

**December 8**  
**The Maternity of the Holy Anna**

All page references are to **The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2005**

1. *Beginning Prayers, p. 1*
2. *Psalm 103, p. 2 (chant) or p. 6 (melodic)*
3. *Litany of Peace, p. 8*
4. *First Kathisma, p. 10*

**The Lamplighting Psalms**

**Psalm 140**

**Tone 4**

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O Lord, I have cried  
to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I call up - on you.  
Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to you like in - cense  
and the lifting up of my hands like an eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear  
me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth \*  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil, \*  
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting. \*  
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head. \*  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock; \*  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground, \*  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned; \*  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe; \*  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set \*  
while I pursue my way *unharm*ed.

**Psalm 141** With all my voice I cry to the Lord, \*  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him; \*  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path. \*  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see: \*  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape, \*  
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord. \*  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry \*  
for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me \*  
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison \*  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble \*  
because of your goodness *to* me.

**Psalm 129** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; \*  
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive \*  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

**Tone 4 podoben: Zvanny sviše byw**  
(Samohlasen settings begin on page 12.)

⑥ ⑤



The bar - ren An - na leaped for joy when she gave birth to Mar - y the  
Vir - gin, who in turn will give birth in the flesh to God the Word.  
O - ver - flow - ing with happi - ness, she cried out: Re - joice with me, all  
tribes of Is - ra - el, for I have conceived and put aside my bur - den of  
child - less - ness as the Cre - a - tor has deigned. He heard my pray'r  
and healed the pains of my yearn - ing heart.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Repeat "The barren Anna...")

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



4 3

O An - na, the One who made waters gush forth from a rock be - stows  
as a fruit of your womb, the ev - er - vir - gin La - dy. Through her, our  
sal - va - tion will come. Be - cause of this you were de - liv - ered from shame.  
No long - er will you be on earth as a fruit - less soil, for you have pro - duced  
an earth which will bring forth the Tree of Life. Ac - cord - ing to  
his will, he delivered the hu - man race from all shame when he became man out of  
his com - pas - sion - ate mer - - - - cy.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat "O Anna...")

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

The say - ings of the prophets are now be - ing ful - filled: the ho - ly moun - tain  
 is plant - ed in the womb; the di - vine lad - der is set up; the throne of  
 the great king is read - y; the God - inspired city is be - ing a - dorned.  
 The un - burn - a - ble bush is begin - ning to bud forth, and the treas - ure house  
 of grace is o - ver - flow - ing. It is spread - ing over the rivers of un - fruit - ful - ness  
 of the God - wise An - na, whom we glo - ri - fy in faith.

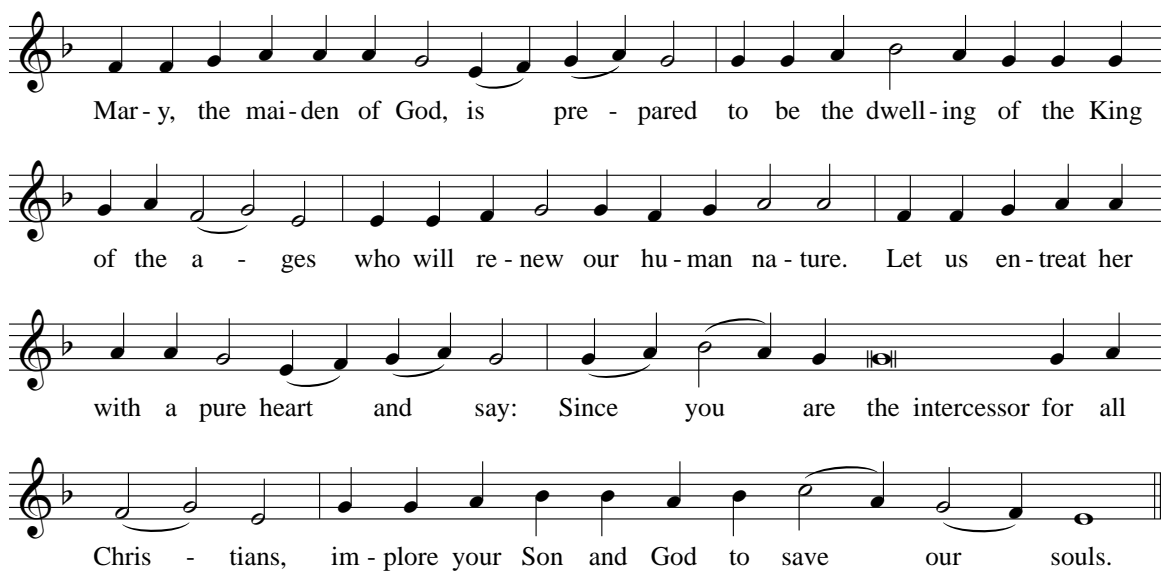
**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
 (on 1) he is faithful forever. (*Repeat "The sayings of the prophets..."*)

**Cantor:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
 now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Doxastikon**

**Tone 2 samohlasen**

To - day the mystery which has been an - nounced from e - ter - ni - ty, whose depth  
 an - gels and human beings can - not meas - ure, ap - pears in the arms of An - na.



Mar - y, the mai - den of God, is pre - pared to be the dwell - ing of the King  
of the a - ges who will re - new our hu - man na - ture. Let us en - treat her  
with a pure heart and say: Since you are the intercessor for all  
Chris - tians, im - plore your Son and God to save our souls.

6. *Hymn of the Evening*, p. 12

7. *Wednesday Prokeimenon*, p. 115

**Readings:** Genesis 28: 10-17  
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4  
Proverbs 9: 1-11

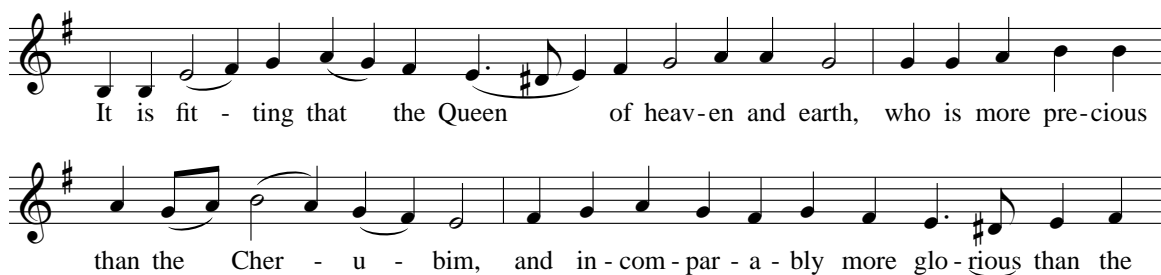
8. *Litany of Fervent Supplication*, p. 13

9. *Hymn of Glorification*, p. 14

10. *Litany of Supplication*, p. 16

## Litija

**Tone 1 Bolhar**



It is fit - ting that the Queen of heav - en and earth, who is more pre - cious  
than the Cher - u - bim, and in - com - par - a - bly more glo - rious than the

Ser - a - phim, be con - ceived and remain im - mac - u - late as the an - gels,  
 so that they who are serv - ants of the Lord can boast of  
 their own Queen, the The - o - to - kos. Glo - ry and praise to the Lord  
 who willed it so, the Cre - a - tor of all things.

**Cantor:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
 now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Doxastikon**

**Tone 1 Bolhar**

Be - fore the na - tiv - i - ty of the Son of God, it was fit - ting  
 for the Fa - - - ther to be - stow the most pure con - cep - tion up - on the  
 The - o - to - kos, who is be - trothed of the Ho - ly Spir - it, that  
 she might be filled with heav - en - ly gifts in a man - ner be - yond

all oth-er crea - tures. Glo-ry and praise to the Lord who willed it so,  
the Cre - a - tor of all things.

12. Litija Litany, p. 116

**Aposticha**

**Tone 5 podoben: Radujšja živonosnyj Kreste**  
(A samohlasen setting begins on page 14)

①  
An - na, whose name means di-vine grace, once cried out in her pray-er,  
ask-ing for a child. She in - voked the God and Creator of all, say - ing:  
Lord of Hosts, you know what shame it is to be bar - ren. Heal the  
pains of my heart. Make my fruit-less womb fruit - ful so that we may  
of - fer to you the child who is born as a gift, and that with one mind,  
we may bless, praise, and glo-ri - fy your love through which the world ob-tains



great mer - cy.

**Cantor:**

The Lord swore an oath to Da - vid; he will not go back on his word.

②

An - na was praying with great fervor, beseeching the Lord for a child, when she

heard the voice of an an - gel who told her that God had granted her wish,

say - ing plain - ly: Do not doubt, for your pray'r has reached the Lord.

Wipe a - way your tears, for you shall be an olive tree bringing forth a

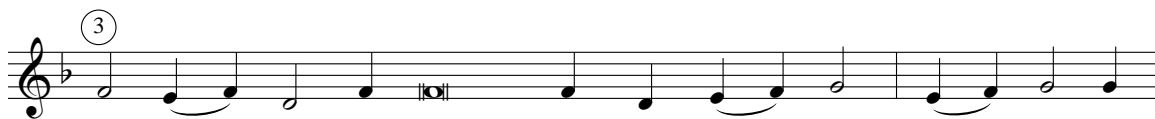
beau - ti - ful branch. You will bring forth the Vir - gin from whom will blos - som the

flow - er, Christ - in - the - flesh who will grant great mer - cy to the world.

**Cantor:**



A Son, the fruit of your bod - y, will I set up - on your throne.



Jo - a - chim and Anna, the right - eous cou - ple, gave birth to



the precious heavenly fruit, the ewe - lamb, who in turn will give birth in a



manner beyond un - der - stand - ing to the Lamb of God who is to be



sac - ri - ficed for all. Be - cause of this, they of - fer to the Lord



an un - ceas - ing and hum - ble hymn of praise. Let us, there - fore, praise them with



fer - vor. And let us joy - fully celebrate the birth of the One who was born



of them. Mar - y, the The - o - to - kos; be - cause through her,



great mercy is grant - ed to all of us.

**Cantor:** Glory...now and ever...

**Doxastikon**

**Tone 2 samohlasen**

On this day the roy - al pur - ple ap - pears, de - scend - ing from the root of  
Da - vid. The mys - tic - al flower of Jes - se buds forth; from her shall  
blos - som Christ our God, the Sav - ior of our souls.

14. *Prayer of St. Simeon, p. 19*

15. *Trisagion Prayers, p. 19*

**Troparion**

*Priest first, then all:*

**Tone 4**

To - day the bonds of bar - ren - ness are loosed, for God has heard the pray'rs of  
Jo - a - chim and An - na. He prom - ised, beyond hope, the birth of their god - ly  
daugh - ter. The In - des - cribable, himself, born of her as a mor - tal,  
com - mand - ed us through the an - gel to sing to her: Re - joice, O wo - man

full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... *All repeat "Today the bonds of barrenness..."*

17. *Dismissal, p. 21*

**Stichera at Psalm 140**  
**Samohlasen settings**

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
*(on 6)* But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

**Tone 4**

The barren An-na leaped for joy when she gave birth to Mar - y the Vir - gin,

who in turn will give birth in the flesh to God the Word. O - ver - flow - ing

with happiness, she cried out: Re - joice with me, all tribes of Is - ra - el,

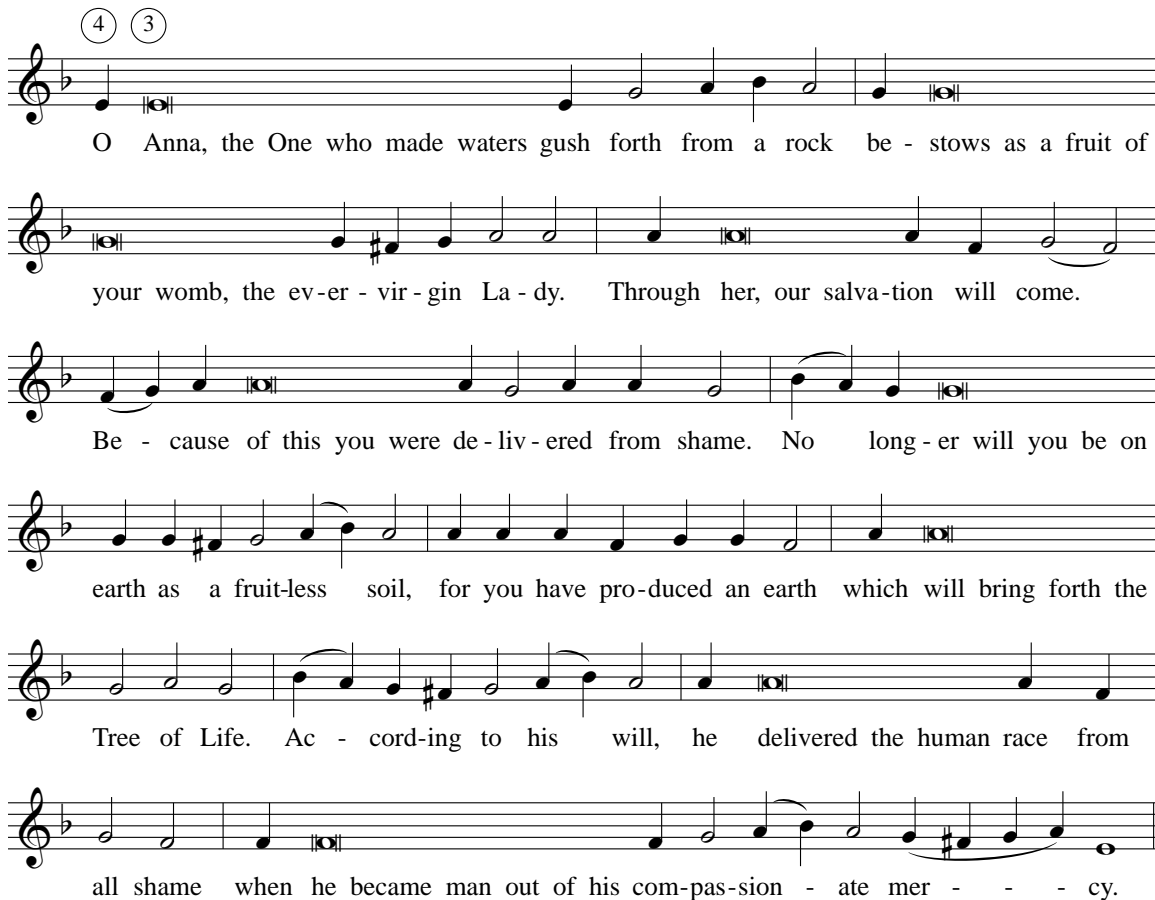
for I have conceived and put aside my bur - den of child - less - ness as the

Cre - a - tor has deigned. He heard my pray'r and healed the pains of my

yearn - ing heart.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Repeat "The barren Anna...")

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



4 3

O Anna, the One who made waters gush forth from a rock be - stows as a fruit of  
your womb, the ev - er - vir - gin La - dy. Through her, our salva - tion will come.  
Be - cause of this you were de - liv - ered from shame. No long - er will you be on  
earth as a fruit - less soil, for you have pro - duced an earth which will bring forth the  
Tree of Life. Ac - cord - ing to his will, he delivered the human race from  
all shame when he became man out of his com - pas - sion - ate mer - - - cy.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat "O Anna...")

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!



The sayings of the prophets are now be-ing ful-filled: the holy mountain is plant-ed



in the womb; the di-vine lad-der is set up; the throne



of the great king is read-y; the God-inspired ci-ty is be-ing a-dorned.



The unburnable bush is begin-ning to bud forth, and the treas-ure house of grace is



o-ver-flow-ing. It is spread-ing over the rivers of unfruitfulness of the God-wise



An-na, whom we glo-ri-fy in faith.

*Turn to page 5 of this insert for the Doxastikon.*

### **Aposticha Samohlasen settings**

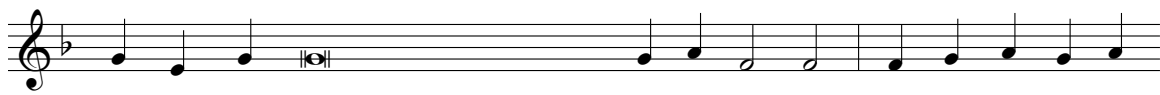
**Tone 5**



An-na, whose name means di-vine grace, once cried out in her pray'r,



ask-ing for a child. She in-voked the God and Creator of all, say-ing:



Lord of Hosts, you know what shame it is to be bar - ren. Heal the pains of my



heart. Make my fruit - less womb fruit - ful so that we may offer

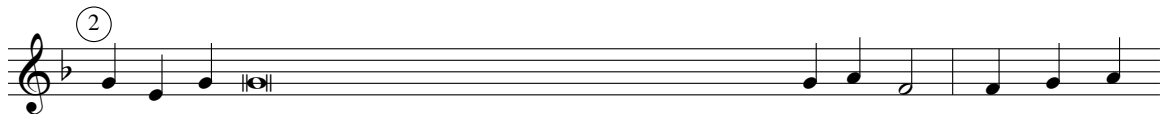


to you the child who is born as a gift, and that with one mind, we may bless, praise,



and glo - ri - fy your love through which the world ob - tains great mer - cy.

**Cantor:** The Lord swore an oath to David; he will not go back on his word.



An - na was praying with great fervor, beseeching the Lord for a child, when she heard



the voice of an an - gel who told her that God had granted her wish,



say - ing plain - ly: Do not doubt, for your pray'r has reached the Lord.



Wipe a - way your tears, for you shall be an olive tree bringing forth a



beau - ti - ful branch. You will bring forth the Vir - gin from whom will blossom

the flow - er, Christ - in - the - flesh who will grant great mer - cy  
to the world.

**Cantor:** A Son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

③

Jo - a - chim and Anna, the right - eous cou - ple, gave birth to the precious heavenly  
fruit, the ewe - lamb, who in turn will give birth in a manner be - yond un - der -  
- stand - ing to the Lamb of God who is to be sacri - ficed for all. Be - cause of this,  
they of - fer to the Lord an un - ceas - ing and humble hymn of praise.  
Let us, there - fore, praise them with fer - vor. And let us joy - fully celebrate  
the birth of the One who was born of them. Mar - y, the The - o - to - kos;  
be - cause through her, great mer - cy is grant - ed to all of us.