

NOVEMBER 21

The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1\*

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!*

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 1**      *(Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

Today, let us dance, O faithful,

singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns

and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark,

that contained the Word Who cannot be contained;

for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord

as a young child in the flesh,

and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her//

as the dwelling place of God.

*v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

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\* Music for the Feast of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org).

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God,  
the pure Maiden who alone is blessed among women,  
is offered in the Temple of the Law  
that she may make her dwelling in the Holy Place.  
Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit,  
and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord, //  
chanting psalms, and honoring His Mother.

*V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel  
hope on the Lord!*

You are the preaching of the prophets, O Virgin Mother of God;  
the glory of the Apostles and the boast of Martyrs,  
and the renewal of all the earth-born,  
for through you, we are reconciled to God.  
Therefore, being saved by your intercessions,  
we honor your coming into the Temple of the Lord;  
and with the Angel we all cry out to you in song: //  
“Rejoice, O all-revered Lady!”

*V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and  
He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4**      *(As one valiant among martyrs)*

Led by the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies,  
where she is fed by an angel.  
She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God,  
Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her, //  
and has made God-like the fallen nature of mortals.

*V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

The young girls rejoice today,  
and with lamps in hand they go before the spiritual Lamp,  
as she is led with reverence into the Holy of Holies.  
They foreshadow the Brightness past telling  
Who is to shine forth from her //  
and enlighten by the Spirit those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.

*V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Anna the all-praised cried out rejoicing:  
“Receive, O Zachariah, her whom God’s Prophets proclaimed in the Spirit,  
and bring her into the holy Temple,  
there to be brought up in reverence,  
that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, //  
His palace and resting place and dwelling filled with light!”

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

### **Tone 8**

After your birth, O Lady and Bride of God,  
you came to the Temple of the Lord  
to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, since you yourself are holy.  
And Gabriel then was sent to you, all-blameless Maiden, to bring you food.  
All in heaven were amazed  
to see how the Holy Spirit had made His abode in you.  
Therefore, O spotless and undefiled Mother of God,  
glorified in heaven and on earth, //  
save the human race!

### **Old Testament Readings**

**Composite 17** (*Exod. 40:1-5, 9, 10, 16, 34-35*)

**Composite 18** (*1 Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11*)

**Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**

### **Litya**

#### **Tone 1** (*by George of Nicomedia*)

Today, let heaven above rejoice,  
and let the clouds rain down gladness  
at the mighty and exceeding marvelous works of our God.  
For behold, the Gate that looks towards the east,  
who was born from a barren and childless woman according to the promise  
and dedicated to God as His dwelling place,  
is today brought to the Temple as an offering without blemish.  
Let David be glad, striking his harp.  
For he says: “Virgins shall be brought to the King after her,  
her companions will be brought to Him”;  
that she may be raised within God’s tabernacle, His place of atonement,  
to become the dwelling of Him Who was begotten of the Father without change  
before the ages //  
for the salvation of our souls.

**Tone 4**      *(by George of Nicomedia)*

Today the Theotokos, the Temple that is to hold God,  
is brought into the Temple of the Lord,  
and Zachariah receives her.

Today the Holy of Holies is glad,  
and the choir of angels mystically keeps the feast.

With them let us celebrate the feast today,  
and with Gabriel let us cry aloud:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you, //  
He Who has great mercy!”

Come, all peoples,  
let us praise her who alone is without blemish,  
who was proclaimed by the prophets and now is offered in the Temple:  
the Mother foreordained before the ages,  
who in the last days has been shown forth as Theotokos.  
By her intercessions, O Lord, //  
grant us Your peace and great mercy!

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

**Tone 5**      *(by Leo the Master)*

The day of joy has dawned, the feast worthy of all reverence:  
for today, she who was a virgin before giving birth and remained a virgin after  
bearing a child,  
is brought into the Temple.

The aged Zachariah, father of the Forerunner,  
rejoices and cries out in gladness:

“The Expectation of those in affliction has come!”

She who is holy has come to the holy Temple,  
there to be consecrated as the dwelling-place of the Lord of all!

Let Joachim the forefather be glad, and let Anna rejoice!

For they have offered to God the Lady without blemish,  
like a heifer three years old. \*    (\* Cf. Genesis 15:9)

Rejoice with them, O mothers!

Leap for joy, you virgins!

Join them in the dance, you barren women,

for the Kingdom of Heaven has been opened to us by her who is foreordained  
the Queen of all! //

Rejoice and be glad, O peoples!

## Aposticha

### Tone 5 *(Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross)*

Heaven and earth rejoice,  
beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish,  
as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence.

Zachariah cried to her in amazement:

“O Gate of the Lord, to you I open the gates of the Temple;  
rejoice and go around it dancing.

For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel  
will now come to dwell openly in our midst,  
and that from you shall be born God the Word, //  
Who grants the world His great mercy!”

*V. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her; her companions  
shall be brought to You. (Ps. 44:13)*

Anna, the namesake of grace,  
joyfully brings into the Temple of God  
the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace,  
and calls young girls to go before her with lamps in hand.  
She says: “Go, child, to Him Who gave you to me;  
to be an offering and a sweet-smelling incense.  
Go into the inner sanctuary that none may enter:  
learn its mysteries,  
and prepare yourself to become the pleasing and fair dwelling-place of Jesus, //  
Who grants the world His great mercy!”

*V. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be led into the  
Temple of the King. (Ps. 44:14)*

The most holy Virgin, the Temple that is to contain God,  
is dedicated within the Temple of God;  
and young girls, bearing lamps, now go before her.  
Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance,  
for they have borne her who is to bear the Creator.  
And she who is all-pure dances around the divine habitations  
and is fed by the hand of an angel.  
She has been revealed as the Mother of Christ, //  
Who grants the world His great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

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

**Tone 6**      *(by Sergius of Jerusalem)*

Today let us, the crowds of the assembled faithful,  
celebrate a spiritual feast:  
let us reverently praise the Virgin Theotokos and child of God,  
as she is brought into the Temple of the Lord!  
She was forechosen from all generations  
to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Lord and God of all.  
O Virgins, bearing lamps, go before her,  
honoring the majestic advance of the ever-Virgin!  
Mothers, lay aside every sorrow and accompany them with joy,  
singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God,  
the cause of joy for the world!  
Therefore, let us all join with the angel,  
and joyfully cry out: “Rejoice!” to her who is full of grace, //  
and who ever intercedes for our souls.

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**Tone 4**      **Troparion**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her:  
“Rejoice, O Fulfillment //  
of the Creator’s dispensation!”

*(sung thrice at Great Vespers)*

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

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**Tone 4      Kontakion**

The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,  
is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
therefore, the angels of God praise her://  
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      *(Song of the Theotokos)***

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
*(Lk. 1:46-47)*

*V. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (Lk. 1:48)*

**Epistle**  
(320) Hebrews 9:1-7

**Tone 8**  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

*V. Even the rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps. 44:11b)*

## **Gospel**

(54, 58) Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

*Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:*

### **Tone 4**

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.//  
How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since she is a living Ark of God  
let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.  
But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her,  
praising her in joy with the angel's song://  
"Truly, you are more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!"

### **Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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