

Vigil Service
Tuesday 25/11/2014

Leave-Taking (Apodosis) of Entrance of Theotokos
Great-martyr Katherine the all-wise of Alexandria
Martyr Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Martyr Mercurios of
Smolensk

Great Vespers

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

Choir: Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, You have been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty have You put on, Who covers Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretches out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supports His chambers in the waters, Who appoints the clouds for His ascent, Who walks upon the wings of the winds, Who makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establishes the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Your rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Your thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where You have established them. You appointed a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sends forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench

their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He waters the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine makes glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which You have planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He has made the moon for seasons; the sun knows his going down. You appointed the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun arises, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom have You made them all.

The earth is filled with Your creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom You have made to play therein. All things wait on You, to give them their food in due season; when You gave them, they will gather it. When You opened Your hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when You turn away Your face, they shall be troubled. You will take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. You will send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looks on the earth and makes it tremble, Who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows his going down. You appointed the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom have You made them all.

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 You, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to You!

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 Paul, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Australia, 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 Your 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For unto You 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.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto You, hear You me; hear You me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto You, hear You me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto You: hear You me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before You as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear You me, O Lord.

+ Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.

+ Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to You, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in You have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto You, O Lord; I said: You are my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your Name.*

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait for me until You recompense me.*

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried to You, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.*

Verse 7. *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

For the Entrance in Tone One (**O strange wonder**)

Verse 6. *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with You there is forgiveness.*

Let us believers exchange glad tidings, singing to the Lord with psalms and songs of praise, honoring His holy tabernacle, the living ark who contained the uncontainable Word; for in a supernatural manner is she offered to God as a babe. And Zachariah the great High Priest receives her rejoicing since she is God's abode.

Verse 5. *Because of Your Name have I waited for You, O Lord; my soul has waited upon Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.*

Today the living temple of holy glory, the glory of Christ our God, Who alone is blessed and undefiled, is presented in the Mosaic Temple, to live in its holy precincts. Wherefore, Joachim and Anna rejoice now with her in spirit, and the ranks of virgins praise the Lord with songs honoring His Mother.

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*

You are the preaching of the Prophets, O virgin Theotokos, the glory of the Apostles and pride of Martyrs, the renewal of the whole race of earthly ones. For through you we are reconciled to God. Wherefore, we honor your coming to the temple of the Lord, shouting unto you and hailing you with the angel, O most honored one; for we are saved by your intercessions.

For St. Katherine in Tone One (***You are the joy***)

Verse 3. *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Today, O Katherine, the city of Alexandria is filled with joy and dances, since it gladly possesses your swaddling bands, O Martyr, in your divine church; wherefore, we also celebrate your bright and venerable memory piously. Intercede for them that honor you.

Verse 2. *Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.*

Let us now honor the feast-day of Katherine's memory; for she cast down with firmness all the enemy's powers, and the rhetoricians' resistance, she quelled, by her words and her mighty deeds. O God, deliver us all through her holy prayers from all heresies and false beliefs.

Verse 1. *For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Rejoice, O Katherine, you Martyr august and glorious; for on Mount Sinai, whereon Moses saw the bush unburnt, there your tabernacle most pleasing to God has been translated now by Christ, and He preserves and guards it until the time of His second coming at the end.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. KATHERINE IN TONE TWO

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

Let us come together with joy on the festival of the divinely-wise Martyr Katherine, O ye that love the Martyrs, and let us crown her with songs of praise as with garlands, crying unto her: Rejoice, you who didst refute the insolence of the babbling rhetoricians, since it was brimming with ignorance, and didst guide them to divine faith. Rejoice, you who gave your body over to manifold torments out of love for your Creator, and yet, like an indestructible anvil, was not stricken down. Rejoice, you who have been brought to dwell in the mansions on high

in recompense for your pains, and revel in everlasting glory. May we who sing your praise not fall short of this hope, which we too long for.

DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE EIGHT

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

Since you are sanctified, O Lady, bride of God, having proceeded after your birth to the Temple, to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, verily, Gabriel was sent to you with food. And all the heavens were amazed at beholding the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Wherefore, O pure and spotless Theotokos, glorified in heaven and upon earth, save our race.

THE HOLY ENTRANCE

(While the Doxasticon is chanted, the following dialogue occurs QUIETLY as the clergy make the entrance.)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks unto You, and we pray unto You, O Master of all, Lord Who loves mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before You, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, O Lord, Lord, are our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto You 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.

Deacon: Amen.

(When the clergy reach the center of the solea, the first part of the great censuring begins. After the first part of the great censuring is completed, this next dialogue occurs QUIETLY.)

Deacon: Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance to Your Holy Place, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(After the choir has finished, the following is said ALOUD.)

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for You at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify You.

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

TUESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE ONE

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.
(TWICE)

Verse. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me to lie down in green pastures!*

Choir: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The First Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (43:9-14)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: “Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them can declare this, and show us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, ‘It is true.’ You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me. I, I am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are My witnesses,” says the Lord. “I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is none who can deliver from My hand; I work and who can hinder it?” Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

The Second Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (3:1-9)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over

them forever. Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with Him in love, because grace and mercy are upon His elect, and He watches over his holy ones.

The Third Passage

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (5:15-6:3)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The righteous live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with His right hand He will cover them, and with His arm He will shield them. The Lord will take His zeal as His whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel His enemies; He will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and wear impartial justice as a helmet; He will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with Him to fight against the madmen. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap to the target as from a well-drawn bow of clouds, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High, Who will search out your works and inquire into your plans.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul, and with our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray You, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray You, 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 Paul

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 this community.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church 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 this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For You are a merciful God and loves mankind, and unto You 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 EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. O despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole evening 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 other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a good God and loves mankind, and unto You 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

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

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

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for unto You, the fearful Judge Who yet loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

“The Service of the Litia and Artoklasia”, is performed here though may also be performed after the Vespers service

Litia and Artoklasia

(Service of the 5 loaves)

THE DOXASTICA AT THE LITIA PROCESSION IN TONE FIVE

For St. Katherine the Great-Martyr

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

Today an exceedingly radiant day and an all-joyous springtime, the prizewinner's most august festival, has dawned forth unto the ends of the world, illuminating the hearts of the pious, and making the festival fragrant with wonders as with flowers. Come, therefore, all ye faithful, let us be glad in the spirit, and let us clap our hands on the bright and venerable memorial of the Martyr. Let us crown her with garlands of praise, crying thus: Rejoice, O Katherine, you comely virgin maiden. Rejoice, you bride of Christ. Rejoice, you who didst show the rhetoricians' unbridled mouths to be as voiceless as fish, who in the face of an impious king didst convict the foolishness of the Greeks and didst preach Christ, Who grantsus Great Mercy.

For the Entrance of the Theotokos

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

A joyful day and an all-solemn feast has broken forth, for she who before birth-giving was a Virgin, and after birth-giving remained a Virgin, is presented today in the holy Temple. Wherefore, the old Zachariah, father of the Forerunner, rejoiceth and crieth with joy, Behold, she who is the hope of the sorrowful approacheth the Temple; for she is a saint, to be offered as a vow for the abode of the King of all. Let, therefore, Joachim and Anna the grandparents be glad; for they have offered the blameless Lady as a ewe of three years. Wherefore, O ye mothers, rejoice, and ye virgins be joyful, and ye childless women exchange glad tidings; for the queen of all, pre-ordained, has opened for us the kingdom of heaven; rejoice, O ye nations, and be joyful.

- *After the Litia hymns are chanted stichirarically (slowly), and the procession of clergy and altar servers has finished at the solea, the clergy now begin the Service of Litia & Artoklasia.*

THE LITIA

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, 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 Paul, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this holy house and those who sing therein and the people here present; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are gone away and those who are abroad; for those who travel by sea, land and air; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the deliverance of captives; for those imprisoned and in danger; for our brethren who are serving and who are remembered for their labor, and for all who await the mercies of God, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors and benefactors of this holy temple and those here present who celebrate this holy feast.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray that He may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, Who loves mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impended on us, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (FORTY TIMES)

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, *be gracious*, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy upon us. For You are a merciful God and loves mankind, and unto You 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 PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplications 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 *the patron and protector of this holy community*;; Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; 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; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine—whose memory we now celebrate—Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all Your saints:

Priest: Make our prayer acceptable;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Grant us forgiveness of our trespasses;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Shelter us under the shelter of Your wings;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Drive away from us every enemy and adversary;

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Give peace to our life.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O Lord, have mercy on us and on Your world and save our souls, for You are a merciful God and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

THE ARTOKLASIA

This Theotokion is sung in Tone Five.

Clergy: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb;

Choir: For you has borne the Savior of our souls.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and didst satisfy the five thousand

therewith, Yourself bless these loaves, this wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city, in the houses of those who celebrate this feast and in all your world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is You Who does bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto You do we ascribe glory, together with Your unoriginate Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN

The clergy sing this Troparion once, and then the choir sings it twice.
Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. (THRICE)

• **Great Vespers resumes with the Aposticha.**

APOSTICHA FOR ST. KATHERINE IN TONE FOUR (**Unto them that fear You**)

O all-lauded Katherine, as we keep the sacred memorial of your venerable martyrdom, we honor and glorify with unceasing voices Him that gave you patience and persevering fortitude, and showed you forth as a victor over all, and gave you speech that made the rhetoricians tremble in great dismay, even Jesus the Lover of mankind, Savior and Sovereign Lord.

Verse 1. *In the saints that are in the earth has the Lord been wondrous.* You didst prove a voluntary Martyr, Katherine most glorious, when you forcibly didst rebuke the tyrant, and didst convict the most grievous madness of polytheism, and by the light of grace divine and Godly knowledge didst cast him to the ground. For which cause Christ, the

Savior of our souls, awarded the crown to you as His witness in martyrdom and a virgin without reproach.

Verse 2. *With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me.*

Having purified yourself by your most diligent way of life, you didst open your blessed mouth and you drewest in the grace of the Holy Spirit, O glorious Katherine, and with a great and steadfast mind you didst pull down all the tyrants' wanton pride, O ornament of athletes; you moreover prudently didst oppose, to corporeal comeliness, the great loveliness of the soul.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. KATHERINE IN TONE TWO

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

Practicing an immaterial way of life, you didst convict the ungodly tribunal and stoodfast as a trophy-bearer, O august Katherine, adorned with God's splendor as with garlands. Clothed with divine strength, you didst scornfully mock your tyrant's decree and didst silence the idle prating of the rhetoricians, O much-contending victor.

DOXASTICON FOR THE ENTRANCE IN TONE SIX

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

Let us, the assembly of believers, celebrate today spiritually in our gathering, and laud with true worship the virgin Maiden of God, the Theotokos, presented in the Temple of the Lord, forechosen from all generations for the abode of Christ, King of all. Wherefore, ye virgins, come forth, holding your lamps and honoring the solemn procession of the ever-Virgin. And ye mothers, cast off all sorrow, and follow them, praising her who has become the Theotokos, and a cause of joy to the world. Let us all, therefore, raise our voices with the angel, hailing the one who is full of grace, who ever intercedes for our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Choir: Lord, now let you Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for mine eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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 Your 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 are in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come; Your 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 Your 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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching

Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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

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

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

Let us extol the all-lauded bride of Christ, Katherine, the guardian of Sinai, who is our help and our support; for by the power of the Spirit she silenced brilliantly the nobility of liars. And now that she has been crowned as a Martyr, she seeketh for all the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

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

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

THE DISMISSAL (IF APPLICABLE)

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord

Choir: Lord Have Mercy

Priest: May the blessing of the Lord and His mercies come upon you through His divine grace and love for mankind always now and forever and to the ages of ages

Festal Orthros

(Matins)

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your 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 You, O Lord, are 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 You have smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners have You broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is upon Your people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath. For Your arrows are fastened in me, and You have laid Your hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Your 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 You is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from You. My heart is troubled, my strength has 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 spoke 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 opens not his mouth. And I became as a man that hears not, and that has in his mouth no reproofs. For in You have I hoped, O Lord; You will 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 spoke 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 You I rise early at dawn. My soul has thirsted for You; how often has my flesh longed after You in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before You to see Your power and Your glory, For Your mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise You. So shall I bless You in my life, and in Your 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 You. If I

remembered You on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on You. For You are become my helper; in the shelter of Your wings will I rejoice. My soul has cleaved after You; Your right hand has 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 swears by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on You. For You are become my helper; in the shelter of Your wings will I rejoice. My soul has cleaved after You; Your right hand has 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 You, 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 You. Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades has 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 You remember no more, and they are cut off from Your hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Your anger made strong, and all Your billows have You brought upon me. You have 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 You, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto You. Nay, for the dead will You work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto You? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Your mercy, and of Your truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Your wonders be known in that darkness, and Your righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto You, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before You. Wherefore, O Lord, does You cast off my soul and turn Your 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. Your furies have passed upon me, and Your terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. You have 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 You. Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your 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 has done for you, Who is gracious unto all your iniquities, Who heals all your infirmities, Who redeems your life from corruption, Who crowns you with mercy and compassion, Who fulfills your desire with good things; your youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performs deeds of mercy, and executes judgment for all them that are wronged. He has made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He has 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 has He dealt with us, neither according to our sins has He rewarded us. For

according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord has made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father has compassion upon his sons, so has the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knows whereof we are made, He has 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 has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules 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 Your truth; hearken unto me in Your righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has humbled my life down to the earth. He has 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 Your works, I pondered on the creations of Your hands. I stretched forth my hands unto You; my soul thirsts after You like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has fainted away. Turn not Your face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for in You have I put my hope.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto You have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto You have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Your good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Your name's sake, O Lord, shall You quicken me. In Your righteousness shall You bring my soul out of affliction, and in Your mercy shall You utterly destroy mine enemies. And You shall cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Your servant. (TWICE)

Your 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 You, O God. (THRICE)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You!

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 Paul, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Australia, 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 Your 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For unto You 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 FOUR

Choir: God is the Lord Who has 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*)

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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

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

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

Let us extol the all-lauded bride of Christ, Katherine, the guardian of Sinai, who is our help and our support; for by the power of the Spirit she silenced brilliantly the nobility of liars. And now that she has been crowned as a Martyr, she seeketh for all the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

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

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 Your 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For Your is the majesty, and Your 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 FOR ST. KATHERINE & THE ENTRANCE (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Courageously, you went to contests, O Katherine, with bravery confessing Christ God, O blessed Martyr; and you didst rebuke the impious tyrant deranged with wrath; you didst put to shame the crew of vain rhetoricians and you didst ascend unto the heavenly mansions; hence you do we glorify.

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

Verily, the fruit of Joachim and Anna the righteous, who nourished our lives, is offered to God in His holy Temple as a babe in the flesh, whom the noble Zachariah blessed. Wherefore, let us all bless her in faith; for she is the Mother of our Lord.

Second Kathisma

Katherine, learned and most wise, the virgin modest and august, being verily made strong with the great might and strength of Christ, doth

enter into the stadium with rejoicing. She bravely cast down the savage tyrant king and the whole array of the ungodly foes; and with a great voice she thus chanted with jubilation unceasingly: Receive my spirit, O Christ my Savior, my Redeemer and glory.

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

You was consecrated to God before you was conceived. And since you was born on earth you was offered unto Him, fulfilling purity by a promise. And having been presented in purity from your childhood in the divine Temple with brilliant lamps, being yourself a divine temple in truth, you was revealed as a vessel of the unapproachable divine Light. Great, therefore, is your procession in truth, O alone the ever-Virgin bride of God.

Third Kathisma

The Alexandrians' city, bright and Godly, on your remembrance keeps festival in gladness, O august Martyr Katherine, honoring your contests, which you didst endure courageously for Christ God; and holding her head up high, she doth cry to you: O much-suffering virgin maid, who in celestial abodes are found with your Creator now, rejoice, O Martyr most marvelous.

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

Let David the writer of the Psalms rejoice; let Joachim and Anna exchange glad tidings; for from them has appeared a holy-born child, Mary the light-bearing divine torch who, entering the Temple, was gladsome, and when the son of Barachia beheld her, he blessed her, lifting his voice with joy and crying, Rejoice, O miracle of the whole world.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do You 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 ST. KATHERINE IN TONE FOUR

Wondrous is God in His saints. (TWICE)

Stichos: *In the saints that are in His earth has the Lord been wondrous.*

Wondrous is God in His saints.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy are You, O our God, Who rests in the Holy Place, and unto You 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.

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

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

Let everything that has 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 your spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (25:1-13).

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

TO BE READ FROM THE ROYAL DOORS.

Priest: The Lord spoke this parable: The kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, Lord,

open to us!” But he answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.” Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

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

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Your 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 You only have I sinned and done this evil before You, that You might be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, You have loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom have You made manifest unto me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You shall wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Your 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 Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and with Your governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, You God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. For if You had desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings You shall 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 Your good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shall You be pleased with a

sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Your 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 Prizewinner, O You Who are merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O You Who are merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Practicing an immaterial way of life, you didst convict the ungodly tribunal and stoodfast as a trophy-bearer, O august Katherine, adorned with God's splendor as with garlands. Clothed with divine strength, you didst scornfully mock the tyrant's decree and didst silence the idle prating of the rhetoricians, O much-contending victor.

THE INTERCESSION

Deacon: O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Your rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, 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 *the patron and protector of this holy community*; Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; 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; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine—whose memory we now celebrate—Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech You, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto You, and have mercy upon us.

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

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

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR ST. KATHERINE (Plain Reading)

Rouse up now a choir, O ye that love the martyred Saints, august and inspired, acclaiming the supremely-wise Martyr Katherine, who has

proclaimed and preached of Christ in the stadium and has trampled the serpent down and spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

Taking hold upon the wisdom from God even from youth, the Martyr Katherine also learned all secular wisdom well; and coming to know from you thence by her reason the motion and creation of the elements, and coming to know also Him that by a word created them from the beginning, she rendered Him thanks by night and day; but she overthrew the idols with those who senselessly worshipped them, and she spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On November 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Leave-Taking (Apodosis) of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple, and commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Katherine of Alexandria.

Verses

Katherine, first a sage and a virgin, becomes
By the sword, a Martyr: O three things right goodly!
On the twenty-fifth a sword the Maiden Rhetorician slew.

Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Katherine to the Christian Faith. In a vision, Katherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. Katherine was greatly gifted by God, well educated and very beautiful. When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Katherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned fifty of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Katherine outwitted them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all fifty men be burned. By Katherine's prayers, all fifty confessed the Name of Christ and declared themselves

Christians before their executions. During the torture of Katherine, an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her. After many tortures, Katherine was beheaded at the age of eighteen, on November 25, 310. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai in Egypt.

On this day, we also commemorate the Great-Martyr Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 1. Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is come from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be ye elevated. Sing to the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations, praise Him with joy; for He has been glorified.

Ode 3. Let us cry unto the Son, born of the Father before the ages without transubstantiation, Christ God Who has been incarnate in these last days of the Virgin, without seed, shouting, O You Who has elevated our state, You are holy, O Lord.

Ode 4. O praised Christ, a stem has come out of Jesse, and from it has sprouted a Flower from a dense and shadowed mountain, O immaterial God, coming incarnate from the Virgin that has not known man. Glory, therefore, to Your might, O Lord.

Ode 5. Since You are the God of peace and the Father of mercies, O Lover of mankind, You didst send to us the great Messenger of Your mind, granting us Your peace. Therefore, have we been led aright to the light of divine knowledge, glorifying You as we come out of darkness.

Ode 6. The sea-monster did disgorge Jonah from its belly, as it received him safely like a fetus. As for the Word, when He dwelt in the Virgin,

taking from her a body, He was born, preserving her without corruption, and without transubstantiation, preserving His Mother without harm.

Ode 7. The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the infidel, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but were singing as they stood in the midst of the flames: Blessed are You, God of our fathers.

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

Ode 8. Verily, the dewy furnace did shadow the sign of the supernatural wonder; for it burned not the youths whom it received, as the fire of divinity also burned not the womb of the Virgin in which it dwelt. Wherefore, let us offer praise with song, saying: Let all creation praise the Lord, exalting Him evermore, to the end of ages.

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

NINTH ODE OF THE FIRST CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin has entered into the Holy of Holies.

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

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin has entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

Having attained the most resplendent, pure beauty of your soul, O pure Theotokos, and the grace of God having been cast upon you from

heaven, you shall ever lighten with the eternal Light those who joyfully cry: O undefiled Virgin, verily, you are more exalted than all creatures.

The Angels, beholding the entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin has entered wondrously into the Holy of Holies.

Your miracles, O pure Theotokos, transcend words in sublimity; for I comprehend that your is a body transcending description, not receptive to the flow of sin. Wherefore, I cry to you gratefully: O spotless Virgin, you are verily more exalted than all creatures.

Let us, angels and men, honor the Entrance of the Virgin; for she has entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

The Mosaic Law foretold you by a sign in a strange manner, O spotless one. Verily, you are a tabernacle, a divine jar, a strange ark, a shelter, a rod, an everlasting temple, and a gate of God. Wherefore, it teaches us to cry unto you: O spotless Virgin, you are verily more exalted than all creatures.

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin has entered in God-pleasing manner into the Holy of Holies.

When he sang to you, David proclaimed you Daughter of the King, as he beheld you standing at God's right hand, O pure Lady, in the beauty of virtue, with varied colors all adorned. Hence, he prophesied of you, crying: O spotless Virgin, you are verily more exalted than all creatures.

Rejoice with the saints, ye angels and ye virgins; exchange with each other glad tidings; for the Maiden of God has entered into the Holy of Holies.

On foreseeing how you wouldst bear God, O Lady, wise King Solomon spoke darkly, calling you the King's gate and the living and sealed spring whence the unsullied water issued forth to us, who cry out with

faith and rejoicing: O spotless Virgin, you are verily more exalted than all creatures.

O ye angels, and men with hymns of praises, the Virgin let us magnify, for she has divinely entered into the Holy of Holies.

Through your gifts, grant your peace to my soul, and pour forth life to all them that revere you as is right and due, O Theotokos; and do you of yourself comfort, help and shelter, and preserve them that cry to you with sincere faith: O spotless Virgin, you are verily more exalted than all creatures.

NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented in the Temple of the Lord, and was blessed by the hands of the priests.

Verily, the fruit of the promise did come forth from Joachim and Anna the righteous, namely Mary, the Maiden of God, who is presented as a child in the flesh, as an acceptable incense to the holy Temple, to live in the Sanctuary; for she is a saint.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

Let us praise her with songs who is a child by nature, and has been manifest in a supernatural manner as Theotokos; for today she is offered to the Lord in the Mosaic Temple as a sweet incense and spiritual fruit to the righteous God.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

Come, as is meet, O ye faithful, let us cry out with the Angel to greet the Mother of our God with: Rejoice, Bride all-comely; rejoice, O cloud of light, from whom the Lord has shined forth upon us, who once sat in the miserable darkness of deep ignorance; rejoice, you hope of all.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

The whole creation now joins with Angel Gabriel, crying a worthy hymn and song of praise to the pure Theotokos: Rejoice, O holy and all-blameless Mother of God, through whom we are redeemed from the curse of aforesaid and partake of incorruptibility.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

O you most Holy of Holies, O all-pure Mary, God's Mother, by your entreaties, set us free from the enemy's meshes; from every heresy, from every error and tribulation rescue us, who most faithfully worship the blessed icon of your holy countenance.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Glorify, O my soul, the majesty of the triune Godhead, indivisible.

Let us glorify the inseparable Trinity, the three-personed Nature, the Glory indivisible, ceaselessly praised in heaven and on earth in one Godhead, bowing in true worship to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen: Glorify, O my soul, her who is more honorable than the hosts on high.

O virgin Theotokos, pray for us, who faithfully seek refuge in your compassion, who worship piously your Son, the God of the world and its Lord, so that He may deliver us from corruption and dangers, and from sundry temptations.

KATAVASIA OF THE FIRST NATIVITY CANON OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Ode 9. *Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.*

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which has laid Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

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 Your 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 You, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise You, and unto You 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 ST. KATHERINE & THE ENTRANCE IN TONE

THREE

*(** While standing in the Temple's courts**)*

O Virgin truly honorable, boast of prize-winning Martyrs, O Katherine, you didst give great strength to your womanly spirit; and with God's help you didst convict as vain myths and idle talk all the philosophers' folly; for you had as your helper God's immaculate Mother, who gave you mighty assistance.

The temple's inmost parts today, at the hands of the High Priest, admit you in, O Full of Grace, Theotokos and Virgin; therein you made your abode from the age of three to twelve. At a divine Angel's pure hand,

you was fed there and nourished, as the holy elect ark of the Creator of all things.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

Choir: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

For the Entrance in Tone One (***You are the joy***)

Verse 1. *This glory shall be to all His saints.*

The lamp-carrying virgins accompanied the ever-Virgin one rejoicing; truly prophesying in the spirit of the future; for the Theotokos, being the temple of God, was brought into the Temple from her childhood in virginal glory.

Verse 2. *Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power.*

The Theotokos, in truth, who is a holy promise and a very precious fruit, has appeared unto the world as more exalted than all creatures. And being presented with true worship in the house of God, she fulfills the parental vow, preserved of the divine spirit.

Verse 3. *Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

You have borne for the world, O Virgin, nourished by faith with heavenly bread in the Temple, the Bread of life, to whom you was formerly betrothed mystically by the Spirit; for you a chosen temple, free of all blame, became a bride unto the Father.

For St. Katherine in Tone Two (***With what fair crowns***)

Verse 4. *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

With what fair crowns of praise shall we crown and adorn you, O glorious Katherine? Who didst wisely hate all things of earth, embracing things never perishing; who freely didst die for Christ the Savior; who are the resplendent bride of our great King and God, who shinewith lightning splendor throughout all the world; the holy dove, pure and spotless, who has been received now in the brilliant bridal chambers of Heaven by Christ our God, Who grantsGreat Mercy to the world.

Verse 5. *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*

With what fair praise as with fragrant flowers shall we deck the great prize-winner Katherine? For she has convicted the impious and trod all error beneath her feet; who dwellsin Heaven's bridal chambers and leapsfor joy and dancesin divine delight, confessing the Holy Trinity as Cause of all with the divine hosts of Angels; by her mediations grant Your peace and Great Mercy, O Christ, to us who now honor her with longing and pious reverence.

Verse 6. *Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

With what sweet words of high hymnody shall we honor the Queen with our praises, lauding all-wise Katherine in song today, the Virgin Martyr replete with grace? That valiant destroyer of delusion, who struck down all the philosophers with wonderment, and shattered the vaunting boldness of Maxentius, and in the midst of the lawless, nerved with steadfast courage, preached of Christ before the whole world as man wholly free of sin, and God Who was ere eternity.

THE DOXASTICON OF ST. KATHERINE IN TONE EIGHT

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

Wounded with the love of your Bridegroom, O venerable Katherine, you all-wise Virgin-martyr, you didst readily abandon every worldly attachment; and sealing yourself with the sign of the Cross, you didst skillfully refute the deception of the idols, and didst check the idle gainsaying of the rhetoricians, by clearly proclaiming the Name of Christ unto all. Wherefore, wearing a heavenly crown on your head, you dance with the Angels like a pure dove, and you intercede unceasingly for them that keep your all-celebrated memorial with faith and longing.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE TWO

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

Today the all-blameless Virgin is presented in the Temple for the abode of God, the King of all, the Nourisher of all our souls. Today the all-pure holiness doth enter into the Holy of Holies, as a three-year ewe. Wherefore, let us, like the angel, hail her, saying, Rejoice, O you who alone are blessed among women.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE TWO

- + Glory to You, Who has shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You; we give thanks unto You for Your 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 takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O You Who takes away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O You Who sits at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

- + Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Your Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Your mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope in You.
- + Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, You have been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.
- + Lord, I have fled unto You: teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.
- + For with You is the fountain of life: in Your light shall we see light.
- + O continue Your loving-kindness unto them that know You.
- + 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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

Divine Liturgy Variables

Refer to normal Divine Liturgy book

REFRAINS OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

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

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

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

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

REFRAINS OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

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

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in His Saints; who sing to You. Alleluia.

This is the gate of the Lord, by which the righteous shall enter. (**Refrain**)

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

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

REFRAINS OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON

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

unto You. (*Now sing the Apolytikion of the Entrance "Today the Virgin" below.*)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, **Who are wondrous in His Saints**; who sing to You. Alleluia.

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

APOLYTIKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. You have appeared in the Temple of God openly and has gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O you who are the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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

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

Let us extol the all-lauded bride of Christ, Katherine, the guardian of Sinai, who is our help and our support; for by the power of the Spirit she silenced brilliantly the nobility of liars. And now that she has been crowned as a Martyr, she seeketh for all the Great Mercy.

• ***Apolytikion St Nicholas***

KONTAKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

*(**You Who was raised up**)*

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Katherine the Great-Martyr)

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

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

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

THE GOSPEL

(For St. Katherine the Great-Martyr)

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

At that time, a great crowd followed Jesus and thronged about Him. And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I shall be made well." And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone forth from Him,

immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, “Who touched my garments?” And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing around You, and yet You say, ‘Who touched me?’” And Jesus looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. And Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

MEGALYNARION OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

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

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

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR ST. KATHERINE IN TONE

EIGHT

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

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

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and

God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and glorious Great-martyrs Katherine the all-wise of Alexandria and Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

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

Choir: Amen.

GO!