

THE 8th DAY OF THE MONTH OF JULY
(& THE 22nd DAY OF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER)
COMMEMORATION OF THE KAZAN ICON OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
AT GREAT VESPERS

We chant “Blessed is the man ...,” the first antiphon
On “Lord, I have cried ...,” 8 Stichera of the icon: 4 in Tone IV:
Spec. Mel: “As one valiant among the martyrs ...”:

As the most comely palace of the Word * and His light-bearing throne, O Lady Theotokos, * thou didst contain within thy womb * the Word Who is co-enthroned with the Father. * And having given birth unto the never-waning Light, * thou hast brought light to our darkness, * hast driven away the delusion of the serpent and destroyed corruption, * and by thy birthgiving hast granted everlasting life to the world. * Thou hast opened the gates of paradise * and bestowed all manner of blessings upon human nature. * And now, do thou by thy supplications, O Sovereign Lady, ** deliver thy servants from all misfortunes.

As thou art the great Queen * and Mother of the King of the exalted hosts in heaven, * stretching forth thy most pure hands, * thou dost intercede for us with supplication; * and on earth, as a mighty helper, * thou abidest with thy servants in spirit and in thy divine icon, * and dost gladly save * and deliverest from all temptation ** those who piously confess thee to be the Theotokos.

As a paradise of golden radiance, * a most comely palace of divine light, * a holy tree overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, * a habitation of the never-waning Light, * shining manifestly with divine splendor upon those who know thee, * thou dost illumine all creation with thine Infant; * and entreating Him, O Queen and Theotokos, * deliver from all misfortunes ** all Orthodox hierarchs and people who flee to thee.

The Church of God, made splendid * with the icon of thee and thy Son, O Theotokos, * as with royal purple and fine linen, * is adorned with miracles. * Today, at the revelation of thine image, it calleth all to celebrate, * shining with the grace of the Holy Spirit more brightly than the radiance of the sun, * pouring forth streams of healing * upon the sick and the infirm, ** and granting rich mercy unto all.

And these Stichera, in Tone VIII:

O Jesus, exalted and unapproachable King, Who art enthroned with the Father and the divine Spirit, and Who wast well-pleased to be born on earth of the Virgin who tasted not of wedlock: taking pity on thy creation, bestowing ineffable beauties upon human nature, accept Thou the supplications of Thy Mother which are offered to Thee on our behalf; and be not mindful of our iniquities, but, as Thou art compassionate, remember us and save our souls. **(Twice)**

Bowing down the heavens, the King of glory condescended to restore Adam who had become all corrupt through his transgression, making His abode within thee, O pure Virgin, He was born without violating the seal of thy virginity, and, though King of the archangels, was carried in thine arms as a lowly Babe. And now He accepteth thine entreaties, and fulfilleth thy petitions in all things, in that He is thy Son and God. Therefore, beseech Him earnestly, that He save our souls, in that He is compassionate.

More than the tabernacle of Moses, which was fashioned according to a heavenly plan, God wholly hallowed thee with the Holy Spirit, O Theotokos; and, having dwelt wholly within thee, He hath given life to all mankind. Wherefore, thine icon also hath been filled with the grace of God more than the ark of Aaron, pouring forth sanctification upon souls and bodies. And bowing down with love before it, we ask of thee great mercy, and salvation for our souls, O blessed helper.

Glory ..., Both now ..., in Tone VIII:

Come, let us rejoice in the mighty helper of our race, the Queen and Theotokos! Come, let us bow down before her serene and precious image, which is venerated by the angels! For the Theotokos giveth abundant gifts of healing to the faithful, pouring forth never-failing grace from the inexhaustible wellspring of her holy icon, delivering from the darkness of temptations and misfortunes, and from every sin, those who piously and in a God-pleasing manner glorify and honor her radiant and wondrous holy icon. Wherefore, chanting, we cry aloud to the prototype thereof: Rejoice, O loving help of the world, in the salvation of our souls!

Entrance. Prokeimenon of the Day. And three lessons:

READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS (28:10-17).

And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt be spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said; How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

READING FROM THE PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL (43:27-44:4).

The Lord said: it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings: and I will accept you, saith the Lord God. Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the Lord unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord the God of Israel hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut. It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same. Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

READING FROM THE PROVERBS (9:1-11).

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: she hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding, for by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

At the Litiya, the Sticheron of the temple, and these Stichera:

In Tone II: Thine icon, O Theotokos, is truly more venerable than the ark of old before which David danced, having assembled the ranks of Israel, for the councils of hierarchs with the ranks of the angels, kings and princes, and all the multitude of the Christian people stand now before it, blessing thee, the Mother of God; and glorifying thee as befitteth servants, honoring and bowing down before thee; they pray to thee, after God, that the world be granted peace in Orthodoxy, the scepters of kings be made steadfast, and thy servants be saved from all evils, in that thou art blessed.

Before thine image, O most pure Sovereign Lady Theotokos, stand the company of hierarchs, kings and princes, and all the people, monastics and laity, who know thee truly to be a powerful and invincible helper; and they are moved to offer thee supplications with all their soul, and are impelled to pray to God, in need of thine aid, that thou mightest stretch forth thy God-bearing hands and pray for the world. Hearken thou and give ear, O Lady, and grant consolation to thy servants, lest our heavy and grievous sins gain the victory over us; for we are all ever in need of thine assistance.

In Tone VI: When first thine icon was painted by Luke, the Evangelist of the mysteries of the Gospel, and was brought to thee, O Queen, that thou mightest make it thine own and impart to it the power to save those who honor thee, thou didst rejoice; and as thou art the merciful collaborator in our salvation, in that once thou didst conceive God in thy womb, thou didst chant a hymn to the icon, giving mouth and voice thereto: “Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed!”, and, gazing at it thou didst say with authority: “My grace and power are with this image!” And we truly believe what thou didst say, O Sovereign Lady, for in this image thou art with us. Wherefore, standing reverently before it, we thy servants bow down before thee. Visit us with thy maternal compassion.

In Tone VII: A great and most glorious mountain art thou, O Theotokos, surpassing Mount Sinai. For, unable to bear the descent of the glory of God in types and shadows, it caught on fire, and thunder and lightning struck it; but thou, being the most divine light, bore the Word of God in thy womb without being consumed, and with the milk of thy breasts didst nurture Him Who holdeth all things in His hand. And now, as thou dost possess maternal boldness toward Him, O Lady, help those who faithfully celebrate thine honored festival, and visiting us in thy mercy, forget us not; for thou hast received from God the gift of ordering and protecting the Christian flock, thy servants.

Glory ..., Both now ..., in Tone VI:

To thee do all the generations of mankind offer gifts of praise, entreating thee as Queen and the Mother of God: the prophets proclaimed thee most wisely, the Levites blessed thee, the apostles and martyrs confessed thee, kings and princes bow down before thee, hierarchs proclaim thee, monks and layfolk render thee reverence, rich and poor, orphans and widows, and mortals of every age and station, old and young, flee beneath thy mighty protection with faith. By thy prayers, O Sovereign Lady, protect and preserve us, and save our souls from misfortunes.

On the Aposticha, these Stichera, in Tone VIII:

O Theotokos, thou honored habitation of the most pure Light, how can we, thy slaves, worthily hymn thee? For by the revelation of the most pure icon of thee and the pre-eternal Infant all are sanctified.

Verse: I shall commemorate thy name * in every generation and generation.

O undefiled Virgin, full of divine joy, what thanks can we ever offer unto thee? For by the most radiant effulgence of thy blessed birthgiving thou hast led all up from corruption to life.

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and see, * and incline thine ear.

O Virgin Sovereign Lady, Mother of the Creator, joy of the ranks of heaven and blessed helper of the human race, pray for the salvation of our souls.

Glory ..., Both now ..., in Tone V:

O ye people, let us splendidly chant the hymn of David to the Maiden Bride of God, the Mother of Christ the King: At Thy right hand stood the Queen, O Master, arrayed in a vesture of in-woven gold and adorned with divine splendors. Making her more beautiful than all the world, in that she is good and elect among women, Thou wast well-pleased to be born of her in Thy great mercy, and hast given her as a helper to Thy people, to save and protect them from misfortunes by Thine omnipotent and divine power. By her supplications, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

At the blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion, in Tone IV:

O earnest helper, Mother of the Lord Most High, * thou dost entreat Christ, thy Son and our God, on behalf of all, * and causest all who have recourse to thy mighty protection to be saved. * O Sovereign Lady and Queen, help us all who, amid temptations, sorrows and sickness, * are heavy laden with many sins, * who stand before thee and with tears pray to thee before thy most pure image * with compunctionate soul and contrite heart, * and who have unfailing hope in thee: * grant deliverance from all evils, and things profitable unto all, * O Virgin Theotokos, save us all, ** for thou art the divine protection of thy servants. (Thrice)

AT MATINS

On “God is the Lord ...,” the Troparion of the most holy Theotokos, in Tone IV:

O earnest helper, Mother of the Lord Most High, * thou dost entreat Christ, thy Son and our God, on behalf of all, * and causest all who have recourse to thy mighty protection to be saved. * O Sovereign Lady and Queen, help us all who, amid temptations, sorrows and sickness, * are heavy laden with many sins, * who stand before thee and with tears pray to thee before thy most pure image * with compunctionate soul and contrite heart, * and who have unfailing hope in thee: * grant deliverance from all evils, and things profitable unto all, * O Virgin Theotokos, save us all, ** for thou art the divine protection of thy servants. (Thrice)

After the 1st chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone III:

O pious people, ye assemblies of Orthodox Christians, draw ye all nigh with faith, falling down before the divine image of the Mother of God; for she joyfully granteth healing to all the ailing, woundeth the heretical like a shaft from a bow, maketh us all radiantly glad, and illumineth us with grace by her supplications.

Glory ..., Both now ..., in Tone III:

God made thee a wholly good and undefiled Virgin among women, having prefigured thee honorably through the prophets; and having blessed thee by His priests, He caused thee to dwell in the Holy of Holies and nurtured thee by an angel, giving thee bread from heaven. And the same supremely good One, the only-begotten Word of God, made His abode within thee and issued forth from thee in the flesh. Wherefore, we worship and honor thee truly as the true Theotokos.

After the 2nd chanting of the Psalter, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone IV:

Let all the multitude of the faithful radiantly join chorus, and let the army of the demons lament, beholding the manifold feasts of the Mother of God shining forth, praising the blessed Mother of God with divine hymns. For where the most blessed Lady Theotokos, the divinely elect Maiden, is glorified in God-pleasing manner, there are the fall of wickedness and the mighty confirmation of Christians.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone IV:

O most blessed Lady Theotokos, divinely elect Maiden, splendid fulfillment of the words of the prophets, boast of the apostles, crown and confession of the martyrs, greatly hymned one who art honored by the angels and the generations of mankind, longed-for helper of the whole world: deliver thy servants from future damnation and the lake of fire, O thou who alone art blessed.

At the Polyeleos, this Magnification: We magnify thee, O most holy Virgin, and we honor thy holy image, whereby thou pourest forth healings upon all who with faith have recourse unto thee.

Selected Psalm verse:

A: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness.

After the Polyeleos, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone I:

O Mother of God, save those who honor thee in an Orthodox manner, and flee to thee, and lovingly bow down before thy holy icon; and give us not over to our adversaries as plunder, neither let all the evils which our sins have prepared for us come upon us, nor let our iniquities gain ascendancy over our heads; but may thy God-pleasing maternal prayers to God win the victory.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone I:

Thy most pure icon, O Virgin Theotokos, is a source of spiritual healing for the whole world; and having recourse thereto, we bow down before thee, and venerate, kiss and honor it, drawing forth therefrom the grace of healing of bodily infirmities and the passions of the spirit; and thus are we freed by thy supplications.

Song of Ascents, the first antiphon of Tone IV.

Prokeimenon, in Tone IV: I shall commemorate thy name * in every generation and generation.

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Let every breath praise the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE, §4 (LK I :39-49, 56)

And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zechariah, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: and she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, Lo! as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name. And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

After Psalm 50, this Sticheron, in Tone VIII:

Come, let us rejoice in the mighty helper of our race, the Queen and Theotokos! Come, let us bow down before her serene, wondrous and precious image, which is venerated by the angels! For the Theotokos giveth abundant gifts of healing to the faithful, pouring forth never-failing grace from the inexhaustible well-spring of her holy icon. She delivereth from the darkness of temptations and misfortunes, and from every sin, us who piously and in God-pleasing manner glorify and honor the radiant and wondrous holy icon of the Mother of God. Wherefore, chanting, we cry aloud to the prototype thereof: Rejoice, O loving help of the world, in the salvation of our souls!

ODE I

Canon to the Directress, the most holy Theotokos, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos, the composition of the priest-monk Ignatius, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

O pure one, joyously do I now offer my foremost praise: Rejoice! And with a gladsome voice I cry out to thee, O Directress: Rejoice, and fill me with understanding as I begin to hymn thee!

Rejoice, O all-hymned one who hast given birth unto Christ our everlasting Joy! O Directress, thou hope of the Orthodox, all-hymned Virgin, fill me with the joy which the world hath desired.

All mankind and angels join chorus, ever crying out together in heaven and on earth, O Directress: Rejoice, O Virgin, for by thy birthgiving thou hast filled all things with joy!

O Directress, grant joy unto those who with fear cry out to thee Rejoice!, in that thou art the Mother of joy who deliverest from all tribulations; and have mercy on all who have recourse to thee.

Another canon of the feast, with 8 Troparia, in the same tone:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and be filled with the Spirit, * and utter discourse to the Queen and Mother; * and be seen radiantly keeping festival, * joyfully praising her wonders.

The leaders of the angels reverence thee, O Theotokos; and the ranks of the saints serve thee with honor; the righteous adorn themselves and bless thee as the mediatrix of heavenly things; heaven and earth together praise thee splendidly in gladness. And we sinners ask mercy: Illumine our hearts, O Lady, that we may chant a hymn to the revelation of thy holy icon.

Come ye, O Christian people, having mystically cleansed your minds, and assemble in the holy church of the Mother of Christ our God; for from her holy icon there poureth forth upon us inexhaustibly a spiritual well-spring which healeth the souls and bodies of those who cry out in song: Blessed is our God Who was born of thee!

The strange wonder of thy divine birthgiving striketh every ear with wonder and awe, O most immaculate one: how thou didst conceive the Creator of the cherubim; how thou didst bear in the flesh Him Who is life and for the whole world didst give birth to life: the God-man!

Beneath thy shelter do all we, the generations of mankind, flee, O Virgin Sovereign Lady. With the light of thy birthgiving enlighten us, thy sinful servants who earnestly pray, bowing down before thy most pure icon, asking to receive from thee great mercy.

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, ...

ODE III

First Canon

Irmos: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

Rejoice, O unshakable, pure and animate palace of Christ the King Most High! Rejoice, O Directress, Rejoice! For by thee is our city preserved intact!

In thy womb which tasted not of wedlock thou didst bodily contain Him Whom Creation cannot contain, O Virgin Directress. Wherefore, magnifying thee as is meet, we chant Rejoice!

O all-hymned joy of the world, ever hymning thee with joy, O pure one, we are vouchsafed everlasting joy by thy maternal supplications unto Him Who was born of thee, O Directress.

O Directress, we invoke thee as the golden jar, the candlestick, the rod and the table, O pure one, and we ever raise the cry Rejoice! to thee.

Second Canon

Irmos: O Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * establish in spiritual fellowship those who sing hymns to thee, * and in thy divine glory * grant them crowns of glory.

What worthy praise can our utter infirmity offer thee? For through the manifestation of thy most pure, divine icon thou pourest forth bountiful streams of healing upon thy servants who faithfully have recourse to thee.

The holy revelation of thy divine icon, O Virgin Theotokos, hath shone upon us like a radiant sun, emitting rays of most glorious miracles, and dispelling a myriad of evil circumstances by thy sacred intercessions, O Lady.

Thou didst once fill thy first-painted icon with grace, O Virgin Sovereign Lady Theotokos; and now that same grace speaketh forth truly in the effulgence of the wonders of faith, as the first one did for the sake of thee who wast first depicted thereon, unto those who with faith have recourse to thee after God.

We bow down before the most pure image of thee and thy Babe the sweetest Christ the pre-eternal and never-waning Light, O Theotokos, by Whom thou hast saved all human nature from cruel evils and mortal corruption.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “Of the Wisdom ...”:

The divine apostles of the Word, the trumpet voiced universal heralds of the Gospel of Christ, having founded a divine church in thy most holy name, O Theotokos, approached thee, entreating thee to come to its consecration. But thou didst say, O Mother of God: “Go in peace, and I shall be with you there!” And they, going forth, found there, on the wall of the church, the likeness of thine image drawn

powerfully in colored hues; and seeing it, they did thee homage and glorified God. And we also, with them, bow down before thy divine icon, asking of thee great mercy. Grant thou remission of sins to thy servants, O thou who alone art blessed.

Glory ..., Both now ..., the above Sessional Hymn is repeated.

ODE IV

First Canon

Irmos: He who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Rejoice, O Lady Directress, thou wonder of wonders! Rejoice, joy of all cities and towns, impregnable fortress and bulwark for Christians amid misfortunes, thou victory over the enemy!

Rejoice, rejoice, O boast of Orthodox kings, for thou, O Queen of all, dost accompany Christ-loving armies! Rejoice, O Directress, thou refuge and confirmation of us all!

Rejoice, deliverance for all amid misfortunes! Rejoice, ready consolation for all the sorrowful! Rejoice, O all-hymned one! Rejoice, most blessed Directress, healer of all the infirm!

Rejoice, thou whose mighty works all creation doth make haste to glorify as is meet; yet it is unable, O Directress, and therefore it crieth out to thee! Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady, thou dwelling-place which contained God!

Second Canon

Irmos: He who sitteth in glory upon the throne of the Godhead, * Jesus the true God, * is come in a swift cloud * and with His sinless hands he hath saved those who cry: * Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

O ye pure people, in purity let us honor the icon of the Virgin Theotokos and of the divine Infant Christ our God; and let us kiss it and glorify her with fear and trembling; for we right honorably venerate the icon and honor even more the pure Mother of God.

David, the divine and wondrous prophet, foreseeing as from a great distance, said: The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. And let us, O ye faithful, bow down and venerate the precious icon, sanctified in body and soul.

Luke, the divinely eloquent recorder of the Gospel, at the behest of God set down Thine all-immaculate image, O Theotokos, depicting the pre-eternal Infant in thine arms; and from temptations and misfortunes thou deliverest those who have recourse thereto, protecting and saving them all by thine image.

Thou art the boast and crown of all the saints, O Queen; after God, thou art our hope and helper, and in thee have we all set our hope of salvation. Thee do we entreat as the Mother of God: Rain down thy rich and soul-saving mercies upon thy sinful servants.

ODE V

First Canon

Irmos: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Thou art an abyss of goodness and compassions. Rejoice, O Virgin Directress! Rejoice, thou who makest all faithful! O rejoice, most speedy helper of those who are in misfortune and sorrow!

Beholding the mighty works of the fullness of thy wonders, we, the faithful, are filled with joy; and do they among us who hear of them, see them not? Wherefore, in every place we all ever chant unto thee, Rejoice, O Directress!

O rejoice, O Virgin Directress, thou dwelling-place of Christ our God and habitation of His ineffable and supremely divine glory! O rejoice, palace all-adorned! Rejoice, ever reigning animate city!

Looking upon thee as a sea of joy inexhaustible, O Virgin Maiden Directress, rejoicing we all cry out to thee: Rejoice! And chanting, we ever expect of thee divine gifts invisibly bestowed.

Second Canon

Irmos: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb the God of all, * and gave birth to the timeless Son, * bestowing peace, upon all who hymn thee.

Every being is at a loss how to hymn thee, O most pure one, for thou art exalted far above the heavenly intelligences, having given birth unto the unapproachable and dread King and God of all, but as thou art merciful and the ready helper of mortals, attend unto the entreaty of thy servants, and grant us thy help.

Where thy grace overshadoweth, O Theotokos, the demons vanish in fear and their wickedly devised fantasies are destroyed; the dark demons flee and the whole multitude of the faithful rejoice, crying out a hymn of praise to thee from their hearts: Rejoice, thou divine protection of our souls!

Sweet sight is given to the eyeless, hearing to the deaf, good speech to the mute, the ability to walk to the lame, cleansing to the leprous, chastity to the demonized, and healing to those who suffer from divers sicknesses, through the overshadowing of thy most pure icon, O Theotokos.

O joyous Theotokos, let us never fail to hymn thy mighty works with psalms and hymns; for thou hast truly given birth unto the incarnate God for our universal salvation and deliverance.

ODE VI

First Canon

Irmos: Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

Receiving Christ within thyself, O pure Virgin Directress, thou didst hear the cry: Rejoice! And having given birth unto Him ineffably, thou dost ever hear from all the salutation Rejoice!

Thou hast filled all with joy, and hast united those who are on high with those below, O Directress. Wherefore, with joy heaven and all the earth now cry out to thee with one voice.

Rejoice, O all-hymned Directress, consolation of widows and all orphans! Rejoice, thou who pourest forth inexhaustible riches upon all the destitute!

Rejoice, O Directress, dwelling-place of Christ, more lustrous than any gold and more splendid than the dawning of the sun! Rejoice, O Virgin! Rejoice, O Bride unwedded!

Second Canon

Irmos: Celebrating the divine and solemn feast * of the Mother of God * O ye divinely wise, * let us come, clapping our hands, * and glorify God who was born of her.

O Virgin Sovereign Lady, by thine exclamation of old thou didst impart to thy most pure image the abundantly rich grace of thy divine birthgiving, such that it abundantly worketh great and most glorious miracles, unto the salvation of those who set their hope on thee.

Where the holy name of the joyous Theotokos is glorified, streams of every good thing pour forth. Come O ye people in purity, for lo, by the manifestation of the divine icon of the Virgin, the presence of the Queen is revealed, unto the salvation of all the faithful.

Approaching with faith, O all-immaculate Lady and Mother of God, from thy most pure icon we receive healing of maladies, the dispelling of the passions, salvation which nourisheth the soul, forgiveness of sins, and everlasting deliverance.

To thee, O Sovereign Lady, do the generations of the earthborn flee, and ask great mercy; and they that are infirm receive healing in abundance, release from the passions, and consolation amid grief. O Lady, let fall upon me a drop of soul-saving rain, that with all I may also hymn thy magnitude.

Kontakion of the most holy Theotokos, in Tone VIII:

Spec. Mel.: “To thee, the champion leader ...”

O ye people, let us flee to the calm and goodly haven, * the speedy helper, fervent and ready salvation, * the protection of the most pure Virgin, * and let us make haste to prayer and speed to repentance. * For the Theotokos poureth forth upon us inexhaustible mercies; * going before us to help and deliver her goodhearted and God-fearing servants ** from great misfortunes and evils.

Ikos: **H**aving cleansed thought and mind, let us make haste to the Theotokos, calling her blessed in splendid hymns; and let us glorify and honor her most pure icon, and falling down before it, let us do homage as to herself; for the veneration shown an icon ascendeth unto the Prototype, and he that honoreth and boweth down before it, honoreth the Prototype Himself, as the divine fathers have said. And if one doth not reverence the most holy Theotokos, and doth not venerate her icon, let him be anathema; for she putteth to shame and destroyeth those who honor her not, and delivereth from great misfortunes and evils her good-hearted and God-fearing servants.

ODE VII

First Canon

Irmos: **R**efusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * **O** supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Directress, who dost ever direct all the faithful to tread the path to all salvation! Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady, for by thee are we ever delivered from the present tribulations brought about by the barbarians!

Rejoice, rejoice, O Birthgiver of God, who keepest watch and prayest to God for us, delivering all the people from every sorrow and from all evil by thy mediation!

Rejoice, rejoice, O most holy Directress, who fulfillest those of our petitions which are for our profit, and ever desirest for good and brotherly love and unity, particularly among those who lead.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Directress of ships which need to sail, who deliverest the faithful, and quickly loosest them from divers and longstanding ailments, O thou deliverance of all from every sorrow!

Second Canon

Irmos: **R**efusing to worship created things * in place of the Creator, * the divinely wise youths bravely trampled down the threatening fire * and rejoicing they sang aloud: * **O** supremely hymned Lord and God of our Fathers, Blessed art Thou.

Come ye, let us draw forth forgiveness from the inexhaustible well-spring which poureth forth sanctity, the most pure Virgin and her most pure Infant, God the Word, Who assumed flesh for our sake. And let us cry out to Him: O Creator and Redeemer Who art God glorified with the Father and the Spirit, blessed art Thou!

Possessed of ever-vigilant and God-pleasing prayer, O pure one, and an undefeatable dominion of might, crush thou the audacity of the enemy which is directed against us, that we, thy servants, may rejoice in thee, crying out to thy Son: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

O ye faithful people, let us rejoice and be glad in the wondrous appearance of the icon of the most pure Lady, the Theotokos; for it hath been shown to be an inexhaustible river pouring forth the water of healing, giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, the ability to walk to the lame, and free healing to all amid their infirmities.

The unapproachable image of thy conception is an unfathomable abyss, an incomprehensible mystery, O Virgin, for thy conception was seedless; having given birth without a husband, the Incorporeal One became incarnate, the Pre-eternal One became an infant, the Son of God became thy Son, O Virgin. To Him do we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O God!

ODE VIII

First Canon

Irmos: **The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.**

Rejoice, O most blessed Mary, for through thee the supremely blessed God hath arrayed Himself in all of me; and having arrayed Himself in human nature, He hath united mankind to His divinity in an ineffable union, O Virgin Directress! Rejoice, O joyous one, thou joy of all the world!

Rejoice, dispeller of evil spirits! Rejoice, O Theotokos Directress! Rejoice, thou whom the invisible armies of heaven ever glorify and magnify as the Mother of God! Rejoice, thou who hast joined those who are below with those above!

Rejoice, rejoice, O Directress who without exception surpassest all the heavenly hosts! Rejoice, O all-hymned Lady, who hast given birth to the God of all creation, and who hast dominion over it! Rejoice, O pure one, who even after giving birth didst remain a virgin!

Rejoice, glory of all women, most hallowed temple of our God! Rejoice, O Directress! Rejoice, thou who savest the souls of all the world! Rejoice, protecting cloud broader than the heavens! Rejoice, phial full of the divine oil of myrrh!

Second Canon

Irmos: **The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath now been born on earth, * and He gathereth all creation to hymn thee: * all ye works praise ye the Lord * and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.**

The minds of angels and mortals are filled with awe, O Theotokos, at how thou hast given flesh to the God of heaven, containing Him within thy womb, and how, having given birth unto Him as a babe, thou didst bear Him as a Son in thine arms, Him before whom creation doth stand in awe and the heavenly thrones tremble, crying out unceasingly: Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O God Who art all-hymned and supremely exalted above all throughout the ages! Rejoice, thou who art the joy of all the world!

With the Archangel Gabriel we cry out to thee, O Theotokos: Rejoice, thou who didst contain the Infinite One! Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, bearer of the whole Divinity! Rejoice, restoration of Adam, the Lord is with thee, saving us for thy sake! Him do we hymn and supremely exalt throughout the ages.

O sanctified root of Jesse, thou hast plucked forth the root of our sin, O rod of Aaron which blossomed, giving rise to a Blossom, Christ the Bestower of life! O jar which received the Manna, thou hast crushed all the power of death, and brought the human race to the regeneration of life. Wherefore, we hymn thee, the cause of that which is good.

Thou art the boast of Christians, O Lady; thou art a sword against our enemies and a rampart for those who have recourse unto thee. We now call upon thee for aid, O Sovereign Lady: permit not the foe to rise up against thy people, for they praise neither thee nor thy Son, O Theotokos, nor do they bow down before thine icon. Vanquish them, and save thou our souls.

ODE IX

First Canon

Irmos: **Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry aloud: * Rejoice! O all-blessed Theotokos, * thou pure Ever-Virgin.**

Rejoice, O lamp who bore the never-waning Light and who in thy birth-giving hast destroyed the darkness of polytheism, delivering thy people from the abyss of Hades! Rejoice, O Theotokos Directress, mediatrix of all good things!

Rejoice, O fertile earth from whence the Ear of heavenly grain hath budded forth for the faithful, delivering the whole world from soul destroying famine, O noetic and animate one! Rejoice, O vine which hast given birth to the Cluster of life, O pure Theotokos Directress!

Rejoice, most comely paradise of mystic flowers! Rejoice, Virgin Mother, O Birthgiver of God who by purity hast most strangely vanquished the reasoning of the invisible foe! Rejoice, O Maiden, rejoice, O Directress, thou universal wonder and report!

By thine aid, keep thou the remaining time of our life untouched by harm, O Virgin Maiden, and count us worthy of receiving a good end, for we hymn thee and cry aloud: Rejoice, O most blessed and pure Theotokos and Directress!

Second Canon

Irmos: **Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry aloud: * Rejoice! O all-blessed Theotokos, * thou pure Ever-Virgin.**

Thee, the steadfast helper of the human race, O Theotokos Mary, did the choir of the prophets foretell in many and divers ways, as the holy tabernacle more spacious than the heavens, the tablet divinely inscribed, the bush unconsumed by Fire, the portal through which God hath passed, the mountain and the ladder, the bridge and the rod which blossomed forth. And we truly magnify thee as the Theotokos.

The mystery of the depth of thy birthgiving moveth the mind of the angels to awe, O Virgin, and thy most pure icon driveth away the demons, darkening the countenances of the ungodly, and putting them to shame. For they cannot bear to look upon its power, and they flee and vanish away. And we lovingly bow down and venerate it, and magnify thee as the Theotokos.

As a constant intercessor before the King Most High, in that thou art possessed of undaunted boldness, establish thou the life of the Orthodox in profound peace, exalt our right believing hierarchs, and ever grant unto thy servants all things that are profitable, that we may magnify thee as the Theotokos.

O all-merciful helper of Christians, the mind of mortals or that of the angels cannot hymn thee as is meet, for thou art more honorable than all creation, more glorious than all things of heaven and earth; for thou hast given birth unto the Creator and God of all. O Lady, mercifully accept the hymn which we have composed for thee from the depths of our heart, and ever save us, for we have set our hope on thee.

Exapostilarion of the icon:

Let the all-hymned Mother of God be honored, for she hath given birth unto Christ our God, our Life, and hath opened of the gates of paradise, she is the cleansing of the whole world, and the restoration to life. And He is the One of Whom the prophets spake, and we worship Him as our God, the Savior of our souls.

(Twice)

Glory ..., Both now ...,

Come O ye faithful, and with purity let us exalt the wondrous icon of the most pure Mother of our God and Christ, the divine Infant Savior. For, having given birth to Him and carried Him in her arms, she possesses boldness before Him, and unceasingly prays on our behalf, bestowing upon her servants rich mercies.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera, in Tone IV:

Let us glorify the joyous Theotokos, O ye faithful, for we ever have her holy and blessed name upon our lips more than any other, unceasingly fleeing to her most pure and healing icon; for thereby have we found all things that are good and profitable on earth, and have been delivered from the snares of the demons in the air. For as the Mother who gaveth birth to the Creator of all, she saveth our souls from misfortunes.
(Twice)

Everlastingly may the assembly of the impious lament, who do not confess thee to be the Theotokos, pure in thy birthgiving, and who do not bow down before thy most pure icon. But we, thy faithful people, rejoicing confess thee to be the true Theotokos and Virgin, in that thou didst truly give birth unto Christ our God in the flesh, trampling underfoot the corruption of Adam, and cleansing the whole world of sin. Thou hast granted never-ending life and opened the gates of paradise to the faithful through thy divine Offspring. Him do thou entreat, that we who hymn thy mystery with faith may be saved.

Let all the multitude of the pious be glad and rejoice with ineffable joy; and, falling down, let them all do homage and reverence the Mother of God with fear, giving thanks to her after God, in that she is the mediatrix of such great blessings. The angels desire to gaze upon those things which Christ our God hath given to the faithful through the Theotokos, for He hath an abundance of tender compassion and great and exceedingly rich mercy.

Glory ..., Both now ..., Theotokion, in Tone VIII:

Thy holy icon which depicteth thy form, O Virgin Theotokos, is by thy grace an abundantly rich fountain which poureth forth its waters upon all the earth, enlightening the whole world with the effulgent radiance of the Holy Spirit. For thou didst ineffably give birth in the flesh to God the Word, hearing such things as these from the Archangel Gabriel: Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee, and the Holy Spirit hath overshadowed thee upon thy conceiving! And thus didst thou say to the first icon depicting thee, when thou didst behold it: My grace is with this Icon! And thy word was fulfilled in the power of the icon. Divine grace, transcending every image, voice, power, deed and mind, abiding with it forever, unceasingly worketh signs and wonders, and giveth spiritually profitable healing to all who approach it with faith, by thine unceasing divine, maternal supplications to God.

Great Doxology and Dismissal.

AT THE LITURGY

On the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from ODE III of Canon I, and 4 from ODE VI of Canon II of the feast.

Rejoice, O unshakable, pure and animate palace of Christ the King Most High! Rejoice, O Directress, Rejoice! For by thee is our city preserved intact!

In thy womb which tasted not of wedlock thou didst bodily contain Him Whom Creation cannot contain, O Virgin Directress. Wherefore, magnifying thee as is meet, we chant Rejoice!

O all-hymned joy of the world, ever hymning thee with joy, O pure one, we are vouchsafed everlasting joy by thy maternal supplications unto Him Who was born of thee, O Directress.

O Directress, we invoke thee as the golden jar, the candlestick, the rod and the table, O pure one, and we ever raise the cry Rejoice! to thee.

O Virgin Sovereign Lady, by thine exclamation of old thou didst impart to thy most pure image the abundantly rich grace of thy divine birthgiving, such that it abundantly worketh great and most glorious miracles, unto the salvation of those who set their hope on thee.

Where the holy name of the joyous Theotokos is glorified, streams of every good thing pour forth. Come O ye people in purity, for lo, by the manifestation of the divine icon of the Virgin, the presence of the Queen is revealed, unto the salvation of all the faithful.

Approaching with faith, O all-immaculate Lady and Mother of God, from thy most pure icon we receive healing of maladies, the dispelling of the passions, salvation which nourisheth the soul, forgiveness of sins, and everlasting deliverance.

To thee, O Sovereign Lady, do the generations of the earthborn flee, and ask great mercy; and they that are infirm receive healing in abundance, release from the passions, and consolation amid grief. O Lady, let fall upon me a drop of soul-saving rain, that with all I may also hymn thy magnitude.

Troparion of the most holy Theotokos, in Tone IV:

O earnest helper, Mother of the Lord Most High, * thou dost entreat Christ, thy Son and our God, on behalf of all, * and causest all who have recourse to thy mighty protection to be saved. * O Sovereign Lady and Queen, help us all who, amid temptations, sorrows and sickness, * are heavy laden with many sins, * who stand before thee and with tears pray to thee before thy most pure image * with compunctionate soul and contrite heart, * and who have unfailing hope in thee: * grant deliverance from all evils, and things profitable unto all, * O Virgin Theotokos, save us all, ** for thou art the divine protection of thy servants.

Kontakion of the most holy Theotokos, in Tone VIII:

O ye people, let us flee to the calm and goodly haven, * the speedy helper, fervent and ready salvation, * the protection of the most pure Virgin, * and let us make haste to prayer and speed to repentance. * For the Theotokos poureth forth upon us inexhaustible mercies; * going before us to help and deliver her goodhearted and God-fearing servants ** from great misfortunes and evils.

Prokeimenon, in Tone II, the Song of the Theotokos: My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Verse: For He hath looked upon the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS, §240 (PHIL 2:5-11)

Brethren: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, in Tone VIII: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Verse: The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE, §54 (LK 10:38-42; 11:27-28)

Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto Him, Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the paps which Thou hast sucked. But He said, Yea, rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Communion verse: I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.