Matins propers, November 21

THE ENTRANCE OF OUR MOST BLESSED LADY, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE. The day after the dedication of the basilica of the New St. Mary's, built near the wall of the temple in Jerusalem, that dedication is celebrated which the future mother of God showed of her own accord toward God from her infancy. By the movement of the Holy Spirit she was immaculate, filled with grace at her conception.

Troparion - Tone 4

The child of the righteous Joachim and Anna is offered to God in the holy temple; she sustains our life and yet is a young

Sessional Hymn 1 - Resurrection Tone 1
child in the flesh. She receives the blessing of Zechariah the priest.

Let all of us in faith call her blessed, for she is the Theotokos.

Sessional Hymn 2

You were consecrated to God, O pure Virgin, even before your conception. Now, after your birth, you are offered as a gift to him, in fulfillment of your parents' promise. You are a divine Temple, and are brought to the temple of God; as a young child, you have appeared in the temple accompanied by the brightly burning lamps.

You have shown yourself to be the dwelling of the unapproachable Divine Light.

Truly magnificent is your entrance, O only Bride of God and ever Virgin.
Exaltation after the Polyeleos: The refrain is repeated after each verse.

We ex - tol you, O most holy Vir - gin and God - cho - sen Maid,

and we hon - or, we hon - or your En - trance in - to the tem - ple

of the Lord.

Verse: The Lord is great and worthy to be praised in the city of our God.

Verse: Holy is this Temple, awesome in righteousness.

Verse: Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.

Verse: Blessed is the one whom you choose and call to dwell in your courts.

Verse: Glory…now and ever…

Three times, each with a reverence:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God.

All repeat the Exaltation.

Sessional Hymn - Tone 8 podoben: Povelinoje tajno

Let Da - vid the psalm-ist praise in joy. Let Jo - a - chim

and An - na great-ly cel - e - brate, for Mar - y
came forth from them, a holy child; she is the heavenly lamp that gave birth to the Divine Light. Today she rejoices as she enters the temple. The son of Bachariah, witnessing her entry, blessed her and cried out in joy: Rejoice, O Marvel of the Universe!

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... Repeat "Let David the psalmist..."

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words; give ear to my words.

Verse: My heart overflows with noble words
To the king I must speak the song I have made.
Stichera after Psalm 50

Cantor: (Tone 4) Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

All: To-day the living Temple of the great King enters the Temple to be prepared as a divine dwelling-place for him.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

All: To-day the living Temple of the great King enters the Temple to be prepared as a divine dwelling-place for him.

Cantor: (Tone 2 Bolhar) To-day the Theotokos, the Temple that is to contain God, is being escorted today into the Temple of the Lord, and Zechariah receives her. To-day
the Holy of Holies greatly rejoices, and the choir of angels mystically celebrates this feast. Let us also celebrate with them today and cry out with Gabriel:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you, and he grants us great mercy.

*Canon*

*with Katavasiai of the Nativity of Our Lord*

**Ode 1**

**Irmos - Tone 4**

I will open my mouth; it will be filled by the Holy Spirit, and I will offer my praise to the Queen Mother. I will celebrate in joy; in my rejoicing I will sing of these wonders.

**Refrain**

Most holy Theotokos, save us!
O all-pure Virgin, we know that you are a treasury of wisdom and a never-failing fountain of grace. Therefore, we entreat you, O Lady, to let some drops of knowledge fall upon us, so that we may sing your praises forever. Refrain

O most holy One, you are honored more than the heavens; you are both Temple and palace. Today you are offered in the temple of God to be prepared as a divine abode for his coming. Refrain

O Theotokos, you made the light of grace shine forth. You have enlightened all people and brought them together to praise your most radiant triumph in song. Come, O faithful, let us join them and quickly go to her.

The Glorious Gate, through which human thoughts cannot pass, now encourages us to enter with her and to rejoice in her divine wonders, for she has opened the gates of the Temple of God.

Katavasia

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O The o - to - kos, life - giv - ing source of bles - sings, grant strength
to those unit-ed in faith who sing hymns of praise to you.

In your glo - ry, grant them the crowns of vic - to - ry.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us!

Today the Temple, receiving the living Bridal Chamber of God, has become a wedding
adornment and a beautiful chamber for the Virgin. She is pure and immaculate, shining
more brightly than all creation. Refrain

David the leader dances in joy with us; and he praises you as Queen, O all-pure and
immaculate Virgin. You are arrayed in a splendidly colored robe, and you stand in the
temple before the King and our God. Refrain

Human nature inherited the misdeed from Eve of old. Now the Theotokos has flowered
forth from Eve's stock; she is our restoration and incorruption, and today she is being
brought into the temple of the Lord.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er
Today all people on earth and the hosts of angels dance in your presence, O all-pure Lady. They carry lamps before you, proclaiming your greatness in the temple of the Lord.

Katavasia

*Tone 1 samopodoben*

Let us sing to the Son begotten of the Father without change before all ages. Let us cry aloud to Christ our God, incarnate without seed from the Virgin in these latter days: you have exalted our horn; Holy are you, O Lord.

Ode 4

*Irmos - Tone 4*

When he perceived the incomprehensible purpose of God concerning your incarnation from a Virgin, O Most High, the prophet Habakkuk cried out aloud:

Glory to your power, O Lord!
Today the Temple of God receives the Gate through whom no one may pass. It has put an end to the worship prescribed by the shadow of the Law, and it cries out: Indeed the truth has appeared to all upon earth. Refrain

In former times Habakkuk foresaw and prophetically announced the overshadowed mountain which comes to dwell within the sanctuary of the temple today. She has blossomed forth flowers of virtue, and she covers the ends of the earth with her shadow. Refrain

O faithful, with the earth let us behold these wonderful, marvelous, and strange events. The Virgin, taking nourishment from an angel, offers us an image of the divine plan of salvation.

O most pure Bride of God, being revealed as a Temple, a palace, and a living heaven, you are offered today in the temple of the Law to live therein.

Katavasia

O Christ, the rod from Jesse's root and its flow'r, you blossomed from the Virgin; Praiseworthy one, from the overshadowed shady mountain.

You came in the flesh from her who knew not man. God not made of
matter, glory to your pow'r, O Lord.

All the nations marvelled at your holy Presentation,
for you, O Virgin who have not known wedlock, entered into the temple of God as the most pure Temple, granting peace to all who sing your praise.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

O dear Virgin is consecrated today in the temple of God as a radiant sanctuary and a holy offering. In ways known only to him, she is preserved as a dwelling place for our God, the King of all. Refrain

When Zechariah beheld the beauty of your soul, O most pure Virgin, he cried out in faith:
You are our deliverance; you are the joy of all. You are our restoration through whom the Incomprehensible becomes comprehensible to me. Refrain

O most pure Virgin, beyond understanding are your wonders. The manner of your birth, and the manner of your growing is incomprehensible. All things concerning you are splendid and marvelous, O Bride of God; they are inexpressible by the human tongue.
Glo - ry to the  Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it;  now and ev - er

O Bride of God, you shone forth today in the house of the Lord as a candelabrum filled with light. You bestow light upon us through your wondrous holy gifts of grace, O undefiled and renowned Theotokos.

Katavasia

O God of peace and Fa - ther of mer - cies, you sent us the An - gel
of your great coun - sel to us to grant us peace. There - by, we have been led
toward the light of di - vine knowl - edge and ris - ing out of the night
we glo - ri - fy you, O Lov - er of us all.

Ode 6

Come, all you faith - ful, and clap your hands, as we cel - e - brate this holy and sol - emn
feast of the Moth - er of God. Glo - ri - fy him who was born of her.
Most holy Theotokos, save us!

He who sustains all things with his word, has, in his mercy, heard the prayer of the righteous Joachim and Anna. He has freed them from the disgrace of sterility and has given them her who is the cause of our joy. Refrain

Desiring to reveal his salvation to the Gentiles, the Lord has now chosen from among mortals her that knew not wedlock. She is to be a sign of reconciliation and renewal. Refrain

O most pure One, you are a temple of grace which holds the treasure of God's ineffable plan of salvation; you receive immeasurable joy in the temple.

Refrain

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

O Bride of God, when the Temple received you as a precious jewel, it shone with beauty and submitted to better things; for it recognized in you the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Katavasia

Taking pity on Jonah, the sea monster that took him kept him safe, like an infant from the womb. The Word, which inhabited the Virgin and took flesh, came forth from her and kept her incorrupt.
He underwent no change, and kept intact the one who bore him.

**Kontakion - Tone 4**

The most pure Temple of the Savior, the most precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the Treasury of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, bringing grace in the Spirit of God.

God's angels praise her in song; she is the heavenly Ark.

**Ikos:**
I stand in awe at the wondrous works of God graciously manifested and fulfilled by the Virgin. I cannot comprehend the strange and secret manner by which she alone was chosen from all creation to be made known as the Undefiled One. I am unable to express in word or thought this ineffable mystery, yet I wish to praise her. In confidence I dare to proclaim and extol her, saying: Indeed she is the heavenly Ark.

**Ode 7**

**Irmos - Tone 4**

The three youths courageously walked about in the flaming furnace, preferring to worship the Creator rather than created things.
and they sang out in joy: Blessed are you and praised above all, O God of our fathers.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Behold, a bright springtime has filled the ends of the earth, enlightening our soul and mind and understanding through grace, for today is the feast of the Theotokos. Let us rejoice with all creation. Refrain

Let all creation: heaven and earth, the hosts of angels, and the multitudes upon earth, today escort the Queen and Mother, and let them cry out: Joy and deliverance is led into the temple. Refrain

The Old Law has passed away and vanished as a shadow. The rays of grace have shone forth at your entry into the temple of God, O most pure Virgin Mother, for you are blessed forever.

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

O most pure Lady, heaven and earth and all creatures beneath the earth have been made servants of your Son, the Creator and God. All people on earth proclaim that the Lord, the Savior of our souls, has appeared.

Katavasia

Tone 1 samopodoben

The youths, brought up together in piety, despised the order
of the im-pious king. Un-daunt-ed by the threat of fire, they stood
in the midst of the flames and sang this hymn: Bless-ed are you, God
of our fa-thers.

Ode 8
Irmos - Tone 4

Lis-ten, O pure vir-gin maid-en, while
Ga-bri-el makes the an-nounce-ment of the
Most High that is both an-cient and true. Pre-pare to
re-ceive God; for through you the In-com-pre-hen-si-ble
comes to dwell a-mong mor-tals. There-fore I
re-joice and sing: Bless the Lord, all you works

16
When Anna escorted the most pure Temple into the house of God, she spoke these words in faith to the priest: Take the child given to me by God and lead her into the temple of your Creator and sing to him joyfully: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! Refrain

Upon seeing Anna, Zechariah said to her: You now escort here the true Mother of Life whom the prophets of God proclaimed in times past as the Theotokos. How shall the Temple contain her? Therefore, in wonder I cry out: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! Refrain

Anna answered Zechariah, saying: I come here as a servant of God, calling upon him with faith and prayer to receive the fruit of my labor. For I promised, that after childbirth, I would offer my child to him who gave her to me. Therefore, I cry out in joy: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! Refrain

This act is truly in conformity with the Law, said the priest to her, but I also realize that it is marvelous even to the smallest details. For I see now entering the house of God the One who surpasses the Holy of Holies in grace. Thus, in my joy, I cry out: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! Refrain

I am comforted to hear your words, said Anna, since you understand things according to the Spirit of God, and you clearly proclaim the mystery of the Virgin. Therefore, receive the Immaculate One into the temple of your Creator and sing out with joy: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and forever. Amen.
Zechariah cried out: A lamp that gives light has been kindled for us and has made the temple shine with joy. Let the souls of the prophets rejoice with me as they witness great wonders accomplished in the house of God and let them now cry out: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and highly exalting him above all forever.

The furnace cooled like dew, miraculously, foreshadowed a great marvel. For it did not burn the youths it received, nor did the fire of divinity burn the Virgin's womb by entering it. Therefore, let us strike up a hymn and sing: Let all creation bless and exalt the Lord forever.

Katavasia

Tone 1 samopodoben

The Magnificat is omitted.
Ode 9
Magnification

The angels were struck with amazement, beholding the entrance of the Most Pure; seeing how the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies.

Irmos - Tone 4

Let no uninitiated hand touch the living Ark of God; but let faithful lips, singing without ceasing the words of the angel to the Theotokos, cry aloud in great joy: O pure Virgin, you are truly exalted over all.

All repeat "The angels were struck with amazement..."
O undefiled Theotokos, your soul is radiant with beauty, and you are overflowing with the heavenly graces of God. You always illumine with eternal light those who praise you in joy. O pure Virgin, you are truly above all creation.

*All repeat "The angels were struck with amazement..."*

O undefiled Theotokos, your marvels are beyond expression. I recognize in you an unexplainable mystery, a body that was never corrupted by sin. Therefore, in thanksgiving I cry to you: O pure Virgin, you are truly above all creation.

*All repeat "The angels were struck with amazement..."*

The Law foretold your wonders; it proclaimed you as a tabernacle, a jar of manna, a wondrous ark, the veil of the temple, and rod of Aaron, an indestructible temple, and the gate of God. It thereby teaches us to sing: O pure Virgin, you are truly above all creation.

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**Katavasia**

*D Tone 1 samopodoben*

I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave;

the cherubic throne, a virgin; the manger has become the place

in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us
Let us praise in faith Mary the Child of God, whom the assembly of prophets foretold long ago, speaking of her as jar of manna and Aaron's rod, tablet of the Law and uncut mountain. For she is led today into the Holy of Holies, there to be brought up to the Lord.

(sung three times)

The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 1

Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

The candle-bearing virgins brightly escort the ever Virgin. They are in spirit
truly prophesying the future because the Theotokos is the temple of God;

and with a virgin's glory, she is being led as a young child into the Temple.

Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
(on 3) praise him with lute and harp.

The Theotokos, glorious fruit of the holy promise, is truly revealed to the world as higher than all creation. She is piously escorted into the Temple of God and fulfills the promise of her parents.

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
(on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.

O Virgin, you were faithfully nourished by heavenly bread in the Temple

O praise him with sound of trumpet praise him with lute and harp.
of the Lord. You gave birth to the Word, who is the Bread of Life for the whole world. You are a chosen and all-immaculate temple to him.

You were betrothed mystically through the Spirit to be the bride of God the Father. May the doors of the temple of God be opened now, because the Palace and the Throne of the King of all is being gloriously received inside today. Joachim offers her who was consecrated to the Lord, the One who was chosen by him to be his Mother.
To day the all-immaculate Virgin is being escorted into the temple to become the abode of God, the King of all. Today, as a three year old child, the most pure holy One is being led into the Holy of Holies. With the angel let us cry out to her: Rejoice, for you alone are blessed among women.