Great Vespers of Sunday, November 22, 2026; Tone 8
After-feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

Apostles Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos of the Seventy;
Martyr Cecilia of Rome and those with her; Venerable Iakovos of Evia

(served on the evening prior)

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

Reader: Amen.
Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take

their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

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

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

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.

"LORD, I HAVE CRIED" IN TONE EIGHT (**KAZAN**) (**KARAM**) (**STAM**)

Choir: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; hearken unto me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; attend to the voice of my supplication when I cry unto Thee; hearken unto, me O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth as incense before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice; hearken unto me, O Lord.

+ Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.
+ Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.
+ With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.
+ The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.
+ For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.
+ They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.
+ For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.
+ Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.
+ The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.
+ With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.
+ I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.
+ When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.
+ In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.
+ I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.
+ Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.
+ I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.
+ Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.
+ Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

For the Resurrection from the Octoechos in Tone Eight (**STAM**)

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Thy Name.*
An evening hymn and rational adoration do we offer unto Thee, O Christ; for Thou wast well pleased to have mercy on us, through the Resurrection.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.*
Lord, O Lord, cast us not away from Thy presence, but be well pleased to have mercy on us, through the Resurrection.

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.*
Rejoice, O holy Sion, thou mother of the churches and dwelling place of God; for thou wast first to receive remission of sins, through the Resurrection.

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*
The Word, Who was begotten of God the Father before the ages, and Who in these latter times was incarnate of her who knew not wedlock, hath, of His own will, endured crucifixion and death, and, by the Resurrection, hath saved man who was slain of old.

Verse 6. *If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*
We glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, whereby Thou didst free the race of Adam from the tyranny of Hades; and, as God, Thou hast bestowed upon the world life everlasting and great mercy.

Verse 5. *For Thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*
Glory be to Thee, O Christ Saviour, Only begotten Son of God, Who wast nailed to the Cross and didst arise from the tomb on the third day.

For the After-feast in Tone Eight (****O strange wonder****)

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*
O strange wonder, great and marvelous! * Today by visible signs * are prefigured things spiritual, * even that ineffable * thing that soon shall be brought to pass. * For she who shone the divine Light on the world * unto God's temple is now led as a bride. * Her let us loudly praise * as the wondrous, holy, ever-luminous * temple of the Godhead of the Light-bestower, Christ.

Verse 3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*
O strange wonder, great and marvelous … (*repeat above*)

Verse 2. *O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.*
Now wise Joachim and Anna bring * a first-fruit pleasing in truth * unto Him Who had graciously * thought it good to give to them, * as divine fruit, the Child of God, * the Maiden Mary, through whom the penalty * of sorrow levied upon us was annulled. * Her let us praise in song * piously with gladness; for she is become * the august provider of great joy for all the world.

Verse 1. *For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.*
Come, let us all gather mystically; * come, let us strike up a song, * and illumined with lamps of faith, * let us sing the Virgin's praise * and her progress in majesty. * Ent'ring God's temple with glory and with lights, * she is betrothed by the Spirit wondrously. * Let us now celebrate * her delightful festival with godly joy, * reveling upon her Entry in the temple today.

DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE EIGHT

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
After thou wast born, O Bride of God and Sovereign Lady, thou camest to the temple of the Lord to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, as one holy; and Gabriel was then sent to thee, the all-blameless, bringing nourishment to thee. All the Heavens were astonished, beholding the Holy Spirit make His dwelling in thee. Wherefore, O spotless and undefiled Virgin, who art glorified in Heaven and on earth, O Mother of God, save our race.

THEOTOKION FROM THE OCTOECHOS IN TONE EIGHT (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

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

The King of the Heavens, out of love for man, hath appeared on earth and lived among men. For He that hath taken of the pure Virgin, and come forth from her with what He hath received, is one Son, two-fold of nature, but not in hypostasis. Wherefore, proclaiming Him as truly perfect God and perfect man, we confess Christ our God. Do thou beseech Him, O Mother who knewest not wedlock, to have mercy on our souls.

- *When "both now" is chanted, the clergy make the entrance with the censer.*

Deacon: Wisdom. Stand upright.

GLADSOME LIGHT (**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

Choir: Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. In that we are come unto the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we hymn thee: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God. For meet it is that at all times thou shouldest be magnified by voices holy, O Son of God who bestowest life; for which cause all the world doth glorify thee.

Deacon: The evening prokeimenon.

SATURDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: The Lord is king; He is clothed with majesty. (*once*)

Verse 1. *The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself. (Refrain)*

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken. (Refrain)*

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee hearken and have mercy.

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) to this and the remaining petitions.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (and our bishop, N.).

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (and for the servants of God, NN.,) and all of our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

Priest: 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.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen.

Let thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord; teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

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

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

The choir responds "Grant this, O Lord" to this and the remaining petitions.

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

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 thou art a good 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.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

- *All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

Priest: O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE EIGHT (**KAZAN**) (**STAM**)

Thou didst ascend the Cross, O Jesus, Who didst descend from Heaven. Thou camest unto death, O Immortal Life. Thou camest unto those in darkness, O Thou Who art the True Light. Thou camest unto the fallen, O Resurrection off all. O our Light and our Saviour, glory be to Thee.

Verse 1. *The Lord is king; He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Let us glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead. For, taking upon Himself soul and body, He separated one from the other by His passion. His immaculate soul descended into Hades, which also He despoiled; and the holy Body of the Redeemer of our souls knew no corruption in the grave.

Verse 2. *For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

With psalms and hymns we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, whereby Thou didst free us from the tyranny of Hades; and as God Thou didst bestow life everlasting and great mercy.

Verse 3. *Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*

O Master of all, incomprehensible Maker of heaven and earth, by Thy passion upon the Cross Thou hast become a well-spring of dispassion for me; and by accepting burial and arising in glory, Thou didst raise up Adam also with Thine almighty hand. Glory to Thine arising on the third day, whereby Thou hast granted unto us life everlasting and forgiveness of sins, since Thou alone art compassionate.

DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE TWO

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

Today the all-blameless Virgin is presented in the Temple for the abode of God, the King of all, the Nourisher of all our souls. Today the all-pure holiness doth enter into the Holy of Holies, as a three-year ewe. Wherefore, let us, like the angel, hail her, saying, Rejoice, O thou who alone art blessed among women.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT (KAZAN) (CROW-MP3)

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom.

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May he who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—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 and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of Saint N. (*patron saint of the church*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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