

## OCTOBER 1

### The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary Venerable Romanus the Melodist\*

#### "Lord I Call..." Tone 1

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

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

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 1**      *(for the Protection)*      *(Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

O pure Theotokos, fount of wisdom,  
and great help to those in distress,  
you are a speedy aid, protectress, and support of the world.  
We the faithful sing in praise of her who is a sea of compassion,  
ineffably praising her radiant omophorion:  
"Rejoice, O Maiden, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you,//  
granting the world great mercy through you!"

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

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\* Note: This service follows a different rubric than the one printed in the 2020 Liturgical Rubrics published by St. Tikhon's Monastery Press, as this service is designed to include hymns to St. Romanus the Melodist with those for the Protection of the Theotokos.

The wondrous Isaiah prophesied:

“In the latter days,” said he, “it will come to pass that the mountain of the Lord shall be revealed, and the house of the Lord shall be upon the summit of the mountain.”

And of this, O sovereign Lady, we have seen in you the true fulfillment.

For the mountains and hills are adorned with churches that bear the many names of your festivals.

Therefore, joyfully we sing to you:

“Rejoice, O highly favored Maiden, the Lord is with you, // granting the world great mercy through you!”

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Oh, how marvelous an adornment are you to all the faithful!

You are the true fulfillment of the prophecies, the glory of the Apostles and the beauty of the Martyrs, the boast of virginity and the marvelous protection of the whole world.

O sovereign Lady, protect with the omophorion of your tender mercy all the people who cry out to you:

“Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace, the Lord is with you, // granting the world great mercy through you!”

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4**      *(for the Protection)*      *(As one valiant among the martyrs)*

You are like the divinely planted Paradise, O Theotokos, the place where the Tree of Life was watered by the Holy Spirit.

We acknowledge that you gave birth to the Creator of all Who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life.

Together with the Forerunner, entreat Him on our behalf; // and by your precious omophorion protect your people from all attacks!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Heaven and earth are sanctified;  
the Church is radiant, and all the people celebrate,  
for behold, the Mother of God enters invisibly with the armies of the Angels,  
the Forerunner, and the Theologian,  
the Prophets, and the Apostles!  
She prays to Christ for Christians  
and entreats Him to have mercy on this land and its people,//  
who glorify the feast of her Protection.

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

**Tone 1**      *(for St. Romanus) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The melodious harp of the Divine Spirit, the flute of the Church,  
the nightingale, the cicada, chanting the hymns of God,  
places his melodious compositions before us all,//  
gladdening those who are wise in God.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

The most radiant and shining lamp-stand,  
the sweetly-sounding harp  
whose strings are the words of the Spirit, true in meaning,  
sings and teaches to the ends of the earth,//  
glorifying the brightness of God with never-ceasing hymns.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Now you stand with boldness, O Father, before the Master of all.  
Pray that we who celebrate your memory and your splendid feast  
may be delivered from misfortunes and dangers,//  
O divinely blessed Romanus!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6**      *(for St. Romanus)*

O Romanus, our father,  
you showed yourself to be the first-fruits of good works,  
a starting point of salvation;  
for, composing angelic songs, you revealed your life to be divine.  
Entreat Christ God  
that He may deliver from dangers and tribulations//  
those who sing praises to you!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8**      *(for the Protection)*

Today the Powers of Heaven rejoice with us,  
and the souls of the just are spiritually assembled  
to behold the Queen and Mother glorified by the faithful.  
They witness the vision of the Mother of God:  
her arms outstretched upon the clouds in prayer,  
entreating peace for the world, //  
strength for Orthodox Christians, and salvation for our souls.

**Old Testament Readings**

**Genesis 28:10-17**

**Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**

**Proverbs 9:1-11**

## Litya

### Tone 3 *(for the Protection)*

Today the radiant feast of your protecting veil has come,  
O most pure Virgin.  
You enlighten, more than the sun,  
those who in faith and purity of heart confess you as the true Mother of God,  
and who cry out to your Son:  
“O Christ God, by the prayers of the Ever-Virgin,  
who in purity and without corruption gave birth to You,  
preserve Your inheritance from the enemies that war against it, //  
and since You are merciful, preserve our souls in peace!”

### Tone 4

Your Son’s people are unable to praise you fittingly as they desire,  
O most pure Lady;  
for you always defend all the faithful,  
protecting them with your precious veil,  
and praying for the salvation of all who with faith honor you, //  
the pure and true Theotokos.

### Tone 2

Let us the faithful assemble today  
to praise the all-immaculate Queen of all,  
the most pure Virgin, the Mother of Christ our God,  
for she mercifully ever stretches out her hand to her Son!  
And it is she whom glorious Andrew beheld in the air  
protecting the people with her precious veil.  
Let us sing to her with tenderness of heart: //  
Rejoice, O protectress, defender, and 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 2**      *(for the Protection)*

Having cleansed our hearts and minds,  
let us with the Angels splendidly keep festival,  
as we sing the song of David to the Virgin,  
the bride of the King of All, Christ our God:  
“Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place;  
You and the ark of Your holiness”;  
for You have adorned her as a beautiful palace, O Master,  
and have made her an inheritance for Your city,  
so that, by her prayers and Your mighty power,//  
she might defend it from pagan adversaries.

## Aposticha

### Tone 2 *(for the Protection)*

Since you are higher than all in heaven and on earth,  
more glorious than the Cherubim and most honored of all creation,  
Christ has given you to Christians as defender and protectress.  
Therefore we sing to you, O Lady and refuge of all,  
and we celebrate with joy the holy feast of your Protection.//  
Pray to Christ that He may grant us great mercy!

*v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps 44/45:10)*

### Tone 5

O people, let us joyfully sing a song of David  
to the Handmaiden and Bride of God,  
the Mother of Christ, the King of all:  
“Master, at Your right hand stood the Queen,  
decked in robes of gold  
and adorned in divine apparel.”  
When she, the chosen among women,  
had been made more beautiful than all the world,  
You were pleased to be born of her in Your great mercy.  
You have given her, the only blessed one,  
to Your people as a helper,//  
to guide and protect them from all tribulation.

*v. The rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps 44/45:12)*

### Tone 7

You are a mountain greater and more glorious than Sinai, O Theotokos.  
Sinai could not bear the descent of God’s glory in images and figures.  
It caught fire, and there was thunder and lightning,  
but at the command of Him Who encompasses all  
you bore in your womb the divine Fire Himself without being consumed,  
the Word of God, Who holds all in the palm of His hand.  
As His Mother, you have boldness to approach Him;  
therefore, O Lady, help those who keep your holy feast in faith!  
In your mercy, do not forget to visit us,  
for you received the gift from God//  
of guiding and protecting your servants, the Christian flock.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6**      *(for St. Romanus)*

O Romanus, our father,  
you showed yourself to be the first-fruits of good works,  
a starting point of salvation;  
for, composing angelic songs, you revealed your life to be divine.  
Entreat Christ God  
that He may deliver from dangers and tribulations//  
those who sing praises to you!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2**      *(for the Protection)*

The Church of God is adorned as with a shining crown  
by your precious veil, O Theotokos.  
Today she shines with joy,  
celebrating mystically and crying to you:  
“Rejoice, precious raiment and crown of the glory of God!  
Rejoice, only fulfillment of glory and eternal joy!  
Rejoice, haven of those who run to you, //  
our deliverance and our salvation!”

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*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 4      Troparion    *(St. Romanus)***

You gladdened Christ's Church by your melodies  
like an inspired heavenly trumpet.  
You were enlightened by the Mother of God  
and shone on the world as God's poet.//  
We lovingly honor you, righteous Romanus.

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

**Tone 4      Troparion    *(Protection)***

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.  
Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you:  
"Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection;  
deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God,//  
that He may save our souls."

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*(at Vigil)*

**Tone 4      Troparion    *(Protection)***

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.  
Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you:  
"Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection;  
deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God,//  
that He may save our souls." *(thrice)*

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

**Tone 4      Troparion    *(St. Romanus)***

You gladdened Christ's Church by your melodies  
like an inspired heavenly trumpet.  
You were enlightened by the Mother of God  
and shone on the world as God's poet.//  
We lovingly honor you, righteous Romanus.

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illuminated by your coming, O Mother of God.  
Beholding your pure image, we fervently cry to you:  
"Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection;  
deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God,//  
that He may save our souls."

**Tone 8      Kontakion    *(St. Romanus)***

You were adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit;  
you were a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus,  
for you made it lovely with beautiful hymnody.  
Therefore we entreat you, grant your divine gift to those who desire it,  
that we may cry out to you: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!"

**Tone 3      Kontakion    *(Protection)***

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,  
and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.  
Angels and bishops worship,  
Apostles and Prophets rejoice together,//  
since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      *(Song of the Theotokos)***

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
*(Lk 1:46-47)*

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

**Epistle  
Hebrews 9:1-7 *(Protection)***

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps 44/45:10)*

*v: Even the rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps 44/45:12)*

**Gospel  
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

**Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. *(Ps 115/116:13)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.