

**PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, VENERABLE ROMANOS THE MELODIST -
OCTOBER 1, 2020 - GREAT VESPERS**

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (x12)

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

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.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who have stretched out the heavens like a tent, who have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters, who make the clouds your chariot, who ride on the wings of the wind, who make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which you appointed for them. You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which you formed to sport in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (x3)

THE LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*and 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, for the stability 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 Archbishop and Father _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city, monastery, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

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

(here insert petitions taken in time of epidemic)

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

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST STASIS OF KATHISMA I

Ps.1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ps.2 Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his Christ, saying, "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling kiss his feet, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Ps.3 O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the

LORD sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! For you smite all my enemies on the cheek, you break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the LORD; your blessing be upon your people!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (x3)

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

THE 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 Your grace.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For yours is the dominion, and yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 140

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!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, To busy myself with wicked deeds. In company with men who work iniquity; And let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, But let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, Then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, So shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave. But my eyes are toward you, O Lord God; In you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, And from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, While I escape.

Psalm 141 I cry with my voice to the Lord, With my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, You know my way! In the path where I walk, They have hidden a trap for me. I look to my right and watch, But there is none who takes notice of me; No refuge remains to me, No man cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say: you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; For I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; For they are too strong for me!

STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! **Tone 1***

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!

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.

THE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God! At all times you are worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Then, the appropriate Prokeimenon for the day of the week:

SUNDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

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

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

Deacon: Behold now, bless the Lord

Choir: all you servants of the Lord!

MONDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: Whenever I called, the God of my justice heard me.

Choir: The Lord hears me when I cry out to Him.

Deacon: The Lord hears me

Choir: when I cry out to Him.

TUESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In green pastures He gives me repose.

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

Deacon: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me

Choir: all the days of my life.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Fifth Tone: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Deacon: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

Choir: O Lord, save me by Your name, and in Your power be a judge for me.

Deacon: O Lord, save me by Your name,

Choir: and in Your power be a judge for me.

THURSDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: My help is from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

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

Deacon: I lifted up my eyes to the mountains, whence comes my help.

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

Deacon: My help is from the Lord,

Choir: Who made heaven and earth.

FRIDAY EVENING

Deacon: The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: O God, You are my defender and Your mercy goes before me.

Choir: O God, You are my defender and Your mercy goes before me.

Deacon: Deliver me from my enemies, O God; save me from those who rise up against me.

Choir: O God, You are my defender and Your mercy goes before me.

Deacon: O God, You are my defender

Choir: and Your mercy goes before me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from Genesis. [28:10-17]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Jacob went out from the well of the oath and journeyed towards Harran. And he lighted on a place and slept there, for the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it at his head; and he slept in that place, and he dreamed. And behold, a ladder set up on the earth, whose head reached to heaven; and the Angels of God were going up and going down upon it. But the Lord stood above it and said: I am the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac, do not be afraid. The land on which you are sleeping I shall give to you and to your seed. And your seed will be like the sand of the earth, and it will be spread abroad to the Sea and Liva and North and East; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth will be blessed. And behold, I am with you, guarding you on every road on which you may journey; and I shall bring you back again to this land, because I shall never abandon you until I have done all that I have said to you. And Jacob arose from his sleep and said: The Lord is in this place, but I did not know it. And he was afraid, and said: How fearful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:72, 44:1]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: It shall be from the eighth day and upwards, the Priests shall make your holocausts upon the altar, and those for your salvation; and I shall accept you, says the Lord. And he turned me back by the way of the outer gate of the Holy Place, which looks towards the east, and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, will enter through it, and it shall be shut. Therefore this prince shall sit in it to eat bread. By the way of the Elam of the gate he shall enter, and by that way he shall go out. And he brought me by the way of the gate towards the North, opposite the House; and I saw, and behold the whole house of the Lord was full of Glory.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Wisdom has built herself a house. She has slaughtered her beasts and mixed her wine in the mixing bowl, and prepared her table. She her sent out her servants, to invite with a loud proclamation upon the mixing bowl: Whoever is foolish, let him turn to me. And to those who lack wisdom she said: Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine that I have mixed for you. Abandon folly, and you will live; and seek understanding that you may have life, and set aright your understanding with knowledge. One who corrects the wicked will gain dishonour for himself. One who rebukes the impious will get blame for himself; for to the impious rebukes are blows. Do not rebuke the wicked, lest they hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be wiser; teach a just man and he will increase learning. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and the counsel of Saints, understanding. While to know the law is the part of a good mind. For by this means you will live for a long time, and years will be added to your life.

THE AUGMENTED LITANY *Petitions in italics are only taken by a Deacon.*

Deacon: Let us all say from our whole soul and from our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord ruler-of-all, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3) *(and after each petition)*

Again we pray for pious and right-believing Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name).

Again we pray for our brethren, priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God ____, and of all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house and for all our right-believing fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us especially remembering ____, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

(here insert petitions taken in time of epidemic)

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable house, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

Again we pray also for our brothers who are in ministries and all those who serve and have served in this holy house.

Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Master, let me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not despise the works of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a song. To you is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF VESPERS

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord. *(and after each petition)*

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

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

The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

LITYA

Tone 3 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 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.

When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, the remembrance of whose holy protection we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications 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 teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name).

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary whose remembrance of her holy protection we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications 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 teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius and Cyril, John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*x1*)

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this holy city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*once*)

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (*twice*)

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 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!”

PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON

Reader: Now set free your servant, Master, according to your word in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, Whom you have prepared before the face of all peoples - Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name’s sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

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

Choir: Amen.

TROPARION TONE 4

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.” (x1)

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to you.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother, whose remembrance of her holy protection we also fulfill; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: Amen.

(here sing "Beneath your compassion...")