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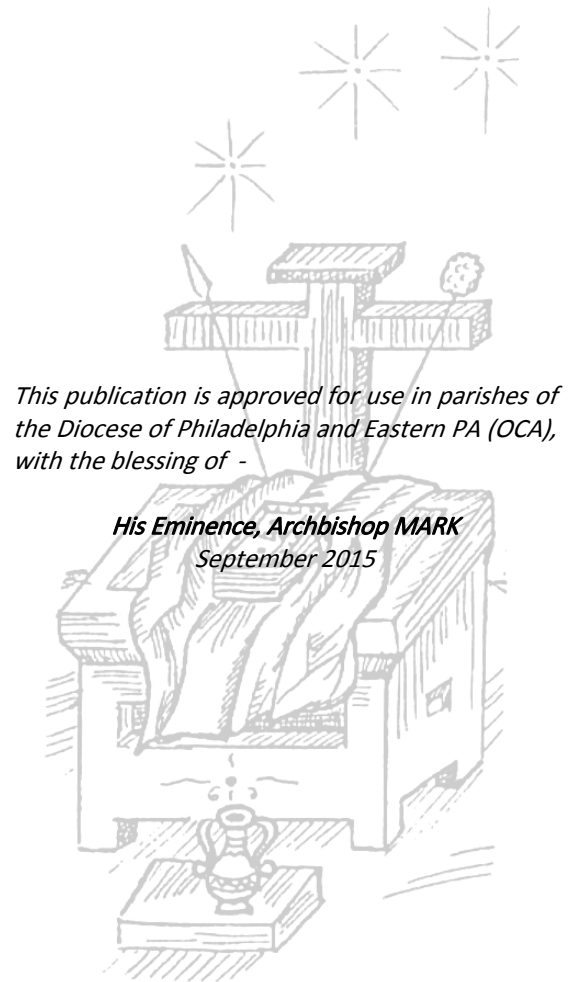
# NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS



Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
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## VESPERS AND LITYA

*Adapted for use in the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania*



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the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA (OCA),  
with the blessing of -*

***His Eminence, Archbishop MARK***  
***September 2015***

upon our beds, remember Thy name in the night. And, enlightened by the exercise of Thy commandments, may we rise up in joyfulness of soul to the glorification of Thy goodness, and offer supplications and prayers unto Thy tenderness of heart, for our own sins and those of all Thy people, whom do Thou look upon in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos. For Thou art a good God who lovest man, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

*By Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*

**T**he Church's veneration of Mary has always been rooted in her obedience to God, her willing choice to accept a humanly impossible calling. The Orthodox Church has always emphasized Mary's connection to humanity and delighted in her as the best, purest, most sublime fruition of human history and of man's quest for God, for ultimate meaning, for ultimate content of human life.

If in Western Christianity veneration of Mary was centered upon her perpetual virginity, the heart of Orthodox Christian East's devotion, contemplation, and joyful delight has always been her Motherhood, her flesh and blood connection to Jesus Christ. The East rejoices that the human role in the divine plan is pivotal. The Son of God comes to earth, appears in order to redeem the world, He becomes human to incorporate man into His divine vocation, but humanity takes part in this. If it is understood that Christ's "co-nature" with us is as a human being and not some phantom or bodiless apparition, that He is one of us and forever united to us through His and forever united to us through His humanity, then devotion to Mary also becomes understandable, for she is the one who gave Him His human nature, His flesh and blood. She is the one through whom Christ can always call Himself "The Son of Man."

Son of God, Son of Man...God descending and becoming man so that man could become divine, could become partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), or as the teachers of Church expressed it, "deified." Precisely here, in this extraordinary revelation of man's authentic nature and calling, is the source that gratitude and tenderness which cherishes Mary as our link to Christ and, in Him, to God. And nowhere is this reflected more clearly than in the Nativity of the Mother of God.

**DEACON:** Arise, Master bless!

**PRIEST:** Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages!

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST/CHOIR:** Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Him!

#### PSALM 104

**CHOIR:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed are Thou, blessed art Thou, O Lord! How glorious are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. Who hast created, who hast created all! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3)



**Sixth Prayer:** O God, great and wonderful, who, with goodness indescribable and rich providence orderest all things and grantest unto us earthly goods, who hast given us a pledge of the promised kingdom through the good things already granted unto us, and hast made us to shun all harm during that part of the present day which is past, grant that we may also fulfill the remainder of this day blamelessly before Thy holy glory, and hymn Thee, our God, who alone art good and lovest man. For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Seventh Prayer:** O great and most high God, who alone hast immortality, and dwellest in light unapproachable, who hast fashioned all creation in wisdom, who hast divided the light from the darkness, and hast set the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night, who hast also vouchsafed unto us sinners at this present hour to come before Thy presence with confession and to present unto Thee our evening doxology, do Thou Thyself, O Lord, Lover of man, direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and accept it for an odor of sweet fragrance, and grant that our present evening and coming night be peaceful. Clothe us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the fear of night, and from everything that walketh in darkness, and grant that the sleep that Thou hast given for the repose of our infirmity may be free from every fantasy of the Devil. Yea, O Master of all, Leader of the good, may we, being moved to compunction

petitions which are unto salvation, and make us worthy to love and fear Thee with all our hearts, and to do Thy will in all things. For Thou art a good God who lovest man, and to Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Fourth Prayer:** O Thou to whom the holy Powers sing with unending hymns and unceasing doxologies, fill our mouths with Thy praise, that we may magnify Thy holy name. And grant unto us part and inheritance with all those that fear Thee in truth and keep Thy commandments, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all Thy Saints. For to Thee belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Fifth Prayer:** O Lord, Lord, who upholdest all things in the most pure hollow of Thy hand, who art long-suffering toward us all, and repentest Thee at our wickedness, remember Thy compassion and Thy mercy. Look upon us with Thy goodness; grant unto us also by Thy grace, through the remainder of the present day, to avoid the divers subtle snares of the Evil One, and keep our lives un-assailed, through the grace of Thine all-holy Spirit. Through the mercy and love of man of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## GREAT LITANY

**DEACON:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. *Repeated after each petition*

For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_, and for our Bishop (*Archbishop*) \_\_\_\_, the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, its President, and for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and suffering; for captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.**

**PRIEST:** For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

### **KATHISMA (PSALM 1)**

*The priest says Prayers of Light, p. 33*

**CHOIR: Blessed is the man, who walks not in the council of the wicked. Refrain: Alleluia! (3)**

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish. Refrain**

**Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling! Refrain**

**Blessed are all who take refuge in Him! Refrain**

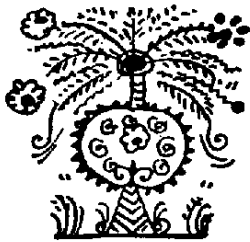
**Arise, O Lord, save me O my God! Refrain**

**Salvation belongs to the Lord! Thy blessing be upon Thy people! Refrain**

**First Prayer:** O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and of great mercy, give heed to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon us a sign for good. Guide us in Thy way, that we may walk in Thy truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Thy holy name. For thou art great and workest wonders. Thou alone art God, and among the gods there is none like unto Thee, O Lord, powerful in mercy, and good in might, to help and to comfort and to save all those that hope in Thy holy name. For to Thee belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Second Prayer:** O Lord, in Thy displeasure, rebuke us not, neither chasten us in Thy wrath, but deal with us according to Thy tenderness O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us unto the haven of Thy will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts unto the knowledge of Thy truth, and grant unto us that the remainder of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the Saints. For Thine is the strength, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Third Prayer:** O Lord our God, remember us Thy sinful and unprofitable servants when we call upon Thy holy, venerable name, and put us not to shame in our expectation of Thy mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our



Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. *Refrain*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to the Thee, O God! (2)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to the Thee, O God!  
Glory to Thee! (1)

#### LITTLE LITANY

**DEACON:** Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

## LORD I CALL (PSALM 141)

*(Tone 6)* Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord!

Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

*10. Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Thy name.*

*9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

*8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,/ has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth./ He, Who in wisdom established the heavens,/ has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;/ for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us, even His Mother./ O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, // O Lord, glory to Thee!

*7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

*Repeat:* Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones...

*6. If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? For there is forgiveness with Thee!*

## PRAYERS OF LIGHT

*Page 33*



sure hope, glory to Thee!

**CHOIR:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3) *(Father/Master)*, bless!

**PRIEST:** May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, whose honorable Nativity we celebrate today, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, *(of Saint \_\_ whose memory we keep today, and of all those Saints who have shone forth in North America)*, and of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*The Priest may choose to offer a short sermon*

**PRIEST:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us!

**CHOIR:** Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3)



This is the day of the Lord!/ Rejoice, O peoples, / for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life,/ has come forth from the womb!/ The gate that faces the East is born and awaits the entry of the Great Priest./ She alone admits Christ into the world // for the salvation of our souls.

*5. For Thy namesake I have waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord!*

Although by God's will other barren women have brought forth famous offspring,/ yet, of all those children Mary shines brightest, as is fitting to God./ For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother,/ and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,/ in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed./ She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,/ Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed,/ and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom,/ has wrought salvation for all mankind.

*4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Today the gates of barrenness are opened,/ and the virgin gate of God comes forth./ Today grace begins to bear its first fruit,/ revealing to the world the Mother of God./ Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens // for the salvation of our souls.

*3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all His iniquities.*

*Repeat: Today the gates of barrenness are opened...*

*2. Praise the Lord, all nations; praise Him all people!*

Today is the prelude of universal joy;/ today breezes blow that herald salvation,/ and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled; / for the barren woman is revealed as the mother of her who remained a virgin after giving birth to the Creator./ From her the One Who is God by nature takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own;/ and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray. // He is Christ, the Lover of mankind and the Redeemer of our souls.

*1. For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!*

Today the barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God,/ who was chosen from all generations to become the abode of the King and Creator of all,/ Christ our God in fulfillment of the divine plan. / Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew // and restored from corruption to life eternal.

*Glory, now and ever in the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,/ has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth./ He, Who in wisdom established the heavens,/ has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind; /for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up

these loaves, wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city and in all the world, and sanctify all the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou, O Christ our God, who dost bless and sanctify all things; and unto Thee do we send up glory with Thy Father Who has no beginning, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forever more. (3)

#### DISMISSAL

DEACON: Wisdom!

CHOIR: Father, bless!

PRIEST: Blessed is *He Who Is*, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen. Confirm, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

CHOIR: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our only



#### FESTAL TROPARION - Tone 4

**CHOIR:** Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life. (3)

#### BLESSING OF THE LOAVES

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and therewith didst feed the five thousand: do Thou the same Lord bless

for us, even His Mother./ O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, // O Lord, glory to Thee!

#### ENTRANCE WITH A CENSER

**PRIEST:** *In the evening, and in the morning, and at noonday, we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks to Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord who loves mankind. Direct Thou our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, Lord, O Lord, lift we up our eyes, in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**DEACON:** Wisdom! Let us attend!

#### GLADSOME LIGHT

**CHOIR:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

*The prokeimenon is sung according to the day of the week*

### **EVENING PROKEIMENON**

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all!

**DEACON:** Wisdom. The Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_ tone:

#### ***SUNDAY: 8th Tone***

**Behold now, bless the Lord, \* all you servants of the Lord!**

***Verse:*** You who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

#### ***MONDAY: 4th Tone***

**The Lord hears me \* when I call to Him!**

***Verse:*** When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me!

#### ***TUESDAY: 1st Tone***

**Thy mercy O Lord, \* shall follow me all the days of my life!**

### **TRISAGION (THRICE HOLY)**

**READER:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**PRIEST:** For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

before the womb, as the Mother of our God,/ the treasure of virginity, the rod of Aaron that budded, springing from the root of Jesse,/ the preaching of the Prophets, the offspring of the righteous Joachim and Anna./ She is born and with her the world is renewed. / She is comes from the womb and the Church is adorned in her majesty./ She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead,/ the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King,/ in which has come to pass the strange mystery of the union of the natures that came together in Christ.// As we worship Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

#### ST. SYMEON'S PRAYER

CHOIR/CHANTER: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

*Verse:* The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures.

#### *WEDNESDAY: 5th Tone*

Save me, O God, by Thy name \* and judge me by Thy strength!

*Verse:* Hear my prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth!

#### *THURSDAY: 6th Tone*

My help comes from the Lord \* who made heaven and earth!

*Verse:* I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come.

#### *FRIDAY: 7th Tone*

Thou, O God, art my helper \* and Thy mercy shall go before me!

*Verse:* Deliver me from my enemies, O God, and protect me from those who rise up against me!

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Genesis (28:10-17)

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. And your seed shall be as the sand of the earth and it shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you in every way wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

eous Joachim and Anna./ Thou art the heaven and throne of God,/ the vessel of purity, heralding joy to all the world,/ thou that bringest us our life, the annulment of the curse, the bestowal bestowed in its stead./ Wherefore on this feast of thy birth, O Maiden called by God,// entreat peace for the world and for our souls great mercy!

*Verse: The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.*

Let the barren and childless Anna today clap her hands with gladness!/ Let those on earth be decked in splendor; let rulers leap for joy;/ let priests be glad in blessing; let the whole world keep the feast!/ For behold the Queen and immaculate bride of the Father/ has sprung forth from the root of Jesse./ No longer will women bear children in sorrow, for joy has blossomed forth,/ and the Life of mankind now dwells in the world./ No longer are the offerings of Joachim turned away,/ for the lamentation of Anna has been changed to joy./ She cries: "Rejoice with me, all ye chosen of Israel,/ for behold, the Lord has given me the living palace of His divine glory/ for our common gladness and joy// and for the salvation of our souls!"

*Glory, now and ever in the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*(Tone 8) Come, all ye faithful, let us run to the Virgin! / For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained*

**PRIEST:** O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven;

*Here one may repeat from \* on p. 22,  
or simply continue...*

and of all Thy saints; make our prayer acceptable, grant us forgiveness of our trespasses, shelter us under the shadow of Thy wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary, give peace to our life, O Lord; have mercy on us and on Thy world and save our souls, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

#### APOSTICHA

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 4)* The joy of all the world has dawned for us from the righteous ones;/ the all-praised Virgin who springs from Joachim and Anna./ Through the abundance of goodness she becomes the living temple of God,/ and she alone is acknowledged as truly the Theotokos./ Through her prayers, O Christ God, // send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

*Verse: Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear!*

As foretold by the Angel's prophecy,/ thou hast come forth today, O Virgin,/ the most sacred fruit of right-

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel *(43:27-44:4)*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** *Thus says the Lord:* 'it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you.'" Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way." Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Proverbs *(9:1-11)*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; She has offered her sacrifices, She has mixed her wine in the chalice, She has also furnished her table. She has sent out her maidens, in-

viting people to the chalice with a lofty proclamation, saying: "Whoever lacks discernment, let him turn in here!" As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, "Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake lack of discernment and you shall live, seek discernment so you may live. And keep straight you understanding with knowledge. "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you; Reprove a wise man, and he will love you; Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the council of the saints is understanding. For to know the law is proper to good mind, for in this manner you will live long time and the years of your life will be added to you.

### AUGMENTED LITANY

**DEACON:** Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord!

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hear us, and have mercy!

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hear us, and have mercy.

**DEACON:** Again we pray that He will keep this city and this holy church, and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God, who loves mankind, will be gracious and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON:** Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** Hear us, O God our Savior, Thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, O Master, regarding our sins, and have mercy on us. For Thou art a merciful God, Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.



of saint(s) \_\_\_ whose memory we keep this day; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints, we beseech Thee O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy on us!

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(12 or 40)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishop *(Archbishop)* \_\_\_ and all our brotherhood in Christ; and for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell therein; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the welfare of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God, do labor and serve; For those who are gone away and those who are abroad; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the repose, refreshment, blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox gone to their rest before us who lie here and everywhere; for the deliverance of captives; for our brethren who are serving and for all who serve and have served in this holy temple, let us say:

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(12 or 30)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and our armed forces, let us say:

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(12 or 50)*

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, and for our Bishop *(Archbishop)* \_\_\_\_\_, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; *(for \_\_\_)* and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation and pardon and remission of sins of the servants of God the faithful of this holy temple and all Orthodox Christians of True Worship, who live and sojourn in this community.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor, and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**PRIEST:** For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**VOUCHSAFE, O LORD**

**CHOIR/CHANTER:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts!

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

**EVENING LITANY**

**DEACON:** Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

*Trnovo; of Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts; the holy confessor Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, Raphael of Brooklyn, Nikolai of Zicha, who labored in America, and John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco;*

Of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious martyrs;

*the holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen, the great-martyr and healer Panteleimon, the great-martyrs Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer, and George the Trophy-bearer; of the proto-martyr among women Thekla, and of the holy great-martyrs Catherine, Barbara, and Parasceva; of Alban the protomartyr of Britian, Cosmas of Aitola, and Maksym of Carpatho Rus; of the martyrs of America, Juvenaly the Protomartyr of America and his companion, Peter the Aleut, and the hieromartyrs John of Chicago, Alexander of New York City, Seraphim and Vasily who labored in America; and of all the holy new-martyrs and confessors;*

Of our venerable and God-bearing fathers and mothers,

*Anthony of Egypt, Sabas the Sanctified, Mary of Egypt, and Pelegia the Penitent; Anthony and Theodosius and the other Wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev, Sergius of Rodenezh, Job of Pochaev, Seraphim of Sarov, Paisius Velichkovsky, Nicodemus and Siloun of the Holy Mountain; and Herman, the Wonderworker of Alaska and all America; of the holy blessed and righteous priests Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Jacob of Alaska, and John of Kronstadt, the Wonderworker; and of the holy and righteous Juliana the Merciful of Lazarevo; of the holy blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg and Matrona of Moscow;*

death. / So let us, the faithful, cry out to her with Gabriel: / "Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, // granting us His great mercy through you!"

**DEACON:** O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the (*estate/horn*) of Orthodox Christians, and send down on us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles;

Of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom;

*Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Ireneus of Lyons, and Cyprian of Carthage; of our Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker; Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, and the holy Confessor Patrick of Ireland; of the holy Nina, Enlightener of Georgia, holy Methodius and Cyril, the teachers of the Slavs, of the holy Great Prince Vladimir, the blessed Princess Olga, and Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, and Enlightener of Japan. Of our fathers among the saints the hierarchs of all Rus: Peter, Alexis, Cyprian, Jonah, Macarius, Philip, Job and Hermogenes; of our Fathers among the Saints Clement of Ochrid, Sava of Serbia, and Euthymius of*

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant (*it/this*), O Lord.

**DEACON:** An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant (*it/this*), O Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant (*it/this*), O Lord.

All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant (*it/this*), O Lord.

That we may spend the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Grant (*it/this*), O Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

**CHOIR:** Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** For Thou art a merciful God, who loves mankind and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

#### PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF OUR HEADS

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.*

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy Kingdom: of

the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen

#### LITYA

*(Tone 1)* The first fruit of our salvation is accomplished today, O peoples,/ for behold, the Mother and Virgin and vessel of God,/ foreordained from ancient generations,/ comes to be born from a barren woman./ A flower from Jesse and a rod from his root has budded;/ let Adam, our forefather, be glad, and Eve rejoice and delight,/ for behold, she who was formed from Adam's rib/ plainly calls her daughter and descendant blessed:/ "My deliverance has been born," says Eve;/ "through her, I shall be freed from the bonds of Hades."/ Let David rejoice, striking his lyre, and let him bless God,/ for behold, the Virgin comes forth from a barren rock// for the salvation of our souls!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*(Tone 8)* Tone 8 (by Sergius of the Holy City)

Let us strike our spiritual harp on this solemn day of our feast,/ for today, from the seed of David, / the Mother of Life is born, dispelling the darkness. / She is the re-creation of Adam, and the recalling of Eve. / She is the source of incorruption and our release from corruption. / In her we are made divine and are given life. / Through her we have been deified and delivered from