

Fifth Saturday of Great Lent - Saturday of the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos

FIRST ANTIPHON. PSALM 91.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Your name, O most High.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To show that the Lord is upright, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

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

Amen. ***Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.***

SECOND ANTIPHON. PSALM 92.

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, He has girded Himself. ***Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.***

The world also is established, so that it cannot be moved.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Refrain: Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

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

Amen. Only-begotten Son...

THIRD ANTIPHON. PSALM 94

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. ***Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!***

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

Refrain: O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

TROPARION

(Tone 8) When the archangel understood the mysterious command, / he came to the house of Joseph with haste and proclaimed to the unwedded Lady: / The One Who bowed the heavens by His condescension / is contained wholly and without change in you! / As I behold Him in your womb, taking the form of a servant, I am frightened, but cry: // Rejoice, O Bride unwedded!

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

KONTAKION

(Tone 8) To you, defender leader, O Birthgiver of God,
I your city, delivered from dread, ascribe this thankful feast of victory.
But as one who has invincible dominion,
Free me from all dangers, so that I cry to you:
“Rejoice, O Bride unwedded!”

The prokeimenon in the third tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)

THE EPISTLE

The reading from the epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first testament had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tabernacle called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the testament covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the testament; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tabernacle, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear. (Psalm 44:11)

v. Before your face the richest of people will pray. (Psalm 44:13)

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

MEGALYNARION (In place of “It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos...”)

Let all the earth-born mortals rejoice in the Spirit, bearing their lamps. And let the nature of bodiless Minds celebrate with honor the holy festival of the Mother of God, and cry out: Rejoice! All-blessed, pure, and ever-virgin Birthgiver of God!

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN)

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

After “Blessed be the name of the Lord...” the Akathist to the Mother of God will be taken.