

DAILY ORTHROS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2017
APODOSIS OF THE MEETING (PRESENTATION) OF CHRIST

MARTYR NIKEPHOROS OF ANTIOCH IN SYRIA; HIEROMARTYRS MARKELLOS, BISHOP OF SICILY, PANKRATIOS,
BISHOP OF TAORMINA, PHILAGRIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS, AND PETER OF DAMASCUS; TRANSLATION OF THE
RELICS OF INNOCENT, FIRST BISHOP OF IRKUTSK

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

Choir: Amen.

Bishop: Glory to Thee, O 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 gracious Lord.

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 God, 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 evil.

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. (Choir continues.)

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 Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us 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 goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan JOSEPH, and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Choir: Amen. Bless, Master, 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.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)
O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth 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 craftiness 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.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication 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

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Holy Houses, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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.

Deacon: For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, 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 Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE ONE

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

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

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

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

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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

THE LITTLE LITANY

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 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 majesty, 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 OF THE PRESENTATION (Plain Reading)

Let the ranks of angels be astonished with wonder, and let us raise our voices in praise, as we behold the ineffable condescension, the condescension of God; for He before Whom the powers of heaven tremble is carried today in the arms of the elder, and He alone is the Lover of mankind.

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

He that is with the Father on the holy throne, came down to earth, was born of the Virgin, became a babe, and is unbounded in time. And Simeon, having carried Him in his arms, shouted with joy, saying: Now lettest Thou thy servant, O compassionate One, depart; for Thou hast gladdened him.

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

Verily, the Ancient of Days becometh a babe for my sake; and the all-pure God shareth in the impure to save me in the flesh which He took from the Virgin. And Simeon, having been made the confidant to these mysteries, knew Him as God appearing in the flesh. Wherefore, he kissed Him, for He is Life. And the elder cried with joy, saying: Lettest thou me depart, for I have beheld Thee, O Life of all.

PSALM 50

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

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE PRESENTATION (Plain Reading)

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

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

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On February 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, and we commemorate the holy Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria.

Verses

This Nikephoros, once but in name a victor—know him beheaded, and now in deed a victor.

On the ninth, O Nikephoros, thy throat was cut with a sword.

Nikephoros contested during the reign of Gallienus in about the year 260. Through the working of the evil one, his friendship with a certain Christian priest named Sapricius was turned to bitter hatred. Nikephoros, repenting of his enmity, tried to reconcile with Sapricius, but to no avail. When persecution broke out under Gallienus, Sapricius was seized as a Christian. When Saint Nikephoros learned that Sapricius had been arrested by the pagans and was enduring torments for Christ, he sent intermediaries to Sapricius, begging his forgiveness; but Sapricius would not forgive him. Later, as Sapricius was being taken to his beheading, Nikephoros, hoping that Sapricius, at his end, in such a holy hour, would at last forgive him. Nikephoros met Sapricius on the way, fell before him, and fervently asked his forgiveness; but Sapricius did not forgive him. Even though Sapricius had passed through many sufferings, and the crown of martyrdom was now awaiting him, because he disdained the chief commandments of love and forgiveness, the grace of God—which had been strengthening him in his torments—departed from him, and he told his executioners he would sacrifice to the idols. Nikephoros immediately confessed Christ before them, and being himself beheaded, took the crown that Sapricius had cast away.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus, and Peter of Damascus; and the translation of the relics of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NINTH ODE OF CANON OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

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| <p>1. That which came to pass in thee,
We in no wise comprehend,
Nor the angels, nor we men,
O thou Virgin Mother pure.</p> <p>3. Since the Fashioner had willed
To save Adam, whom He formed,
He came down, dwelt in thy womb
O thou Virgin chaste and pure.</p> <p>5. Come, behold ye Christ the Lord,
And the Master of all things;
Him doth Simeon now hold
In the Temple on this day.</p> <p>7. Simeon lived many years,
Until he had beheld the Christ.
And he cried out unto Him:
Now do I seek my release!</p> <p>9. Willingly wast Thou made man,
Who art God before all time;
To the Temple Thou art brought
As a babe of forty days.</p> <p>11. O illuminate my soul
And my sense of sight, O Lord;
So that I may clearly see
And proclaim Thee as my God.</p> <p>13. To depart hence do I seek
Of Thee, O my Fashioner;
For, O Christ, I have beheld
Thee, my bright and saving Light.</p> | <p>2. Righteous Elder Simeon
Now embraceth in his arms,
Both the Author of the Law
And the Master of all things.</p> <p>4. All the race of mortal men
Blesseth thee, O maid most pure,
Glorifying thee with faith
As the Mother of our God.</p> <p>6. Thou dost look upon the earth
And Thou causest it to quake.
How then doth a weak old man
Hold Thee in his aged arms?</p> <p>8. Thou, O Maiden Mary
Art in truth the mystic tongs,
Who within thy blessed womb
Hast conceived the Ember, Christ.</p> <p>10. When the Master of all things
Came down from the heaven's heights,
Blessed Simeon the priest
Took Him up into his arms.</p> <p>12. O thou Virgin Mother pure,
Wherefore to the Temple's courts
Dost thou bring a new-born babe
To the arms of Simeon?</p> <p>14. Him Whom ministers above
Serve with trembling and with awe;
Here below doth Simeon
Now take in his arms' embrace.</p> |
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Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

15. In Thy nature, Thou art One,
Yet in Persons, Thou art Three;
Keep Thy servants from all harm,
Who believe and trust in Thee.

16. O Theotokos,
Thou hope of all Christians;
Keep and shelter and preserve
Them that set their hope in thee.

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

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

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

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

KATAVASIA OF NINTH ODE OF CHRIST'S PRESENTATION CANON IN TONE THREE
O Theotokos, thou hope of all Christians; keep and shelter and preserve them that set their hope in thee.

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

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 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 FOR THE PRESENTATION IN TONE THREE
*(**The original melody**)*

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

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE FOUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Verse 4. *Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

Leaving not the Father's bosom in Thy sovereign Divinity, * Thou wast made flesh in Thy good will; * and Thou wast held in the arms * of the Ever-virgin * and placed in the hands of the God-receiver, Simeon, * Thou Who dost hold all creation in Thy hand. * In joy, therefore, he cried: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace. * For, O Master, in very truth, * I have seen Thee, the Lord of all.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE SIX

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

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

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE SIX

+ Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

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

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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

THE EPISTLE (For the 34th Thursday after Pentecost)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (1:8-2:6)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says "I know Him" but disobeys His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly

love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in Him: he who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.

Bishop: Peace be to thee that readest!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL (For the 17th Thursday of Luke)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.
Bishop: Peace be to all.
Choir: And to thy spirit.
Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (13:31-14:2)
Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.
Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: The Lord said to His disciples, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch." It was now two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest Him by stealth, and kill Him; for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be a tumult of the people."

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

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan JOSEPH.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, [Names], and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in our communities.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of our holy churches and for (the departed servants of God, [Names], and) all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in our holy and all-venerable temples, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer unto 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: That the whole morning may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

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

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Bishop: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

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

Priest: O holy Lord, Who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart and with Thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation, unto Thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat Thee: O Holy of holies, stretch forth Thine invisible hand from Thy holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in aught we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, vouchsafing unto us Thy earthly and heavenly good things.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Master, bless!

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

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

Bishop: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

Bishop: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

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

Bishop: May He Who deigned to be carried in the arms of Simeon the Righteous for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles, especially Peter,

the patron and protector of this holy community; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus, and Peter of Damascus; and Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk, 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.

Choir: Ton dhespotin ke Archierea imon Kyrie philate: Eis polla eti, Dhespota. Eis polla eti, Dhespota. Eis polla eti, Dhespota.

(Choir: *Preserve, O Lord, our master and chief priest, and grant him many years: many years to thee, master; many years to thee, master; many years to thee, master.*)

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Bishop: 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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