Vesper Propers, October 1

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?”

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2005

Lamplighting Psalms: Tone 1, beginning on page 24

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

O most pure The-o-to-kos, you are a mighty defender for those in sorrow.

You are a ready help to those in trouble. You are the salvation and confirmation of the world. You are the depth of mercy,

the font of God’s wisdom, and the protectress of the world.
O faithful, let us sing and praise her glorious protection, saying:

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!

the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O most pure Theotokos...")

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

The wonderful prophet Isaiah foretold: The mountain of the Lord will be revealed in the last days, and the house of the Lord will be upon the mountain. O Queen and Lady, we have seen this prophecy truly fulfilled in you, because the mountain and hills have been adorned by the many churches named after your feasts. Therefore, we joyfully sing out...
Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!

the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

Cantor: (on 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(Tone 4) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
O Theotokos, you cooperated with the invitation offered by the Holy Spirit. You were like a paradise planted by God and the sight of the living Tree. We acknowledge you as having brought forth the Creator of all, who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life. We ask you to pray for us, with the Forerunner. With your mantle, protect all people from every danger.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat "O Theotokos...")

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

Heaven and earth are sanctified. The Church is radiant and all the people are rejoicing. Behold, the Theotokos, together with the angelic hosts,
the Fore-runner, and the The-o-lo-gian, with the prophets and apostles

has invisibly entered. She prays to Christ in behalf of all Christians,

that he may have mercy on our city and all people, who glorify the

feast of her Protection.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

(on 1)

O The-o-to-kos, you are the beauty of Jacob; You are the

heavenly ladder by which Christ came down to earth. Indeed,

those images signify your honor and glory. The angels in heaven and

all people on earth praise you, for you have given birth to the God of all.

We honor you as you pray for the whole world and cover with your mantle
all those who observe your holy feast.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

All the leaders of the heavenly armies form a spiritual choir and rejoice with all of us when they see the faithful praising the Lady and Queen of all. The spirits of the just rejoice also as they witness the vision of the Queen praying with out-stretched arms. She asks for peace in the world, power and strength for our Church, and salvation for our souls.

Readings: Genesis 28: 10 - 17
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11
Let us assemble today, O faithful and praise the immaculate Queen of all, the most pure Virgin Mother of Christ our God; for she always mercifully extends her hands to her Son. In amazement, Andrew saw her in a cloud, protecting the faithful with her mantle. Let us fervently sing to her:

Rejoice, O protection, defense, and salvation of our souls.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 2 Bolhar

Hav ing pu ri fied our minds and souls, we also rejoice with the angels, joyous ly sing ing the hymn of Da vid
to the virgin bride of Christ our God, the King of all:

A rise, O Lord, in the place of your dwelling,

you and the ark of your majesty. Because you have adorned her

as a beautiful palace, receive her into your city

that through her pray'rs, O Lord, and with your almighty pow'r,

she will order our lives and protect our Church from its enemies.

Litija Litany p.116

Aposticha

You are higher than all beings in heaven or on earth, more glorious than the

Cher-ubim, and more honorable than all creation; Christ has given you as the
powerful protection of the Christian people to protect and save all sinners who hasten to you. Therefore, O Lady, we sing hymns to you because you are the refuge of all people, and we gloriously celebrate the honorable feast of your Protection. We ask Christ to grant us great mercy to our souls.

Cantor

Listen, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.

O people, let us gloriously sing David's song to the young bride, to the Mother of Christ our God and the King of all. O Master, the Queen stood at your right hand, clothed in golden robes and adorned with celestial beauty. You have affirmed her, chosen from among women, and deigned to be born of her
because of your great mercy. You have given her as a help to your people.

to build up and protect your servants from all misfortunes, O only-blessed One.

Cantor

The rich among the people will seek your favor.

O Theotokos, you are a mountain greater and more glorious than Mount Sinai.

It could not bear God's glory coming down in images and tents. It caught fire and shook with thunder and lightning. You likewise had the Divine Fire in you. Through the will of him who holds all in the palm of his hand,

you bore the Word of God in your womb without being burned. Since you have
a mother's confidence before him, O Lady, help those who faithfully celebrate your precious feast. Do not forget in your mercy to visit us, for you have received a gift from God to build up and protect the Christian flock of your servants.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen

O all-pure Theotokos, the Church is clothed with your honorable protection as with a most glorious wreath. It radiant ly rejoices today. It mystically dances with joy and sings to you, O Lady:

Rejoice, honorable raiment and crown of God's glory. Rejoice, unique perfection of glory and eternal joy; rejoice, refuge
of all who hasten to you; rejoice, our salvation and deliverance.

Troparion - Tone 4 (sung three times)

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.

Blessing of Bread, p. 119