry of the all-pure one the Angels were astonished how paradoxically she entered into the Holy of Holies.

Soaring higher than the power of speech * is your miracle, O pure Theotokos. * For beyond all reason I perceive in you a body * that in no way admitted the flow of sin. * Therefore with thanksgiving I cry out: * You,

O pure and virgin Maiden, are truly superior to all. [SD]

Angels and people, let us all honor the Entry of the virgin Maid, how she entered in glory into the Holy of Holies.

Paradoxally the Law prefigured you, * O pure one, as a jar and tabernacle, * spiritual ark and rod of Aaron and the curtain, * indestructible Temple and the gate of God. * Thus it teaches us all to cry out: * You, O pure and virgin Maiden, are truly superior to all. [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Canon II.

Mode 1. The cloud that radiates.

O my soul, magnify the Maiden who was offered in the Temple of the Lord and was blessed by the priests' hands.

Mary who bore a divine Son * was born herself to the holy * and righteous Joachim and Anne * as the fruit of a promise. * Now as an infant in the flesh * they offer her as incense acceptable * for to dwell in the holies * of the holy Temple as a holy Maid. [SD]

O my soul, magnify the Maiden who was offered in the Temple of the Lord and was blessed by the priests' hands.

She is by nature an infant * who in a way passing nature * will be the Mother of her God. * Let us therefore extol her. * For she is offered to the Lord * in the Temple according to the Law today, * for a sweet-smelling savor, * as the spiritual fruit of the righteous pair. [SD]

Glory. For the Trinity.

O my soul, magnify the power and dominion of the undivided tri-hypostatic Godhead.

Let us give honor and glory * to Father Son and the Spirit, * nature in three hypostases

* and undivided glory, * which is unceasingly extolled * on earth and in heaven, the inseparable * holy Trinity, and is * in a single Godhead piously adored. [SD]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.

For us who faithfully hasten * to your compassion for refuge, * O Virgin Mother of our God, * and who piously worship * your Son as God of all the world * and Master, entreat Him now most fervently * that He save us from injury and dangers * and temptations of all kinds. [SD]

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode 1.

O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. * For, behold, the grotto is heaven; * cherubic throne is the Virgin; * the manger a grand space * in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; * Whom in extolling do we magnify. [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. O Women, hearken.

Let us with faith extol in song * the Virgin Mary, child of God, * of whom the assembly of Prophets * prophesied and of old declared * to be the tablet and the rod, * the mountain that was quarried not. * For she is introduced today * into the Holy of Holies, * to be fostered by the Master. (3) [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 Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

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

The virgins carrying lanterns are brightly paving the way * for ever-virgin Mary; * and truly in the Spirit * they prophesy the future; for she is led * to the Temple from infancy, * going with virginal glory. She is indeed * Theotokos and the temple of God. [SD]

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

The Theotokos was shown forth unto the world in truth * to be the noble offspring of a most holy promise, * superior to all things. As she is led * reverently into the house of God, * the pious prayer of her parents she now fulfills; * and by the Holy Spirit she is preserved. [SD]

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

Having been nourished, O Virgin, in faith on heavenly bread * within the Lord's own Temple, * for the world you have brought forth * the bread of life, the Logos. And as His own * chosen temple immaculate, * in the Spirit you were mystically betrothed * to God the Father and became His Bride. [SD]

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

Open the gate of the Temple that has received our God. * For Joachim has taken * from his own home in glory * the temple and the throne of the King of all, * and returns her and consecrates * unto the Master the

daughter that he begot, * who was chosen as the Mother of God. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

Today the all-blameless Virgin is led to the Temple, to become the abode of God the King of all and Nourisher of our whole life. Today the most pure sanctuary is introduced into the Holy of Holies as a heifer three years old. Let us cry out to her as once did the Angel: Rejoice, only blessed among women. [SD]

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.

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

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.)

DEACON

Let us complete our morning 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 day 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 are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to 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)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed

the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

PRIEST

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

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, 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.)