

## November 21: The Entrance of the Holy Theotokos into the Temple

### Lord I Call...

#### *Tone 1*

Today let us, the faithful, dance for joy,  
Singing to the Lord with psalms and hymns,  
Venerating His hallowed tabernacle,  
The living ark, which 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.

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 honouring His mother.

The prophets proclaimed you, O Virgin Mother of God:  
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 honour your entrance into the temple of the Lord,  
And saved by your intercession, with the angel we all cry to you: ///  
Rejoice! Most holy lady!

#### *Tone 4*

Led by the Holy Spirit,  
The holy and immaculate maid is taken to dwell in the holy temple.  
She who is in truth the most holy temple of our holy God  
Is fed by an angel!  
He has sanctified all things by her entry, ///  
And has made godlike the fallen nature of mortals.

The young girls rejoice today,  
And with their lamps in hand they go in reverence before the spiritual lamp  
As she enters the holy of holies.  
They foreshadow the ineffable brightness that is to shine forth from her  
And to give light by the Spirit ///  
To those who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

Anna, the all-blessed cried out rejoicing:  
Zachariah, take her whom the prophets of God proclaimed in 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 dwelling filled with light!

Glory... Now and Ever...

*Tone 8*

After your birth, lady and bride of God,  
You went to the temple of the Lord  
To be raised as a child consecrated in the holy of holies.  
Then Gabriel was sent to bring you food, undefiled Virgin.  
All the powers of heaven stood amazed, seeing the Holy Spirit dwell in you!  
Therefore, pure and undefiled Mother of God,  
Glorified in heaven and earth, ///  
Save your people!

### **Litya**

*Tone 1*

Today let heaven greatly rejoice  
And let the clouds pour down gladness  
At the great and mighty acts of our god!  
For behold, the gate that faces the east,  
Born according to the promise from a barren and fruitless womb,  
And dedicated to God as His dwelling,  
Is led today into the temple as an unblemished sacrifice.  
Let David greatly rejoice, striking upon his harp.  
She is led to the king, with her virgin companions,  
Her escort, in her train!  
Within the tabernacle of God, His place of atonement, shall she be raised  
To become the dwelling of Him who was begotten of the Father  
Without change before all ages ///  
For the salvation of our souls!

*Tone 4*

Today the God-bearing temple, the Theotokos,  
Is offered in the temple of the Lord,  
And Zachariah receives her!  
Today the holy of holies exults  
And the choir of angels mystically celebrates!  
Today we celebrate with them and cry out with Gabriel: ///  
Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord of great mercy is with you!

Come, let all the faithful praise the only immaculate one,  
Foretold by the prophets and now offered in the temple:  
The Mother fore-ordained before the ages,  
Made manifest as the Theotokos in the last days! ///  
By her prayers, Lord, grant us Your peace and great mercy!

Glory... Now and Ever...

*Tone 5*

A day of joy has dawned;  
A feast worthy of all reverence!  
For today, she who was a virgin before childbirth  
And remained a virgin after bearing a child,  
Is offered in the temple!  
The venerable Zachariah, father of the forerunner,  
Rejoices and cries out in gladness:  
The holy intercessor of those in affliction  
Comes to the holy temple,  
There to be consecrated as the dwelling of the Almighty!  
Let the forefather, Joachim, be glad  
And let Anna rejoice!  
For they have offered the queen without blemish  
As a three-year old heifer of sacrifice to God!  
Mothers, rejoice with them!  
Virgins, dance for joy!  
Barren women, form a chorus!  
For the pre-ordained queen of all has opened the kingdom of heaven to us! ///  
Rejoice and be glad, all people!

### **Apostikha**

*Tone 5*

Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual heaven,  
The only virgin without blemish, enters the house of God to be reared in reverence.  
Zachariah cried to her in amazement:  
Gate of the lord! To you I open the gates of the temple:  
Rejoice and go round 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!

*vs:* She is led to the King, with her virgin companions, her  
escort, in her train!

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 with lamps in hand.  
"Go, child," she said, "to Him Who gave you to me;  
Be to 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!

*vs:* With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter  
the palace 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 that is to bear the Creator.  
And she, the all-pure, with rejoicing goes round the divine habitations,  
And is fed by the hands of an angel.  
She it is who will become Mother of Christ, ///  
Who grants the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and Ever... *Tone 6*  
Today let us the assembled faithful triumph in spirit!  
Let us 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.  
Virgins bearing lamps, go before her,  
Honouring the majestic advance of the ever-virgin!  
Mothers, set aside every sorrow to 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, let us all joyfully cry: "Rejoice!" to her, ///  
For she is the joyous one who ever intercedes for our souls!

### **St. Simeon's Prayer**

**Tropar:** of the feast (x3) (see next page)

### **Final Blessing at a Vigil**

*Priest:* The blessing of the Lord be upon you, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

*People:* Amen. Blessed by the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore (x3)

*insert "Entrance\_Theotokos\_Magnification" for the first page of Matins*

*People:* We magnify...

*vs:* Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God and in His holy mountain!

*People:* We magnify...

*vs:* Holy is Your temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

*People:* We magnify...

*vs:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. (3x:) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to You, O God.

*People:* We magnify...

### **Hypakoe**

*Tone 8*

Let David the psalmist greatly rejoice, let Joachim and Anna be glad,  
for a holy child has come forth from them,  
Mary the lamp that bears the divine light;  
and she rejoices as she enters the temple.

The son of Zacharias, beholding her, gave her his blessing and cried out in joy: ///  
Hail! You who are the wonder of all the world!

### **From My Youth**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Matins Prayer**

**Prokeimenon**     *Tone 4*

Hear, O daughter, consider \* and incline your ear!  
verse: my heart overflows with a goodly theme!

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-49, 56

### **Psalm 51**

## Post-Gospel Stikhera

*Tone 2*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Today the living temple,  
The temple of the great king,  
Enters into the temple to prepare an abode for God. ///  
Rejoice, O people.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today the living temple.  
The temple of the great king,  
Enters into the temple to prepare an abode for God. ///  
Rejoice, O people.

*Tone 6*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
According to your great mercy;  
According to the multitude of your compassions, ///  
Blot out my transgressions!

*Tone 4*

Today the Theotokos, the temple that is to hold God,  
Is led into the temple of the lord,  
And Zachariah receives her.  
Today the holy of holies rejoices greatly,  
And the choir of angels mystically keeps feast.  
With them let us also celebrate the festival today,  
And let us cry aloud with Gabriel: ///  
Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord who has great mercy is with you!

## **Kontakion**

*Tone 4*

The most pure temple of the Savior;  
The precious chamber and Virgin,  
The sacred treasure of the glory of God,  
Is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
Which the angels of God do praise. ///  
Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

## Ikos

Seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God made manifest and  
Clearly fulfilled in the virgin, I rejoice, and I do not know how to  
understand the strange and secret manner in which the undefiled one  
has been revealed as alone chosen above all creation, both visible and  
spiritual. Therefore, while I want to praise her, I am struck dumb  
with amazement in both my thoughts and my speech. Yet still I dare to  
proclaim and magnify her://

*Sung:* Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

## Hymn to the Theotokos (see liturgy booklets for music)

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?  
As you are a living Temple of God,  
Let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos!  
But let the lips of all believers sing,  
Constantly magnifying you in joy  
with the angelic salutation:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

*Repeat the first two lines of the Theotokion as a refrain alternating with reader verses.  
After the last verse the Theotokion is sung all the way through.*

## **Exapostilarion**

Let us praise in faith the child of God, Mary,  
Whom the prophets of old proclaimed  
As the jar of manna and Aaron's rod,  
The tablet of the law and the unhewn mountain!  
For today she is led into the holy of holies ///  
To be raised in the manner of the Lord!

## **The Praises**

*Tone 1*

The virgins bearing lamps,  
who with their light accompany the ever-Virgin,  
truly prophesy the future in Spirit.  
For the Temple of God, the Theotokos, ///  
with virginal glory enters as a little child into the temple.



The Theotokos, glorious fruit of a sacred promise,  
is truly revealed unto the world as higher than all creation.  
Piously led into the house of God,  
she fulfills the vow of her parents ///  
and she is preserved by the Holy Spirit.

O Virgin, fed in faith by heavenly bread in the temple of the Lord,  
you have brought forth unto the world the Bread of life that is the Word,  
and as His chosen Temple without spot,  
you were betrothed mystically through the Spirit, ///  
to be the Bride of God the Father.

Let the gate of the temple where God dwells be opened,  
for Joachim brings within today in glory  
the Temple and Throne of the King of all,  
and he consecrates as an offering to God ///  
her whom the Lord has chosen to be His Mother.

Glory... Now and Ever...

*Tone 2*

Today the Virgin without blemish  
is led to the temple,  
to become the habitation of God the King of all,  
who sustains our life.  
Today as a three-year-old victim of sacrifice  
the most pure Sanctuary is led into the Holy of Holies.  
To her let us cry out with the angel: ///  
“Hail you who alone are blessed among women”.

## **Great Doxology**

**Tropar of the Feast** (sung once)

*Tone 4*

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
Of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the temple of God,  
In anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her: ///  
Rejoice, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!

**Appropriate Litanies (not on a Sunday)**

**Dismissal**

## Ikos

Seeing the grace of the secret mysteries of God made manifest and  
Clearly fulfilled in the virgin, I rejoice, and I do not know how to  
understand the strange and secret manner in which the undefiled one  
has been revealed as alone chosen above all creation, both visible and  
spiritual. Therefore, while I want to praise her, I am struck dumb  
with amazement in both my thoughts and my speech. Yet still I dare to  
proclaim and magnify her://

*Sung:* Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

## Hymn to the Theotokos

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?  
As you are a living Temple of God,  
Let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos!  
But let the lips of all believers sing,  
Constantly magnifying you in joy  
with the angelic salutation:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!

*Reader:* You have a soul of clear and shining beauty, pure Theotokos,  
And you are filled with the heavenly grace of God.  
You illumine forever with eternal light  
Those who cry aloud in gladness:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

*Reader:* Your wonders, pure Theotokos, surpass the power of words,  
For I see in you a thing beyond speech:  
A body never subject to the taint of sin!  
Therefore in thanksgiving I cry to you:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

*Reader:* The law prefigured you most wonderfully  
As tabernacle, jar of manna and strange ark,  
The veil of the temple, the rod of Aaron,  
The temple never to be destroyed, and the gate of God,

So teaching us to cry to you:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

*Reader:* David sang in honor of you,  
Calling you the daughter of the king,  
For he saw you in the beauty of the virtues,  
In raiment of many-colored needlework  
At the right hand of God.  
Therefore he cried aloud in prophecy:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

*Reader:* Solomon, foreseeing how you were to receive God,  
Spoke of you in dark sayings  
As the gate of the king and sealed fountain of living water  
Flowing forth in an untroubled stream to us who cry aloud with faith:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed!  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

*Reader:* Theotokos, grant my soul  
The calm peace which comes from your gifts of grace.  
You are a fountain of life to those who honour you as is due;  
You surround, protect and preserve us that we may cry aloud to you:  
Truly you are above all creatures, O pure one!

*People:* (sing the entire Theotokion)

### **Exapostilarion**

Let us praise in faith the child of God, Mary,  
Whom the prophets of old proclaimed  
As the jar of manna and Aaron's rod,  
The tablet of the law and the unhewn mountain!  
For today she is led into the holy of holies ///  
To be raised in the manner of the Lord!

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