

FESTAL ORTHROS ON OCTOBER 28 FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

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 PHILIP, for our Archbishop 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, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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 this Holy House, 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 PHILIP, for our Archbishop 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: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
(In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, 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 Who hath shown us light. 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*)

APOLYTKION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE ONE

(***While Gabriel was saying***)

O Virgin, we extol the great grace of thy Protection, which thou didst spread out like a bright cloud beyond all understanding; for thou dost invisibly protect thy people from the foe’s every assault. Since we have thee as our shelter and certain help, we cry to thee with our whole soul: Glory to thy great deeds, O most pure Maid. Glory to thy shelter most divine. Glory to thy care and providence for us, O spotless one. (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.

POETIC KATHISMATA OF THE PROTECTION (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

We worship thine august and all-holy Protection which truly doth protect all the faithful, O Virgin, extolling with one accord thy great glory ineffable; for thou art become the shelter, help and protectress of us who commemorate thy holy Protection with faith and with piety.

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

With godly reverence, O Virgin graced of God, now we thy faithful flock honor and venerate thy dread Protection, most divine, most precious, and bright as lightning; and we all revere the veil that doth shelter us all about, keeping and protecting us from all peril and sore distress. And so we cry to thee with thanksgiving: Rejoice, O Protection of all mankind.

Second & Third Kathismata

All we the choirs of monastics and the pious now have recourse to thy protection, O pure Virgin, and with longing we worship it as we revere thee. In piety we cry out: O Mother of God, protect us in that dread hour when we shall be judged; and deliver us speedily from every torment and pain, that we may glorify with love thine unceasing and fervent aid.

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

O Virgin and Queen of all, we keep a feast full of light with faith and with joy in thy church of Blachernae upon thy godly Protection now. As our bounden duty, we all faithfully praise it, and with ardent longing we all reverence thine icon, while drawing forth therefrom for our souls great and abundant grace.

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

As we run for refuge to thy bright Protection, Virgin all-immaculate, protect, preserve and guard us all from every danger and suffering, that we might praise thy Protection and care for us.

PSALM 44: THE ANTI-POLYELEOS IN TONE ONE

End each numbered verse with "Alleluia."

- 1: 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.
- 2: Comely art Thou in beauty more than the sons of men; grace hath been poured forth on Thy lips, wherefore God hath blessed Thee forever.
- 3: Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty.
- 4: And bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and Thy right hand shall guide Thee wondrously.
- 5: Thine arrows are sharp, O Mighty One—under Thee shall peoples fall—sharp in the heart of the enemies of the king.
- 6: Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom.
- 7: Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.
- 8: Wherefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows.
- 9: Myrrh and aloes and cassia exhale from Thy garments, from the ivory palaces, whereby they have made Thee glad, they the daughters of kings in Thine honor.

- 10: At Thy right hand stood the queen, arrayed in a vesture of woven gold, adorned in varied colors.
- 11: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear; and forget thine own people and thy father's house.
- 12: And the King shall greatly desire thy beauty, for He Himself is thy Lord, and thou shalt worship Him.
- 13: And Him shall the daughters of Tyre worship with gifts; the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance.
- 14: All the glory of the daughter of the King is within, with gold-fringed garments is she arrayed, adorned in varied colors.
- 15: The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee.
- 16: They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King.
- 17: In the stead of thy fathers, sons are born to thee; thou shalt make them princes over all the earth.
- 18: I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation.
- 19: Therefore shall peoples give praise unto thee for ever, and unto the ages of ages.

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 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 blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (REPEAT)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (REPEAT)
- + *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON FOR THE PROTECTION IN TONE FOUR

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation. (TWICE)

Stichos: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear.

I shall proclaim Thy Name from generation to generation.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (1:39-49, 56).

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

TO BE READ FROM THE ROYAL DOORS.

Priest: In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for He has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.” And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (NO VENERATION OF GOSPEL BOOK.)

PSALM 50

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

FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

(FOR THE FEAST) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Today the all-hymned Lady, spreading out her divine protection and manifesting her grace, hath sheltered all the faithful, like the cloud in the wilderness that cherished Israel. Let us therefore cry unto her: Shelter us under thy protection, O Mariam, who are like unto the sun, and save our souls.

THE INTERCESSION

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—and by the Protection of her Veil (Skepi) which we now celebrate—by the might of the precious and

life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints, Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; Nicholai of Zhicha, who labored in America, Innocent, Evangelizer of Alaska and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow, Enlighteners of North America; John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios, and Juvenaly of Iliamna; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, especially Peter the Aleut; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; (*of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Martyrs Terence and Neonilla and their children; Athanasios the First, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyrs Angelis, Manuel, George and Nicholas of Crete; Venerable Stephen of Mar Sabbas monastery in Palestine; Arsenios of Srem, archbishop of Serbia; Great-martyr Paraskeva of Iconium; and Venerable Job of Pochaev, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

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

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE PROTECTION (Plain Reading)

Let us the faithful hasten to the Theotokos now and venerate her sacred veil, as we chant unto her, singing hymns to praise and honor her, as is fitting; for she sheltereth with her shelter all her faithful flock and preserveth them unharmed from all calamities, as they cry to her: Rejoice, Protection most radiant.

With one accord, O ye Angels in Heaven and ye multitudes of mortals upon the earth, let us praise with longing the supremely radiant Protection of the Mother of God, which the renowned Andrew once beheld, and let us address her with hymns of acclamation as we cry out:

- + Rejoice, Protection of the Lord's Mother; rejoice, Veil of the all-pure Virgin.
- + Rejoice, thou who shelterest all the faithful; rejoice, thou who smitest the foes that oppose us.
- + Rejoice, for thou dost brightly shelter those seeking thy refuge; rejoice, for those invoking thee thou swiftly savest.
- + Rejoice, O fiery pillar, guiding the faithful; rejoice, O Ladder, leading forth from earth unto Heaven.

- + Rejoice, Protection of the all-pure Maiden, salvation of the pious; rejoice, O Mother of the Lord, protectress of monastics.
- + Rejoice, thou through who grace hath shone forth in splendor; rejoice, thou by whom sorrow hath ceased completely.
- + Rejoice, Protection most radiant.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On October 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Terence and Neonilla and their children; Athanasios the First, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyrs Angelis, Manuel, George and Nicholas of Crete; Venerable Stephen of Mar Sabbas monastery in Palestine; Arsenios of Srem, archbishop of Serbia; Great-martyr Paraskeva of Iconium; and Venerable Job of Pochaev.

On this day, we commemorate the Holy Protection of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, that is, her sacred veil (skepi) kept in the treasury of the sacred temple of Blachernae; and we also remember how the righteous Andrew, the Fool for Christ's sake, beheld it spread out above and covering all the pious.

Verses

Under thy Protection thou protectest all the faithful.
 Being, O pure one, the world's protection and salvation.
 Today, the Pure One's veil covers those who praise her.

The Church has always glorified the most holy Mother of God as the Protectress and Defender of the Christian people, entreating, by her intercessions, God's loving-kindness towards us sinners. Two events are celebrated on this day: the first in tenth-century Constantinople, the second in twentieth-century Greece. On October 1, 911, while Slavic armies threatened the Queen of Cities, the Blachernae Church of the Theotokos held a crowded all-night vigil. Before daybreak, the most holy Mother of God appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as though to protect them with this covering. Seeing this vision, St. Andrew, the Fool-for-Christ, gestured towards it and asked his disciple, Epiphanius: "Do you see how the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "Yes, Father; I see it and stand in dread." The Slavic armies stayed away. Ironically, in the twelfth century, the Orthodox Church of Russia began to celebrate the Protection on October 1, even though its ancestors—who had not yet embraced Orthodoxy—were looming near Constantinople.

Before daybreak on October 28, 1940, the Italian ambassador to Greece, representing Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, went to Greek general Ioannis Metaxas with an ultimatum. Italy wanted full control of Greece to occupy "strategic locations"; otherwise it would brutalize the country. General Metaxas shouted "Okhi!" meaning "No!" Thus, Greece was plunged into the Second World War, as Italy burst through, and then Nazi Germany eventually, wreaking havoc and horrors on the Greek people. In 1952, the Orthodox Church of Greece transferred its celebration of the Protection to October 28 in conjunction with "Okhi Day" as a testament to the rejection of European aggression and as a day of national remembrance. The Orthodox Church of Antioch can utilize this transfer in order to more fully celebrate its sons, Ananias of the Seventy and Romanos the Melodist, on October 1.

Both dates recognize the Ever-virgin's constant defense whenever we prayerfully seek her protection and shelter in distress and strife. While the Orthodox Church marks one date or the other for the commemoration of the Protection, we must ask the Theotokos to extend her protection and intercession every day of our life.

By the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

THE KATAVASIAS OF THE AKATHIST CANON IN TONE FOUR

Ode 1. I shall open my mouth and it will be filled with the Spirit; and I shall speak forth to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen joyfully singing her praises, and I shall delight to sing of her wonders.

Ode 3. As a living and copious fountain, O Theotokos, do thou strengthen those who hymn thy praises, and are joined together in spiritual company for thy service; and in thy divine glory make them worthy of crowns of glory.

Ode 4. He Who sits in clouds of glory upon the throne of Godhead, Jesus the most high God, came with mighty hand and saved those who cried out unto Him: Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Ode 5. All creation was amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O unwedded Virgin, didst hold in thee the God of all, and didst bear the Eternal Son, Who rewards with salvation all those who hymn thy praises.

Ode 6. As we the Godly-minded, celebrate this divine and all-honorable feast of the Mother of God: come, let us clap our hands together and glorify the God Whom she bore.

Ode 7. The Godly-minded children worshipped not the creature rather than the Creator, but trampling upon the threat of fire in manly fashion, they rejoiced and sang: O All-praised Lord and God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

We praise, we bless and we worship the Lord.

Ode 8. The three holy children in the furnace the Child of the Theotokos saved; then was the type, now is its fulfillment, and the whole world gathers to sing: All ye works praise the Lord and magnify Him unto all ages.

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

THE NINTH ODE OF THE PROTECTION CANON IN TONE FOUR

The Angels praise the Protection of the Theotokos and magnify it with their hymns, for it everywhere protecteth the choirs of the faithful.

Let all the earth-born mortals rejoice in the Spirit, bearing their lamps. And let the nature of bodiless Minds celebrate with honor the holy *Protection* of the Mother of God, and cry out: Hail! All-blessed, pure, and ever-virgin Theotokos!

The Angels praise the Protection of the Theotokos and magnify it with their hymns, for it everywhere protecteth the choirs of the faithful.

Let all the earth-born mortals rejoice in the Spirit, bearing their lamps; let the shining company of all the faithful celebrate joyously the sacred feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, which doth shelter all those of a godly mind and doth keep them from harm and adversity.

Beholding the Protection of the Theotokos, the Angels' hosts were struck with awe, how she protecteth and saveth them that trust in her sincerely.

O Lady, we revere thy hallowed Protection, which is like a beaming sun, and in joy we cry to thee: Rejoice, O godly palace of God Most High; rejoice, O living cloud which guideth God's New Israel to divine rest, which, O all-hymned Bride of God, is the Kingdom of Heaven with all the Saints.

The Angels and we humans render honor to thy Protection most august, for thereon thou protectest, O Lady, all that faithfully do praise thee.

O sovereign Queen of all, a mighty Protection art thou, ever sheltering all those who at any time cry out for thine invincible grace divine; for thou, O Virgin, hast conceived the Sun of Righteousness, Who hath scattered error's thick and gloomy clouds and hath made the clear light of the truth to shine.

The Angels and we humans now magnify thy Protection, O thou all-pure Maid; for it protecteth and saveth all that show it fitting honor.

What man can search out the infinite height of Heaven or the depth of earth? Who can tell the length and breadth of thy Protection for us, O graced of God? It reacheth higher than the heavens in its ceaseless care and protecteth all men by thy grace, O Maid, saving from them the dread fire unquenchable.

O Virgin, who art God's all-spotless Mother, preserve thy flock from every harm, protecting it in thy Protection, and provide for it in all things.

Let us who love Christ all join in a company with all for our soul today on the common festival of the divine Protection wherein we trust, whereby the Theotokos doth protect and keep from harm those who praise her, honoring her constant help and the grace she bestoweth abundantly.

THE NINTH HEIRMOS OF THE PROTECTION CANON IN TONE FOUR

The Angels praise the Protection of the Theotokos and magnify it with their hymns, for it everywhere protecteth the choirs of the faithful.

Let all the earth-born mortals rejoice in the Spirit, bearing their lamps. And let the nature of bodiless Minds celebrate with honor the holy *Protection* of the Mother of God, and cry out: Hail! All-blessed, pure, and ever-virgin Theotokos!

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 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 EXAPOSTEILARIA OF THE PROTECTION IN TONE THREE

*(**Thou who as God adornest**)*

O Queen, thy godly shelter doth overshadow faithful folk, and guideth, guardeth and sheltereth all our monastic companies from every manner of danger, O Theotokos and Virgin.

By thine almighty shelter and thine unsleeping prayer to God, do thou preserve us, thy servants; O Virgin, keep us all unharmed; for we all have thee, O Lady, in time of need as our refuge.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

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 Protection in Tone One (***Thou art the joy***)

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.*

O Maid, thou art our protectress, the shelter of the world; and them that keep with longing the feast of thy Protection, honoring thee with faith and the fervor of love, thou dost shelter and keep from harm; and as they worship thine icon with piety, they receive abundant grace therefrom.

Verse 2. *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

Great was the marvel that marvelous Andrew once beheld in thine all-holy temple: thy most wondrous Protection, which doth guard the faithful with marvelous care; and astonished as such a sight, he called divine Epiphany to himself to behold the wondrous spectacle.

Verse 3. *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*

Come all ye lovers of Christ and draw forth the gifts of grace from the all-pure Protection of the Virgin's august veil; it gusheth forth with bountiful health for the soul and it healeth the body's ills, while giving shelter to all that with guileless faith ask in prayer that they be granted help.

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

The greatly honored Protection of thy most sacred veil bestoweth ever-flowing grace unhindered to mankind. For as our unfailing protectress, our swift mediatrix not put to shame, and our forgiveness, O Virgin, thou gavest it to thy flock to be a source of cures.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE PROTECTION IN TONE FIVE

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

Wherever thy Protection casteth its shadow, O all-immaculate Virgin, thence is the might of the devil driven away; and every faithful human who calleth thereon is saved. Wherefore, as we hasten to its lightning-like brilliance, we are made beautiful with the sprinklings of the Spirit, and are made fragrant with the sweet scent of grace; and we rejoice spiritually, drawing forth the glittering lightnings of its miracles; for thy Protection's well-spring of blessings is inexhaustible, and the stream of healings therefrom is bestowed without being spent. Hence, we earnestly pray: Shelter us at the hour of judgment, O all-compassionate Lady, and redeem us, lowly as we are, from the everlasting torments; for by thy mediation nothing is impossible.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE FIVE

+ 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.

APOLYTKION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE ONE

(***While Gabriel was saying***)

O Virgin, we extol the great grace of thy Protection, which thou didst spread out like a bright cloud beyond all understanding; for thou dost invisibly protect thy people from the foe's every assault. Since we have thee as our shelter and certain help, we cry to thee with our whole soul: Glory to thy great deeds, O most pure Maid. Glory to thy shelter most divine. Glory to thy care and providence for us, O spotless one.

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