

Menaion - September 23

The Conception of the Honorable and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

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. 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]

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 pl. 2.

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 for the Forerunner.

Ode iii. Mode pl. 2. None is holy as you. (NM)

From Menaion - - -

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

The barren woman today conceives a sacred fruit, which afterwards is going by grace to cut out with the spiritual axe all fruitlessness of souls. [EL]

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

Struck dumb within the temple, great Zachary by a fearful message acquires the voice of the Word, and radiantly magnifies the compassionate Lord. [EL]

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

The glorious Forerunner, who showed to all the safe path of repentance, sprouts in his mother's womb at the behest of the Angel by divine counsel and beyond hope. [EL]

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

Theotokion.

As he recognised Christ being carried in the womb of the Virgin, the issue of a barren woman leapt, foretelling the joy that had come to dwell on earth to ransom all from despair.

[EL]

Canon for the Forerunner.

From Menaion - - -

Ode vi. Mode pl. 2. Watching life's sea. (NM)

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

My mind is full of doubt and I do not believe your words, the priest said to the Archangel; for I asked salvation for the people, not fruit from my loins. [EL]

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

The Fashioner of nature, King of the Angels, replied the minister, has been well-pleased for you to beget the Messenger of his coming; do not disbelieve my words, my friend. [EL]

Glory.

Your form is of fire, your appearance terrifying and your word wondrous, said Zachary to the minister; but yet I do not

believe you as you speak strange words
beyond nature. [EL]

Both now. **Theotokion.**

The lamp, recognizing the Sun hidden in
the cloud of his mother's womb, himself in
the sombre dwelling of the womb, rejoicing
worshipped him and leapt for joy. [EL]

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.

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]

Apolytikion of the Parish Church

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

Kontakion. Mode 2.

O Protection of Christians that never falls,
intercession with the Creator that never fails,
we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices
of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore
you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry
out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession,
and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who
protect now and ever those who honor you. [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 Forerunner.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel

For the Forerunner.

Lk. 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife

is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

[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 111/112.

The righteous will be remembered for ever. Alleluia. [RSV]

Hymn after Holy Communion.

Mode 2.

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found

the true faith, worshipping 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, 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,
whose Conception we celebrate; 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

Fast Free: All foods allowed.