O faithful, let us leap for joy to-day, singing psalms and hymns of praise in honor of Mary, his mother, the Holy Tabernacle and Ark that contained the Word whom nothing can contain. She is offered to God as a child in a marvelous way, and Zechariah the high priest receives her with great joy, for she is the dwelling place of the Most High.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat "O faithful, let us leap for joy...")

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

To-day the living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God,
Mary, the pure and blessed one, is being brought into the temple according to the Law to live in its holy precincts. Joachim and Anna and all the virgins rejoice with her in spirit. They sing hymns of praise to the Lord and give honor to his Mother.

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 "Today the living temple...")

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.

O Virgin Mother of God, you are the one foretold by all the prophets.

You are the apostles' glory and the pride of the martyrs and the cause of renewal for the entire human race. Through you, we have been reconciled with God. Therefore, we honor your entrance into the temple
of the Lord. Together with the angels, all of us who are saved by your pray'rs sing to you: Rejoice, O most holy one!

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

Tone 4 samohlasen

The holy and immaculate one is being led into the Holy of Holies by the Holy Spirit. She is being nourished by angels, since she is the holy Temple of our holy God. He has sanctified all creation because of her entrance, and he has deified our fallen human nature.

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

To-day the maidens rejoice. Carrying lamps, they piously escort Mary, the spiritual lamp, into the Holy of Holies. This is a foreshadowing of
the splendid Light that will shine forth from her, the Light that will
enlighten all who sit in the darkness of ignorance.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

The most praiseworthy Anna cries out in great joy: O Zechariah, receive the One
whom the prophets of God foretold through the Spirit. Escort her into
the holy temple, since she is to be the sublime Temple,
the palace, throne, and wondrous abode of our God.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

O Lady and Bride of God, you entered the temple of God in your
infancy to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, for you are
The arch-angel Gabriel was sent to serve you and bring you food.

All the heavenly powers were amazed at the sight of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Therefore, O most pure and immaculate Theotokos, since you are glorified in heaven and on earth, through your pray'rs, save our human race.

The Prokeimena for weekdays are found on pages 114-115

1 Kings 7:51 - 8:1, 3-7, 9-11  
Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4

Litija

Tone 4 Bolhar

Today the Theotokos, that Temple that is to contain God, is being escorted with gladness into the
Tem - - - ple of God, and Zech-a-ri-ah re-ceives her.

To - day the Ho - ly of Ho-lies great-ly re-joi - ces,

and the an - gel-ic choir cel - e-brates this feast mys - ti-cal -ly.

Let us al-so cel-e-brate with them to-day and cry out with

Ga - bri-el: Re - joice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,

and he grants us great mer - - - - cy.

Come all you peo-ple, and let us praise the on-ly

Im-mac-u-late One who was fore-told by the proph - ets

and is be-ing led in - to the tem-ple. She was cho - sen from
eternity to be the Mother; and in time she was revealed as the Theotokos. Gracious Lord, through her intercessions, grant us your peace and great mercy.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar

A day of rejoicing has dawned truly. It is a most precious feast for us, because she who was virgin before and after childbirth today is offered in the temple.

The aged Zechariah, father of the Forerunner, cries aloud, rejoicing: The intercessor of those in affliction comes into the holy temple,
since she herself is ho-ly. She will be sancti-fi ed in the
a-bode of the King of all. Let her fa-ther Jo-a-chim
be glad and let An-na re-joice ex-ceed-ing-ly, be-cause
they have of-fered to God the im-mac-u-late Queen as
a three-year old child. Re-joice with them, all you wom-en;
all you vir-gins and bar-ren ones, dance for joy and
celebrate with them, for the Queen of all has o-pened
the king-dom of heav-en for us. let all peo-ple be glad
and re-joice.

Litija Litany, page 116
Heaven and earth together rejoice today at the sight of the mystical heaven;

the immaculate and pure Virgin is coming into the holy temple to be brought up in honor. Zechariah, rejoicing in her and leaping for joy,
cried out in awe: O Door of the Lord, I open the doors of the temple to you, because I know and believe that the salvation of Israel is already coming, that the Word of God will be born from you, and that he will grant great mercy to the world.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions.
When An-na, which means grace, was graced with the pure and ev-er Vir-gin Mar-y, she pre-sent-ed her into the tem-ple of God. She called mai-dens to carry candles and walk before her as she said: O child, go to be an of-fer-ing and a fra-grant incense for the One who sent you to me. En-ter in-to the veiled places and learn the myste-ries of God. Pre-pare yourself to be a deli-ghtful dwell-ing place for Je-sus who will give great mer-cy to the world.

Cantor

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass with-in the pal-ace of the King.

The all-ho-ly Virgin is handed over in-to the tem-ple. Mai-dens car-ry-ing can-dles
go before her. Her parents, the devoted couple, Joachim and Anna,
joyfully celebrate, for they have given birth in the flesh to the One
who will bear the Creator. She will dance for joy in the temple of God
and will be fed by the hand of an angel. The immaculate Mother
of Christ has appeared, and he will grant great mercy to the world.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

O assembly of the faithful, let us celebrate this day as a spiritual feast.

With great love, let us honor the maiden of God, the Virgin and
Theotokos, as she is presented into the temple of the Lord;

for she has been chosen from among all generations to be the dwelling
place of Christ our God who is the King of all. O vir-gins, carry candles and lead the way for the entrance of the ever Vir-gin.

Follow after her who is the Moth-er of God and mediatrix for the joy of the world. Therefore, let us all cry out together with the an-gels: Re-joice, for you are full of grace, and you con-tin-u-al-ly pray for our souls.

Troparion of the Entrance - Tone 4
Sung once by the priest and twice by the faithful

Today is the prelude of God's be-ne-v-o-lence and the herald of our sal-va-tion; for the Vir-gin openly appears in the temple of God and fore-tells Christ to all. Let us al-so with full voice ex-claim to her:

Re-joice, fulfillment of the Cre-a-tor's plan.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119