

FESTAL ORTHROS ON NOVEMBER 25
LEAVE-TAKING (APODOSIS) OF ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS
GREAT-MARTYR KATHERINE THE ALL-WISE OF ALEXANDRIA

MARTYR MERCURIOS OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA; MARTYR MERCURIOS OF SMOLENSK

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

PSALM 87

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!*

THE GREAT LITANY

- Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.**
- Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- (In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE FOUR

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 1. O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)

Verse 2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)

Verse 3. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT-MARTYR IN TONE FIVE

*(**Let us worship the Word**)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us praise the all-lauded and noble bride of Christ, * the godly Katherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, * who is also our support and succor and our help; * for with the Holy Spirit’s sword * she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; * and being crowned as a Martyr, she now doth ask great mercy for us all.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KATHISMATA FOR ST. KATHERINE & THE ENTRANCE (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Courageously, thou wentest to contests, O Katherine, with bravery confessing Christ God, O blessed Martyr; and thou didst rebuke the impious tyrant deranged with wrath; thou didst put to shame the crew of vain rhetoricians and thou didst ascend unto the heavenly mansions; hence thee do we glorify.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Verily, the fruit of Joachim and Anna the righteous, who nourished our lives, is offered to God in His holy Temple as a babe in the flesh, whom the noble Zachariah blessed. Wherefore, let us all bless her in faith; for she is the Mother of our Lord.

Second Kathisma

Katherine, learned and most wise, the virgin modest and august, being verily made strong with the great might and strength of Christ, doth enter into the stadium with rejoicing. She bravely casteth down the savage tyrant king and the whole array of the ungodly foes; and with a great voice she thus chanteth with jubilation unceasingly: Receive my spirit, O Christ my Savior, my Redeemer and glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou wast consecrated to God before thou wast conceived. And since thou wast born on earth thou wast offered unto Him, fulfilling purity by a promise. And having been presented in purity from thy childhood in the divine Temple with brilliant lamps, being thyself a divine temple in truth, thou wast revealed as a vessel of the unapproachable divine Light. Great, therefore, is thy procession in truth, O alone the ever-Virgin bride of God.

Third Kathisma

The Alexandrians' city, bright and Godly, on thy remembrance keepeth festival in gladness, O august Martyr Katherine, honoring thy contests, which thou didst endure courageously for Christ God; and holding her head up high, she doth cry to thee: O much-suffering virgin maid, who in celestial abodes art found with thy Creator now, rejoice, O Martyr most marvelous.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let David the writer of the Psalms rejoice; let Joachim and Anna exchange glad tidings; for from them hath appeared a holy-born child, Mary the light-bearing divine torch who, entering the

Temple, was gladsome, and when the son of Barachia beheld her, he blessed her, lifting his voice with joy and crying, Rejoice, O miracle of the whole world.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (REPEAT)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (REPEAT)
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON FOR ST. KATHERINE IN TONE FOUR

Wondrous is God in His saints. (TWICE)

Stichos: In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.

Wondrous is God in His saints.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (25:1-13).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

TO BE READ FROM THE BEAUTIFUL GATE

Priest: The Lord spoke this parable: The kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But he answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (NO VENERATION OF GOSPEL BOOK.)

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Through the intercessions of the Prizewinner, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Practicing an immaterial way of life, thou didst convict the ungodly tribunal and stoodest fast as a trophy-bearer, O august Katherine, adorned with God's splendor as with garlands. Clothed with divine strength, thou didst scornfully mock the tyrant's decree and didst silence the idle prating of the rhetoricians, O much-contending victor.

THE INTERCESSION¹

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—whose Entrance into the Holy of Holies we now celebrate—by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine—whose memory we now celebrate—Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs, especially Peter the Aleut; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR ST. KATHERINE (Plain Reading)

Rouse up now a choir, O ye that love the martyred Saints, august and inspired, acclaiming the supremely-wise Martyr Katherine, who hath proclaimed and preached of Christ in the stadium and hath trampled the serpent down and spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

Taking hold upon the wisdom from God even from youth, the Martyr Katherine also learned all secular wisdom well; and coming to know from thee thence by her reason the motion and creation

¹ Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

of the elements, and coming to know also Him that by a word created them from the beginning, she rendered Him thanks by night and day; but she overthrew the idols with those who senselessly worshipped them, and she spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On November 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Leave-Taking (Apodosis) of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple, and commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Katherine of Alexandria.

Verses

Katherine, first a sage and a virgin, becometh
By the sword, a Martyr: O three things right goodly!
On the twenty-fifth a sword the Maiden Rhetorician slew.

Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Katherine to the Christian Faith. In a vision, Katherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. Katherine was greatly gifted by God, well educated and very beautiful. When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Katherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned fifty of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Katherine outwitted them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all fifty men be burned. By Katherine's prayers, all fifty confessed the Name of Christ and declared themselves Christians before their executions. During the torture of Katherine, an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her. After many tortures, Katherine was beheaded at the age of eighteen, on November 25, 310. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai in Egypt.

On this day, we also commemorate the Great-Martyr Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; and Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 1. Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is come from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be ye elevated. Sing to the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations, praise Him with joy; for He hath been glorified.

Ode 3. Let us cry unto the Son, born of the Father before the ages without transubstantiation, Christ God Who hath been incarnate in these last days of the Virgin, without seed, shouting, O Thou Who hath elevated our state, Thou art holy, O Lord.

Ode 4. O praised Christ, a stem hath come out of Jesse, and from it hast sprouted a Flower from a dense and shadowed mountain, O immaterial God, coming incarnate from the Virgin that hath not known man. Glory, therefore, to Thy might, O Lord.

Ode 5. Since Thou art the God of peace and the Father of mercies, O Lover of mankind, Thou didst send to us the great Messenger of Thy mind, granting us Thy peace. Therefore, have we been led aright to the light of divine knowledge, glorifying Thee as we come out of darkness.

Ode 6. The sea-monster did disgorge Jonah from its belly, as it received him safely like a fetus. As for the Word, when He dwelt in the Virgin, taking from her a body, He was born, preserving her without corruption, and without transubstantiation, preserving His Mother without harm.

Ode 7. The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the infidel, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but were singing as they stood in the midst of the flames: Blessed art Thou, God of our fathers.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Ode 8. Verily, the dewy furnace did shadow the sign of the supernatural wonder; for it burned not the youths whom it received, as the fire of divinity also burned not the womb of the Virgin in which it dwelt. Wherefore, let us offer praise with song, saying: Let all creation praise the Lord, exalting Him evermore, to the end of ages.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

NINTH ODE OF THE FIRST CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE FOUR

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin hath entered into the Holy of Holies.

Since thou art a living temple of God, O Theotokos, no impure hand shall touch thee. But the lips of believers, let them ceaselessly laud thee, crying unto thee joyfully with the voice of the angels: Verily, O undefiled Virgin, thou art more exalted than all creatures.

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin hath entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

Having attained the most resplendent, pure beauty of thy soul, O pure Theotokos, and the grace of God having been cast upon thee from heaven, thou shalt ever lighten with the eternal Light those who joyfully cry: O undefiled Virgin, verily, thou art more exalted than all creatures.

The Angels, beholding the entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin hath entered wondrously into the Holy of Holies.

Thy miracles, O pure Theotokos, transcend words in sublimity; for I comprehend that thine is a body transcending description, not receptive to the flow of sin. Wherefore, I cry to thee gratefully: O spotless Virgin, thou art verily more exalted than all creatures.

Let us, angels and men, honor the Entrance of the Virgin; for she hath entered with glory into the Holy of Holies.

The Mosaic Law foretold thee by a sign in a strange manner, O spotless one. Verily, thou art a tabernacle, a divine jar, a strange ark, a shelter, a rod, an everlasting temple, and a gate of God. Wherefore, it teacheth us to cry unto thee: O spotless Virgin, thou art verily more exalted than all creatures.

The Angels, beholding the Entrance of the all-pure one, were overtaken by surprise, how the Virgin hath entered in God-pleasing manner into the Holy of Holies.

When he sang to thee, David proclaimed thee Daughter of the King, as he beheld thee standing at God's right hand, O pure Lady, in the beauty of virtue, with varied colors all adorned. Hence, he prophesied of thee, crying: O spotless Virgin, thou art verily more exalted than all creatures.

Rejoice with the saints, ye angels and ye virgins; exchange with each other glad tidings; for the Maiden of God hath entered into the Holy of Holies.

On foreseeing how thou wouldst bear God, O Lady, wise King Solomon spake darkly, calling thee the King's gate and the living and sealed spring whence the unsullied water issued forth to us, who cry out with faith and rejoicing: O spotless Virgin, thou art verily more exalted than all creatures.

O ye angels, and men with hymns of praises, the Virgin let us magnify, for she hath divinely entered into the Holy of Holies.

Through thy gifts, grant thy peace to my soul, and pour forth life to all them that revere thee as is right and due, O Theotokos; and do thou of thyself comfort, help and shelter, and preserve them that cry to thee with sincere faith: O spotless Virgin, thou art verily more exalted than all creatures.

NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND CANON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented in the Temple of the Lord, and was blessed by the hands of the priests.

Verily, the fruit of the promise did come forth from Joachim and Anna the righteous, namely Mary, the Maiden of God, who is presented as a child in the flesh, as an acceptable incense to the holy Temple, to live in the Sanctuary; for she is a saint.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

Let us praise her with songs who is a child by nature, and hath been manifest in a supernatural manner as Theotokos; for today she is offered to the Lord in the Mosaic Temple as a sweet incense and spiritual fruit to the righteous God.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

Come, as is meet, O ye faithful, let us cry out with the Angel to greet the Mother of our God with: Rejoice, Bride all-comely; rejoice, O cloud of light, from whom the Lord hath shined forth upon us, who once sat in the miserable darkness of deep ignorance; rejoice, thou hope of all.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

The whole creation now joineth with Angel Gabriel, crying a worthy hymn and song of praise to the pure Theotokos: Rejoice, O holy and all-blameless Mother of God, through whom we are redeemed from the curse of aforetime and partake of incorruptibility.

Magnify, O my soul, her who was presented...

O thou most Holy of Holies, O all-pure Mary, God's Mother, by thine entreaties, set us free from the enemy's meshes; from every heresy, from every error and tribulation rescue us, who most faithfully worship the blessed icon of thy holy countenance.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Glorify, O my soul, the majesty of the triune Godhead, indivisible.

Let us glorify the inseparable Trinity, the three-personed Nature, the Glory indivisible, ceaselessly praised in heaven and on earth in one Godhead, bowing in true worship to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen: Glorify, O my soul, her who is more honorable than the hosts on high.

O virgin Theotokos, pray for us, who faithfully seek refuge in thy compassion, who worship piously thy Son, the God of the world and its Lord, so that He may deliver us from corruption and dangers, and from sundry temptations.

KATAVASIA OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 9. *Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.*

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath laid Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTEILARIA OF ST. KATHERINE & THE ENTRANCE IN TONE THREE

*(**While standing in the Temple's courts**)*

O virgin truly hon'orable, * boast of prizewinning Martyrs, * O Catherine, thou didst give great strength * to thy womanly spirit; * and with God's help thou didst convict * as vain myths and idle talk * all the philosophers' folly; * for thou hadst as thy helper * God's immaculate Mother, * who gave thee mighty assistance.

The temple's inmost parts today, * at the hands' of the High Priest, * admit thee in, O Full of Grace, * Theotokos and Virgin; * therein thou madest thine abode * from the age of three to twelve. * At a divine Angel's pure hand, * thou wast fed there and nourished, * as the holy elect ark * of the Creator of all things.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For the Entrance in Tone One *(**Thou art the joy**)*

Verse 1. *This glory shall be to all His saints.*

As they resplendently lead in the Ever-virgin Maid, * lamp-bearing virgins clearly show the future in spirit; * for since she herself is the temple of God, * to the temple of God the Lord * the Theotokos is led from her tender youth * with the glory of virginity.

Verse 2. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

The Theotokos, a holy promise's glorious fruit, * is shown to all of mankind as exalted above all; *and she doth fulfill what her parents had vowed, * as in all godly piety * she is escorted now into the house of God, * the Divine Spirit preserving her.

Verse 3. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

In the Lord's temple with faith thou wast raised on heavenly bread, * whereafter thou, O Virgin, didst conceive for the whole world * the Word, the Bread of Life, to Whom thou wast betrothed * as a temple elect and pure * by the Divine Spirit mystically, and wast wed * unto God the Father blamelessly.

For St. Katherine in Tone Two (***With what fair crowns***)

Verse 4. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

With what fair crowns of praise shall we crown * and adorn thee, O glorious Catherine? * Who didst wisely hate all the things of earth, * embracing things never perishing; * who freely didst die for Christ the Savior; * who art the resplendent bride of our great King and God, * who shinest with lightning splendor throughout all the world; * the holy dove, pure and spotless, * who hast been received now * in the brilliant bridal chambers * of Heaven by Christ our God, * Who granteth Great Mercy to the world.

Verse 5. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

With what fair praise as with fragrant flow'rs * shall we deck the great prizewinner Kath'rine? * for she hath convicted the impious * and trod all error beneath her feet; * who dwelleth in Heaven's bridal chambers * and leapeth for joy and danceth in divine delight, * confessing the Holy Trinity as Cause of all * with the divine hosts of Angels; * by her mediations * grant Thy peace and mercy, O Christ, * to us who now honor her * with longing and pious reverence.

Verse 6. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

With what sweet words of high hymnody * shall we honor the Queen with our praises, * lauding all-wise Catherine in song today, * the Virgin Martyr replete with grace? * that valiant destroyer of delusion, * who struck down all the philosophers with wonderment * and shattered the vaunting boldness of Maxentius, * and in the 'midst of the lawless, * nerved with steadfast courage, * preached of Christ before the whole world * as man wholly free of sin, * and God Who was ere eternity.

THE DOXASTICON OF ST. KATHERINE IN TONE EIGHT

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Wounded with the love of thy Bridegroom, O venerable Katherine, thou all-wise Virgin-martyr, thou didst readily abandon every worldly attachment; and sealing thyself with the sign of the Cross, thou didst skillfully refute the deception of the idols, and didst check the idle gainsaying of the rhetoricians, by clearly proclaiming the Name of Christ unto all. Wherefore, wearing a heavenly crown on thy head, thou dancest with the Angels like a pure dove, and thou intercedest unceasingly for them that keep thine all-celebrated memorial with faith and longing.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE ENTRANCE IN TONE TWO

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today the all-blameless Virgin is presented in the Temple for the abode of God, the King of all, the Nourisher of all our souls. Today the all-pure holiness doth enter into the Holy of Holies, as a three-year ewe. Wherefore, let us, like the angel, hail her, saying, Rejoice, O thou who alone art blessed among women.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE TWO

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

Portions of the Archdiocesan Service Texts include texts from *The Menaion*, *The Great Horologion*, *The Pentecostarion*, and *The Psalter of the Seventy*, which are Copyright © Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts, and are used with permission. All rights reserved. These works may not be further reproduced, beyond printing out a single copy for personal non-commercial use, without the prior written authorization of Holy Transfiguration Monastery.