

**Vespers sung on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary  
Покров Пресвятой Богородицы ♦ Асоперământul Maicii Domnului**

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 8**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon Thee!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Thy sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 8 (For the Resurrection)**

We offer to Thee, O Christ,  
our evening song and reasonable service,  
for Thou didst will to have mercy on us//  
by Thy Resurrection.

*The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Thy face!  
For Thou didst will to have mercy on us//  
by Thy Resurrection.

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Rejoice, O holy Zion:  
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,  
for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins//  
by the Resurrection.

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

The Word of God the Father,  
begotten before the ages,  
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin  
and endured crucifixion unto death.  
He has saved mortal man//  
by His Resurrection.

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 1 (For the Protection)**

[Music on website / Sheet]

O pure Theotokos, fount of wisdom, and great help to those in distress,  
thou art a speedy aid, protectress, and support of the world.  
We the faithful sing in praise of her who is a sea of compassion,  
ineffably praising her radiant omophorion:  
"Rejoice, O Maiden, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee, //  
granting the world great mercy through thee!"

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

The wondrous Isaiah prophesied:  
"In the latter days, it will come to pass  
that the mountain of the Lord shall be manifest,  
and the house of the Lord shall be upon the summit of the mountain."  
And of this, O sovereign Lady,  
we have seen in thee the true fulfilment.  
For the mountains and hills are adorned with churches  
that bear the many names of thy festivals.  
Therefore, joyfully we sing to thee:  
"Rejoice, O highly favoured Maiden,  
the Lord is with thee, //  
granting the world great mercy through thee!"

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Oh, how marvellous an adornment art thou to all the faithful!  
Thou art the true fulfilment of the prophecies,  
the glory of the Apostles and the beauty of the Martyrs,  
the boast of virginity and the marvellous protection of the whole world.  
O sovereign Lady, protect with the omophorion of thy tender mercy  
all the people who cry out to thee:  
"Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee, //  
granting the world great mercy through thee!"

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4 (For the Protection)**

Thou art like the divinely planted Paradise, O Theotokos,  
the place where the Tree of Life was watered by the Holy Spirit.  
We acknowledge that thou gavest birth to the Creator of all  
Who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life.  
Together with the Forerunner, entreat Him on our behalf; //  
and by thy precious omophorion protect thy people from all attacks!

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

**Repeat:** Thou art like the divinely planted Paradise ...

*For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Heaven and earth are sanctified;  
the Church is radiant, and all the people celebrate,  
for behold, the Mother of God enters invisibly with the armies of the Angels,  
the Forerunner, and the Theologian,  
the Prophets, and the Apostles!  
She prays to Christ for Christians  
and entreats Him to have mercy on this land and its people, //  
who glorify the feast of her Protection.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** (*For the Protection*)

Today the Powers of Heaven rejoice with us,  
and the souls of the just are spiritually assembled  
to behold the Queen and Mother glorified by the faithful.  
They witness the vision of the Mother of God:  
her arms outstretched upon the clouds in prayer,  
entreating peace for the world, //  
strength for Orthodox Christians, and salvation for our souls.

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

**Tone 8** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.  
He took flesh from the pure Virgin  
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.  
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.  
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,  
we confess Christ our God! //  
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

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**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**The Reading from the Book of Genesis.**

Now Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [Genesis 28:10-17]

**The Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.**

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain

shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [Ezekiel 43:27-44:4]

### **The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.**

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [Proverbs 9:1-11]

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### **APOSTICHA**

**Tone 8** (*For the Resurrection*)

[[Music on website / Sheet](#)]

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness.//  
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to Thee!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.  
He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.  
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.  
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

In psalms and songs we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, Thou hast freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy.

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Thy suffering on the Cross Thou hast gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself by Thine almighty hand.  
Glory to Thy rising on the third day!  
By it Thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

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

## **Tone 2** *(For the Protection)*

The Church of God is adorned as with a shining crown  
by thy precious veil, O Theotokos.  
Today she shines with joy,  
celebrating mystically and crying to thee:  
"Rejoice, precious raiment and crown of the glory of God!  
Rejoice, only fulfilment of glory and eternal joy!  
Rejoice, haven of those who run to thee, //  
our deliverance and our salvation!"

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## **TROPARIA**

### **Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 8**

[Music on website / Green Book page16]

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! //  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

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

### **Troparion of the Protection in Tone 4**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illuminated by thy coming, O Mother of God.  
Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:  
"Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;  
deliver us from every form of evil  
by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God, //  
that He may save our souls."