Festal Orthros on November 21
Entrance of the Theotokos

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 canst not 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) to each petition.

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.

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 FOUR

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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

(**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

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. (*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.

KATHISMATA HYMNS OF THE ENTRANCE

First Kathisma in Tone One (****The soldiers standing guard****)

Just Joachim and Anna have worthily offered * their holy fruit to God in the Holy of Holies * while yet a child in the flesh, she the nourisher of our life. * Unto her, the sacred Zacharias gave blessing; * let us all in faith pronounce her blessed, for she is * the Mother of God the Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Just Joachim and Anna ... (*repeat above*)

Second Kathisma in Tone Four (****Joseph was amazed****)

Thou, before thou wast conceived, * wast consecrated unto God; * being born on earth, thou art * offered to Him now as a gift, * thereby fulfilling the promise made by thy parents. * Within God's temple, thou, * thyself the temple of God, * from pure infancy * art offered with bright lamps * and consecrated as the vessel * of divine Light unapproachable. * O only Bride of God and Ever-virgin, * great in truth is thy progress.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Thou, before thou wast conceived ... (*repeat above*)

"A GOOD WORD" (FROM PSALM 44) IN TONE ONE (EL MASSIH) (BP. BASIL)

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.

POLYELEOS HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE EIGHT

(**When the bodiless one**)

Let the great hymn-writer David be exultant; * let Joachim and Anna dance for joy and gladness, * for a sacred and hallowed child is come forth from them: * pure Mary, the most divine and light-bearing lamp; * and coming into the temple, she doth rejoice. * Whereupon, Barachias' son * beheld and blessed her straightway * and joyfully cried out to her: * Rejoice, thou marvel of all the world.

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

Let the great hymn-writer David ... (*repeat above*)

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR (KAZAN) (STAM)

+ From my youth do many passions war against me; but do Thou Thyself defend and save me, O my Saviour. (*twice*)
+ Ye haters of Sion shall be shamed by the Lord; for, like grass, by the fire shall ye be withered. (*twice*)
+ *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*
+ In the Holy Spirit every soul is quickened, and through cleansing is exalted and made radiant by the Triple Unity in a hidden, sacred manner.
+ *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
+ By the Holy Spirit, the streams of grace gush forth, watering all creation for the begetting of life.

PROKEIMENON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear, and forget thy people and thy father's house. (*twice*)

***Stichos**: My heart overfloweth with a good word.*

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear, and forget thy people and thy father's house.

"LET EVERY BREATH" (KAZAN) (STAM)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For holy art thou, O our God, who restest in the holies, 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 every breath praise the Lord. (*twice*)

Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Let every 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 (1:39-49, 56).

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord. Glory to thee.

Deacon: Let us attend.

To be read from the Beautiful Gate

Priest: In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

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 builded. 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 (**HERRON**) (**KAZAN**)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Today the living temple, the temple of the great King, entereth into the Temple, to prepare a divine abode. Wherefore, O ye nations, rejoice.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Today the living temple, the temple of the great King, entereth into the Temple, to prepare a divine abode. Wherefore, O ye nations, rejoice.

(TONE FOUR) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression.*
Today, the God-containing temple, the Theotokos, shall be presented in the Temple of the Lord and be received by Zachariah. Today the Holy of Holies rejoiceth, and the ranks of angels celebrate mystically. Wherefore, today as we celebrate with them, we shout with Gabriel, Rejoice, O full of grace, the grace of the Lord Who possesseth the Great Mercy is with thee.

THE INTERCESSION[1]

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, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we 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, all-laudable and foremost of the 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 in Lycia, 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-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleftherios; of the holy, glorious and great women martyrs Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life; of N. (the patron saint of the church); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all thy saints, we beseech thee, O only most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto thee and have mercy on us.

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

Priest: Through the mercy 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.

[1] Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE ENTRANCE (**Plain Reading**)

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

As I see the grace of God's ineffable and divine mysteries manifestly shown and fulfilled in the Virgin, I rejoice, and I find no way to understand the strange and unutterable manner whereby the immaculate Maiden alone is shown to be elect above all creation, both that which is visible, and that which is apprehended with the mind. Wherefore, while wishing to acclaim her, I am exceedingly amazed in mind and reason; yet with daring I proclaim her and magnify her: for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

THE SYNAXARION (**Plain Reading**)

On November 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple.

Verses

Within the temple, Gabriel feedeth thee, O Maid,
And shortly he shall come and shall say to thee: Rejoice.
On the twenty-first Mary entereth the sacred fane.

Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the three-year-old Most-holy Virgin, led by her father and mother. The Virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 44:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers. Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zachariah, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. Zachariah "was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain—otherwise, his action could not be explained. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

KATAVASIAE OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE (**HTM**) (**KAZAN**)

Ode 1 (1). Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ is come from Heaven, receive ye Him. Christ is on earth, be ye exalted. Sing unto the Lord all the earth and sing praises in gladness, O ye peoples; for He hath been glorified.

Ode 3 (1). To the Son Who was begotten of the Father before the ages without change, and in these last days was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God let us cry aloud: Thou Who hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

Ode 4 (1). Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, Thou hast sprung from the Virgin; from the mountain densely overshadowed hast Thou come, O Praised One, made flesh of her that knew not wedlock. O Thou Who art immateriate and God, glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Ode 5 (1). Since Thou art the God of peace and the Father of mercies, Thou hast sent unto us Thine Angel of Great Counsel, granting us peace. Wherefore, having been guided to the light of divine knowledge, and watching by night, we glorify Thee, O Friend of man.

Ode 6 (1). The sea-monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him like a babe from the womb; while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh, came forth from her yet kept her incorrupt. For being Himself not subject to corruption, He preserved His Mother free from harm.

Ode 7 (1). Scorning the impious decree, the Children brought up in godliness feared not the threat of fire, but standing in the midst of the flames, they chanted: O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.
Ode 8 (1). The furnace moist with dew was the image and figure of a wonder past nature; for it burned not the Youths whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended. Wherefore in praise let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord, and supremely exalt Him unto all the ages.

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

NINTH ODE OF THE FIRST CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR
(**KAZAN**) (**KARAM**)

Beholding the Entry of the all-pure one, the angels' hosts were sore amazed, how the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies.
Let the hand of the uninitiated in no wise touch the living ark of God; and let the lips of the faithful chant unceasingly to the Theotokos with the voice of the Angel; and let them shout in gladness: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

Beholding the Entry of the all-pure one, the angels' hosts were sore amazed, how the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies.
With exceeding bright beauty of soul, and wholly filled with grace from God in Heaven, thou, O all-pure Lady Theotokos, dost forever illuminate with the everlasting light them that cry in gladness of spirit: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

Beholding the Entry of the all-pure one, the angels' hosts were sore amazed, how the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies.
Thy great marvel doth soar high above the power of all words, O Theotokos; for I do perceive in thee a body inexpressibly pure and beyond the flow and force of sin. Hence, I cry to thee with thanksgiving: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

Let angels and us men render honor to the Entry of the Virgin Maid, for with glory she hath entered into the Holy of Holies.
O pure Lady, the Law wondrously prefigured thee as holy tabernacle, divine urn of manna and a strange ark, indestructible temple, and veil, and rod, and gate of God; hence, it teacheth all to cry to thee: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

Beholding the Entry of the pure Virgin, the angels' hosts were sore amazed, how in God-pleasing manner she entered into the Holy of Holies.
When he sang to thee, David proclaimed thee Daughter of the King, as he beheld thee standing at God's right hand, O pure Lady, in the beauty of virtue, with varied colors all adorned. Hence, he prophesied of thee, crying: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

O ye angels, with the saints leap in gladness; ye virgins, dance for joy with them, for the Child of God is entered into the Holy of Holies.
On foreseeing how thou wouldst bear God, O Lady, wise King Solomon spake darkly, calling thee the King's gate and the living and sealed spring whence the unsullied water issued forth to us, who cry out with faith and rejoicing: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

O ye angels, and men with hymns of praises, the Virgin let us magnify, for she hath divinely entered into the Holy of Holies.
Through thy gifts, grant thy peace to my soul, and pour forth life to all them that revere thee as is right and due, O Theotokos; and do thou of thyself comfort, help, and shelter, and preserve them that cry to thee with sincere faith: Truly thou art more exalted than all things, O pure Virgin.

NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE ONE (KAZAN) (KARAM)

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led into the temple of the Lord and blessed by the hands of the priests.
The Child of God, blessed Mary, the holy fruit of a promise, from righteous Joachim and Anna was born and is come forth; and she is offered as well-pleasing incense while yet a small child in the flesh in the Lord's holy temple, that the holy in the Holies might abide.

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led…
Let us with hymns laud and honor the little infant by nature who was shown forth to be the Mother of God past all nature; for she is truly offered to the Lord in the temple of the Law today for a sweet-smelling savor, as her righteous parents' spiritual fruit.

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led…
Come, as is meet, O ye faithful, let us cry out with the Angel to greet the Mother of our God with: Rejoice, Bride all-comely; rejoice, O cloud of light, from whom the Lord hath shined forth upon us, who once sat in the miserable darkness of deep ignorance; rejoice, thou hope of all.

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led…
The whole creation now joineth with Angel Gabriel crying a worthy hymn and song of praise to the pure Theotokos: Rejoice, O holy and all-blameless Mother of God, through whom we are redeemed from the curse of aforetime and partake of incorruptibility.

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led…
O thou most Holy of Holies, O all-pure Mary, God's Mother, by thine entreaties, set us free from the enemy's meshes; from every heresy, from every error and tribulation rescue us, who most faithfully worship the blest icon of thy holy countenance.

Magnify, O my soul, her that was led…

Above the Cherubim's orders, beyond the Seraphim's regions, thou hast been shown forth as more spacious than all of the Heavens, for in thy womb thou hast contained our God, Whom the universe cannot contain, and hast borne Him past telling; Whom entreat, O Virgin, earnestly for us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Magnify, O my soul, the dominion of the undivided Godhead of Three Hypostases.
Piously worshipping Father, with Son and All-holy Spirit, come, let us sing the indivisible Trinity's praises, the undivided Glory and the Nature in three divine Hypostases in one singular Godhead hymned unceasingly in Heaven and on earth.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Magnify, O my soul, her that is more honorable and more glorious than the hosts on high.
For those who flee with sincere faith under thy tender compassion, O Virgin Mother of our God, and who piously worship thy Son as God and Lord of all the world, do thou supplicate Him earnestly to redeem them from perils, from corruption and temptations of all kinds.

KATAVASIA OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 9 (1). (HTM) (KAZAN)

Magnify, O my soul, her that is more honorable and more glorious than the hosts on high.
A strange and marvelous mystery do I behold; the cave is a heaven; the Virgin a cherubic throne; the manger a space wherein Christ God the Uncontainable One hath reclined. Him do we praise and magnify.

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 EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE TWO

(****Hearken, ye women****)
Let us acclaim with faith and joy * her whom the Prophets' company * foretold of old as a vessel, * and as a rod and a tablet, * and as a mountain never hewn, * Mary, the holy Child of God; * for she is led in on this day * into the Holy of Holies * to be brought up for the Lord God. (*thrice*)

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE (KAZAN) (KARAM)

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To Thee is due praise, O God.

Choir: Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts. To Thee is due praise, O God.

For the Entrance in Tone One (**_Thou art the joy_**)

Verse 1. *Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the multitude of his greatness.*
As they resplendently lead in the Ever-virgin Maid, * lamp-bearing virgins clearly show the future in spirit; * for since she herself is the temple of God, * to the temple of God the Lord * the Theotokos is led from her tender youth * with the glory of virginity.

Verse 2. *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*
The Theotokos, a holy promise's glorious fruit, * is shown to all of mankind as exalted above all; * and she doth fulfill what her parents had vowed, * as in all godly piety * she is escorted now into the house of God, * the Divine Spirit preserving her.

Verse 3. *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.*
In the Lord's temple with faith thou wast raised on heavenly bread, * whereafter thou, O Virgin, didst conceive for the whole world * the Word, the Bread of Life, to Whom thou wast betrothed * as a temple elect and pure * by the Divine Spirit mystically, and wast wed * unto God the Father blamelessly.

Verse 4. *Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.*
Now let the gate of the temple of God be opened wide; * for she who is the temple and throne of the King of all * today is brought in glory by Joachim, who * consecrateth her to the Lord, * Who had Himself truly chosen her out of all * to become His Mother in the flesh.

THE DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE TWO (HERRON) (KAZAN)

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 GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE TWO (KAZAN) (STAM)

+ Glory to Thee, Who hast shown forth 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 to Thee for Thy great glory.
+ O Lord King, heavenly God, Father almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.
+ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy on us, Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
+ Receive our prayer, Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
+ For Thou alone art holy, Thou alone art the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
+ Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever, and unto the ages of ages.
+ Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

+ Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.
+ Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have hoped in thee.
+ Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)
+ Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
+ O Lord, to Thee have I fled for refuge; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
+ For in Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light we shall see light.
+ Continue Thy mercy unto those who 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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR
(**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

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.

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