THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. On October 1, 911, during the reign of emperor Leo the Wise, there was an all-night vigil in the Blachernae church of the Theotokos in Constantinople. Standing near the rear of the church was St. Andrew the Fool for Christ, and his disciple Epiphanius. At four o’clock in the morning, the Theotokos appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as if to protect them. She was surrounded by angels and saints. Seeing this, Andrew asked his disciple, “Do you see the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?”

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2005

Lamplighting Psalms: Tone 1, beginning on page 24

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.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

O most pure The-o-to-kos, you are a mighty defender for those in sorrow.

You are a ready help to those in trouble. You are the salvation and

confirmation of the world. You are the depth of mercy,

the font of God's wisdom, and the protectoress of the world.
O faithful, let us sing and praise her glorious protection, saying:

Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!

the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O most pure Theotokos...")

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

The wondrous prophet Isaiah foretold: The mountain of the Lord will be revealed in the last days, and the house of the Lord will be upon the mountain. O Queen and Lady, we have seen this prophecy truly fulfilled in you, because the mountain and hills have been adorned by the many churches named after your feasts. Therefore, we joyfully sing out

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O most pure Theotokos...")
to you: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!

the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

O awesome beauty, you are the true prophetic fulfillment for all the faithful. You are the glory of the apostles and the joy of the martyrs, the pride of virgins and a wondrous protection for the whole world. O Lady,

with the mantle of your mercy, protect our Church and all the people who sing out to you: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you!

the Lord, who because of you bestows great mercy on our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.
O Theotokos, you cooperated with the invitation offered by the Holy Spirit. You were like a paradise planted by God and the sight of the living Tree. We acknowledge you as having brought forth the Creator of all, who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life. We ask you to pray for us, with the Forerunner. With your mantle, protect all people from every danger.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, 
(Repeat "O Theotokos..."

Psalm 116

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

Heaven and earth are sanctified. The Church is radiant and all the people are rejoicing. Behold, the Theotokos, together with the angelic hosts,
the Fore-runner, and the Theolo-gian, with the prophets and apostles
has invisibly entered. She prays to Christ in behalf of all Christians,
that he may have mercy on our city and all people, who glorify the
feast of her Protection.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.
(on 1)
O Theotokos, you are the beauty of Jacob; You are the
heavenly ladder by which Christ came down to earth. Indeed,
those images signify your honor and glory. The angels in heaven and
all people on earth praise you, for you have given birth to the God of all.
We honor you as you pray for the whole world and cover with your mantle
all those who observe your holy feast.

Cantor:  (Tone 8) Glory…now and ever…

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

All the leaders of the heavenly armies form a spiritual choir and rejoice with all of us when they see the faithful praising the Lady and Queen of all. The spirits of the just rejoice also as they witness the vision of the Queen praying with outstretched arms. She asks for peace in the world, power and strength for our Church, and salvation for our souls.

Readings:  Genesis 28: 10 - 17
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11
Let us assemble today, O faithful and praise the immaculate Queen of all, the most pure Virgin Mother of Christ our God; for she always mercifully extends her hands to her Son. In amazement, Andrew saw her in a cloud, protecting the faithful with her mantle. Let us fervently sing to her:

Rejoice, O protection, defense, and salvation of our souls.

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

Doxastikon - Tone 2 Bolhar

Having purified our minds and souls, we also rejoice with the angels, joyously singing the hymn of David
to the virgin bride of Christ our God, the King of all:

A - rise, O Lord, in the place of your dwell - ing,

you and the ark of your maj - es - ty. Be - cause you have a - dorned her

as a beau - ti - ful pal - ace, re - ceive her in - to your cit - y

that through her pray'rs, O Lord, and with your al - might - y pow'r,

she will or - der our lives and pro - tect our Church from its en - e - mies.

Litija Litany p.116

Aposticha

You are high - er than all beings in heav-en or on earth, more glo - rious than the

Cher - u - bim, and more hon - or - a - ble than all cre - a - tion; Christ has giv - en you as the
powerful protection of the Christian people to protect and save all sinners who has-ten to you. Therefore, O Lady, we sing hymns to you be-cause you are the ref-uuge of all peo-ple, and we glo-rious-ly celebrate the honorable feast of your Pro-tec-tion. We ask Christ to grant us great mer-cy to our souls.

Cantor

Listen, O daugh-ter, and see, and in-cline your ear.

O peo-ple, let us gloriously sing David's song to the young bride, to the Moth-er of Christ our God and the King of all. O Mas-ter, the Queen stood at your right hand, clothed in gold-en robes and adorned with ce-les-tial beau-ty. You have af-firmed her, chosen from a-mong wo-men, and deigned to be born of her
because of your great mercy. You have given her as a help to your people.

to build up and protect your servants from all misfortunes, O only blessed One.

Cantor

The rich among the people will seek your favor.

O Theotokos, you are a mountain greater and more glorious than Mount Sinai.

It could not bear God's glory coming down in images and tents. It caught fire and shook with thunder and lightning. You likewise had the Divine Fire in you. Through the will of him who holds all in the palm of his hand,

you bore the Word of God in your womb without being burned. Since you have
a moth-er's confidence before him, O La-dy, help those who faith-ful-ly celebrate
your pre-cious feast. Do not for-get in your mer-cy to vis-it us, for
you have re-ceived a gift from God to build up and pro-tect the Chris-tian
flock of your serv-ants.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen

O all-pure The-o-to-kos, the Church is clothed with your honora-ble
pro-tec-tion as with a most glo-ri-ous wreath. It ra-diant-ly re-joices
to-day. It mys-tic-ly dances with joy and sings to you, O La-dy:

Re-joice, hon-orable raiment and crown of God's glo-ry. Re-joice,
u-nique perfection of glo-ry and e-ter-nal joy; re-joice, ref-uge
of all who has-ten to you; re-joice, our salva-tion and de-liv-er-ance.

Troparion - Tone 4 (sung three times)

Pro-tect-ed by your ap-pa-reance, O Moth-er of God; to-day, we dev-o ut peo-ple
sol-emn-ly cel-ebrate. Gaz-ing up-on your most pure i-con, we fer-vent-ly say:

Pro-tect us with your ho-ly veil, and de-liv-er us from all e-vil,

im-ploring your Son, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Blessing of Bread, p. 119