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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

Reader: Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto 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.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His

mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

Psalms 1

Reader: Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and

in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 2

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

Psalm 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

Stasis

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth and a protecting door about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy, and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of Hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, are my eyes; in Thee have I put my trust; take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare(s) which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.

Psalm 141

- I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand and beheld, but there was no one that would know me.
- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.
- The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Psalm 129

- Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
- Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For the Feast in Tone One (***O strange wonder***)

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Come let us the faithful dance for joy * on this day, while singing * songs and hymns unto the Lord, * to honor the tabernacle He hath sanctified, * the rational living ark, * which hath contained God the Word uncontainable; * for as a child in the flesh, * she is now wondrously offered unto our God. * And the holy Zacharias, * the great High Priest of the Lord, * doth receive her with gladness * as the dwelling and abode of God.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

In the temple of the Law today * is the living temple * of the holy majesty * and glory of Christ our God brought forth to dwell within * the Holies in sanctity, * the only blest among women, the Maid most pure. * In spirit both Joachim * and Anna also rejoice with her on this day; * and the choirs of holy virgins * chant with psalms unto the Lord, * while they honor His Mother * with all reverence and piety.

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Thou, O Virgin Mother of our God, * art the prophets' preaching, * and the boast of martyred saints, * the glory of the apostles and renewal of * all them that are born of earth; * for we through thee have been reconciled unto God. * And therefore, we all revere * thy progress into the temple*

of God today; * and with psalms we join the Angel, * crying out: Rejoice, to thee, * the all-ven'erable Virgin, * by whose intercession we are saved.

Also for the Feast in Tone Four (***As one valiant***))

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

In that holiest place of all, * the most holy and blameless Maid, * in the Holy Spirit, doth come to dwell therein; * and by an Angel is fed she who is truly the holiest * temple of our Holy God, * Who by dwelling Himself in her * cleansed and sanctified * all creation, and He hath deified the very nature of us mortals, * though it had fallen away from Him.

Psalm 116

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

The young maidens rejoice today, * and while bearing their shining lamps, * they go on before the noetic lamp of light; * into the Holy of Holies, they escort her most sacredly * and thus clearly signify * that ineffable radiance * soon about to shine * forth from her to enlighten by the Spirit all those sitting in the darkness * of gloomy error and ignorance.

Verse 1. *For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

All-famed Anna cried out in joy: * Zacharias, do thou receive * her whom in the Spirit God's Prophets have proclaimed; * and lead her into the Lord's most holy temple to dwell therein, * that she might most sacredly * be brought up to become the couch, * palace and abode, * and divine throne and resting-place and brightly shining house and habitation * of God, the Master and King of all.

DOXASTICON FOR THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

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

After thou wast born, O Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, thou camest to the temple of the Lord to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, as one holy; and Gabriel was then sent to thee, the all-blameless, bringing nourishment to thee. All the Heavens were astonished, beholding the Holy Spirit make His dwelling in thee. Wherefore, O spotless and undefiled Virgin, who art glorified in Heaven and on earth, O Mother of God, save our race.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Choir: Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

THURSDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth. (*twice*)

Verse: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

THE PARAMIA

First Passage

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Exodus (40:1-5, 9-11, 16, 34-35).

The Lord spake to Moses, saying: On the first day of the first month, thou shalt set up the tabernacle of witness, and thou shalt place in it the ark of the testimony, and shalt cover the ark with the veil, and thou shalt bring in the table and the lampstand, and thou shalt place the golden censer, to burn incense before the ark of the testimony; and thou shalt put a covering of a veil on the door of the tabernacle of witness. And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and shalt anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein; and shalt sanctify it, and all the vessels thereof, and it shall be holy. And thou shalt hallow the altar, and the altar shall be most holy. And Moses did all things whatsoever the Lord commanded him, so did he. And the cloud covered the tabernacle of witness, and the tabernacle was filled with the glory of the Lord. And Moses was not able to enter into the tabernacle of witness, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the tabernacle was filled with the glory of the Lord.

The Second Passage

Reader: The Reading from the Third Book of Kings (8:1, 3-4, 5, 6-7, 9, 10-11).

It came to pass when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, that 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; this is Zion. And the priests took up the ark and the tabernacle of witness, and the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle of witness. And the king and all Israel were before the ark; and the priests bring in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto the place thereof, into the oracle of the house, even into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim covered the ark and the holy things thereof above. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which Moses put there in Horeb, which tablets the Lord gave. And it came to pass when the priests departed out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord. And the priests could not stand to minister because of the presence of the cloud, because the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

The Third Passage

Reader: The Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4).

Thus saith the Lord: Upon the eighth day and so forward, the priests shall make your whole-burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, saith the Lord. Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. And the Lord said unto me: Son of man, this gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter in by it, and it shall be shut. For this Prince shall sit on it to eat bread before the Lord; He shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall come forth by the way of the same. And He brought me by the way of the north gate before the house, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was full of glory.

AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening 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 statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. 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.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (12 times)

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

THE APOSTICHA FOR THE FEAST IN TONE FIVE (**Rejoice**)

Heaven and earth rejoice to behold * the only Virgin who is wholly beyond reproach, * the pure and spiritual heaven, as she doth enter God's house, * to be brought up sacredly in holiness. * Astonished and full of awe, Zacharias cried unto her: * To thee, the Lord's Gate, do I open the temple's gates; * gladly enter in, dance for joy therein roundabout. * For I believe and truly know that Israel's ransoming * shall straightway come manifestly, and that from thee shall the Word of God * be truly begotten, * even He that granteth peace and Great Mercy to the world.

Verse 1. The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King; those near her shall be brought unto Thee.

Anna, being the namesake of grace, * doth lead the pure and Ever-virgin, the Full of Grace, * with gladness into God's temple, and she doth bid her young maids * that they go before with lamps; and she doth say: * Depart child, and be thou His Who hath given thee unto me; * become a gift and an oblation made unto Him, * and the pleasant smell of sweet incense unto the Lord. * Enter the inmost sanctuary; learn thou its mysteries; * enter and make thyself ready to be the fair and delightful house * and dwelling of Jesus, * Who doth graciously bestow His Great Mercy on the world.

Verse 2. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be brought into the temple of the King.

Lo, now, within the temple of God * is dedicated the pure temple containing God, * the pure and all-holy Virgin, while youthful maidens precede, * bearing shining torches, leading her therein. * The excellent couple of her august parents skip for joy: * wise Joachim and Anna dance, for they have brought forth * her that hath conceived the Creator and God of all. * She doth herself exult in the divine tabernacles now, * and by an Angel is nourished she who is wholly without reproach, * the Mother of Christ God, * even Him that granteth peace and Great Mercy to the world.

DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE SIX

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

O ye assemblies of the faithful, as we come together today, let us spiritually keep festival and piously extol the Child of God, the Virgin and Theotokos, as she is led into the temple of the Lord; for she was forechosen out of all generations to be the habitation of Christ, the King and God of all. Ye virgins bearing torches, go before the Ever-virgin, honoring her august progress. Ye mothers, lay aside all grief, and follow after them with rejoicing, to sing the praises of her that is become the Mother of God, and the mediatrix of joy for the whole world. And with the Angel,

let us all joyously cry “Rejoice” to her that is full of grace, who doth ever intercedeth in behalf of our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Leader: 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 lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto 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.

Leader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation. (*thrice without* “Glory..., ” “Both now...”)

THE DISMISSAL

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother —*whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate*; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of *the Holy Equal to the Apostles and Myrrh-Bearer Mary Magdalene, protector of this community*; and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

All: Amen.