

## **FESTAL ORTHROS ON FEBRUARY 02 PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art blessed.

### LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (thrice) in this litany until noted.*

Again, we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.) and all our brotherhood in Christ.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (*twice*)

### PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

### PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

#### PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

#### PSALM 87

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (*twice*)  
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

## THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.*

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

## "GOD IS THE LORD" IN TONE ONE

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**Verse 1.** O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)

**Verse 2.** All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)

**Verse 3.** This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

## APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection. (*thrice*)

### THE LITTLE LITANY

- Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
- Choir: To Thee, O Lord.
- Priest: For Thine is the might, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.

- *NOTE: The kathismata may be plainly read or chanted at the discretion of the pastor.*

### KATHISMATA OF THE PRESENTATION

First Kathisma: Tone One, *\*\*The soldiers standing guard\*\**

Let Angels' holy choirs be amazed at the wonder; \* and let us mortals cry out a hymn with our voices, \* beholding God's marvelous condescension transcending speech; \* He at Whom the powers of the Heavens do tremble, \* Him do aged arms take in their tender embrace now, \* the only true Friend of man.

Second Kathisma: Tone One, *\*\*The soldiers standing guard\*\**

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

While on the holy throne with His Heavenly Father, \* He cometh on the earth, being born of a Virgin, \* becoming an infant, He Who is uncircumscribed by time. \* Simeon with joy took Him in arms and he cried out: \* Thou dost let Thy servant now depart filled with gladness, \* O Thou Who art merciful.

Third Kathisma: Tone Four, *\*\*Joseph was amazed—hard chromatic\*\**

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

God most pure partaketh of \* purifications of the Law \* to confirm to me that He \* hath from a Virgin taken flesh: \* for lo, the Ancient of Days is a babe for my sake. \* And Simeon, who was \* instructed in these things, \* recognized in Him \* God revealed in the flesh; \* as very Life he then embraced Him, \* and in his old age cried out with joy: \* Let me depart now, for I have seen Thee, \* O Thou Life of all creatures.

### “A GOOD WORD” (VERSES FROM PSALM 44) IN TONE ONE

*\*\*End each numbered verse with “Alleluia.”\*\**

1. A good word.
2. My heart hath poured forth a good word. Rejoice, O Queen of all, all-hymned Mother of Christ God.
3. I speak of my works to the king. Rejoice, O Queen of Angels, Sovereign Lady of the world.

4. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe. Rejoice, O preaching of the Prophets, and the glory of the Patriarchs.
5. Comely art Thou in beauty more than the sons of men. Rejoice, O pure Virgin, Lady Bride of God.
6. Grace hath been poured forth on Thy lips. Rejoice, O spotless, undefiled, incorrupt, all-holy one.
7. Wherefore God hath blessed Thee forever. Rejoice, O hope of those without hope, and help of the embattled.
8. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One. Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee, and through thee, with us.
9. In Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Rejoice, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb.
10. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, blessed art thou among women.
11. Because of truth and meekness and righteousness. Rejoice, O Mary, Sovereign Lady of us all, the Lord of hosts is with thee.
12. Wherefore God, thy God, hath anointed Thee. Rejoice, O fiery throne, more glorious than the creatures of fourfold aspect.
13. With the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows. Rejoice, O Mary, Sovereign Lady of us all; rejoice, O Mother of Life.
14. At Thy right hand stood the queen. Rejoice, O most blessed, most glorified one.
15. Arrayed, adorned in varied colors. Rejoice, O all-blameless Theotokos, for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.
16. Hearken, O daughter, see, and incline thine ear. Rejoice, O most holy paradise; rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.
17. And forget thine own people and thy father's house. Rejoice, O Saint, greatest of the saints; rejoice, thou Bride unwedded.
18. The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. O all-holy Virgin, hearken to the voice of thy worthless supplicant, who doth offer to thee from the sighings of his heart, and do thou ever prosper him on his way, O Lady.
19. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation. O all-holy Virgin, Bride of God, accept my lowly service, and offer it unto the compassionate God; that rejoicing, I may glorify thee, O all-blameless one.
20. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
21. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)  
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

### THE LITTLE LITANY

- Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR**

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (*repeat*)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (*repeat*)
- + *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

### **PROKEIMENON FOR THE PRESENTATION IN TONE FOUR**

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation. (*twice*)

*Stichos: My heart hath poured forth a good word.*

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation.

### **LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH**

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (*twice*)

*Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.*

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

### **THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL**

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (2:25-32).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

*(\*\*To be read from the Beautiful Gate\*\*)*

Priest: In those days, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel."

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. *(No veneration of the gospel book.)*

### PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

### FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

*(TONE SIX) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Today let the gate of heaven be opened; for the Word of the Father Who is without beginning, having taken a beginning in time, not separating from His Godhead, is offered by His own will, by a Virgin Mother as a child forty days old in the Mosaic Temple; and the priest, His servant, receiveth Him in his arms, crying with joy: Now lettest thou me depart, for mine eyes have beheld Thy salvation. Wherefore, O Thou Who didst come into the world to save mankind, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### THE INTERCESSION<sup>1</sup>

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

#### KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE PRESENTATION (Plain Reading)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Let us hasten to the Theotokos, we who wish to see her Son brought unto Simeon. When the incorporeal powers looked on Him out of heaven, they were astonished, saying: Now do we see strange and wondrous things, incomprehensible and inexpressible. He Who made Adam is carried as a babe; the Uncontainable is held in the arms of the elder; He Who abideth uncircumscribed in the bosom of His Father is willingly circumscribed in the flesh, but not in His Godhead, and He alone is the Lover of mankind.

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<sup>1</sup> Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

### THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

#### *Verses*

The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict, O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.

On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus’ first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. “Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.

### KATAVASIAE OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

**Ode 1.** The sun of old passed over the depth of the tempest begetting dry land; for the water dried up on both sides like a wall for the people to pass through its depth, singing songs well pleasing to God, and shouting: Let us praise the Lord; for by glory hath He been glorified.

**Ode 3.** O Lord, the confirmation of those who put their trust in Thee dost confirm Thy Church which Thou hast bought with Thy precious blood.

**Ode 4.** Thy virtue, O Christ, hath covered the heavens; for when the tabernacle of Thy holiness came, Thy Mother, free of corruption, and Thou didst appear in the Temple of Thy glory borne in arms as a babe, the whole creation was filled with Thy praise.

**Ode 5.** When Isaiah saw God symbolically on a high altar, surrounded by the angels of glory, he lifted his voice, crying: Woe is me, wretched man; for I have foreseen God incarnate, the Light not apprehended by night, and the Lord of peace.

**Ode 6.** When the elder saw with his own eyes the Salvation that was revealed to the nations, he cried to Thee, saying: O Christ, Thou art my God, coming from the presence of God.

**Ode 7.** Thee do we praise, O Word of God, Who moistened in the fire the God-speaking youths, and dwelt in an incorruptible Virgin, singing in true worship: Blessed art Thou, God of our Fathers.

*We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.*

**Ode 8.** The youths striving for true worship, standing in the midst of the unbearable fire and hurt not at all by the flames, sang a song of divine praise, saying: Bless the Lord, all His works, exalt Him still more to the end of ages.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

**NINTH ODE OF THE CANON OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE**

1. That which came to pass in thee \* we in no wise comprehend, \* not the Angels, nor we men, \* O thou Virgin Mother pure.
2. Righteous Elder Simeon \* now embraceth in his arms \* both the Author of the Law \* and the Master of all things.
3. Since the Fashioner had willed \* to save Adam, whom He formed, \* He came down, dwelt in thy womb, \* O thou Virgin chaste and pure.
4. All the race of mortal men \* blesseth thee, O Maid most pure, \* glorifying thee with faith \* as the Mother of our God.
5. Come, behold ye Christ the Lord \* and the Master of all things; \* Him doth Simeon now hold \* in the Temple on this day.
6. Thou dost look upon the earth \* and Thou causet it to quake. \* How then doth a weak old man \* hold Thee in his aged arms?
7. Simeon lived many years \* till he had beheld the Christ. \* And he cried out unto Him: \* Now do I seek my release.
8. Thou, O Maiden Mariam, \* art in truth the mystic tongs, \* who within thy blessed womb \* hast conceived the Ember, Christ.
9. Willingly wast Thou made man, \* Who art God before all time; \* to the Temple Thou art brought \* as a babe of forty days.
10. When the Master of all things \* came down from the Heavens' heights, \* blessed Simeon the priest \* took Him up into his arms.
11. O illuminate my soul \* and my sense of sight, O Lord, \* so that I may clearly see \* and proclaim Thee as my God.

Let us magnify, O believers, the first-born Son, the eternal Word of the Father, First-born of a Mother who knew no man; for we have beheld in the shadow of the law and the Scriptures a sign, that every first-born male that openeth the womb is called holy to God.

12. O thou Virgin Mother pure, \* wherefore to the Temple's courts \* dost thou bring a new-born babe \* to the arms of Simeon?

Let us magnify, O believers, the first-born Son, the eternal Word of the Father, First-born of a Mother who knew no man; for we have beheld in the shadow of the law and the Scriptures a sign, that every first-born male that openeth the womb is called holy to God.

13. To depart hence do I seek \* of Thee, O my Fashioner; \* for, O Christ, I have beheld \* Thee, my bright and saving Light.

Of old they offered a pair of turtle doves and a pair of pigeons. But instead of them the divine old man and Anna the pure prophetess were offered to Him Who was born of the Virgin, Who was offered in the Temple, Who is the Son of God. Wherefore, they served him magnifying.

14. Him Whom ministers above \* serve with trembling and with awe, \* here below doth Simeon \* now take in his arms' embrace.

Of old they offered a pair of turtle doves and a pair of pigeons. But instead of them the divine old man and Anna the pure prophetess were offered to Him Who was born of the Virgin, Who was offered in the Temple, Who is the Son of God. Wherefore, they served him magnifying.

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

15. In Thy nature, Thou art One, \* yet in Persons, Thou art Three: \* Keep Thy servants from all harm, \* who believe and trust in Thee.

Verily, Simeon cried, saying: Thou hast granted me, O Christ, the delight of Thy salvation. Wherefore, receive thou Thy servant lying in darkness, a divine proclaimer and new initiate of grace, magnifying Thee with praise.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

16. O Theotokos, \* thou hope of all Christians: \* Keep and shelter and preserve \* them that set their hope on thee.

Verily, Anna, the pure prophetess and righteous old woman, confessed God as is meet, thanking the Master openly in the Temple, proclaiming the Theotokos and magnifying her before all present.

### **KATAVASIA OF NINTH ODE OF THE PRESENTATION CANON IN TONE THREE**

*O Theotokos, \* thou hope of all Christians; \* keep and shelter and preserve \* them that set their hope in thee.*

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful contemplate a prefiguring: Every male child that openeth the womb is holy unto God. Therefore, do we magnify the first-born Word, the Son of the Father Who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who hath not known wedlock.

### **THE LITTLE LITANY**

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **THE EXAPOSTELARION FOR THE PRESENTATION IN TONE THREE**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

While standing in the Temple's courts, \* having come in the Spirit, \* the Elder took into his arms \* the Law's Master, and cried out: \* Lord, let me now depart in peace \* from the shackles of the flesh \* as Thou hast said; for mine eyes have \* seen the full revelation \* that shall lighten the nations, \* and Israel's own salvation. (*thrice*)

### AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE FOUR

Choir: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.  
Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels; praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

#### For the Presentation in Tone Four (\*\*Unto them that fear Thee\*\*)

*Verse 1. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

Wishing to fulfill the written Law, the Savior and Friend of man \* is brought into the Temple's courts; \* and into his aged arms \* Simeon the Elder \* taketh Him and crieth: Now dost Thou grant me to depart \* unto the blessedness that is found beyond; \* for on this day have I beheld Thee wrapped about with our mortal flesh, \* Who dost rule as the Lord of life \* and hast sovereignty over death.

*Verse 2. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*  
Wishing to fulfill the written Law ... (repeat above)

*Verse 3. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*  
As a light of revelation for the nations hast Thou appeared, \* O Divine Sun of Righteousness; \* for Thou hast shined forth, O Lord, \* seated on a swift cloud, \* perfectly fulfilling the shadow of the ancient Law, \* bringing to light the beginning of new Grace; \* and when he had beheld thee, Simeon the Elder cried out to Thee: \* From corruption let me depart, \* for today I have seen Thee, Lord.

*Verse 4. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*  
Leaving not the Father's bosom in Thy sovereign Divinity, \* Thou wast made flesh in Thy good will; \* and Thou wast held in the arms \* of the Ever-virgin \* and placed in the hands of the God-receiver, Simeon, \* Thou Who dost hold all creation in Thy hand. \* In joy, therefore, he cried: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace. \* For, O Master, in very truth, \* I have seen Thee, the Lord of all.

### THE DOXASTICON OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE SIX

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

O Thou Who hast been well pleased to recline today in venerable old arms as on the chariot of Cherubim, O Christ God: call us back also, who sing Thy praise, and deliver us from the tyranny of the passions, and save our souls.

### THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE SIX

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

#### **APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

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