THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. On October 1, 911, during the reign of emperor Leo the Wise, there was an all-night vigil in the Blachernae church of the Theotokos in Constantinople. Standing near the rear of the church was St. Andrew the Fool for Christ, and his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Theotokos appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as if to protect them. She was surrounded by angels and saints. Seeing this, Andrew asked his disciple, “Do you see the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?”

Hymn

melody: Matir Bože / Mother of God

Sure defense of all who sorrow, O pure Mother
Strong protectress of God's people, Depth of mercy,
Awesome beauty, true fulfillment Of the things the

of our God, Ready help to those in trouble,
Font of grace, Through your womb has been born for us
prophets told, Joy of martyrs, pride of virgins,

Refrain

Be for us both staff and prod. Mar-y, full of grace, be
Christ, the Savior of our race.
O'er us now your mantle hold!

joyful! For with you is God, our Lord, And through you grants

His great mercy To the world with grace out-poured.
Troparion - Tone 4:

Protected by your appearance, O Mother of God; today, we devout people solemnly celebrate. Gazing upon your most pure icon, we fervently say:

Protect us with your holy veil, and deliver us from all evil, imploring your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Cantor

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

Kontakion - Tone 3

Today the Virgin is present in the Church, and with the choirs of saints, invisibly prays to God for us. The angels worship
with the hierarchs, the apostles rejoice with the prophets;

because the Theotokos prays for us to the eternal God.

**Prokeimenon - Tone 3** (Luke 1:46-48):

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices

in God my Savior.

**Verse:** For he has looked with favor on the humility of his servant; from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.

**Alleluia - Tone 8** (Psalm 44:11,13):

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Verse:** Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

**Verse:** The rich among the people will seek your favor.
Communion Hymn (Psalm 115:4):

I shall take the chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!