

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Day of October



### The Protection (*Pokróv*) of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos, and Ever-virgin Mary.

**Note:** If the Temple is dedicated to the Mother of God, or the Rector so desires, the All-night Vigil is served.

**Note:** The Commemoration of St. Romanos the Melodist is also on this date. His service is found following this.— *incomplete as of 7/2016*

### Small Vespers

*Incomplete as of 7/2016*

### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 4 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the regular melody.***

**G**od, who alone rests upon the thrones on high /  
Was pleased that a man who had found favor with Him, /  
Should behold thee, O Lady, standing above the earth /  
Stretching out thy divine hands in supplication /  
Praying for the city and the people. /  
Protect us now, O Lady ///  
Under the veil of thy mercy. (*twice*)

**T**hou, O most pure Lady /  
Ever protects with thy precious veil /  
The city and people that honor and worthily praise thee, /  
Keeping them safe from the assaults of the enemy, /  
From famine, and earthquake, and civil war, ///  
O Virgin, Bride unwedded, thou protectress and defender of mankind.

**O** living abode of Christ, /  
Thou art a wall, a haven, and a stronghold for the faithful. /  
Through thee, O Mother of God, are they and thy city saved; /  
Through thy help the kings of the true faith are crowned; /  
In thee do they rejoice as they gain victories over the heathens, ///  
For thou ever protects us under the veil of thy mercy.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the Tone 5:**

**C**ome, ye assemblies of those who love the feasts of the Church, /  
And let us sing the praises of the Most Holy Virgin! /  
For today the angels and saints celebrate the hon’rable protection of the Mother

of God, /  
As they call to us on earth to praise her with unceasing voices: /  
Rejoice, thou wondrous adornment of the Church and guardian of the world! /  
Rejoice, O invincible ally of the faithful rulers in battle and the shield of warriors! /  
Rejoice, our protectress and defender, ///  
For indeed, the Christian people ceaselessly bless thee!

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 2:** *To the melody, "O House of Ephratha...."*

Today the heavens rejoice in glory /  
And there is gladness on earth ///  
For the Queen and all the saints pray for us in the holy Church.

**Verse:** Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

O come all ye faithful /  
To the holy Church /  
For there, the Theotokos protects with her precious veil ///  
All the people from the assaults of the enemy.

**Verse:** The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

O most pure Theotokos, /  
Forget us not, thy servants, ///  
But pray for us who in faith sing thy praises.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the Tone 3:**

Come, all ye who love the feasts of the Church, /  
And let us bless the honored veil of the Mother of God, /  
For she mercifully stretched out her hands to her Son /  
And the world came under her protection. /  
Therefore, with our mouths and hearts, let us join with them ///  
Who celebrate this feast with songs and spiritual hymns.

**The Troparion, in Tone 4:**

O Mother of God, sheltered by thy coming, /  
We faithful people today keep feast in joy /  
And beholding thy most pure image /  
Moved to the depths of our hearts, we say: /  
Protect us with thy precious veil /

## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

And deliver us from every ill ///

By entreating Christ thy Son and our God to save our souls.

### Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “**Blessèd is the man...**,” the first Kathisma.

At “**Lord, I call...**,” 8 stichera.

**These stichera in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “O glorious wonder....”*

**L**et us faithfully extol and give our highest praise, /  
O most pure Mother of God,  
To the shining veil of thy protection, /  
For thou art a mighty defender for those in sorrow, /  
A speedy helper, the confirmation, and the deliverance of the world, /  
An endless source of mercy! /  
Therefore, with gladness we cry out to thee: /  
Rejoice, O thou who hast found such favor, for the Lord is with thee ///  
Granting the world through thee great mercy. (*twice*)

**I**saiah once wondrously prophesied /  
Saying, that it shall come to pass in the latter days, /  
That the mountain of the Lord shall clearly appear /  
And that upon its summit there shall be His dwelling place. /  
And we have seen that this has truly been fulfilled concerning thee, /  
For the mountains and the hills are adorned with countless churches bearing  
the names of thy feasts. /  
Therefore, with gladness we cry out to thee: /  
Rejoice, O thou who hast found such favor, for the Lord is with thee ///  
Granting the world through thee great mercy.

**T**hou art the wondrous adornment of the faithful, /  
O thou fulfillment of the prophecies; /  
Thou art the glory of the apostles and the beauty of the martyrs, /  
The boast of virginity, and the marvelous protection of the world! /  
Therefore, O Lady shelter under the veil of thy protection all the people who  
cry to thee: /  
Rejoice, O thou who hast found such favor, for the Lord is with thee ///  
Granting the world through thee great mercy.

**Then, 4 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "As one valiant among the martyrs...."***

**T**hou art like the divinely-sown garden of paradise, O Theotokos /  
Wherein stood the Tree of Life watered by the Holy Spirit. /  
For we know thee as having brought forth the Creator of all /  
Who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life. /  
Together with the Forerunner, entreat Him on our behalf, O Lady, ///  
And protect the Orthodox faithful from every danger beneath thy holy veil. *(twice)*

**H**eaven and earth are both sanctified; /  
The Church shines brightly and the people rejoice, /  
For behold, the Mother of God, together with the prophets and the apostles, /  
With the Forerunner, and the Theologian, /  
Mystically prays to Christ on behalf of all Christians, /  
That He may have mercy upon all lands and all people, ///  
Who glorify the Feast of her holy Protection.

**T**hou art the beauty of Jacob /  
And the heavenly ladder by which the Lord descended to the earth. /  
These images were given at that time, O Mother of God /  
As manifestations of thine honor and glory. /  
Now all the angels in heaven and mankind on earth call thee blessed /  
For thou hast brought forth the God of all /  
And thou prayest now for all the world, ///  
Protecting with thy mercy those who keep thy holy feast.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 8:**

**A**s they behold the Queen of heaven glorified by all the faithful, /  
The leaders of the bodiless hosts rejoice together with us /  
And the spirits of the righteous make glad and spiritually join in song /  
As they witness the vision of her with outstretched arms praying in the air /  
Entreating peace for the world ///  
And the confirmation of Orthodox Christians and the salvation of our souls.

**The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.**

**Three Readings:**

**The Reading from Genesis (28:10-17)**

<sup>28:10</sup> **A**nd Jacob went out from the Well of the Oath and went into Haran. <sup>11</sup>And he lighted upon a certain place and lay down there, because the sun was set. And he took one of the stones of the place, and put it at his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth whose top reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord was established upon it and said, "I am the God of thy father Abraham, and the God of Isaac. Fear not; the land where-on thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed. <sup>14</sup>And thy seed shall be as the sand of the earth, and it shall spread abroad to

the sea and to the south and to the north and to the east, and in thee and in thy seed shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup>And behold, I am with thee, keeping thee in every way whither thou shalt go, and will bring thee again into this land, for I will not leave thee until I have done all that which I have spoken to thee of." <sup>16</sup>And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other than the House of God and this is the gate of heaven."

### **The Reading from Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)**

<sup>43:27</sup> **A**nd it shall come to pass from the eighth day and onward that the priests shall offer your whole-burnt offerings upon the altar and your peace offerings, and I will accept you," saith the Lord. <sup>44:1</sup>Then He brought me back by the way of the outward gate of the sanctuary that looketh toward the east, and it was shut. <sup>2</sup>And the Lord said unto me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall pass through it, because the

Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter in by it, and it shall be shut. <sup>3</sup>For the Prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter in by the way of the porch of the gate and shall go out by the way of the same." <sup>4</sup>And He brought me by the way of the gate that looketh toward the north over against the house, and I looked, and behold, the house of the Lord was filled with glory

### **The Reading from Proverbs (9:1-11)**

<sup>9:1</sup> **W**isdom hath built her a house and hath upholden it with seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She hath offered her sacrifices; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl and hath also furnished her table. <sup>3</sup>She hath sent forth her servants and called with a lofty proclamation unto the

feast, saying, <sup>4</sup>"Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me." And unto them that lack understanding she saith, <sup>5</sup>"Come, eat my bread and drink wine which I have mingled for you. <sup>6</sup>Leave foolishness, and thou shalt live and seek wisdom and keep thine under-

standing straight by knowledge.” <sup>7</sup>He that reproveth evil men shall get to himself dishonor, and he that rebuketh an ungodly man shall be blamed himself. <sup>8</sup>Reprove not evil men, lest they hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. <sup>9</sup>Give opportunity to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he

shall continue to receive. <sup>10</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the counsel of the holy is understanding, for to know the law is the token of a good mind. <sup>11</sup>For in this manner shalt thou live long, and years of thy life shall be increased to thee.

**At the Litya, this sticheron, in Tone 3:**

The radiant feast of thy veil hath dawned today, /  
 O most pure Virgin, /  
 Illumining the faithful more brightly than the sun /  
 Who, in purity of heart acknowledge thee to be the true Mother of God, /  
 And who cry out to thy Son: /  
 O Christ our God, through the prayers of the Ever-virgin /  
 Who in purity and without corruption gavest birth to Thee, /  
 Turn us not, Thine inheritance, over to the enemies who wage war upon us, ///  
 But in thy mercy, preserve our souls in peace.

**This sticheron, in Tone 4:**

Thy Son’s people desire to praise thee, /  
 But are not able to do so worthily /  
 For thou dost ever defend all the faithful /  
 And protect them with thy precious veil, /  
 Ever praying for the salvation of those who honor thee with faith, ///  
 As the pure and true Mother of God.

**And this sticheron, in Tone 2:**

Let us, the faithful, assembled today, /  
 Extol the immaculate and all-pure Virgin, Queen of all; /  
 For she mercifully stretches forth her hands to her Son /  
 As the glorious Andrew beheld her in the air protecting the people with  
 her glorious veil. /  
 Let us all cry to her with tenderness of heart: ///  
 Rejoice, O protection, help, and salvation of our souls.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in the same Tone:**

Having purified our minds and thoughts /  
 Let us join the angels in keeping festival; /

## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Let us joyfully sing a song of David to the Maiden /  
Who is the Mother of Christ our God, the King of all: /  
Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness! /  
For having adorned her as a fair palace, thou hast placed her in Thy holy city /  
So that by her prayers she could order our lives ///  
And protect us from all our enemies.

### **At the Aposticha, this sticheron, in Tone 2:**

**A**s thou art higher than all in heaven and earth; /  
More glorious than the cherubim and more hon'able than all creation, /  
Christ gave thee to be the defender and mighty protectress of Christians; /  
To shelter and save the sinful people who flee to thee, /  
Therefore, we sing thy praises, O Lady, /  
For thou art the refuge of all and we celebrate the hon'able Feast of thy  
Protecting veil, ///  
And we entreat Christ to bestow upon us His great mercy.

### **In Tone 5:**

**Verse:** Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Come all ye faithful /  
And let us joyfully sing a song of David to the maiden Bride of God, /  
The Mother of Christ, the King of all: /  
The Queen stood at Thy right hand, O Master, /  
Clothed in robes of gold, divinely adorned. /  
For when she, the chosen among all women had been made more beautiful than  
all creation, /  
Thou wast pleased, in Thy great mercy, to be borne of her, /  
The only-Blessed one, /  
Giving her to be the support of Thy people /  
To order for their good, the lives of thy servants, ///  
And to protect them from every harm.

### **In Tone 7:**

**Verse:** The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

Thou, O Theotokos, art a mountain greater and more glorious than Sinai, /  
For, being unable to bear the descent of the glory of God in images and  
shadows /  
It caught fire and there was thunder and lightning. /

While at the command of the Ruler of all, and without being consumed /  
Thou didst bear in thy womb the Word of God, who holds all things in the palm  
of His hand, /  
Who Himself is the divine Fire, O Lady. /  
Help, then those who in faith keep thy holy festival /  
For thou hast great maternal boldness to approach Him: /  
Forget not, to visit us in thy great mercy, ///  
For thou hast received from God the gift of caring for His flock.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 2:**

The Church of God is adorned with thy precious veil /  
As with a precious crown, O all-pure Theotokos, /  
And today, she shines brightly and mystically rejoices /  
Crying out to thee, O Lady: /  
Rejoice, O precious raiment and crown of glory! /  
Rejoice, Thou, who alone art the fulfillment of glory and eternal joy! ///  
Rejoice, O refuge, deliverance, and salvation of all who turn to thee.

**After the Blessing of the Loaves, the Troparion, in Tone 4:**

**O** Mother of God, sheltered by thy coming, /  
We faithful people today keep feast in joy /  
And beholding thy most pure image /  
Moved to the depths of our hearts, we say: /  
Protect us with thy precious veil /  
And deliver us from every ill ///  
By entreating Christ thy Son and our God to save our souls. (*thrice*)

**Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion, twice; Glory..., now and ever, and the Troparion, once.**

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3:**

**O** thou who art surrounded by the divine light of the angelic hosts, /  
And the ranks of apostles and prophets /  
And receives their ministrations as the Mother of God, /  
Visit us thy servants ///  
And entreat Christ our God to grant us great mercy.



**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “O thou who art surrounded....”

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 6:**

O all-pure Mother of God /  
Thou art truly the strength of the helpless. /  
Wherefore, we who have been cast down are raised up by thee /  
And are borne aloft in thee, ///  
For thou art the protection of all and our Mediatrix before God.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “O all-pure Mother of God....”

**Polyeley and Magnification:**

We magnify thee, / O Most Holy Virgin, / and we venerate thy precious veil / for  
the holy Andrew beheld thee in the air / praying to Christ our God for us.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness.  
How he swore unto the Lord, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob.

**After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:**

Truly, thy holy veil /  
Is more precious than the ark of old, /  
And it shimmers more brightly than silver and gold /  
As it is extended upon thine incorrupt and all-pure hands; /  
It mercifully preserves those who, like us, have assembled today ///  
To piously celebrate, O Lady, the Feast of thy Protection.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “Truly, thy holy veil....”

**1<sup>st</sup> Antiphon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my youth....”**

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

I shall make thy name to be remembered / in all generations. *Verse:* The rich  
among the people shall pray before thy face.

Let every breath praise the Lord! ...

**Gospel:** (4) Luke 1:39-49, 56.

**After Psalm 50 (51), in Tone 6:**

**Glory...,**

Through the prayers of the Theotokos..., etc.

**Then, the Post-Gospel sticheron, in Tone 8:**

**A**s they behold the Queen of all glorified by the faithful, /  
The leaders of the bodiless hosts rejoice together with us /  
And spiritually form a material choir; /  
And the spirits of the righteous also rejoice /  
For they behold her in the air /  
Stretching forth her precious hands in supplication, ///  
Entreating peace for the world, and the salvation of our souls.

**The Canon of the Theotokos, with 12 Troparia  
(the Irmos is sung twice), in Tone 4**

**Ode 1**

**Irmos:** *I shall open my mouth, and it shall be filled with the Spirit; I shall utter a word to the Queen and Mother: I shall be seen radiantly keeping festival, and with rejoicing I will sing of her wonders.*

**Refrain:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**A**ccompanied by the angelic hosts and the fellowship of the prophets and apostles, thou hast entered the Church today as Mother of God in mighty glory, praying for Christians, delivering them from all distress and sorrow and protecting them with thy mercy.

**T**hou art called the ark of Moses and the rod of Aaron, for thou hast put forth Christ, the Tree of Life; and as thou hast boldness before Him, pray to Him for us who honor thee, O Queen, and beseech Him to deliver us from all evil, that we may glorify the Feast of thy Protection.

**Glory...,**

**I**n ancient times, David once gathered his choirs together and he played before the ark. Now we, who praise thee as the angelic hosts precede thee into the Church, bow down in prayer before thee and rather, say: Pray thou, O Queen, for the people who honor thee, that we may worthily, piously, and reverently celebrate and glorify the Feast of thy Protection

**Now and ever...,**

## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

**As** they proceed before thee in the Church, the angelic hosts praise and the patriarchs and bishops glorify thee, O Theotokos. With them, Saint Andrew saw thee praying to God for us sinners and entreating Him to have mercy on the people who glorify the Feast of thy Protection.

*Katavasia:* *I shall open my mouth....*

### Ode 3

**Irmos:** *O Theotokos, living and abundant fountain, spiritually strengthen thy singers, the choirs assembled in thy divine glory, and grant them crowns of glory.*

**Rejoice**, thou untilled garden which sprouted the divine staff of wheat; Rejoice, thou living table bearing the Bread of life; Rejoice, O Lady, thou ever-flowing fountain of living water.

**We**, thy people, stand in thy Church with faith, awaiting thy mercy, O Lady! Visit our humility and defend the Orthodox Christians from all evil under the protection of thy holy veil.

**O** far-famed Lady, whom the prophets who now serve thee with the angels once foretold, do thou together with them, beseech God that we may celebrate the Feast of thy holy Protection with reverence and joy.

**Gideon** once foretold thee when he spoke of the fleece, for Christ our God descended upon thee like the dew. Pray to Him, O Theotokos, that He may grant victory to the Orthodox Christians, that, casting them down like the people of Midian, they may glory thy holy feast.

**O** Mother of God, greater than that of the sun is the light radiating upon thy people from thy shimmering veil as it drives away the darkness of their sins. At this, thy visitation, pray to thy Son and God for us!

*Katavasia.*

### The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 5:

**O** pure and Ever-virgin Mother of God, /  
Fervent and invincible intercessor for our souls; /  
Steadfast hope that cannot be put to shame; /  
O wall and protection, the haven of those of those who seek refuge in thee, /  
Pray together with the angels to thy Son and God ///  
That He may grant the world peace, salvation, and great mercy.

**Glory..., now and ever..., Repeat:** “O pure and Ever-virgin Mother of God....

#### Ode 4

**Irmos:** *He who sits in glory upon the throne of the throne of Divinity, Jesus truly divine, came on a light cloud, and saved with an incorrupt hand those who cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Christ.*

**O** thou who art worthy of all praise, we raise up our voices to thee in faith and sing: Rejoice, O fertile mountain, filled with the grace of the Spirit; Rejoice, O candlestand bearing Christ the Light; Rejoice, O jar of manna, which sweetens the senses of all the righteous and pious.

**G**od hallowed thee more than the ark of Aaron by sanctifying thee through the Holy Spirit, and commanding His angels to minister unto thee. Together with them, pray now for the lands and the people who glorify the holy Feast of thy Protection.

**O** Theotokos, enter now with glory into this Church accompanied by all the assemblies of the saints, as once the holy Andrew beheld thee in the air praying, in thy splendor, for all Christians, and grant us all thy mercy.

**S**trengthen our Orthodox hierarchs against all heresy and schism as God strengthened David against Goliath, O Lady, that in thy goodness we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O holy protectress and helper of all Christians.

**F**alling down in veneration before thee, O Lady, we faithfully pray and thankfully cry to thee: Rejoice, O Virgin blessed by God! Thou art the protection, defense, and helper of all those in misfortune! Save us who take refuge in thee, for we placed our trust in thee!

#### Ode 5

**Irmos:** *All things were amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O Virgin, who knewest no wedlock, didst bear in thy womb the God over all, and thou gavest birth to the eternal Son, granting peace to all who sing thy praises.*

**O**nce, Solomon of old, described thee as the resting place and marriage bed of the King of heaven, surrounded by the seraphim. Therefore, we beseech thee now, O All-holy Mother of God, to protect us from every danger and tribulation

**S**eeing thee praying for the world, all the companies of angels, prophets and apostles wait on thee and serve thee for thou art the Mother of God; and when the Lord heard thy supplication, He saved the city and the people that put their trust in thee.

**T**he great prophet of old, Isaiah, foretold thee saying that thou wouldst bring forth God without knowing a man! Thou art, indeed, the most holiest of all, O pure Mary, as thou hast carried God in thy womb and held Him in thine arms. Cover us now, with thy protecting veil, and pray to Him for us who glorify thee in faith.

**A**ll the assemblies of the saint came soaring on their spiritual wings to minister thee when they beheld thee on a light cloud of glory entreating Christ the Savior that He grant Orthodox Christians victories over all their adversaries.

### Ode 6

***Irmos:*** *Come, let us clap our hands, O divinely-wise ones, celebrating this divine, all-precious Feast of the Mother of God, and let us glorify God who was born of her.*

**T**he divinely-wise priests and pious people are present here in the Church awaiting thy mercy, O Theotokos, for thou hast given birth to the Joy of the world which absolved mankind from their sin, and thus transformed our sorrow into joy.

**T**he whole world offers to thee gifts as thou art Queen and the Mother of God. Kings and hierarchs bow in homage before thee and all the people piously rejoice, for they are protected from all evil by thy prayers, O Theotokos.

**T**he prophet Daniel described thee as a mighty mountain, for Christ was born of thee, but not of mortal seed. He destroyed all the wiles of the devil and filled the whole world with Faith. Pray thou now to Him for us who glorify the Feast of the holy Protection.

**L**ike the angel we lift up our voices to thee, O Lady, and we cry: Rejoice, thou throne of God, upon which Ezekiel beheld the Lord in the form of a man carried aloft by the Cherubīm! Together with them, O Theotokos, beseech Him now to save our souls.

***Katavasia.***

**The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 3:** *To the melody, “Today the Virgin....”*

**T**oday the Virgin stands forth in the Church /  
And invisibly with the choirs of saints prays to God for us; /  
The hierarchs bow down with the angels, /  
The apostles and the prophets rejoice. ///  
For the Mother of God prays to the eternal God for us.

***Ikos:*** **C**ome, O ye people, and let us delight in her most glorious wonders; for

through her, Adam was delivered from corruption as she is the ark made by God and not by Noah; and the burning bush which Moses saw when he could not behold God! But now the whole earth knows the Son of God born of her, and to Him she now makes supplication on our behalf. Therefore, we thankfully glorify her as the Mother of God, for the Theotokos prays to the pre-eternal God for us.

### Ode 7

***Irmos:*** *The divinely-wise children would not serve created things more than the Creator, but bravely trampled on the fiery threat. They rejoiced, singing: Blessèd art Thou, O most hymned Lord and God of our fathers!*

**T**hat which was not described by many prophets and was unknown even to the ministering angels of God, has come to pass: and now all men know thee to be the Theotokos, and all pray for thy help and intercession, O blessèd one!

**O** Virgin Theotokos, thou art the mountain foreseen by Habákkuk, watered by the Spirit, that pours forth the sweetness of healing upon the faithful. Heal us, O Lady, as we cry out to thy Son: Blessèd art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers!

**H**e who bowed down the heavens has taken up His abode in thee, O Virgin, and now beholds thy supplication, O Queen: Pray to Him, O blessèd Lady, for us, for we place our trust in thee!

**O** Christ, our Creator, Savior and God, accept the prayer Thy Mother offers Thee for us sinners that we may joyfully sing to Thee: Blessèd art Thou and praised above all, O Lord, God of our fathers!

### Ode 8

***Irmos:*** *The Offspring of the Theotokos saved the God-fearing children in the furnace. He who was then prefigured now is acting, and He raises up all the universe to sing: Praise the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, highly éxalt Him throughout all ages!*

**W**ith all the ranks of angels, honorable and glorious prophets, apostles, hieromartyrs, martyrs, holy hierarchs, and all the saints, do thou, O Theotokos, pray for us sinners who here, and in every land, glorify the Feast of thy Protection!

**C**ast down pride and arrogance, scatter the councils of unjust princes, and destroy those who instigate senseless violence, O All-holy Virgin Theotokos, that we may ever glorify thy feast, crying: Praise the Lord, O ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him throughout all ages!

**O**ur souls worship thee in faith, and our mouths send up praise to thee, O all-pure

## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Mother of God, for our hearts are aflame within us! Have mercy on us who entreat thee and who praise the Lord above all throughout all ages.

*Let us bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord!*

**B**urdened by my many sins, I know not how to sing praises worthy of thy protection, O Theotokos. But since thou art the Mother of God, do thou adorn this, thy feast with wonders, that all may joyfully praise the Lord and exalt Him above all throughout all ages.

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

*Katavasia.*

*The Magnificat is sung.*

### Ode 9

***Irmos:*** *Let the earthborn leap for joy, enlightened by the Spirit, and let the angelic powers make festival and honor the holy Feast of the Mother of God; and let them cry aloud: Rejoice, all-blessèd and pure, Ever-virgin Mother of God.*

**O** King on high who sittest with the Father and art praised by the seraphim: hear the supplications of Thy Mother which she offers for us sinners, and wash away our sins; save our country and bless our people, through the prayers of her who gave Thee birth.

**We** praise thee in the words of the angel, O Virgin chosen by God, and we sing: Rejoice, thou who hast led Adam back to paradise! Rejoice; Thou hope of all Christians who chases demons away by the mention of thy name; Rejoice, thou enlightenment of our souls, and the guardian of our Land!

**R**emember us in thy prayers, O Lady Theotokos, that we may not perish because of the multitude of our sins. Protect us from every evil and distress, for we have placed our trust in thee, and honoring the Feast of thy Protection, we praise and magnify thee!

**A**s His Mother, thou hast received from God the gift of healing the infirmities of all Christians; of delivering them from every trial and tribulation; of releasing them from sin; and of saving them from captivity and every necessity. Despise us not, O Lady, for thou knows that we ask for the health of our bodies and the salvation of our souls.

*Katavasia.*



**Exapostilarion of the Feast:**

Cover us with thy miraculous shimmering veil, O Most Holy Theotokos, and keep all Orthodox Christians from evil, as when Saint Andrew beheld thee in the Church of Blacharnæ, and send down thy great mercy upon us now, O Lady. *(thrice)*

**At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."*

We fall down before thee, O Lady, /  
And saluting thee tenderly, we sing to thee: /  
Rejoice, O Lady, beloved and bess't by God! /  
Rejoice, O far-famed Virgin, prefigured in truth by the prophets, /  
For Christ God descended upon thee like dew upon the fleece, /  
And thou gavest birth to Him without knowing wedlock! /  
Rejoice, O pure one, for thou didst hold in thine arms the Creator and Lord of all! ///  
Pray to Him for us as we celebrate the Feast of thy holy Protection. *(twice)*

The ranks of angels sing praises to thee,  
O Virgin Mother of God, /  
The sainted patriarchs and hierarchs glorify thee, /  
The holy apostles honor thee, /  
And all the martyrs and venerable saints minister to thee /  
As they behold thee praying for the world /  
To Christ our God, the Savior of all. /  
Beseech Him now to save all lands and people ///  
Who honor in faith the Feast of thy holy Protection.

God hallowed thee more than the ark of Aaron /  
When He sanctified thee through the Holy Spirit; /  
And now thou dost enlighten the Church and the people /  
With the light of thy precious veil /  
As it shines brighter than the rays of the sun /  
Chasing away the darkness of our sins. /  
Deliver us, O Lady, from every sorrow and misfortune ///  
For we honor in faith the Feast of thy holy Protection.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 6:**

Andrew the glorious, beheld thee in the air, /  
With the archangels, apostles and prophets, /  
And a multitude of martyrs and ven'able saints, /  
Praying to thy Son, our God and Savior /



## THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

For the city and the people /  
And protecting them with thy precious veil, O most pure Mother of God /  
Save us, the chosen inheritance of thy Son, ///  
Who honor in faith the Feast of thy holy Protection.

### **The Great Doxology and the Dismissal.**

#### **Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia:** 4 from Third Ode, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Protection.

**1. Rejoice**, thou untilled garden which sprouted the divine Staff of wheat; Rejoice, thou living table bearing the Bread of life; Rejoice, O Lady, thou ever-flowing fountain of living water.

**2. We**, thy people, stand in thy Church with faith, awaiting thy mercy, O Lady! Visit our humility and defend the Orthodox Christians from all evil under the protection of thy holy veil.

**3. O** far-famed Lady, whom the prophets who now serve thee with the angels once foretold, do thou together with them, beseech God that we may celebrate the Feast of thy holy Protection with reverence and joy.

**4. Gideon** once foretold thee when he spoke of the fleece, for Christ our God descended upon thee like the dew. Pray to Him, O Theotokos, that He may grant victory to the Orthodox Christians, that, casting them down like the people of Midian, they may glory thy holy feast.

**5. The** divinely-wise priests and pious people are present here in the Church awaiting thy mercy, O Theotokos, for thou hast given birth to the Joy of the world which absolved mankind from their sin, and thus transformed our sorrow into joy.

**6. The** whole world offers to thee gifts as thou art Queen and the Mother of God. Kings and hierarchs bow in homage before thee and all the people piously rejoice, for they are protected from all evil by thy prayers, O Theotokos.

**7. The** prophet Daniel described thee as a mighty mountain, for Christ was born of thee, but not of mortal seed. He destroyed all the wiles of the devil and filled the whole world with Faith. Pray thou now to Him for us who glorify the Feast of the holy Protection.

**8. Like** the Angel we lift up our voices to thee, O Lady, and we cry: Rejoice, thou throne of God, upon which Ezekiel beheld the Lord in the form of a man carried aloft by the Cherubim! Together with them, O Theotokos, beseech Him now to save our souls.

**The Troparion, in Tone 4:**

**O** Mother of God, sheltered by thy coming, /  
We faithful people today keep feast in joy /  
And beholding thy most pure image /  
Moved to the depths of our hearts, we say: /  
Protect us with thy precious veil /  
And deliver us from every ill ///  
By entreating Christ thy Son and our God to save our souls.

**The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 3: *To the melody, "Today the Virgin...."***

**T**oday the Virgin stands forth in the Church /  
And invisibly with the choirs of saints prays to God for us; /  
The hierarchs bow down with the angels, /  
The apostles and the prophets rejoice. ///  
For the Mother of God prays to the eternal God for us

**Prokeimenon, Tone 3 (*The Song of the Theotokos*):** **M**y soul magnifies the Lord, /  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. *Verse:* For He hath regarded the low  
estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me  
blessèd.

**The Epistle:** (320) Heb. 9:1-7.

**The Alleluia, Tone 8:** **H**earken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.  
*Verse:* The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

**The Gospel:** (54) Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28.

**The Communion Hymn:** **I** will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name  
of the Lord. Alleluia....

RLE 7/22/2016 SDA  
UPDATED 10/1/2017 SDA  
9/27/2022 SDA