

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021
LEAVE-TAKING (APODOSIS) OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
& GREAT-MARTYR KATHERINE THE ALL-WISE OF ALEXANDRIA**

MARTYR MERCURIOS OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYR MERCURIOS OF SMOLENSK

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter in thereat. (*Refrain*)

Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Entrance of the Theotokos. Then, the following:*

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *Now sing these apolytikia in the following order.*

APOLYTIKION OF 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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT-MARTYR IN TONE FIVE

(***Let us worship the Word***)

Let us praise the all-lauded and noble bride of Christ, * the godly Katherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, * who is also our support and succor and our help; * for with the Holy Spirit's sword * she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; * and being crowned as a Martyr, she now doth ask great mercy for us all.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple ONLY IF St. Katherine is not the patron saint of your temple.*

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

(***Thou Who wast raised up***)(CHANT) (CHORAL)

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.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Katherine the Great-Martyr)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

THE GOSPEL

(For St. Katherine the Great-Martyr)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (5:24-34)

At that time, a great crowd followed Jesus and thronged about Him. And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she

said, “If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well.” And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone forth from Him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, “Who touched my garments?” And His disciples said to Him, “Thou seest the crowd pressing around Thee, and yet Thou sayest, ‘Who touched me?’” And Jesus looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. And Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

- *If pastors wish, they may read the famous Thanksgiving Day sermon of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. It was the last sermon he preached shortly before his repose in 1983.*

“THANK YOU, O LORD!” A SERMON FOR THANKSGIVING DAY BY FR. ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN

- + Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed”: Your eternal Kingdom.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for this school¹, where the Name of God is proclaimed.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.
- + Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.
- + Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.
- + Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

MEGALYNARION OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

The Angels beholding the entrance of the all-pure one were overtaken by surprise; how hath the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since thou art a living temple of God, O Theotokos, no impure hand shall touch thee. But the lips of believers, let them ceaselessly laud thee, crying unto thee joyfully with the voice of the angels, Verily, O undefiled Virgin, thou art more exalted than all creatures.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THE SAINT IN TONE EIGHT

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; she shall not be afraid of evil tidings.
Alleluia.

¹ St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary of New York

- *Post-Communion Hymn: “We have seen the true light.”*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May 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 our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and glorious Great-martyrs Katherine the all-wise of Alexandria and Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk, whose memory we celebrate today, 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 upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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