

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON FEBRUARY 03
AFTER-FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
SYNAXIS OF HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER
& ANNA THE PROPHETESS

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

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

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

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever. (*Refrain*)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee. (*Refrain*)

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. (*Refrain*)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

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

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE FEAST

The Lord hath made known His salvation; He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below.*

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.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple ONLY IF Ss. Simeon and Anna are not the patron saints of your temple.*

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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.

THE EPISTLE

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hearken unto my voice, O God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:25-38)

At that time, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

- *Megalynarion: "It is truly meet"*

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THE SYNAXIS IN TONE EIGHT

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance; they shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia.

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

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: 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; 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 Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess, whose Synaxis we celebrate today; of the New-martyrs Nicholas, Stamatios and John of Spetson; Anschar, enlightener of Denmark and Sweden; Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, bishop and evangelizer of Japan; and James, archbishop of Serbia, 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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