Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

November 21

GREAT VESPERS - FRIDAY EVENING

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

"Come Let Us Worship…"

Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. /

You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

Man goes out 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 possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them their food in due season.

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord rejoice in His works.

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in the Lord.

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. *(3x)*

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

The Great Litany

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, *(metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop) N.*, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer

PRIEST: For unto You 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

O Lord, I Cry..." – Tone 5

Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)

O Lord, I cry out unto You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear to my voice when I cry out, when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.

Psalm 142 (LXX 141)

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to 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 Your name.

The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.

Psalm 130 (LXX 129)

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

(Tone 1) – Entrance

Today let us, the faithful, dance for joy, singing to the Lord with psalms and hymns, venerating His hallowed tabernacle, the living ark, that contained the Word Who cannot be contained. For she, a young child in the flesh, is offered in wondrous fashion to the Lord, and with rejoicing Zachariah the great High Priest receives her as the dwelling place of God.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

Today the living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, she who alone among women is pure and blessed, is offered in the temple of the Law, that she may make her dwelling in the sanctuary. Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit, and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord, chanting psalms and honoring His Mother.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

You, O Virgin Mother of God, are the one whom the prophets proclaimed. You are the glory of the apostles and the pride of martyrs, the restoration of all who dwell on earth: for through you we are reconciled to God. Therefore we honor your coming into the temple of the Lord; and saved by your intercession, with the angel we all cry to you: 'Rejoice! O most holy.'

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

(Tone 4)

Led by the Holy Spirit, the holy Maiden without spot is taken to dwell in the Holy of Holies. By an angel is she fed, who is in truth the most holy temple of our holy God. He has sanctified all things by her entry, and has made godlike the fallen nature of mortal men.

Psalm 117 (LXX 116)

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

The young girls rejoice today, and with their lamps in hand they go in reverence before the spiritual lamp, as she enters into the Holy of Holies. They foreshadow the brightness past speech that is to shine forth from her and to give light by the Spirit to those who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Anna the all-blessed cried out rejoicing: 'O Zachariah, take her whom the prophets of God proclaimed in the Spirit, and lead 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, His resting-place, and His dwelling filled with light.'

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 went to the temple of the Lord to be consecrated and raised as a child in the Holy of Holies. Then Gabriel was sent to bring you food, O undefiled Virgin. All the powers of heaven stood amazed, seeing the Holy Spirit dwell in you! Therefore, O pure and undefiled Mother of God, glorified in heaven and earth, save your people!

The Prayer before the Entrance

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord Who love mankind. Direct our prayer before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You 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.

DEACON: Amen.

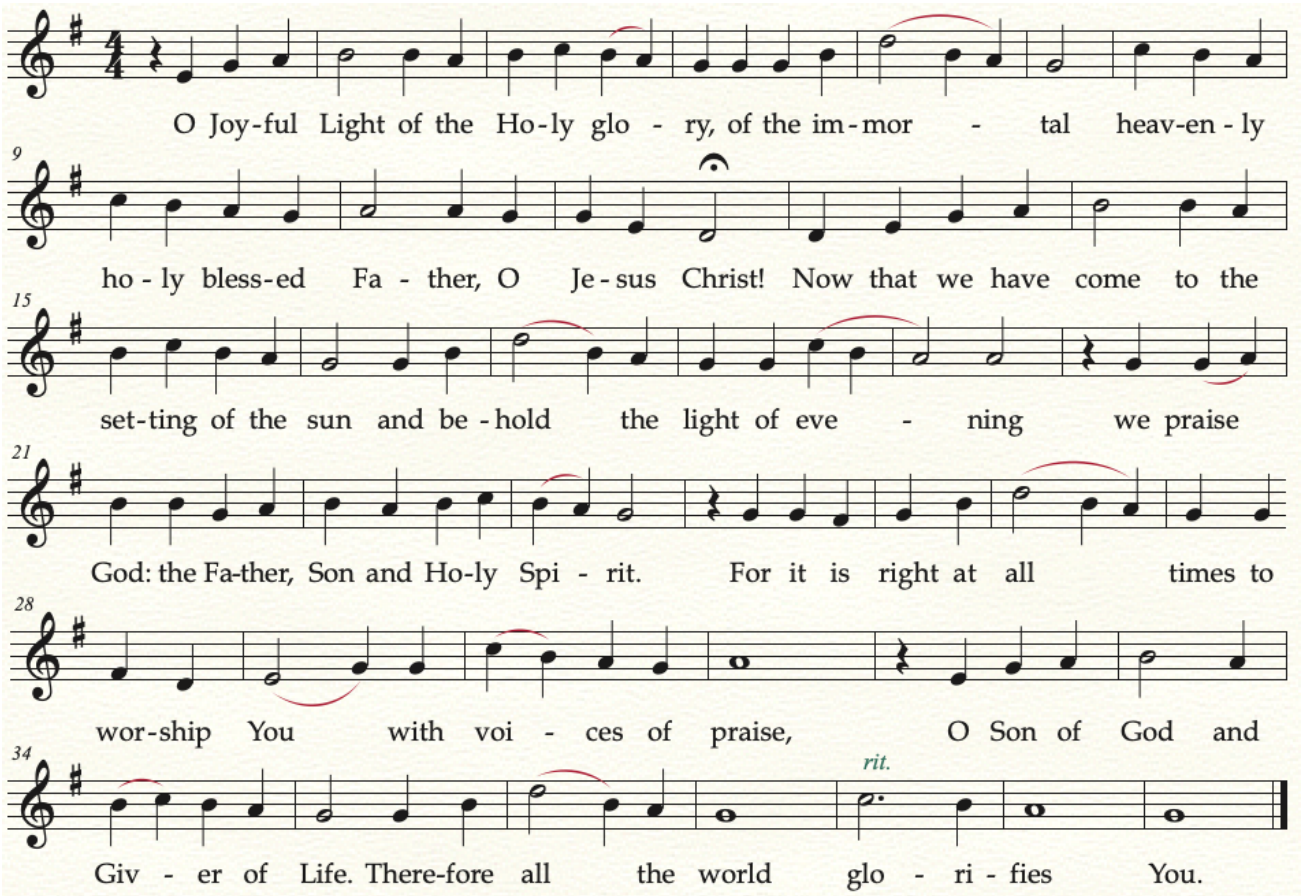
DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

"O Joyful Light" *(Monk Martin)*



Friday Evening Prokeimenon: Tone 7

Psalm 59 (LXX 58)

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

You, O God, are my helper; Your mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from my enemies, O God; and redeem me from those who rise up against me.

Old Testament Readings

Exodus 40:1-5, 9-11, 16, 34-35

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and cover the ark with the veil. You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. "And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy. And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it. Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did. Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1 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. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, 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 overshadowed the ark and the holy things. Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 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.

Ezekiel 43:27–44:4a

"When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your 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 house of the LORD was full of glory.

The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, *(metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop) N.*; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church *(and for the servants of God. NN.);* 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.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for *(the servants of God NN.*, *and)* all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

PRIEST: [O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy; and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.]

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Evening Prayer

PEOPLE: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Evening Litany

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

Exclamation of the Seventh Prayer

PRIEST: For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord, our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge, Who love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, not awaiting help from men, but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every enemy, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Aposticha: Tone 5

Heaven and earth rejoice,
beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish,
enter the house of God, *
there to be raised in reverence.
To her Zachariah in amazement cried:
"O Gate of the Lord!
Unto you I open the gates of the temple: *
rejoice and go around it in gladness.
For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel
shall now come to dwell openly in our midst,
and that from you shall be born God the Word, *
Who grants the world great mercy."

<u>Verse</u> Virgins shall be brought to the King <u>after</u> her: her companions shall be brought <u>unto</u> You.

Anna, truly blessed by God's grace,
led with gladness into the temple of the Lord
the pure and ever-virgin, who is full of grace, *

and she called the young girls to go before her, lamps in hand.
She said, "Go, child, to Him
Who gave you unto me;
be unto Him an offering *
and a sweet smelling incense.
Go into the place which none may enter;
learn its mysteries and prepare yourself
to become the pleasing and beautiful dwelling-place of Jesus, *
Who grants the world great mercy."

Verse ***With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall be brought into the temple of the King.***

The most holy Virgin,
temple that is to hold God,
is dedicated within the temple of the Lord; *
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, the all-pure, with rejoicing goes around the divine habitations *
and is fed by the hands of an angel.
It is she who shall become mother of Christ, *
Who grants the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father…now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 6)

Today let us, the arrays of the assembled faithful,
triumph in spirit and reverently praise the child of God,
Virgin and Theotokos, *
as she is offered in the temple of the Lord.
She who was forechosen from all generations
to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Master and God of all.
O virgins bearing lamps, go before her, *
honoring the majestic advance of the ever-Virgin.
You mothers, setting aside every sorrow,
follow them in gladness,
singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God *
and mediator of joy for the world.
With the angel joyfully let us all cry, "Rejoice!"
to her who is full of grace *
and ever intercedes for our souls.

Hymn of St. Simeon

Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, 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 God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

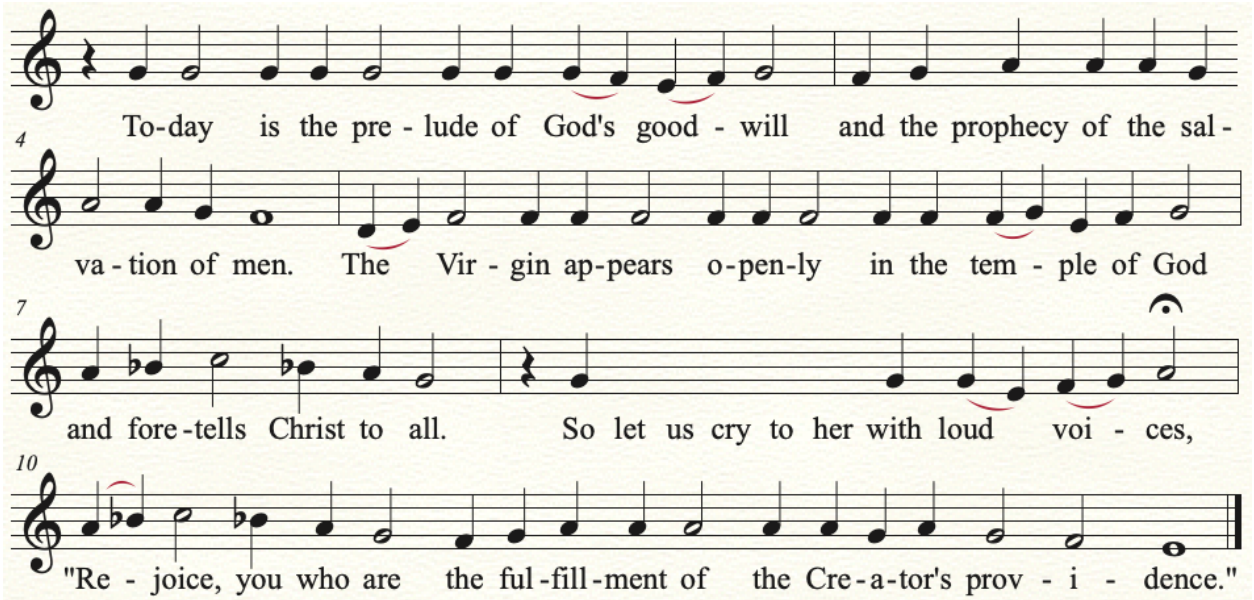
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 evil.

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 ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Entrance Troparion: Tone 4 *(Znamenny) – sing 3x*



The Blessing & Dismissal

DEACON: Wisdom!

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

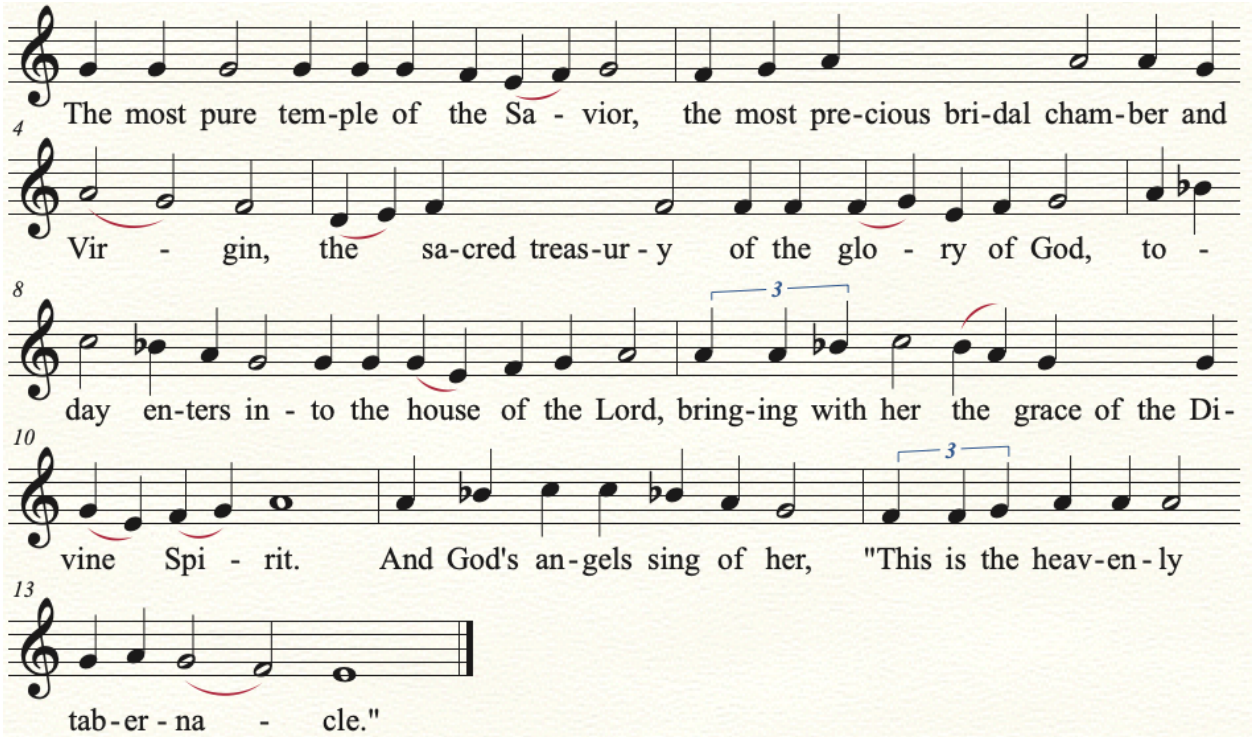
PEOPLE: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*
Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who is wonderful in His saints…* through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother *whose Entrance we commemorate today…* for He is good and loves mankind.

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

PEOPLE: Amen.

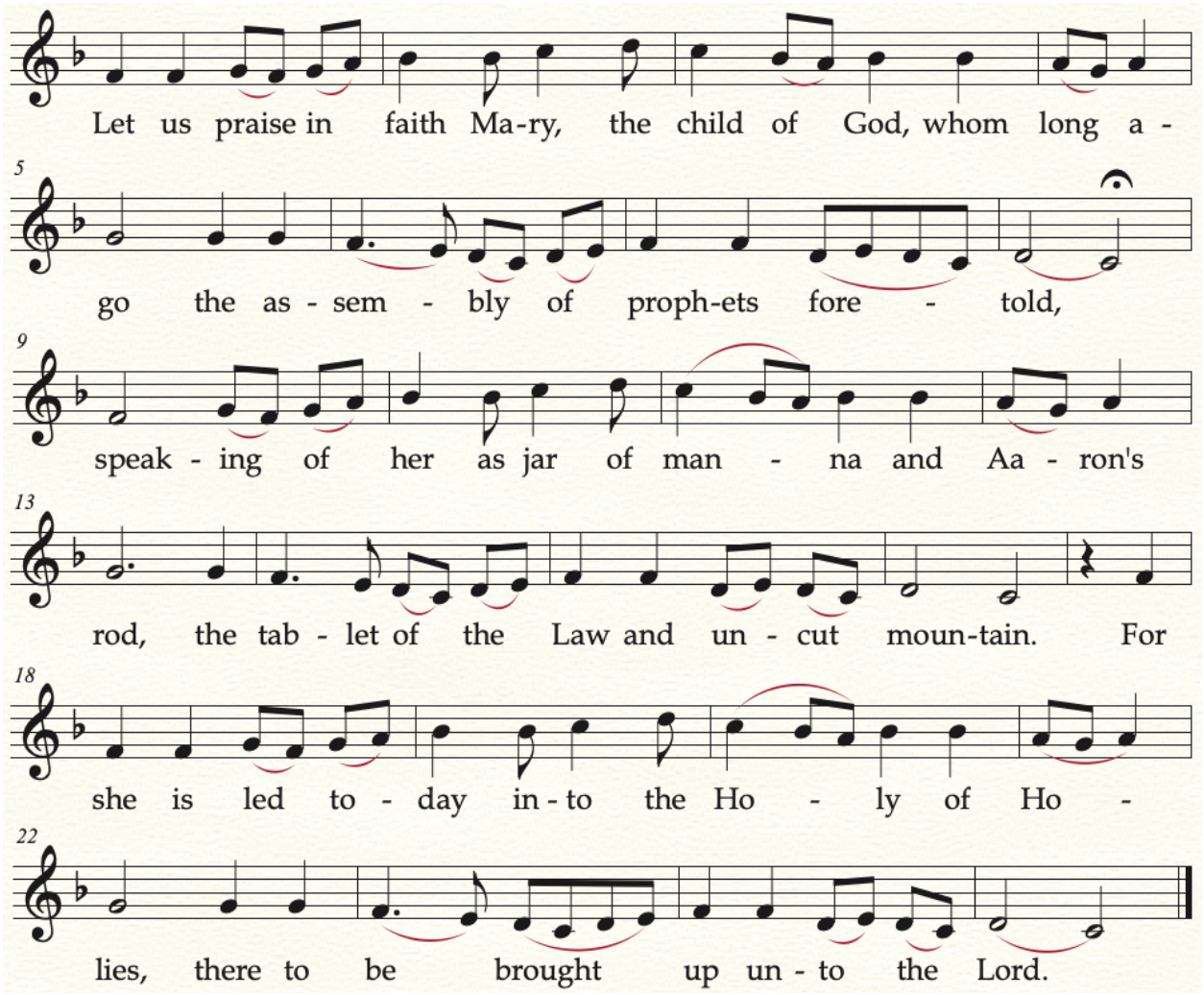
***Entrance Kontakion: Tone* 4** *(*Znamenny*)*



Ikos

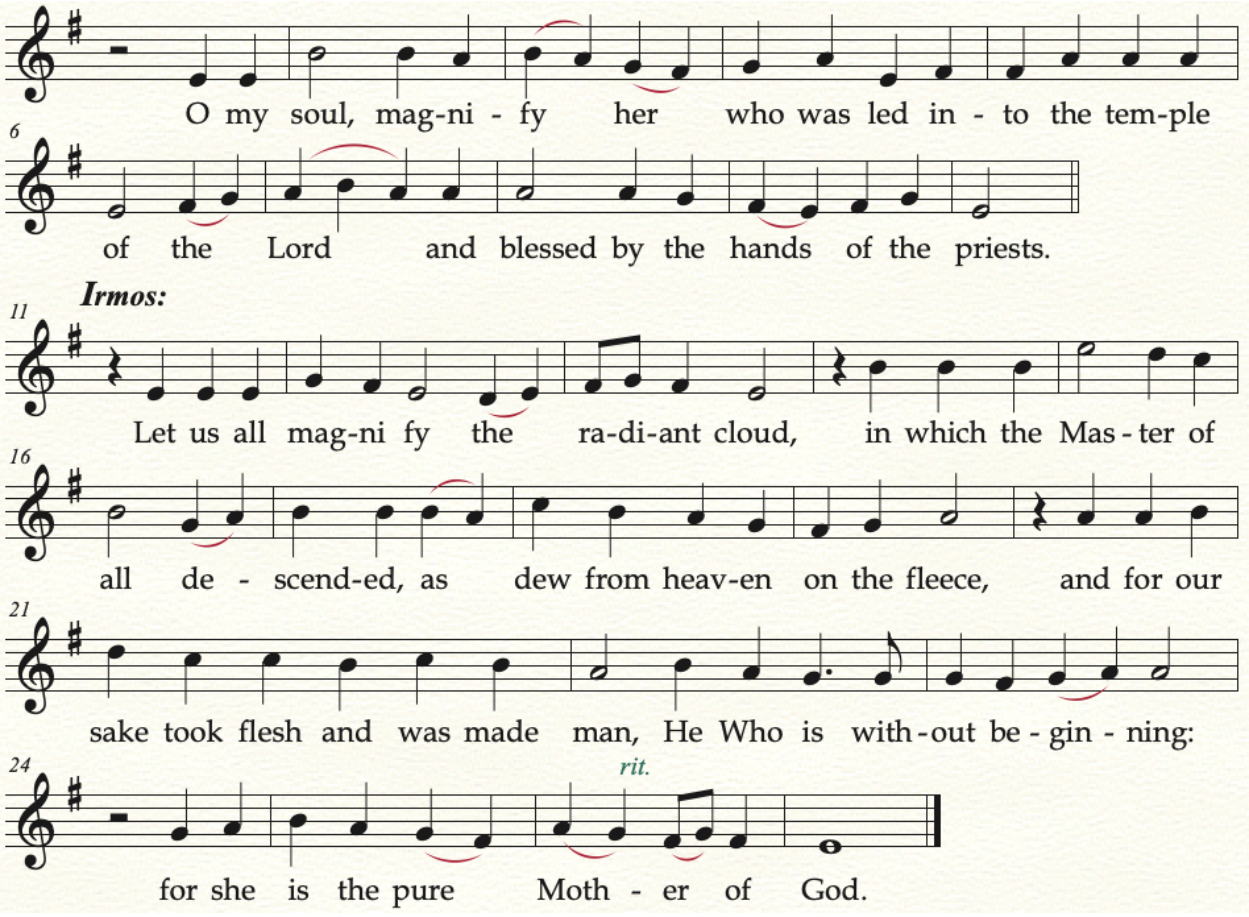
Seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God make manifest and clearly fulfilled in the Virgin, I rejoice; and I know not how to understand the strange and secret manner whereby the undefiled has been revealed as alone chosen above all creation, visible and spiritual. Therefore, wishing to praise her, I am struck dumb with amazement in both mind and speech. Yet still I dare to proclaim and magnify her: As the angels sing of her, "This is the heavenly tabernacle."

Entrance Exapostilarion: Tone 2 (Znamenny)





Entrance - 9th Ode - 2nd Canon: *(Greek, Karam)*





The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple