O faithful, let us leap for joy today, singing psalms and hymns of praise in honor of Mary, his mother, the Holy Tabernacle and Ark that contained the Word whom nothing can contain. She is offered to God as a child in a marvelous way, and Zechariah the high priest receives her with great joy, for she is the dwelling place of the Most High. **Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O faithful, let us leap for joy...") **Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive? (on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **Updated 12/02/2018**
To-day the living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, Mary, the pure and blessed one, is being brought into the temple according to the Law to live in its holy precincts. Joachim and Anna and all the virgins rejoice with her in spirit. They sing hymns of praise to the Lord and give honor to his Mother.

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.
(Repeat "Today the living temple..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.
(on 4) O Virgin Mother of God, you are the one foretold
by all the prophets. You are the apostles' glory

and the pride of the martyrs and the cause of renewal for the entire human race. Through you, we have been

reconciled with God. Therefore, we honor your entrance into the temple of the Lord. Together with the angels, all of us who are saved by your prayers sing to you:

Rejoice, O most holy one!

Cantor: (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. Tone 4 podoben: Jako doblja

The holy and immaculate one is being led into the Holy of Holies by the Holy Spirit. She is being nourished
by the angels, since she is the holy Temple of our holy God.

He has sanctified all creation because of her entrance, and he has deified our fallen human nature.

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

Today the maidens rejoice. Carrying lamps, they piously escort Mary, the spiritual lamp, into the Holy of Holies.

This is a fore-shadowing of the splendid Light that will shine forth from her, the Light that will enlighten all who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; (on 1) he is faithful forever.
The most praise-worthy Anna cries out in great joy:

O Zechariah, receive the One whom the prophets of God foretold through the Spirit. Escort her into the holy temple, since she is to be the sublime Temple, the palace, throne, and wondrous abode of our God.

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

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

O Lady and Bride of God, you entered the temple of God in your infancy to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, for you are holy. The archangel Gabriel was sent to serve you and bring you food.

All the heavenly powers were amazed at the sight of the Holy Spirit
dwelling in you. Therefore, O most pure and immaculate The-o-to-kos,
since you are glorified in heav-en and on earth, through your pray'rs, save
our hu-man race.

The Prokeimena for weekdays are found on pages 114-115

1 Kings 7:51 - 8:1, 3-7, 9-11
Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4

Litija

Tone 4 Bolhar

today the The-o-to-kos, that Temple that is to

contain God, is being escort-ed with glad-ness in-to the

Tem-ple of God, and Zech-a-ri-ah re-ceives her.

To-day the Ho-ly of Ho-lies great-ly re-joices,
and the angelic choir celebrates this feast mystically.

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.

Come all you people, and let us praise the only

Immaculate One who was foretold by the prophets

and is being led into the temple. She was chosen from

eternity to be the Mother; and in time she was revealed

as the Theotokos. Gracious Lord, through her intercessions,
grant us your peace and great mercy.

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

Doxastikon

A day of rejoicing has dawned truly. It is a most precious feast for us, because she who was virgin before and after childbirth today is offered in the temple.

The aged Zachariah, father of the Forerunner, cries aloud, rejoicing: The intercessor of those in affliction comes into the holy temple, since she herself is holy. She will be sanctified in the abode of the King of all. Let her father Joachim...
be glad and let Anna rejoice exceedingly, because they have offered to God the immaculate Queen as a three-year old child. Rejoice with them, all you women; all you virgins and barren ones, dance for joy and celebrate with them, for the Queen of all has opened the kingdom of heaven for us. let all people be glad and rejoice.

Litija Litany, page 116
Heaven and earth together rejoice today at the sight of the mystical heaven; the immaculate and pure Virgin is coming into the holy temple to be brought up in honor.

Zachariah, rejoicing in her and leaping for joy, cried out in awe:

O Door of the Lord, I open the doors of the temple to you, because I know and believe that the salvation of Israel is already coming, that the Word of God will be born from you, and that he will grant great mercy to the world.

Aposticha

Tone 5 podoben: Radujsa živonosnyj Kreste
She is led to the King with her maiden companions.

When Anna, which means grace, was graced with the pure and ever Virgin Mary, she presented her into the temple of God. She called maidens to carry candles and walk before her as she said: O child, go to be an offering and a fragrant incense for the One who sent you to me. Enter into the veiled places and learn the mysteries of God.

Prepare yourself to be a delightful dwelling place for Jesus who will give great mercy to the world.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the King.
The all-holy Virgin is handed over into the temple. Maidens carrying candles go before her. Her parents, the devoted couple, Joachim and Anna, joyfully celebrate, for they have given birth in the flesh to the One who will bear the Creator.

She will dance for joy in the temple of God and will be fed by the hand of an angel. The all-immaculate Mother of Christ has appeared, and he will grant great mercy to the world.

Cantor:  (Tone 6) Glory... now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O assembly of the faithful, let us celebrate this day as a spiritual feast.

With great love, let us honor the maiden of God, the Virgin and
The o-tokos, as she is presented into the temple of the Lord;
for she has been chosen from among all generations to be the dwelling place of Christ our God who is the King of all. O virgins, carry candles and lead the way for the entrance of the ever Virgin.

Follow after her who is the Mother of God and mediator for the joy of the world. Therefore, let us all cry out together with the angels: Rejoice,
for you are full of grace, and you continually pray for our souls.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.
To-day is the prelude of God's benevolence and the herald of our salvation; for the Virgin openly appears in the temple of God and fore-tells Christ to all. Let us also with full voice exclaim to her:

Rejoice, fulfillment of the Creator's plan.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119