

Vesper Propers, November 21  
Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple

place of Christ our God who is the King of all. O vir - gins, carry  
can - dles and lead the way for the en - trance of the ev - er Vir - gin.  
Fol - low after her who is the Moth - er of God and me - diatrix for the  
joy of the world. There - fore, 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*

To - day is the pre - lude of God's be - nev - o - lence and the her - ald of our  
sal - va - tion; for the Vir - gin openly appears in the tem - ple 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*

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2005*  
*"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 1, page 24.*

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

*Tone 1 samohlasen*

O faith - ful, let us leap for joy to - day, sing - ing psalms and hymns of praise  
in hon - or of Mar - y, his moth - er, the Ho - ly Tabernacle and Ark that con - tained  
the Word whom noth - ing can con - tain. She is of - fered to God as a child  
in a mar - vel - ous way, and Zech - a - ri - ah the high priest receives her with  
great joy, for she is the dwel - ling place of the Most High.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
*(on 7)* 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?  
*(on 6)* But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

To - day the liv - ing tem - ple of the ho - ly glo - ry of Christ our God,

Mar-y, the pure and bless-ed one, is be-ing brought into the tem-ple ac-cord-ing  
 to the Law to live in its ho-ly pre - cincts. Jo - achim and Anna and all the  
 vir - gins re - joice with her in spir - it. They sing hymns of praise  
 to the Lord and give hon - or to his Moth - er.

**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  
*(on 4)* and Israel on the Lord.

O Vir-gin Moth-er of God, you are the one foretold by all the proph - ets.  
 You are the a - pos-tles' glo - ry and the pride of the mar - tyrs  
 and the cause of renewal for the en-tire hu-man race. Through you, we have been  
 rec - on-ciled with God. There-fore, we hon - or your entrance in-to the tem - ple

go be-fore her. Her par - ents, the devoted couple, Joachim and Anna,  
 joy - ful - ly cel - e-brate, for they have given birth in the flesh to the One  
 who will bear the Cre - a - tor. She will dance for joy in the tem - ple of God  
 and will be fed by the hand of an an - gel. The all - im - mac - u - late Moth - er  
 of Christ has ap-peared, and he will grant great mer - cy to the world.

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

**Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen**

O as-sem-bly of the faith-ful, let us celebrate this day as a spir - it - ual feast.  
 With great love. let us hon - or the mai - den of God, the Vir - gin and  
 The - o - to - kos, as she is presented into the tem - ple of the Lord;  
 for she has been chosen from among all gen - er - a - tions to be the dwelling

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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 delightful 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.

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The all-ho - ly Virgin is handed over in-to the tem-ple. Mai-dens car - rying can-dles

of the Lord. To-geth-er with the an - gels, all of us who are saved by your  
 pray'rs sing to you: Re - joice, O most ho - ly 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*

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The holy and im-mac-u-late one is being led into the Holy of Holies by the Ho-ly  
 Spir-it. She is being nour-ished by an-gels, since she is the holy Temple of  
 our ho - ly God. He has sanc - tified all creation because of her en - trance,  
 and he has deified our fall - en hu - man na - ture.

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

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To-day the mai-dens re-joice. Car - rying lamps, they piously es - cort Mar - y,  
 the spiri-tual lamp, into the Ho-ly of Ho - lies. This is a foreshadowing of

the splen - did Light that will shine forth from her, the Light that will  
en - light - en all who sit in the dark - ness of ig - nor - ance.

**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 proph - ets of God fore - told through the Spir - it. Es - cort her into  
the ho - ly tem - ple, since she is to be the sub - lime Tem - ple,  
the palace, throne, and won - drous a - bode of our God.

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

**Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen**

O La - dy and Bride of God, you en - tered the temple of God in your  
in - fan - cy to be brought up in the Holy of Ho - lies, for you are

## Aposticha

*Tone 5 samohlasen*

Heav - en and earth together re - joice to - day at the sight of the mys - tic - al heav - en;  
the im - mac - u late and pure Virgin is coming into the ho - ly tem - ple to be  
brought up in hon - or. Zech - a - ri - ah, rejoicing in her and leap - ing for joy,  
cried out in awe: O Door of the Lord, I open the doors of the tem - ple  
to you, be - cause I know and be - lieve that the sal - va - tion of Israel  
is al - read - y com - ing, that the Word of God will be born from you,  
and that he will grant great mer - cy to the world.

*Cantor*

She is led to the king with her mai - den com - pan - - - ions.

since she her - self is ho - ly. She will be sanc - ti - fied in the  
a - bode of the King of all. Let her fa - ther Jo - a - chim  
be glad and let An - na re-joyce exceed - ing - ly, be-cause  
they have of - fered to God the im - mac - u - late Queen as  
a three-year old child. Re - joyce with them, all you wom - en;  
all you vir - gins and bar - ren ones, dance for joy and  
cel - e - brate 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 - - - joyce.

*Litija Litany, page 116*

ho - ly. The arch-an-gel Gabriel was sent to serve you and bring you food.  
All the heav - enly pow-ers were a - mazed at the sight of the Holy Spir - it  
dwel - ling in you. There - fore, O most pure and immaculate The-o - to - kos,  
since you are glorified in heav-en and on earth, through your pray'rs, save  
our hu - man race.

*The Prokeimena for weekdays are found on pages 114-115*

Readings: Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35 (EOT 307-308)  
1 Kings 7:51 - 8:1, 3-7, 9-11  
Ezekiel 43:27 - 44:4

**Litija**

*Tone 4 Bolhar*

To - day the The - o - to - kos, that Tem-ple that is to  
con - tain God, is be - ing es-cort - ed with glad-ness in - to 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 - joi - ce 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

e - ter - ni - ty to be the Moth - er; and in time she was re - vealed

as the The - o - to - kos. Gra - cious Lord, through her in - ter - ces - sions,

grant us your peace and great mer - cy.

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

**Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar**

A day of re - joi - cing has dawned tru - - - ly. It is a most

pre - cious feast for us, be - cause she who was vir - gin be - fore and af - ter

child - birth to - day is of - - - fered in the tem - ple.

The ag - ed Zech - a - ri - ah, fa - ther of the Fore - run - ner,

cries a - loud, re - - - joi - cing: The in - ter - ces - sor of

those in af - flic - - - tion comes in - to the ho - ly tem - ple,