

# ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS



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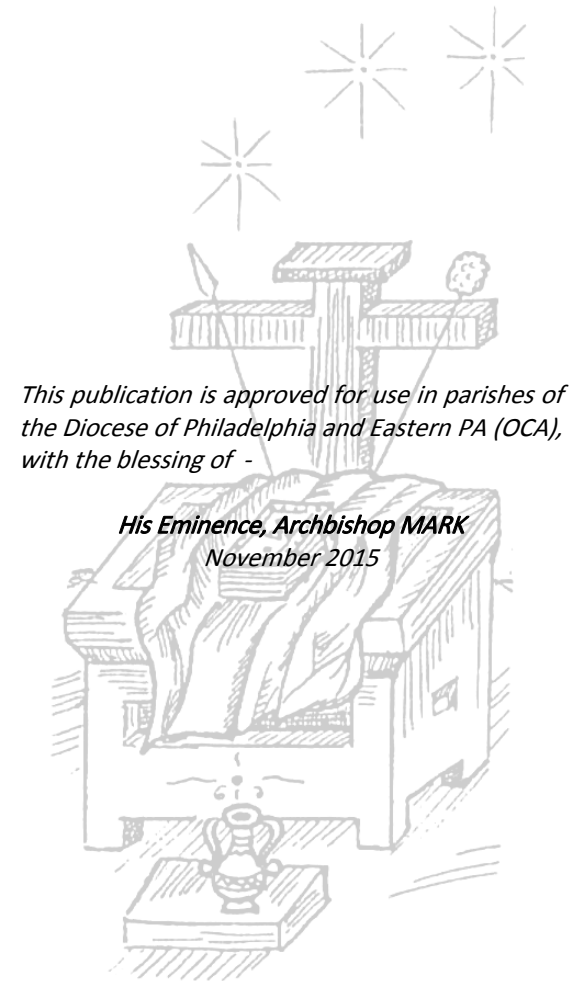


## VESPERS AND LITYA

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



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 (*ascribe/send up*) glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



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***His Eminence, Archbishop MARK***  
*November 2015*

## A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

**A**ccording to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (*Ps. 44/45:14-15*). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (*Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent."*)

The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple.

**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 (*ascribe/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 (*ascribe/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.

According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (*Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37*), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. *“If anyone were to ask me,”* said St Jerome, *“how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian.”*

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin’s stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (*May 21*) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

St Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Sts Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

*The Feast of the **Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple** foretells God’s blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.*

**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)**

#### 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.

**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

## PRAYERS OF LIGHT

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.

That we may be delivered 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)

**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*

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

Both 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)*

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

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



**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 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 Entrance into the Temple we celebrate today, *(insert appropriate phrase according to the day of the week)*, of \_\_\_ the patron of this Holy Temple, 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 He is good and loves mankind.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### MAGNIFICATION

We magnify, we magnify you, O most holy Virgin, Maiden chosen by God; and we honor your Entrance into the Temple of the Lord.

*The Priest may choose to offer a short sermon.  
Then as the faithful venerate the choir sings:*

### 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 might, 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 1)* 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, let us dance, O faithful, singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark, that contained the Word Who cannot be contained; for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord, as a young child in the flesh, and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her, as the dwelling place of God.

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

*Repeat:* Today, let us dance, O faithful...

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

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, the pure Maiden who alone is bles't among women, is offered in the Temple of the Law, that she may make her dwelling in the Holy Place. Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit, and choirs of virgins sing, to the Lord, chanting psalms, and honoring His Mother.

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!*

## 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 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 (*ascribe/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. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

PRIEST: Most holy Theotokos, save us!

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.

#### FESTAL TROPARION

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 4)* Today is the prelude of the good will of God, and the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation." *(sung 3 times)*

You are the preaching of the Prophets, O Virgin Mother of God; the glory of the Apostles and the boast of Martyrs, and the renewal of all the earth-born, for through you, we are reconciled to God. Therefore, being saved by your intercessions, we honor your coming into the Temple of the Lord; and with the Angel we all cry out to you in song: "Rejoice, O all-revered Lady!"

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

*(Tone 4)* Led by the Holy Spirit, the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, where she is fed by an Angel. She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God, Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her, and has made godlike the fallen nature of mortals.

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

*Repeat:* Led by the Holy Spirit...

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

The young girls rejoice today, and with lamps in hand they go before the spiritual Lamp, as she is led with reverence into the Holy of Holies. They foreshadow the Brightness past telling Who is to shine forth from her, and enlighten by the Spirit those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.

*1. For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of*

*the Lord endures forever!*

Anna the all-praised cried out rejoicing: "Receive, O Zachariah, her whom God's prophets proclaimed in the Spirit, and bring her into the holy Temple, there to be brought up in reverence, that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, His palace and resting place and dwelling filled with light!"

*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)* After your birth, O Lady and Bride of God, you came to the Temple of the Lord to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, since you yourself are holy. And Gabriel then was sent to you, all-blameless Maiden, to bring you food. All in heaven were amazed to see how the Holy Spirit had made His abode in you. Therefore, O spotless and undefiled Mother of God, glorified in heaven and on earth, save the human race!

#### ENTRANCE

**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.*

*(Tone 6)* Today let us the crowds of the assembled faithful celebrate a spiritual feast: let us reverently praise the Virgin Theotokos and child of God, as she is brought into the Temple of the Lord! She was fore-chosen from all generations to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Lord and God of all. O Virgins, bearing lamps, go before her, honoring the majestic progress of the ever-Virgin! Mothers, lay aside every sorrow and accompany them with joy, singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God, the cause of joy for the world! Therefore, let us all join with the Angel, and joyfully cry out: "Rejoice!" to her who is full of grace, and who ever intercedes for our souls.

#### ST. SYMEON'S PRAYER

**CHOIR or READER:** 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.

#### 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.

in our midst, and that from you shall be born God the Word, Who grants the world His great mercy!"

*Virgins shall be brought to the King after her;  
her companions shall be brought to Thee. (Psalm 44:15)*

Anna, being the namesake of grace, joyfully brings into the Temple of God the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace, and calls young girls to go before her with lamps in hand. She says: "Go, child, to Him Who gave you to me; to be an offering and a sweet smelling incense. Go into the inner sanctuary that none may enter: learn its mysteries, and prepare yourself to become the pleasing and fair dwelling-place of Jesus, Who grants the world His great mercy!"

They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing;  
they shall be led into the Temple of the King. *(Psalm 44:16)*

The most holy Virgin, the Temple that is to contain God, is dedicated within the Temple of God; and young girls, bearing lamps, now go before her. Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance, for they have borne her who is to bear the Creator. And she who is all-pure dances around the divine habitations and is fed by the hand of an Angel. She has been revealed as the Mother of Christ, Who grants the world His great mercy.

*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.*

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!

### 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!

*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!



**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.**

**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 5)* Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish, as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence. Zachariah cried to her in amazement: "Gate of the Lord, to you I open the gates of the Temple; rejoice and go around it dancing. For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel will now come to dwell openly

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)*

**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 send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Exodus *(40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35)*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and you shall put in it the Ark and cover it with the veil. You shall bring in the table and the lamp-stand; and you shall set *there* a golden altar to burn incense before the Ark of the Testimony. And you shall put a covering on the door of the tabernacle of the Testimony. "Then you shall take the oil of anointing and anoint the Tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its vessels; and it shall be holy. And you shall consecrate the Altar; it shall be the holy of holies" And Moses did all that the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel had commanded him. And a cloud covered the Tabernacle of the Testimony and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the Tabernacle of the Testimony, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle.

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Third Book of Kingdoms *(7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11)*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** And it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the House of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tabernacle of the Testimony. And the King and all Israel *went* before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the Oracle of the Temple, into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant. And when the priests came out from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

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

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Thus says the Lord: 'When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your

*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;*

*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



*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 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;

peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you,' says the Lord God." 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; and I fell on my face.

#### AUGMENTED LITANY

**DEACON:** Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

**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.

**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 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)

*(Tone 5)* The day of joy has dawned, the feast worthy of all reverence: for today, she who was a virgin before giving birth and remained a virgin after bearing a child, is brought into the Temple. The aged Zachariah, father of the Forerunner, rejoices and cries out in gladness: "The Expectation of those in affliction has come!" She who is holy has come to the holy Temple, there to be consecrated as the dwelling-place of the Lord of all! Let Joachim the forefather be glad, and let Anna rejoice! For they have offered to God the Lady without blemish, like a heifer three years old. Rejoice with them, ye mothers! Leap for joy, ye virgins! Join them in the dance, ye barren women, for the Kingdom of Heaven has been opened to us by her who is foreordained the Queen of all! Rejoice and be glad, O peoples!

#### INTERCESSIONS

**DEACON:** O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the 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;

*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

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 1)* Today, let heaven above greatly rejoice, and let the clouds rain down gladness at the mighty and exceeding marvelous works of our God. For behold, the Gate that looks t'wards the east, who was born from a barren and childless woman according to the promise and dedicated to God as His dwelling place, is today brought to the Temple as an offering without blemish. Let David be glad, striking his harp. For he says: "Virgins shall be brought to the King after her, her companions will be brought to Him"; that she may be raised within God's tabernacle, His place of atonement, to become the dwelling of Him Who was begotten of the Father without change before the ages for the salvation of our souls.

*Glory, now and ever in the 5th Tone: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**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 or READER:** 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.

**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*