December 8
THE MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006
"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 4, page 58.

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.

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 samohlasen

The barren Anna leaped for joy when she gave birth to Mary the Virgin,

who in turn will give birth in the flesh to God the Word.

Overflowing with happiness, she cried out: Rejoice with me, all tribes of Israel,

for I have conceived and put aside my burden of childlessness as the

Creator has deigned. He heard my pray'r and healed the pains of my
My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Repeat "The barren Anna...")

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

O Anna, the One who made waters gush forth from a rock bestows as a fruit of your womb, the ever-virgin Lady. Through her, our salvation will come.

Because of this you were delivered from shame. No longer will you be on earth as a fruitless soil, for you have produced an earth which will bring forth the Tree of Life. According to his will, he delivered the human race from all shame when he became man out of his compassionate mercy.

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

Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116
acclaim him all you peoples!
The sayings of the prophets are now being fulfilled: the holy mountain is planted in the womb; the divine ladder is set up; the throne of the great king is ready; the God-inspired city is being adorned.

The unburnable bush is beginning to bud forth, and the treasure house of grace is overflowing. It is spreading over the rivers of unfruitfulness of the God-wise Anna, whom we glorify in faith.

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

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

Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen

Today the mystery which has been announced from eternity, whose depth angels and human beings cannot measure, appears in the arms of Anna.
Mary, the maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the King of the ages who will renew our human nature. Let us entreat her with a pure heart and say: Since you are the intercessor for all Christians, implore your Son and God to save our souls.

Prokeimenon for the day of the week, page 114

Readings: Genesis 28: 10-17 (EOT 304-305)
Ezekiel 43: 27 through 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1-11

Litija

Tone 1 Bolhar

It is fitting that the Queen of heaven and earth, who is more precious than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, be conceived and remain immaculate as the angels,
so that they who are servants of the Lord can boast of their own Queen, the Theotokos. Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so, the Creator of all things.

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

Doxastikon - Tone 1 Bolhar

Before the nativity of the Son of God, it was fitting for the Father to bestow the most pure conception upon the Theotokos, who is betrothed of the Holy Spirit, that she might be filled with heavenly gifts in a manner beyond all other creatures. Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so, the Creator of all things.
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.

The Lord swore an oath to Da-vid; 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 angel who told her that God had granted her wish,
saying plainly: Do not doubt, for your pray'r has reached the Lord.
Wipe away your tears, for you shall be an olive tree bringing forth
a beautiful branch. You will bring forth the Virgin from whom will blossom
the flower, Christ-in-the-flesh who will grant great mercy
to the world.

Cantor

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

Joachim and Anna, the righteous couple, gave birth to the precious heavenly
fruit, the ewe-lamb, who in turn will give birth in a manner beyond under-
standing to the Lamb of God who is to be sacrificed for all. Because of this, they offer to the Lord an unceasing and humble hymn of praise.

Let us, therefore, praise them with fervor. And let us joyfully celebrate the birth of the One who was born of them. Mary, the Theotokos; because through her, great mercy is granted to all of us.

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

Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen

On this day the royal purple appears, descending from the root of David. The mystical flower of Jesse buds forth; from her shall blossom Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.
To-day the bonds of barren-ness are loosed, for God has heard the pray'rs of Jo-a-chim and An-nna. 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.

Glory...now and ever...

The Troparion is repeated