

Vespers sung on Saturday 23rd November for Sunday 24th November 2024
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
The Holy Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 5

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 5 (For the Resurrection)

[Music on website]

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
Thou hast put the devil to shame.
By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.
The princes of hell were frightened by this,
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.
Christ the King of glory had entered,
saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//
And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

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

O great wonder!
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man
and rose again immortal.
Come, O sons of nations,
let us worship Him,
for delivered from error by His compassion,//
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer Thee our evening worship,
O never-setting Light,
Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;
Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.
Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

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

Tone 1 (For the Entrance of the Theotokos)

Come, all who love the feasts of the Church!

Let us honour the only pure Theotokos and Virgin with hymns!

for she is led into the Temple of God

now to live there in splendour.

She is indeed the most holy temple of Christ//

and the mediator of all our joy.

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.

O Prophet, throw open the doors!

Receive with faith the boast and radiant joy of Angels and men!

She is to be brought into the Temple of the Lord,

that there she may live and dance,//

for she is the temple and the abode of God.

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

The Theotokos Mary is brought into the Temple,

receiving bread from the Angel who appeared and cried to her:

"Rejoice, for thou shalt conceive a Son without knowing a man!"

O blessed Virgin Theotokos, Bride of God,//

thou art the good inheritance and restoration of mortal men.

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

Tone 1 (for Saint Catherine)

Today the city of Alexandria adorns itself with wisdom, O Martyr,

having thy childhood garments within thy holy temple.

Therefore, O Catherine, we also celebrate in reverence thine honoured memory.//

Pray for those who honour thee!

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

Today let us celebrate the memory of Catherine,

for by great word and deed she truly trampled all the powers of the foe

and the opposition of the orators.//

By her prayers, O God, deliver us from the godless enemy!

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

Rejoice, most glorious and honoured Martyr Catherine,

for the mountain of Sinai

where Moses beheld the bush that burned yet was not consumed

now keeps thy God-pleasing body,

translated there by the gracious mercy of Christ//

awaiting the time of His second coming!

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

Tone 2 (For Saint Catherine)

All who love the martyrs,

let us hasten joyfully to the feast of the divinely-wise Martyr Catherine!

Let us crown her with praises as with flowers, crying out to her:

"Rejoice, for thou didst denounce the insolence of foolish orators filled with ignorant thoughts

and didst lead them to the divine Faith!

Rejoice, for thou didst give thy body over to torments for love of thy Creator and wast not destroyed,

for thou wast an invincible woman!

Rejoice, for thou hast inherited the mansions on high

as the reward for thy struggles!"

Now thou dost delight in eternal glory.//

Desiring this glory, may we who hymn thee not lose our hope in it!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 5 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

In the Red Sea of old,
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.
There Moses divided the waters;
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.
O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man, //
O Lord, have mercy on us!

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,
O incarnate Christ and Saviour.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,
as the Lord and Lover of man,
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, //
and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,
Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.
By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.
Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,
and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. //
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.
Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.
Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.
Grant us purification of sins,
who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!
Make us worthy of Paradise //
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,
to rise from the dead on the third day.
Heal us from our earthly passions,
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

Tone 2 (*For Saint Catherine*)

Thou didst acquire an immaterial life;
coming before the godless tribunal,
thou didst stand arrayed in divine might, O victorious and honoured Catherine,
wearing the radiance of God as an adornment of flowers!
Thou didst mock the tyrants command, O greatly suffering one, //
ending the insolent speech of the orators.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(For the Entrance of the Theotokos)*

David foretold thee, O all-pure one,
as he foresaw the sanctification of thine entry into the Temple.
Thus, all the ends of the earth feast today and glorify thee, O all-praised one.
For, O Mother of the Word of Life,
a virgin before giving birth and remaining incorrupt after giving birth,
Zachariah is joyful and accepts thee in the Temple, O Lady.
The Holy of Holies rejoices and receives thee, the wellspring of our life.
Therefore, we also cry out in songs to thee://
“Beseech thy Son and our God in our behalf, that He grant us great mercy!”

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5

[Music on website / Green Book page10]

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Troparion of Saint Catherine in Tone 4

[Music on website / Sheet]

By thy virtues as by rays of the sun thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers,
and like the most bright moon thou didst drive away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in
the night;
thou didst convince the queen, and didst also chastise the tyrant,
God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine.
Thou didst hasten with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom Christ,
and thou wast crowned by Him with a royal crown;//
Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep thy most sacred memory!

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

Troparion of the Entrance in Tone 4

[Music on website / Sheet]

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.
Let us rejoice and sing to her:
“Rejoice, O Fulfilment//
of the Creator’s dispensation!”