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# The Service of Matins

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

**Katavasias of Theotokos**

**Text in Greek**

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**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

**Ἦχος δ'.**

Θεὸς Κύριος καὶ ἐπέφανεν ἡμῖν.  
Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι  
Κυρίου.

**Στίχ. α'.** Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ καὶ  
ἐπικαλεῖσθε τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ἅγιον αὐτοῦ.

**Στίχ. β'.** Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ἐκύκλωσάν με,  
καὶ τῷ ὀνόματι Κυρίου ἡμυνάμην αὐτούς.

**Στίχ. γ'.** Παρὰ Κυρίου ἐγένετο αὕτη καὶ  
ἔστι θαυμαστή ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν.

**Ἀπολυτίκιον.**

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**Ἦχος δ'. Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε.**

Ἐκ γῆς ἀνατείλασα ἡ τοῦ Προδρόμου  
κεφαλὴ, ἀκτῖνας ἀφίησι τῆς ἀφθαρσίας,  
πιστοῖς τῶν ἰάσεων, ἄνωθεν συναθροίζει,  
τὴν πληθὺν τῶν Ἀγγέλων, κάτωθεν  
συγκαλεῖται, τῶν ἀνθρώπων τὸ γένος,  
ὁμόφωνον ἀναπέμψαι, δόξαν Χριστῷ τῷ  
Θεῷ.

Δόξα. **Τὸ αὐτό.**

Ἐκ γῆς ἀνατείλασα ἡ τοῦ Προδρόμου  
κεφαλὴ, ἀκτῖνας ἀφίησι τῆς ἀφθαρσίας,  
πιστοῖς τῶν ἰάσεων, ἄνωθεν συναθροίζει,  
τὴν πληθὺν τῶν Ἀγγέλων, κάτωθεν  
συγκαλεῖται, τῶν ἀνθρώπων τὸ γένος,  
ὁμόφωνον ἀναπέμψαι, δόξαν Χριστῷ τῷ  
Θεῷ.

Τῆς Ὁκτωήχου ---

Καὶ νῦν. **Θεοτοκίον.**

**Ἦχος δ'.**

Τὸ ἀπ' αἰῶνος ἀπόκρυφον, καὶ Ἀγγέλοις  
ἄγνωστον μυστήριον, διὰ σοῦ Θεοτόκε τοῖς  
ἐπὶ γῆς πεφανέρωται· Θεὸς ἐν ἀσυγχύτῳ  
ἐνώσει σαρκούμενος, καὶ Σταυρὸν  
ἐκουσίως ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν καταδεξάμενος· δι' οὗ

**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 holy name.

**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.**

The Forerunner's head has risen once  
again from the earth; \* it sends forth the  
brilliant rays of incorruption and cures to  
the faithful all. \* Above it has assembled  
the arrays of the Angels; \* below it calls the  
human race to gather together. \* In unison we  
offer up glory to Christ our God. (SD)

Glory. **Repeat.**

The Forerunner's head has risen once  
again from the earth; \* it sends forth the  
brilliant rays of incorruption and cures to  
the faithful all. \* Above it has assembled  
the arrays of the Angels; \* below it calls the  
human race to gather together. \* In unison we  
offer up glory to Christ our 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

ἀναστήσας τὸν πρωτόπλαστον, ἔσωσεν ἐκ  
θανάτου τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Ἐτι καὶ ἔτι ἐν εἰρήνῃ τοῦ Κυρίου  
δεηθῶμεν.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Ἀντιλαβοῦ, σῶσον, ἐλέησον καὶ  
διαφύλαξον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεὸς τῇ σῇ χάριτι.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Τῆς Παναγίας ἀχράντου,  
ὑπερευλογημένης, ἐνδόξου Δεσποίνης  
ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου καὶ ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας  
μετὰ πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων μνημονεύσαντες,  
ἐαυτοὺς καὶ ἀλλήλους καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν ζωὴν  
ἡμῶν Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ παραθώμεθα.

(Σοί, Κύριε.)

### ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Ὅτι σὸν τὸ κράτος καὶ σοῦ ἐστὶν  
ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα,  
τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου  
Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν  
αἰώνων.

(Ἀμήν.)

### ΧΟΡΟΣ

#### Κάθισμα Α'.

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**Ἦχος δ'. Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε.**

Ὡς θεῖον θησαύρισμα, ἐγκεκρυμμένον  
τῇ γῇ, Χριστὸς ἀπεκάλυψε τὴν κεφαλὴν  
σου ἡμῖν, Προφῆτα καὶ Πρόδρομε. Πάντες  
οὖν συνελθόντες, ἐν τῇ ταύτης εὐρέσει,  
ἄσμασι θεηγόροις, τὸν Σωτῆρα ὑμνοῦμεν,  
τὸν σῶζοντα ἡμᾶς ἐκ φθορᾶς ταῖς ἰκεσίαις  
σου.

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)

### DEACON

Again and again in peace let us pray to  
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and  
protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure,  
blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos  
and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let  
us commit 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, the power, and the glory of the  
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now  
and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

### CHOIR

#### Kathisma I.

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4. Come quickly.**

Now Christ has revealed to us your  
sacred head once again, \* a most holy  
treasure hidden underground for so long, \*  
O Prophet and Forerunner. \* Therefore we  
have assembled for the feast of its Finding, \*  
singing our God-inspired hymns in praise of  
the Savior, \* who saves us from destruction,  
by your earnest prayers to Him. (SD)

Δόξα.

Καὶ νῦν.

**Ἦχος δ'. Αὐτόμελον.**

Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε, πρὶν δουλωθῆναι  
ἡμᾶς, ἐχθροῖς βλασφημοῦσί σε, καὶ  
ἀπειλοῦσιν ἡμῖν, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν· ἄνελε  
τῷ Σταυρῷ σου, τοὺς ἡμᾶς πολεμοῦντας·  
γνώτωσαν πῶς ἰσχύει, Ὁρθοδόξων ἡ  
πίστις, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, μόνη  
φιλάνθρωπε.

**Κάθισμα Β'.**

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**Ἦχος δ'. Ὁ ὑψωθείς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ.**

Ἀναδοθεῖσα ὡς χρυσὸς ἐκ μετάλλων,  
ἡ ἱερά σου κεφαλὴ παραδόξως, ἐκ τῶν  
ἀδύτων γῆς ἐπλούτισε, Χριστοῦ Βαπτιστά,  
πάντας τοὺς προστρέχοντας, ἐν τῇ ταύτης  
εὐρέσει, ὕμνοις μεγαλύνοντας, τὸν Σωτῆρα  
καὶ Κτίστην, τούτοις διδόντα μάκαρ διὰ σοῦ,  
λύσιν πταισμάτων, καὶ πλούσιον ἔλεος.

Δόξα.

Καὶ νῦν.

**Ἦχος δ'. Ὁ ὑψωθείς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ.**

Οὐ σιωπήσωμέν ποτε, Θεοτόκε, τὰς  
δυναστείας σου λαλεῖν οἱ ἀνάξιοι· εἰμὴ  
γὰρ σὺ προΐστασο πρεσβεύουσα, τίς ἡμᾶς  
ἐρρύσατο ἐκ τοσούτων κινδύνων; Τίς δὲ  
διεφύλαξεν ἕως νῦν ἐλευθέρους; Οὐκ  
ἀποστῶμεν, Δέσποινα, ἐκ σοῦ· σοὺς γὰρ  
δούλους σῶζεις ἀεὶ, ἐκ παντοίων δεινῶν.

Glory.

Both now.

**Mode 4. Automelon.**

Come quickly, O Lord, and prevent us  
from being enslaved \* to foes who speak  
blasphemies against You, Christ our God,  
\* and boastingly threaten us. \* Annihilate  
by the power \* of Your Cross those who  
fight us. \* Let them know how the faith of  
the Orthodox has power, \* accepting Your  
Mother's prayers for us in Your love of man.

(SD)

**Kathisma II.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4. You who were lifted.**

Your sacred Head was found through  
strange circumstances; \* for it was hidden  
underground in a cavern, \* and it came up  
like gold out of a mine, enriching all \* who  
came to participate in the feast of its Finding, \*  
singing hymns of praise to Christ, our Creator  
and Saviour. \* O blessed Baptist of the Lord,  
through you \* He gives forgiveness and  
mercy abundantly. (SD)

Glory.

Both now.

**Mode 4. You who were lifted.**

We the unworthy shall not ever be  
silent, \* O Theotokos, from proclaiming your  
powers. \* For were you not concerned to  
intercede for us, \* who would have delivered  
us \* from such manifold dangers, \* and who  
else would up to now \* have preserved us in  
freedom? \* O Lady, we shall not depart from

**Κάθισμα Γ'.**

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**Ἦχος δ'. Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον.**

Ὁ Ἡρώδης Πρόδρομε, παρανομήσας,  
τὴν τιμίαν κάραν σου, ξίφει ἀπέτεμε δεινῶς,  
ὥς ἔκφρων οἴστρω ὁ δεῖλαιος, ἦν περ ἐκ  
πόθου, Πιστοὶ ἀσπαζόμεθα.

Δόξα.

Καὶ νῦν.

**Ἦχος δ'. Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον.**

Μωϋσῆς ἑώρακε, πυρφόρον βάτον,  
σὲ τὸ πῦρ βαστάσασαν, τὸ τὰς ψυχὰς  
φωταγωγοῦν, καὶ μὴ φλεχθεῖσαν  
Πανάμωμε, δρόσου δὲ μᾶλλον, πλησθεῖσαν  
τῆς χάριτος.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Ἔτι καὶ ἔτι ἐν εἰρήνῃ τοῦ Κυρίου  
δεηθῶμεν.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Ἀντιλαβοῦ, σῶσον, ἐλέησον καὶ  
διαφύλαξον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεὸς τῇ σῇ χάριτι.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Τῆς Παναγίας ἀχράντου,  
ὑπερευλογημένης, ἐνδόξου Δεσποίνης  
ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου καὶ ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας  
μετὰ πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων μνημονεύσαντες,  
ἑαυτοὺς καὶ ἀλλήλους καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν ζωὴν  
ἡμῶν Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ παραθώμεθα.

(Σοί, Κύριε.)

**ΙΕΡΕΥΣ**

Ὅτι ἡυλόγηταί σου τὸ ὄνομα, καὶ  
δεδόξασταί σου ἡ βασιλεία, τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ

you, \* for you ever save your servants \* from  
evils of every kind. (SD)

**Kathisma III.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4. You appeared today.**

To a woman Herod gave \* your most  
august head, \* and he thus transgressed the  
law, \* O holy Forerunner St. John. \* Now at  
its finding we cry to you, \* Entreat the Savior  
that mercy be given to all. (SD)

Glory.

Both now.

**Mode 4. You appeared today.**

Moses saw the burning bush, \* therein  
perceiving \* you, the one who held the fire \*  
that leads our souls into the light, \* and you  
were not burnt, all-blameless one, \* Lady, but  
rather \* were filled with the dew of grace. (SD)

**DEACON**

Again and again in peace let us pray to  
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and  
protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure,  
blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos  
and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let  
us commit ourselves and one another and our  
whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

**PRIEST**

For blessed is your name, and glorified is  
your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and

τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ αἰεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

(Ἀμήν.)

**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

**Ἀντίφωνον Α'.**

**Ἦχος δ'.**

Ἐκ νεότητός μου πολλὰ πολεμεῖ με πάθη, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἀντιλαβοῦ, καὶ σῶσον Σωτήρ μου. (δίς)

Οἱ μισοῦντες Σιών, αἰσχύνθητε ἀπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου· ὡς χόρτος γάρ, πυρὶ ἔσεσθε ἀπεξηραμμένοι. (δίς)

Δόξα.

Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι πᾶσα ψυχὴ ζωοῦται, καὶ καθάρσει ὑψοῦται λαμπρύνεται, τῇ τριαδικῇ Μονάδι ἱεροκρυφίως.

Καὶ νῦν.

Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, ἀναβλύζει τὰ τῆς χάριτος ῥεῖθρα, ἀρδεύοντα, ἅπασαν τὴν κτίσιν πρὸς ζωογονίαν.

**Προκείμενον. Ψαλμὸς ΡΛΑ' (131).**

Ἐκεῖ ἐξανατελῶ κέρας τῷ Δαυῖδ, ἡτοίμασα λύχνον τῷ χριστῷ μου. (δίς)

**Στίχ.** Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, τοῦ Δαυῖδ καὶ πάσης τῆς πραότητος αὐτοῦ.

Ἐκεῖ ἐξανατελῶ κέρας τῷ Δαυῖδ, ἡτοίμασα λύχνον τῷ χριστῷ μου.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Τοῦ Κυρίου δεηθῶμεν.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

**CHOIR**

**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 131 (132).**

There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed. (2)

**Verse:** Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness.

There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; there I prepared a lamp for my anointed. (SAAS)

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)



**ΙΕΡΕΥΣ**

Ὅτι Ἅγιος εἶ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, καὶ ἐν ἁγίοις ἐπαναπαύῃ, καὶ σοὶ τὴν δόξαν ἀναπέμπομεν, τῷ Πατρὶ καὶ τῷ Υἱῷ καὶ τῷ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

Ἀμήν.

**Ἦχος β'.**

Πᾶσα πνοὴ αἰνεσάτω τὸν Κύριον. (δίσ)  
Αἰνεσάτω πνοὴ πᾶσα τὸν Κύριον.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ καταξιωθῆναι ἡμᾶς τῆς ἀκροάσεως τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου, Κύριον τὸν Θεὸν ἡμῶν ἱκετεύσωμεν.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον. Κύριε, ἐλέησον. Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Σοφία! Ὁρθοί! Ἀκούσωμεν τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου.

**ΙΕΡΕΥΣ**

Εἰρήνη πᾶσι.

(Καὶ τῷ πνεύματί σου.)

**ΙΕΡΕΥΣ**

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Πρόσχωμεν!

(Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.)

**ΙΕΡΕΥΣ**

(7:17-30)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἐξηλθεν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ περιχώρῳ. Καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν Ἰωάννη οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ περὶ πάντων τούτων. καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος δύο τινὰς τῶν

**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**

(7:17-30)

At that time, a report concerning Jesus spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. The disciples of John told him of all these things. And John, calling to him two of his disciples, sent them



μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἔπεμψε πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν λέγων· Σὺ εἶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἢ ἕτερον προσδοκῶμεν; παραγενόμενοι δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸν οἱ ἄνδρες εἶπον· Ἰωάννης ὁ βαπτιστὴς ἀπέστειλεν ἡμᾶς πρὸς σέ λέγων· σὺ εἶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἢ ἕτερον προσδοκῶμεν; ἐν αὐτῇ δὲ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐθεράπευσε πολλοὺς ἀπὸ νόσων καὶ μαστίγων καὶ πνευμάτων πονηρῶν, καὶ τυφλοῖς πολλοῖς ἐχαρίσατο τὸ βλέπειν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Πορευθέντες ἀπαγγείλατε Ἰωάννῃ ἃ εἶδετε καὶ ἠκούσατε· τυφλοὶ ἀναβλέπουσι καὶ χωλοὶ περιπατοῦσι, λεπροὶ καθαρίζονται, κωφοὶ ἀκούουσι, νεκροὶ ἐγείρονται, πτωχοὶ εὐαγγελίζονται· καὶ μακάριός ἐστιν ὃς ἐὰν μὴ σκανδαλισθῇ ἐν ἐμοί. Απελθόντων δὲ τῶν μαθητῶν Ἰωάννου ἤρξατο λέγειν πρὸς τοὺς ὄχλους περὶ Ἰωάννου· Τί ἐξεληλύθατε εἰς τὴν ἔρημον θεάσασθαι; κάλαμον ὑπὸ ἀνέμου σαλευόμενον; ἀλλὰ τί ἐξεληλύθατε ἰδεῖν; ἄνθρωπον ἐν μαλακοῖς ἱματίοις ἡμφιεσμένον; ἰδοὺ οἱ ἐν ἱματισμῷ ἐνδόξῳ καὶ τρυφῇ ὑπάρχοντες ἐν τοῖς βασιλείοις εἰσίν. ἀλλὰ τί ἐξεληλύθατε ἰδεῖν; προφήτην· ναὶ λέγω ὑμῖν, καὶ περισσότερον προφήτου. οὗτός ἐστι περὶ οὗ γέγραπται, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν, μείζων ἐν γεννητοῖς γυναικῶν προφήτης Ἰωάννου τοῦ βαπτιστοῦ οὐδεὶς ἐστίν· ὁ δὲ μικρότερος ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ Θεοῦ μείζων αὐτοῦ ἐστι. καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἀκούσας καὶ οἱ τελῶναι ἐδικαίωσαν τὸν Θεόν, βαπτισθέντες τὸ βάπτισμα Ἰωάννου· οἱ δὲ Φαρισαῖοι καὶ οἱ νομικοὶ τὴν βουλὴν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἠθέτησαν εἰς ἑαυτούς, μὴ βαπτισθέντες ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

to the Lord, saying, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many that were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me." When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. (RSV)

(Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.)

**ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ**

**Ψαλμός Ν' (50).**

Ἐλέησόν με, ὁ Θεός, κατὰ τὸ μέγα ἔλεός σου, καὶ κατὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν οἰκτιρισμῶν σου ἐξάλειψον τὸ ἀνόμημά μου. Ἐπὶ πλεῖον πλυνόν με ἀπὸ τῆς ἀνομίας μου, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας μου καθάρισόν με. Ὅτι τὴν ἀνομίαν μου ἐγὼ γινώσκω, καὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία μου ἐνώπιόν μου ἐστὶ διὰ παντός. Σοὶ μόνῳ ἥμαρτον καὶ τὸ πονηρὸν ἐνώπιόν σου ἐποίησα, ὅπως ἂν δικαιωθῆς ἐν τοῖς λόγοις σου, καὶ νικήσῃς ἐν τῷ κρίνεσθαί σε. Ἴδου γὰρ ἐν ἀνομίαις συνελήφθην, καὶ ἐν ἁμαρτίαις ἐκίσσησέ με ἡ μήτηρ μου. Ἴδου γὰρ ἀλήθειαν ἠγάπησας, τὰ ἄδηλα καὶ τὰ κρύφια τῆς σοφίας σου ἐδήλωσάς μοι. Ραντιεῖς με ὕσσῳ, καὶ καθαρισθήσομαι, πλυνεῖς με, καὶ ὑπὲρ χιόνα λευκανθήσομαι. Ἀκουτιεῖς μοι ἀγαλλίασιν καὶ εὐφροσύνην· ἀγαλλιάσονται ὅστέα τεταπεινωμένα. Ἀπόστρεψον τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν μου καὶ πάσας τὰς ἀνομίας μου ἐξάλειψον. Καρδίαν καθαρὰν κτίσον ἐν ἐμοί, ὁ Θεός, καὶ πνεῦμα εὐθὲς ἐγκαίνισον ἐν τοῖς ἐγκάτοις μου. Μὴ ἀπορρίψῃς με ἀπὸ τοῦ προσώπου σου καὶ το Πνεῦμά σου τὸ ἅγιον μὴ ἀντανέλῃς ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. Ἀπόδος μοι τὴν ἀγαλλίασιν τοῦ σωτηρίου σου καὶ πνεύματι ἡγεμονικῷ στήριξόν με. Διδάξω ἀνόμους τὰς ὁδοὺς σου, καὶ ἀσεβεῖς ἐπὶ σὲ ἐπιστρέψουσι. Ρῦσαί με ἐξ αἱμάτων, ὁ Θεός, ὁ Θεὸς τῆς σωτηρίας μου· ἀγαλλιάσεται ἡ γλῶσσά μου τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου. Κύριε, τὰ χεῖλη μου ἀνοίξεις, καὶ τὸ στόμα μου ἀναγγελεῖ τὴν αἴνεσίν σου. Ὅτι εἰ ἠθέλησας θυσίαν, ἔδωκα ἅν· ὁλοκαυτώματα οὐκ εὐδοκήσεις. Θυσία

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

**READER**

**Psalms 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

τῷ Θεῷ πνεῦμα συντετριμμένον, καρδίαν συντετριμμένην καὶ τεταπεινωμένην ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἐξουδενώσει. Ἀγάθυνον, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ εὐδοκίᾳ σου τὴν Σιών, καὶ οἰκοδομηθήτω τὰ τείχη Ἱερουσαλήμ. Τότε εὐδοκήσεις θυσίαν δικαιοσύνης, ἀναφορὰν καὶ ὀλοκαυτώματα. Τότε ἀνοίσουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ θυσιαστήριόν σου μόσχους.

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

Δόξα. **Ἦχος β'.**

Ταῖς τοῦ σοῦ Προδρόμου πρεσβείαις, Ἐλεῆμον, ἐξάλειψον τὰ πλήθη τῶν ἐμῶν ἐγκλημάτων.

Καὶ νῦν.

Ταῖς τῆς Θεοτόκου πρεσβείαις, Ἐλεῆμον, ἐξάλειψον τὰ πλήθη τῶν ἐμῶν ἐγκλημάτων.

**Ἰδιόμελον. Ἦχος β'.**

**Στίχ.** Ἐλέησόν με, ὁ Θεός, κατὰ τὸ μέγα ἔλεός σου καὶ κατὰ τὸ πλήθος τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν σου ἐξάλειψον τὸ ἀνόμημά μου.

Ἡ τῶν θείων ἐννοιῶν πανσεβάσμιος θήκη, καὶ τῆς ἀρρήτου οὐσίας τρανῶς ἡ προβλέψασα, τὸ μυστήριον Κάρα σου, ὡς ἐκ λαγόνων μητρικῶν, ἐκ τῶν ταμείων τῆς γῆς, σήμερον ἀνατέταλκεν, Ἰωάννη πανεύφημε, καὶ εὐωδίασε πᾶσαν τὴν ὑφήλιον, ἀγιασμοῦ προχέουσα μύρον, καὶ νοητῶς κηρύττουσα μετανοίας ὁδόν, καὶ τῷ Σωτήρι τῶν ὅλων πρεσβεύουσα, ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Σῶσον ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου· ἐπίσκεψαι τὸν κόσμον σου ἐν ἐλέει καὶ

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.**

At the intercession of Your holy Forerunner, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. (SD)

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. (SD)

**Idiomelon. Mode 2.**

**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)

Your Head, that all-venerable repository of divine concepts, which clearly foresaw the mystery of the ineffable Essence, has arisen today out of the storehouses of the earth, as it were out of a mother's womb, O John, who are worthy of all praise. It poured forth the fragrant oil of sanctification and perfumed everything under the sun. It spiritually preaches the way of repentance, and it intercedes with the Savior of all, on behalf of our souls. (SD)

**DEACON**

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the

οἰκτιρμοῖς· ὕψωσον κέρασ Χριστιανῶν  
ὀρθοδόξων καὶ κατὰπεμψον ἐφ' ἡμᾶς  
τὰ ἐλέη σου τὰ πλούσια· πρεσβείαις  
τῆς παναχράντου Δεσποίνης ἡμῶν  
Θεοτόκου καὶ ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας,  
δυνάμει τοῦ τιμίου καὶ ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ,  
προστασίαις τῶν τιμίων ἐπουρανίων  
Δυνάμεων ἀσωμάτων, ἱκεσίαις τοῦ  
τιμίου ἐνδόξου Προφήτου Προδροῦμου καὶ  
Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου, οὗ καὶ τὴν μνήμην τῆς  
εὐρέσεως τῆς τιμίας κεφαλῆς ἐορτάζομεν·  
τῶν ἁγίων ἐνδόξων καὶ πανευφήμων  
Ἀποστόλων, τῶν ἐν ἁγίοις Πατέρων ἡμῶν  
μεγάλων Ἱεραρχῶν καὶ οἰκουμενικῶν  
Διδασκάλων, Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου,  
Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου καὶ Ἰωάννου  
τοῦ Χρυσοστόμου, Ἀθανασίου, Κυρίλλου  
καὶ Ἰωάννου τοῦ Ἐλεήμονος Πατριαρχῶν  
Ἀλεξανδρίας· Νικολάου τοῦ ἐν Μύροις,  
Σπυρίδωνος Τριμυθοῦντος καὶ Νεκταρίου  
Πενταπόλεως τῶν θαυματουργῶν·  
τῶν ἁγίων ἐνδόξων Μεγαλομαρτύρων  
Γεωργίου τοῦ Τροπαιοφόρου, Δημητρίου  
τοῦ Μυροβλήτου, Θεοδώρου τοῦ Τήρωνος,  
Θεοδώρου τοῦ Στρατηλάτου, Μηνᾶ  
τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ· τῶν Ἱερομαρτύρων  
Χαραλάμπους καὶ Ἐλευθερίου, τῆς  
ἁγίας ἐνδόξου Μεγαλομάρτυρος καὶ  
πανευφήμου Εὐφημίας· τῶν ἁγίων ἐνδόξων  
Μαρτύρων Θέκλας, Βαρβάρας, Ἀναστασίας,  
Αἰκατερίνης, Κυριακῆς, Φωτεινῆς, Μαρίνας,  
Παρασκευῆς καὶ Εἰρήνης· τῶν ὁσίων καὶ  
Θεοφόρων Πατέρων ἡμῶν· (τοῦ Ἁγίου τοῦ  
Ναοῦ)· τῶν ἁγίων καὶ δικαίων Θεοπατόρων  
Ἰωακείμ καὶ Ἄννης· καὶ πάντων σου τῶν  
Ἁγίων. Ἰκετεύομέν σε, μόνε πολυέλεε  
Κύριε, ἐπάκουσον ἡμῶν τῶν ἁμαρτωλῶν  
δεομένων σου καὶ ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

#### ΧΟΡΟΣ

Κύριε, ἐλέησον. (ιβ')

#### ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Ἐλέει καὶ οἰκτιρμοῖς καὶ φιλανθρωπία  
τοῦ μονογενοῦς σου Υἱοῦ, μεθ' οὗ

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, 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 finding of whose venerable  
head we celebrate; 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

εὐλογητὸς εἰ, σὺν τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ἀγαθῷ  
καὶ ζωοποιῷ σου Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ  
εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

(Ἀμήν.)

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ**

**Κοντάκιον.**

**Ἦχος β'. Τὰ ἄνω ζητῶν.**

Προφῆτα Θεοῦ, καὶ Προδρόμε τῆς  
χάριτος, τὴν Κάραν τὴν σὴν, ὡς ῥόδον  
ιερώτατον, ἐκ τῆς γῆς εὐράμενοι, τὰς  
ιάσεις πάντοτε λαμβάνομεν· καὶ γὰρ πάλιν  
ὡς πρότερον, ἐν κόσμῳ κηρύττετε τὴν  
μετάνοιαν.

**Ὁ Οἶκος.**

Ἐκ τοῦ Κυρίου τὴν μαρτυρίαν εἰληφὼς  
Ἰωάννη, ὑπὲρ πάντας βροτοὺς ὑπέρτερος  
ἐχρημάτισας· ὅθεν ἐπαίνους τῶν ἐγκωμίων  
προσενέγκαι σοι δέδοικα, ἀλλὰ πόθῳ  
ἐκβιασθεὶς, τῇ ᾠδῇ ἐγχειρῆσαι τετόλμηκα·  
διὸ μὴ ἀπαξιώσης συνεργὸς μοι γενέσθαι  
Πανεύφημε, ἵνα ἰσχύσω στεφανῶσαί σου  
κορυφὴν τὴν ἁγίαν τρισόλβιε· καὶ γὰρ σὺ ἐν  
κόσμῳ κηρύττετε τὴν μετάνοιαν.

**Συναξάριον.**

*Τοῦ Μηναίου.*

Τῇ ΚΔ' τοῦ αὐτοῦ μηνός, Μνήμη τῆς  
εὐρέσεως τῆς τιμίας Κεφαλῆς τοῦ Ἁγίου  
Προφήτου, Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ  
Ἰωάννου.

whom you are blessed, together with your  
all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and  
forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

**READER**

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 2.** *In seeking the heights.*

O Prophet of God and Forerunner of  
grace divine, since we have obtained your  
Head from beneath the earth, as if a most  
sacred rose, we are receiving the healings  
continually. And once again, as formerly,  
you are preaching repentance throughout the  
world. (SD)

**Oikos.**

O John, you became greater than all other  
mortals, having received the Lord's own  
testimony about this. Therefore I am afraid  
to present you with words of praise; but  
compelled by my longing, I have dared to try  
my hand at this poem. Please do not refuse  
to collaborate with me, O all-lauded one, so  
that I may be able to crown your holy Head,  
O thrice-blessed one. And once again, you are  
preaching repentance throughout the world.

(SD)

**Synaxarion.**

*From the Menaion.*

On February 24, we commemorate the  
finding of the venerable head of the holy  
Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist.

*Τοῦ Τριωδίου.*

Ταῖς τοῦ σοῦ Προδρόμου πρεσβείαις, ὁ  
Θεὸς ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Ἀμήν.

**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

**Καταβασίαι τῆς Θεοτόκου  
Ὡιδὴ α'. Ἦχος δ'.**

Ἀνοίξω τὸ στόμα μου, καὶ  
πληρωθήσεται Πνεύματος, καὶ λόγον  
ἐρεῦξομαι, τῇ Βασιλίδι Μητρί, καὶ

*From the Triodion.*

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

**CHOIR**

**Katavasias of Theotokos  
Ode i. Mode 4.**

My mouth shall I open wide, \* and it will  
thus be with Spirit filled. \* A word shall I then  
pour out \* unto the Mother and Queen. \* I will



ὀφθήσομαι, παιδρῶς πανηγυρίζων, καὶ ἄσω  
γηθόμενος, ταύτης τὰ θαύματα.

**Ὡδὴ γ'.**

Τοὺς σοὺς ὕμνολόγους Θεοτόκε,  
ὥς ζῶσα καὶ ἄφθονος πηγή, θίασον  
συγκροτήσαντας πνευματικόν, στερέωσον·  
καὶ ἐν τῇ θείᾳ δόξῃ σου, στεφάνων δόξης  
ἀξίωσον.

**Ὡδὴ δ'.**

Τὴν ἀνεξιχνίαστον θείαν βουλήν,  
τῆς ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου σαρκώσεως, σοῦ  
τοῦ Ὑψίστου, ὁ Προφήτης, Ἀββακούμ,  
κατανοῶν ἐκραύγαζε· Δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου  
Κύριε.

**Ὡδὴ ε'.**

Ἐξέστη τὰ σύμπαντα, ἐπὶ τῇ θείᾳ  
δόξῃ σου· σὺ γὰρ ἀπειρογάμε Παρθένε,  
ἔσχες ἐν μήτρᾳ, τὸν ἐπὶ πάντων Θεόν, καὶ  
τέτοκας ἄχρονον Υἱόν, πᾶσι τοῖς ὕμνοῦσί  
σε, σωτηρίαν βραβεύοντα.

**Ὡδὴ ς'.**

Τὴν θείαν ταύτην καὶ πάντιμον,  
τελοῦντες ἑορτὴν οἱ θεόφρονες, τῆς  
Θεομήτορος, δεῦτε τάς χεῖρας κροτήσωμεν,  
τὸν ἐξ αὐτῆς τεχθέντα Θεὸν δοξάζοντες.

**Ὡδὴ ζ'.**

Οὐκ ἐλάτρευσαν τῇ κτίσει οἱ θεόφρονες,  
παρὰ τὸν Κτίσαντα, ἀλλὰ πυρὸς ἀπειλήν,  
ἀνδρείως πατήσαντες, χαίροντες ἔψαλλον.  
Ὑπερύμνητε, ὁ τῶν Πατέρων Κύριος, καὶ  
Θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

joyously \* attend the celebration \* 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 crowns of glory  
graciously \* in your divine glory grant 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. \* For while never  
consummating wedlock, \* you held, O Virgin,  
the God of all in your womb, \* and gave birth  
unto a timeless Son \* Who awards salvation to  
\* all who chant hymns of praise to you. (SD)

**Ode vi.**

Let us possessed of a godly mind, \*  
observing this divine and all-venerable feast  
in honor of \* the Theotokos, come clap our  
hands, \* while glorifying God who was truly  
born of her. (SD)

**Ode vii.**

Godly-minded three \* did not adore  
created things \* in the Creator's stead, \* but  
bravely trampling upon \* the threat of the  
furnace fire chanted joyfully: \* "O supremely  
praised \* and most exalted Lord and God \* of  
the fathers, You are blessed." (SD)



**Ὡδὴ η'.**

*Αἰνοῦμεν, εὐλογοῦμεν καὶ προσκυνοῦμεν  
τὸν Κύριον.*

Παῖδας εὐαγεῖς ἐν τῇ καμίνῳ, ὁ  
τόκος τῆς Θεοτόκου διεσώσατο, τότε  
μὲν τυπούμενος, νῦν δὲ ἐνεργούμενος,  
τὴν οἰκουμένην ἅπασαν, ἀγείρει  
ψάλλουσιν. Τὸν Κύριον ὑμνεῖτε τὰ ἔργα,  
καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε, εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Τὴν Θεοτόκον καὶ μητέρα τοῦ φωτὸς ἐν  
ὑμνοῖς τιμῶντες μεγαλύνωμεν.

**ΧΟΡΟΣ**

**Ὡδὴ θ'.**

**Μεγαλυνάριον. Ἦχος δ'.**

**Στίχ.** Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον,  
καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ  
σωτήρῳ μου.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ  
ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν  
ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν  
ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

**Στίχ.** Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπείνωσιν  
τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ· ἰδοὺ γάρ, ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν  
μακαριοῦσί με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ  
ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν  
ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν  
ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

**Στίχ.** Ὅτι ἐποίησέ μοι μεγαλεῖα ὁ  
Δυνατός, καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, καὶ το

**Ode viii.**

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

Pious Servants stood within the furnace.  
\* The Son of the Theotokos went and rescued  
them. \* He who was prefigured then, \*  
manifestly active now, \* is gathering together  
the entire universe \* to sing the hymn: \* "O  
praise and supremely \* exalt the Lord, O all  
you His works, unto the ages." (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 rejoices in God my Savior.* (RSV)

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 low estate  
of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all  
generations will call me blessed.* (RSV)

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.

**Verse:** *For he who is mighty has done great  
things for me, and holy is his name. And his*

ἔλεος αὐτοῦ εἰς γενεάν, καὶ γενεάν τοῖς φοβουμένοις αὐτόν.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

**Στίχ.** Ἐποίησε Κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, διεσκόρπισεν ὑπερηφάνους διανοίᾳ καρδίας αὐτῶν.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

**Στίχ.** Καθεῖλε δυνάστας ἀπὸ θρόνων, καὶ ὑψώσε ταπεινοὺς, πεινῶντας ἐνέπλησεν ἀγαθῶν, καὶ πλουτοῦντας ἐξαπέστειλε κενούς.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

**Στίχ.** Ἀντελάβετο Ἰσραὴλ παιδὸς αὐτοῦ, μνησθῆναι ἐλέους, καθὼς ἐλάλησε πρὸς τοὺς Πατέρας ἡμῶν, τῷ Ἀβραάμ, καὶ τῷ σπέρματι αὐτοῦ ἕως αἰῶνος.

Τὴν τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβίμ, καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφίμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως, Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

#### **Καταβασία. Ἦχος δ'.**

Ἄπας γηγενής, σκιρτάτω τῷ πνεύματι λαμπαδουχούμενος, πανηγυρίζετω δέ,

mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. (RSV)

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.

**Verse:** He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (RSV)

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.

**Verse:** He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. (RSV)

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.

**Verse:** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever. (RSV)

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.

#### **Katavasia. Mode 4.**

All you born on earth, \* with festival lamps in hand, in spirit leap for joy; \*

αὐλῶν Νόων φύσις γεραίρουσα, τὰ ἱερὰ  
θαυμάσια τῆς Θεομήτορος, καὶ βοάτω  
Χαίροις παμμακάριστε, Θεοτόκε Ἀγνή  
ἀειπάρθενε.

### ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Ἦτι καὶ ἔτι ἐν εἰρήνῃ τοῦ Κυρίου  
δεηθῶμεν.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Ἀντιλαβοῦ, σῶσον, ἐλέησον καὶ  
διαφύλαξον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεὸς τῇ σῇ χάριτι.

(Κύριε, ἐλέησον.)

Τῆς Παναγίας ἀχράντου,  
ὑπερευλογημένης, ἐνδόξου Δεσποίνης  
ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου καὶ ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας  
μετὰ πάντων τῶν Ἀγίων μνημονεύσαντες,  
ἐαυτοὺς καὶ ἀλλήλους καὶ πᾶσαν τὴν ζωὴν  
ἡμῶν Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ παραθώμεθα.

(Σοί, Κύριε.)

### ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Ὅτι σὲ αἰνοῦσι πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν  
οὐρανῶν καὶ σοὶ τὴν δόξαν ἀναπέμπουσι,  
τῷ Πατρὶ καὶ τῷ Υἱῷ καὶ τῷ ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι,  
νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

(Ἀμήν.)

### ΧΟΡΟΣ

#### Ἑξαποστειλᾶριον.

Τοῦ Μηναίου - - -

**Ἦχος β΄.** Τοῖς Μαθηταῖς συνέλθωμεν.

Λαμπροφανὴς ἀνέτειλεν, ἡ τιμία  
σου Κάρα, ἐκ τῶν ἀδύτων κόλπων γῆς,  
Πρόδρομε Ἰωάννη, λύχνε φωτὸς τοῦ  
αὐλοῦ, ἧς τὴν εὐρεσιν πόθῳ, τελοῦντες  
δυσωποῦμέν σε, τῶν δεινῶν εὐρεῖν λύσιν,  
καὶ τὸν καιρὸν, εὐμαρῶς ἀνύσαι τῆς  
ἐγκρατείας, πρεσβείαις σου πανεύφημε,  
Βαπτιστὰ τοῦ Σωτῆρος.

heavenly intelligences \* of incorporeal Angels,  
celebrate \* and honor thus the sacred feast  
of the Mother of God, \* crying loudly: \* O  
rejoice, all-blessed one, \* ever-virgin and pure,  
who gave birth to God. (SD)

### DEACON

Again and again in peace let us pray to  
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and  
protect us, O God, by your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Remembering our most holy, pure,  
blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos  
and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let  
us commit 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.

You precious Skull has risen up \* from  
the hidden recesses \* of the earth shining  
brilliantly, \* holy John the Forerunner, \*  
lamp of the light uncreated. \* As we lovingly  
honor \* the feast of its discovery, \* we pray  
to be delivered from all distress, \* and that  
this year's fasting will benefit us, \* through  
your entreaties to the Lord, \* O Baptist of the  
Savior. (SD)

**Ἔτερον.**

**Another.**

**Ἔτερον.**

**Another.**

**Σταυροθεοτοκίον.**

**Stavrotheotokion.**

**Οἱ Αἶνοι. Ἦχος δ'.**

**Lauds. Mode 4.**

Πᾶσα πνοὴ αἰνεσάτω τὸν Κύριον.  
Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν· αἰνεῖτε  
αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις. Σοὶ πρέπει ὕμνος τῷ  
Θεῷ.

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)

Αἰνεῖτε αὐτόν, πάντες οἱ ἄγγελοι αὐτοῦ·  
αἰνεῖτε αὐτόν, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις αὐτοῦ. Σοὶ  
πρέπει ὕμνος τῷ Θεῷ.

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

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

From Menaion ---

**Ἦχος δ'. Ἐδωκας σημείωσιν.**

**Mode 4. You have given.**

Αἰνεῖτε αὐτόν ἐπὶ ταῖς δυναστείαις  
αὐτοῦ, αἰνεῖτε αὐτόν κατὰ τὸ πλήθος τῆς  
μεγαλωσύνης αὐτοῦ.

*Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him  
according to the abundance of His greatness. (SAAS)*

Ἦνοιξε προπύλαια, τῆς ἐγκρατείας ἡ  
πάνσεμνος, κεφαλὴ σου Πανεύφημε, καὶ  
τρυφὴν προέθηκεν, ἡδυτάτην πᾶσι, θείων  
χαρισμάτων, ὧν περ μετέχοντες πιστῶς, τὸ  
τῆς νηστείας τραχὺ γλυκαίνομεν, καὶ πίστει  
εὐφημοῦμέν σε, καὶ ἐκβοῶμεν Χριστῷ τῷ  
Θεῷ, Ἰησοῦ παντοδύναμε, ὁ Σωτὴρ τῶν  
ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

Your all-honored head inaugurates the  
all-holy fast of Lent, \* O all-lauded Forerunner  
John; \* it offers believers all \* sweet delights  
of holy \* grace and its divine gifts. \* As we  
partake of them with faith \* we make the  
difficult road of fasting sweet, \* and loyally  
we honor you and also call out to Christ our  
God: \* "You, O Jesus almighty God, \* are the  
Lord who has saved our souls." (SD)

Αἰνεῖτε αὐτόν ἐν ἤχῳ σάλπιγγος, αἰνεῖτε  
αὐτόν ἐν ψαλτηρίῳ καὶ κιθάρᾳ.

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise  
Him with the harp and lyre. (SAAS)*

Ἦνοιξε προπύλαια, τῆς ἐγκρατείας ἡ  
πάνσεμνος, κεφαλὴ σου Πανεύφημε, καὶ  
τρυφὴν προέθηκεν, ἡδυτάτην πᾶσι, θείων  
χαρισμάτων, ὧν περ μετέχοντες πιστῶς, τὸ  
τῆς νηστείας τραχὺ γλυκαίνομεν, καὶ πίστει  
εὐφημοῦμέν σε, καὶ ἐκβοῶμεν Χριστῷ τῷ

Your all-honored head inaugurates the  
all-holy fast of Lent, \* O all-lauded Forerunner  
John; \* it offers believers all \* sweet delights  
of holy \* grace and its divine gifts. \* As we  
partake of them with faith \* we make the  
difficult road of fasting sweet, \* and loyally  
we honor you and also call out to Christ our

Θεῶ, Ἰησοῦ παντοδύναμε, ὁ Σωτὴρ τῶν  
ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

*Αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν τυμπάνῳ καὶ χορῶ,  
αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν χορδαῖς καὶ ὀργάνῳ.*

Μύρα ὥσπερ νάματα, ἡ κεφαλὴ  
ἀποστάζουσα, τοῦ Προδρόμου ἀέναα, καὶ  
τραπέζῃ σήμερον, ἀποτεθειμένη, μυστικῇ  
καὶ θείᾳ, εὐωδιάζει νοητῶς, καὶ ἀηδῖαν  
ἐλαύνει θλίψεων, καὶ εὐφροσύνης ἅπαντας,  
πληροῖ τοὺς πόθῳ κραυγάζοντας· Ἰησοῦ  
παντοδύναμε, ὁ Σωτὴρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν

*Αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν κυμβάλοις εὐήχοις,  
αἰνεῖτε αὐτὸν ἐν κυμβάλοις ἀλαλαγμοῦ.  
Πᾶσα πνοὴ αἰνεσάτω τὸν Κύριον.*

Ἔτεμεν ἡ Κάρα σου, καθάπερ ξίφος  
τομώτατον, κεφαλὰς ἀνομοούντων ἐχθρῶν,  
καὶ νάματα ἔβλυσεν, εὐνομοῦσι πᾶσι, τῶν  
θείων χαρίτων· καὶ διὰ τοῦτό σε πιστῶς,  
ἀνευφημοῦμεν φίλον καὶ Προδρόμον,  
Ἰωάννη τοῦ Κτίσαντος, καὶ ἐκβοῶμεν αὐτῷ  
ἐκτενῶς· Ἰησοῦ παντοδύναμε, ὁ Σωτὴρ τῶν  
ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

Δόξα.

Τοῦ Μηναίου - - -

**Ἦχος πλ. β'.**

Τὴν πανσεβάσμιον Κάραν, τοῦ  
Βαπτιστοῦ σου Κύριε, φανερωθεῖσαν  
σήμερον ἐκ γῆς, μετὰ φωνῆς αἰνέσεως,  
ἀρυσάμενοι πιστῶς, εἰς πρεσβείαν  
φιλάνθρωπε, οἱ ἐπταικότες δοῦλοί σου,  
προσάγοντες αἰτούμεθα, δι' αὐτῆς ἐπιτυχεῖν  
ἐν ἡμέρᾳ κρίσεως, παρὰ σοῦ τὸν ἴλασμόν  
καὶ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

God: \* "You, O Jesus almighty God, \* are the  
Lord who has saved our souls." (SD)

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise  
Him with strings and flute. (SAAS)*

Dripping with perfume is the all-holy  
head of the Forerunner, \* like a fountain that  
never stops. \* Today it is on display \* on  
the holy table, \* mystically exuding a sweet  
and spiritual scent, \* which drives away the  
unpleasantness of ills. \* It fills with joy and  
happiness all those who earnestly say aloud:  
"You, O Jesus almighty God, \* are the Lord  
who has saved our souls." (SD)

*Praise Him with resounding cymbals, praise  
Him with triumphant cymbals. Let everything that  
breathes praise the Lord. (SAAS)*

Forerunner, your sacred Skull cut off the  
heads of the lawless foes \* of the Lord, like a  
sharpened sword, \* but poured out the gifts  
of grace, \* like a holy shower, \* over all the  
lawful. \* Therefore we loyally extol \* and sing  
the praises of you, O Baptist John, \* the friend  
of the Creator of the world, to whom we say  
earnestly: "You, O Jesus almighty God, \* are  
the Lord who has saved our souls." (SD)

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

The all-venerable Head of Your Baptist  
was revealed today, O Lord, and we have  
faithfully brought it up from the earth, and  
accompanied it with the voice of praise. Now  
we, Your sinful servants, offer it to You as an  
intercession, O Lover of humanity. We pray  
that through it we may obtain forgiveness and  
great mercy from You on Judgment Day. (SD)



Τῆς Οκτωήχου ---

Καὶ νῦν. **Θεοτοκίον.**

Θεοτόκε, σὺ εἶ ἡ ἄμπελος ἡ ἀληθινή,  
ἡ βλαστήσασα τὸν καρπὸν τῆς ζωῆς, σὲ  
ἱκετεύομεν, πρέσβευε Δέσποινα, μετὰ  
τοῦ Προδρόμου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων,  
ἐλεηθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### Ἡ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΟΞΟΛΟΓΙΑ

Δόξα σοι τῷ δείξαντι τὸ φῶς. Δόξα  
ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν  
ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία.

Ὑμνοῦμέν σε, εὐλογοῦμέν σε,  
προσκυνοῦμέν σε, δοξολογοῦμέν σε,  
εὐχαριστοῦμέν σοι, διὰ τὴν μεγάλην σου  
δόξαν.

Κύριε βασιλεῦ, ἐπουράνιε Θεέ, Πάτερ  
παντοκράτορ· Κύριε Υἱὲ μονογενές, Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστέ, καὶ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα.

Κύριε ὁ Θεός, ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ  
Υἱὸς τοῦ Πατρὸς, ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν  
τοῦ κόσμου, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, ὁ αἴρων τὰς  
ἁμαρτίας τοῦ κόσμου.

Πρόσδεξαι τὴν δέησιν ἡμῶν, ὁ  
καθήμενος ἐν δεξιᾷ τοῦ Πατρὸς, καὶ  
ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ μόνος Ἅγιος, σὺ εἶ ὁ μόνος  
Κύριος, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ  
Πατρὸς. Ἀμήν.

Καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν εὐλογήσω σε καὶ  
αἰνέσω τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα καὶ εἰς  
τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

Καταξίωσον, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ταύτῃ,  
ἀναμαρτήτους φυλαχθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

From Octoechos ---

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Theotokos, you are the true vine that  
produced the fruit of life. Lady, we fervently  
entreat you to intercede along with the  
Forerunner and all the saints, that our souls be  
treated mercifully. (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.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν  
Πατέρων ἡμῶν, καὶ αἰνετὸν καὶ  
δεδοξασμένον τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς τοὺς  
αἰῶνας. Ἀμήν.

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς,  
καθάπερ ἠλπίσαμεν ἐπὶ σέ.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε, δίδαξόν με τὰ  
δικαιώματά σου.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε, δίδαξόν με τὰ  
δικαιώματά σου.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε, δίδαξόν με τὰ  
δικαιώματά σου.

Κύριε, καταφυγὴ ἐγενήθης ἡμῖν ἐν  
γενεᾷ καὶ γενεᾷ. Ἐγὼ εἶπα· Κύριε, ἐλέησόν  
με, ἴασαι τὴν ψυχὴν μου, ὅτι ἥμαρτόν σοι.

Κύριε, πρὸς σέ κατέφυγον. Δίδαξόν με  
τοῦ ποιεῖν τὸ θέλημά σου, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Θεός  
μου.

Ὅτι παρὰ σοὶ πηγὴ ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ φωτί  
σου ὁψόμεθα φῶς.

Παράτεινον τὸ ἔλεός σου τοῖς  
γινώσκουσί σε.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, Ἅγιος Ἰσχυρός, Ἅγιος  
Ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. (ἐκ γ')

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν  
αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Ἅγιος Ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, Ἅγιος Ἰσχυρός, Ἅγιος  
Ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

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



**Ἀπολυτίκιον.**

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

**Ἦχος δ'.** *Ταχὺ προκατάλαβε.*

Ἐκ γῆς ἀνατείλασα ἡ τοῦ Προδρόμου  
κεφαλὴ, ἀκτῖνας ἀφίησι τῆς ἀφθαρσίας,  
πιστοῖς τῶν ἰάσεων, ἄνωθεν συναθροίζει,  
τὴν πληθὺν τῶν Ἀγγέλων, κάτωθεν  
συγκαλεῖται, τῶν ἀνθρώπων τὸ γένος,  
ὁμόφωνον ἀναπέμψαι, δόξαν Χριστῷ τῷ  
Θεῷ.

**Apolytikion.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4.** *Come quickly.*

The Forerunner's head has risen once  
again from the earth; \* it sends forth the  
brilliant rays of incorruption and cures to  
the faithful all. \* Above it has assembled  
the arrays of the Angels; \* below it calls the  
human race to gather together. \* In unison we  
offer up glory to Christ our God. (SD)