

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Day of November

### ✙ The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and all the Bodiless Host.

**Note:** A Vigil is served in a temple dedicated in honor of the archangels or if the Superior or Rector so desires.

### Small Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 4 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “O all-praised martyrs....”***

O ye bodiless angels, /  
Standing before the throne of God /  
And bathed in its luminous brilliance /  
You shine with eternal radiance. /  
Thus bearing, like lamps, His ineffable light, ///  
Pray to Christ that He grant the world peace and great mercy to our souls. *(twice)*

O ye immortal angels /  
Truly living the eternal life, /  
You were the first to receive life, /  
From the Source of Life, O ye blessed ones; /  
And being the holy witnesses of eternal Wisdom /  
Like lamps, you were filled with its radiance ///  
Revealing thyself brilliantly to all.

O ye angels and archangels, /  
Thrones and principalities, /  
And ye dominions and six-winged seraphim /  
Divine and many-eyed cherubim, /  
O instruments of wisdom, virtue, and divine power ///  
Pray to Christ that He grant the world peace and great mercy to our souls.

### Glory..., in Tone 4:

O commander of the angelic host /  
Standing before the heavenly throne of the Three-fold Sun /  
And illuminated with the rays of its eternal radiance, /  
Deliver us on earth who joyfully sing the Thrice-holy hymn /  
From the darkness of our passions ///  
And enlighten us with thy radiance, O Archangel Michael, thou intercessor for our souls.

### Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone.

**At the Aposticha, the stichera, in Tone 6:** *To the melody, “On the third day....”*

The host of angels, O Christ, /  
Which stand before Thy throne /  
Pray for all mankind. /  
At their entreaties, cast aside the arrogance of the faithless, ///  
And grant peace to all the faithful.

**Verse:** He maketh His angels spirits and His ministers a flaming fire.

O ye ranks of angels /  
Standing ‘round the throne of the King of all, /  
Preserve us who call upon you with faith ///  
And deliver us from torment eternal.

**Verse:** Praise the Lord, O ye angels of His! Praise Him, all His host!

God, the Father of all /  
Brought forth the only Word and the Spirit, /  
And created the bodiless, immaterial heavenly powers ///  
That ceaselessly praise the brilliance of His Three-fold glory.

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

Rejoice, O virgin Mother of God! /  
Together with the Gabriel we cry aloud to thee, /  
For having first received the Joy from above ///  
With gladness thou hast filled us all.

**The Troparion of the Archangel, in Tone 4:**

O foremost leader of the heavenly hosts /  
We who are unworthy beseech thee /  
By thy prayers to encompass us /  
With the shadow of thine immaterial glory. /  
We fall down before thee, and cry out ceaselessly: /  
Deliver us from all danger! ///  
Since thou art the prince of the ranks of dominions on high!

### **Great Vespers**

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

**At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera.**

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

**O** Archangel Michael, /  
 Most radiant commander of the powers of the Three-fold Sun, /  
 Thou hast shown thyself rejoicing with the heavenly host and crying out: /  
 Holy art Thou, O Father! /  
 Holy art Thou, O co-eternal Word! /  
 Holy art Thou, O Holy Spirit! ///  
 One Dominion, One Glory, One Nature, One Divinity, and One Power! *(twice)*

**F**iery is thy visage and wondrous is thy goodness, /  
 O Michael, thou foremost of the angels, /  
 For in thine immaterial nature thou dost traverse all the ends of the earth /  
 Fulfilling all the commands of the Creator! /  
 Thou art known for thy power and strength! ///  
 And the holy temple dedicated to thy name is become a source of healing!

**A**s it is written in the Scripture, /  
 Thou makest Thine angels spirits and Thy ministers a flaming fire! /  
 Thou hast revealed Thy champion, Michael, O Lord, /  
 As the commander of the ranks of the archangels, /  
 For he obeys Thine every command, O Word, ///  
 And ever singing the Thrice-holy hymn he proclaims Thy glorious majesty.

**And 4 stichera, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

**T**ruly the Pre-eternal Mind /  
 Established thee, O Gabriel, to be an especial light /  
 To illumine the entire universe /  
 Revealing to us the divine mystery hidden from eternity: /  
 That He who is without flesh shall become incarnate in a virgin womb ///  
 Becoming Man to save mankind. *(twice)*

**S**tanding before the throne of the Thrice-illuminated Trinity, /  
 O Archangel Gabriel, /  
 And shining abundantly with unceasing light /  
 Deliver from the darkness of our passions /  
 Those who joyfully stand on earth praising thee. ///  
 Give them joy by thy light, O intercessor for our souls.

**B**reak in pieces the wanton violence of Hagar’s children /

Who constantly fall upon thy flock; /  
Cause the divisions of the Church to cease; /  
Still the never-ceasing storms of temptations; /  
Deliver from all danger and calamity those who honor and love thee, /  
Ever running to thy protection, ///  
O Archangel Gabriel, thou intercessor for our souls.

**Glory..., in Tone 6:** *(in the regular melody. The composition of Byzantius)*

**R**ejoice together with us ye ranks of angels, /  
For today Michael, the chief commander of the archangels, /  
Who is foremost among your ranks, and our great defender, /  
Sanctifies the temple of God named in his honor /  
By revealing himself to us. /  
Therefore, we worthily praise him and we cry aloud: ///  
Shelter us under the shadow of thy wings, O most glorious Archangel Michael!

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**R**ejoice with us, ye choirs of virgins /  
For our great protectress and intercessor /  
Comforts all the sorrowing on this festive day. /  
Therefore, we faithfully cry aloud to her: ///  
Cover us with thy divine protection, O most pure Lady, the Mother of God.

*Or the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week if a Resurrection Service.*

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

**Three Readings:**

**The Reading from Joshua, the son of Nun (5:13-15):**

<sup>5:13</sup>**A**nd it came to pass when Joshua was in Jericho that he looked up with his eyes and saw a man standing before him, and a drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua drew near and said unto him, "Art thou for us or for our adversaries?" <sup>14</sup>And he said unto him, "I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord." And Joshua fell on his face upon the earth and said unto him, "Lord, what commandest Thou Thy servant to do?" <sup>15</sup>And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot, for the place whereon thou now standest, it is holy." And Joshua did so.

**The Reading from Judges (6:2,7,11-24):**

<sup>6:2</sup>And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel, and because of Midian the children of Israel made for themselves holes in the mountains, and dens and caves in the rocks. <sup>7</sup>And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord from before the face of Midian. <sup>11</sup>And there came an angel of the Lord and sat under a turpentine tree which was in Ephratha in the land of Joash, the father of Esdri. And his son Gideon threshed wheat in a winepress, to escape from before the face of Midian. <sup>12</sup>And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him and said unto him, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty in strength." <sup>13</sup>And Gideon said unto him, "With me, my Lord; but if the Lord be with us, why have these evils found us? And where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' And now he hath cast us out and given us into the hand of Midian." <sup>14</sup>And the angel of the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this thy strength, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of Midian; behold, I have sent thee." <sup>15</sup>And Gideon said unto him, "With me, my Lord? whereby shall I save Israel? Behold, my thousand is weak in Israel, and I am the least in my father's house." <sup>16</sup>And the angel of the Lord said unto him, "The Lord shall be with thee, and thou shalt smite Midian

as one man." <sup>17</sup>And Gideon said unto him, "If now I have found mercy in thine eyes, and thou wilt do this day for me all that thou hast spoken with me, <sup>18</sup>depart not hence until I come unto thee, and I will bring forth an offering and offer it before thee." And he said, "I AM; I will tarry until thou come again." <sup>19</sup>And Gideon went and made ready a kid of the goats and an ephah of fine unleavened flour. And the flesh he put in the basket, and he poured the broth into the pot and brought them out unto him under the turpentine tree and drew nigh. <sup>20</sup>And the angel of God said unto him, "Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and put them upon that rock, and pour out the broth close by." And he did so. <sup>21</sup>And the angel of the Lord stretched forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and there came up fire out of the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and the angel of the Lord vanished out of his sight. <sup>22</sup>And Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, and Gideon said, "Ah, ah, O Lord, my Lord! for I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." <sup>23</sup>And the Lord said unto him, "Peace be unto thee. Fear not; thou shalt not die." <sup>24</sup>Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord and called it The Peace of the Lord unto this day.

**The Reading from Isaiah (14:7-20)**

Thus saith the Lord, <sup>14:7</sup>The whole earth crieth aloud with joy; <sup>8</sup>the trees also of

Lebanon rejoice in thee, saying, 'From the time that thou hast been laid

low, <sup>1</sup>there is none come up to cut us down.’ <sup>9</sup>Hades from beneath is embittered to meet thee; even all the great ones that have ruled over the earth are risen up together against thee, they that have raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. <sup>10</sup>All they shall answer and say unto thee, ‘Thou also art taken even as we, and thou art numbered among us. <sup>11</sup>Thy glory is gone down unto Hades, and thy great mirth; under thee shall they spread corruption, and the worm shall be thy covering.’ <sup>12</sup>How is Lucifer fallen from heaven that rose up in the morning! He is crushed unto the earth that sent light to all the nations. <sup>13</sup>But thou hast said in thy mind, ‘I will ascend into heaven; I will set my throne above the stars of heaven; I will sit upon a lofty mount toward the north; <sup>14</sup>I

will go up above the clouds; I will be like the Most High.’ <sup>15</sup>Yet now thou shalt go down to Hades, even to the foundations of the earth. <sup>16</sup>They that see thee shall wonder and say, ‘This is the man that troubled the earth, that made kings to shake, <sup>17</sup>that made the whole world desolate and destroyed the cities thereof; he loosed not them that were in captivity.’ <sup>18</sup>All the kings of the nations are fallen asleep in honor, a man in his own house. <sup>19</sup>But thou shalt be cast out upon the mountains like a loathed carcass, with many dead that have been pierced with swords that go down into the grave. As a garment that is defiled with blood shall not be clean, <sup>20</sup>so neither shalt thou be clean, because thou hast destroyed My land and slain My people; thou shalt not endure for ever.

**At the Litya, these stichera of the Archangel, in Tone 1: (the composition of Cyprian)**

**O** ye captains of the spiritual powers, /  
 Standing forever before the throne of the Master ///  
 Pray to Christ that He grant the world peace and great mercy to our souls.

**In the same Tone: (the composition of Arsenios)**

**M**ichael, the supreme leader of the powers on-high /  
 The foremost captain of the army of God /  
 Who is always at our side preserving us from every assault of the enemy, /  
 Has called us together on this festive day. /  
 So come, then, all ye who love Christ and all the feasts of His Church, /  
 And with pure minds let us let us gather a garland of virtues; /  
 So let us worthily honor the assembly of the archangels /  
 For they stand forever before the throne of God ///  
 And pray to Christ that He grant the world peace and great mercy to our souls.

**In Tone 2: (the composition of the Studite)**

**O** ye leaders of the rational and bodiless powers, /  
 You enlighten the world /  
 Reflecting the radiance of the Three-fold Sun of Glory, /  
 And ever singing the Thrice-holy hymn with never silent voices: ///  
 Pray for the salvation of our souls.

**In the same Tone:** *(the composition of Arsenios)*

**T**he hosts of angels, with their bodiless lips aflame, /  
 Sing to God, the Ruler of all, the Thrice-holy hymn /  
 As they soar ‘round His spiritual throne: /  
 Holy art Thou, O God, the Father without beginning! /  
 Holy art Thou, O Mighty One, the co-unoriginate Son! /  
 Holy art Thou, O Immortal Spirit ///  
 One in essence, and glorified together with the Father and the Son.

**In the same Tone:** *(the composition of Anatolius)*

**W**ithout ceasing thee ranks of angels sing their songs of praise /  
 With their spiritual mouths and bodiless lips /  
 Before Thine unapproachable divinity, O Lord; /  
 The incorporeal and intelligent ministers of Thy glory praise Thee, O Master; /  
 And together with them the bodiless Michael and the magnificent Gabriel honor Thee, /  
 And as the first among the heavenly hosts they invite us to join them today /  
 To praise Thy unapproachable glory with the songs of the angelic powers ///  
 For they ever pray Thee on behalf of our souls, O Lover of mankind.

**Glory..., in Tone 4:**

**T**he cherubīm sing Thy praises with lips of fire, O Christ our God, /  
 And with never-silent mouths, the assembly of archangels glorifies Thee; /  
 And the Archangel Michael, the Commander of the heavenly powers /  
 Sings a song of victory to Thy glory, /  
 For today he doth shine down upon us in his festive and radiant joy /  
 That we with mortal lips may take up the Thrice-holy hymn  
 So that all things maybe filled with Thy praise, O Lord. ///  
 Through his prayers grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:** *(the composition of George of Nikomedia)*

**T**oday the Theotokos, /  
 The temple that is to hold God /

Is led into the temple of the Lord. /  
 Today the Holy of Holies rejoices greatly, /  
 And the choir of angels mystically keeps festival. /  
 With them, let us also celebrate the feast today, /  
 And let us cry out with Gabriel: /  
 “Rejoice, thou who art full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!” ///  
 For He hath great mercy.

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”***

**L**et us on earth, rejoice like the angels, /  
 And sing praise to God who sits upon the throne of glory /  
 And let us cry aloud to Him: /  
 Holy art Thou, O heavenly King /  
Holy art Thou, O co-eternal Word ///  
 And Holy art Thou, O All-holy Spirit!

**Verse:** He maketh His angels spirits and His ministers a flaming fire.

**A**cting with great boldness as the leader of the heavenly hosts /  
 And standing in glory beside the awesome throne, /  
 O Archangel Michael, eyewitness of the ineffable mysteries, /  
 We entreat thee, through thy prayers, preserve us from all danger and necessity.

**Verse:** Praise the Lord, O ye angels of His! Praise Him, all His host!

**A**s thou art foremost among the bodiless angels, /  
 The minister of God’s divine radiance from on-high, /  
 And the witness and initiate of its glory, /  
 We pray thee O Archangel Michael, /  
 To save us who piously honor thee on this day every year ///  
 And faithfully sing the praises of the Holy Trinity,

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 8: *(the composition of John the Monk of Damascus)***

**A**s thou art the champion and foremost of the angels, /  
 Free those who faithfully sing and beseech thee, O glorious one, /  
 From every illness, sorrow, evil sin and necessity; /  
 For clearly, thou who hast no material form /  
 Canst behold the Immaterial One, /  
 And art illumined by the immaterial light of the Master’s glory. /  
 For He in His love for mankind received our flesh from the Virgin ///  
 Desiring to save mankind.

**After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the Archangel, in Tone 4:**

**O** foremost leader of the heavenly hosts /  
We who are unworthy beseech thee /  
By thy prayers to encompass us /  
With the shadow of thine immaterial glory. /  
We fall down before thee, and cry out ceaselessly: /  
Deliver us from all danger! ///  
Since thou art the prince of the ranks of dominions on high! *(twice)*

**And the Theotokion:** “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...” *(once)*

**Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...” the troparion of the Archangel, twice;** Glory..., now and ever..., **Theotokion:** “The mystery of all eternity...”

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”*

Standing before the awesome throne of God, /  
And illumined by its glorious light, /  
Enlighten us we pray, and dispel the gloominess of sin /  
As we brightly celebrate your festival today; /  
And we earnestly pray that we be delivered every misfortune, ///  
O ye angels of the Lord, our most radiant intercessors.

**Glory..., in the same Tone:** *To the melody, “The choir of angels....”*

**T**he choir of fiery-eyed angels, /  
Together with Michael, their sanctified leaders /  
Offers hymns of praise to the Holy Trinity, ///  
Which by a word, out of nothingness, had created all things.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone:**

**A**ll-holy Virgin, the hope of all Christians, /  
Thou gavest birth to God in a manner past speech and understanding, /  
Ceaselessly implore Him in behalf of those who offer hymns to thee /  
That He may grant remission of sins ///  
And that we may correct the course of our lives, who with faith and love glorify thee.

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 2:** *To the melody “When Thou didst descend....”*

**A**s thou art the first among the legions of the heavenly hosts, /  
 O Archangel Michael, /  
 We pray thee to ceaselessly entreat the King Most High /  
 To cast down the arrogance of the tyrants here below; /  
 And to ever pray for us, thy servants, ///  
 As thou hast great boldness before the fiery throne.

**Glory..., Tone 4:** *To the melody, “When the women disciples of the Lord ....”*

**T**he cherubīm together with the seraphīm, /  
 The archangels and the many-eyed members of the heavenly hosts, /  
 And the thrones and the dominions, /  
 The angels, principalities and powers, /  
 All entreat Thee, our Creator, God and Master: /  
 That He despise not the prayer of the sinful people, ///  
 O most merciful Lord.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**O** most pure Mother of God, /  
 Who gavest birth to the eternal God, /  
 We pray that, together with the bodiless angels, /  
 Thou mayest beseech thy Son, /  
 That He may grant us remission of our sins, /  
 And that we may amend our lives before the end ///  
 O all-praised Lady.

**Polyeley and Magnification:**

**We** magnify thee, / O commander of God’s armies, Michael, / and all you heavenly hosts, you cherubīm and fearsome seraphīm, / who ceaselessly glorify the Lord.

*Selected Psalm verses:*

**I** will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart. And I will sing to Thee before the angels.

**I** will worship towards Thy holy temple and will give glory to Thy Name for Thy mercy and Thy truth.

**After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody: “Of Wisdom...”*

**T**hou art the master of the powers of heaven /  
 And minister of the divine glory, /  
 By the command of thy Creator. /  
 And thou watchest over all the world /

Arrayed in thine immaterial splendor, /  
 Mediating salvation for all Christians. /  
 Therefore, we worthily praise thee /  
 On this, thy festival today /  
 And we cry aloud to thee: /  
 O Archangel Michael, pray Christ God for us, ///  
 That we who celebrate thy festival be granted the remission of our sins.

**Glory..., in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Quickly go before..."***

The ranks of angels stand in trembling before Thy throne, /  
 O Lord, Christ our God, /  
 And they ceaselessly sing their songs of victory /  
 Ever illumined by the dazzling rays of Thy light. ///  
 Through their prayers, grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion:**

**O** most pure Lady, /  
 O Virgin Mother who knew not man, /  
 Thou alone gavest birth in time /  
 To thy Timeless Son and Word of God /  
 Entreat Him now together with all the honorable bodiless powers ///  
 That He grant us the remission of our sins and great mercy.

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

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

**H**e maketh His angels spirits / and His ministers a flaming fire. *Verse:* Bless the Lord,  
 O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

**Gospel: (52) Matthew 13:24-30,36-43.**

**After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel sticheron, to the bodiless Angels, in Tone 6:**

**T**hine angels, O Christ, stand in fear /  
 Before the throne of Thy majesty  
 Shining brightly in the radiance of Thy light. /  
 They form Thy heavenly chorus /  
 They are the ministers of Thy council /  
 And they are sent down to us by Thee, ///  
 To enlighten our souls.

## The Canon

One Canon of the Mother of God, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos (chanted twice); and two Canons of the bodiless Angels, with a total of 8 Troparia:

### Ode 1

#### The Canon of the Mother of God, Tone 8:

***Irmos:** Let us sing a song unto the Lord, who led His people across the Red Sea: for He alone is glorified.*

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

**We** praise thee, O all-pure Mother of God, who in a manner past all understanding, gavest birth in the flesh to the eternal and transcendent Word.

**The** Virgin gave thee birth, O Christ, who like a ripe cluster of grapes pours forth the sweetness of salvation upon all the earth.

**The** race of Adam rightly glorifies thee, O Mother of God, for thou didst truly exalt our human nature in a manner past all understanding.

#### First Canon of the Bodiless Angels, in the same Tone

*having the acrostic, "Let us praise the assembly of the bodiless ones, O ye made wise by God"  
by John the monk of Damascus.*

***Irmos:** Let us sing to God, O ye people, to our God who doest wonders, for He hath set Israel free from captivity. Let us sing aloud a song of victory: We praise Thee, who alone art our Lord!*

***Refrain:** Holy archangels and angels of God, pray unto God for us!*

**C**ome, all ye faithful, and let us all sing the praises of the uncreated Trinity who governs all the bodiless commanders of the heavenly hosts, crying aloud: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Almighty God!

**T**hou didst establish as the model for Thy creatures, a nature without body, O Creator of the angels, who now compass 'round about Thy most pure throne and cry aloud to Thee: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Almighty God!

**R**ejoice, O Gabriel, thou initiate of the incarnation of God, and thou, O Michael, the chief commander of the heavenly hosts, as you cry aloud: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Almighty God!

***Theotokion:** I* tremble, O Christ, at the mystery of Thy condescension, for Thou who art by nature God hast accepted to be born of the Virgin as man that Thou mightest save mankind for the bondage of the enemy.

#### Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels, same Tone:

*also, the composition of John the monk of Damascus.*

## SYNAXIS ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE BODILESS HOSTS

*Irmos:* The staff of Moses performed miracles, striking the sea like the Cross, submerging Pharaoh with his chariots, saving the Israelites in their flight as they sang a song of victory.

**C**ome, and let us form a choir and let us praise in song the spiritual choirs of the bodiless powers who pray without ceasing for our salvation, and who ever rejoice at our repentance.

**T**oday the chiefs and chosen leaders of the angels, those shining captains of the bodiless intelligent beings rise up to keep the feast of their own radiant celebration, and we rational mortals rejoice together with them, offering our hymns to the Trinity.

**L**et us, together with the angels, rejoice in spirit on this day, for Gabriel once more announces his good tidings of the unity of the Church and the abolition of all the adverse heresies, on this day commemorating the commanders of the angels.

**G**lory...,

*Theotokion:* **T**hou gavest birth in manner beyond nature, by the Holy Spirit, to the Word of the Father, O most immaculate one, who came to dwell in thee being in two natures with two wills in a form unchangeably One.

**N**ow and ever..., Amen.

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

### Ode 3

#### Canon of the Mother of God

*Irmos:* Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light to those that sit in darkness; and my Spirit praises Thee.

**G**rant us thy help, O most pure Lady, and through thy supplications, cast away from us every evil assault and circumstance.

**B**y giving birth to the Savior of the world and to the Author of life Himself, thou didst correct the error of Eve, our first mother, O Theotokos.

**G**ird me about with power, O most pure one, for thou hast truly given birth to God in the flesh, the hypostatic power of the Father.

#### First Canon of the Bodiless Angels

*Irmos:* Plant Thou the fear of Thee in the hearts of Thy servants, O Lord, and be Thou the confirmation of who call upon Thee in truth.

**M**ightily, hast Thou, O Immortal One, established the powers of heaven that accomplish Thy holy will and ever stand before Thee in the Highest.

**A**ccept, O Christ, the initiates of Thine incarnation and Thy resurrection, the leaders of

the angels, who ever pray for our souls.

**T**hou hast appointed the angels as the guardians of mankind in that Thou art compassionate, O Christ, revealing them as the ministers of the salvation of those pleasing to Thee.

*Theotokion:* **O** bride of God, thou hast ineffably conceived the Lord and Savior who delivers from all danger those who truly call upon thee.

### **Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* *Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the Light to those that sit in darkness; and my Spirit praises Thee.*

**O** Michael, the first among the angels, thou hast appeared as a reflected light of the Holy Trinity to us who praise thee with faith.

**G**abriel truly filled the whole world with the radiance of divine grace by announcing the descent of God in the flesh.

**O** blessed, radiant and immaterial duo, reveal the Light of God to those who faithful celebrate your holy memory.

*Theotokion:* **I**saiah once sang of thy conceiving past all understanding, O pure Virgin, and now we also sing, that we may be cleansed from all our sins.

*Katavasia.*

**Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:** *To the melody "That which was commanded...."*

**O** ye commanders of the heavenly hosts /  
And the first among the fearful powers of divine glory, /  
Archangels Michael and Gabriel,  
You intercede with all the bodiless powers /  
On behalf of all the world, /  
Entreat then, the Lord, ye His ministers /  
That we may find mercy and grace ///  
On the Day of Judgement. *(twice)*

**Glory.... Now and ever.... Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**O** pure and blessed Lady, full of grace, /  
Join together with the powers on-high, /  
The archangels and all the bodiless hosts, /  
And ceaselessly entreat for us /  
Him, who through His tender mercy was born of thee, /

To grant us forgiveness before the end. ///

That we may amend our lives and thus obtain great mercy.

#### Ode 4

##### Canon of the Mother of God

***Irmos:** I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation, O Lord; I have considered Thy works and I glorify Thy Godhead.*

**O** Mother of God, save us who praise thee, for the life-giving Staff of wheat hath been sown in untouched meadow of thy virginal womb and giveth life to the world.

**B**eing so enlightened, we all know thee to be truly Theotokos, for the Sun of Righteousness hath shone forth from thee, O Ever-virgin Lady.

**C**leanse Thou, our ignorant transgressions, O only sinless One, and grant peace to the world, through the prayers of her who gave Thee birth, O God.

##### First Canon of the Bodiless Angels

***Irmos:** Thou hast set upon Thy swift steeds, Thine apostles, and taken into Thine hands their reins to bring salvation to those who cry to Thee with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

**T**hou hast set upon Thine angels as upon swift steeds and hast taken their reins into Thine hands, and riding forth, Thou hast brought salvation to those who ceaselessly cry out to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**T**he angels are clothed in all thy virtues, O Lover of mankind, and the ends of the earth are full of thy divine and glorious praise, O Pre-eternal One, and with them we cry aloud to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

**T**hou didst go forth full of pity, O Christ, for the salvation of mankind summoning together Thy friends, the powers of heaven, and Thy coming hath brought gladness to those who cry to Thee with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

***Theotokion:** Thou, O all-pure one, art revealed beyond all nature as both Virgin and Mother, for thou hast borne Christ who is both God and man, to whom the ranks of angels cry aloud in fear: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

##### Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels

***Irmos:** Thou art my strength, O Lord, my God, my power, my joy; without leaving Thy Father's bosom Thou hast visited our wretchedness. So, with the prophet Habbákuk I cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lover of man.*

**I**n Jericho in days of old, the Archangel Michael, the foremost leader of the bodiless hosts, appeared to Joshua, the son of Nun, as he was waging war; and having received strength from him, Joshua, the servant of the Lord, won the day taking the enemy captive at the point of a spear.

**O**nce, in days gone by, the great and truly divine Archangel Gabriel brought the good tidings of a child to Zacharias the priest; and John, the voice of the Word, was born, restoring speech again to Zacharias, his father.

**A**ll the ends of the earth rejoice today, O God, as they celebrate the honorable feast day of Thine archangels, Michael the divine, and Gabriel the wise; and the whole host of angels rejoices too, for the world is kept safe under their protection.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou alone amongst women remained pure and virgin after giving birth; and with thine own milk didst thou nourish the true Word of the Father, who by the Holy Spirit took our form, that of a servant, O Virgin Mother of God; and now we venerate the divine likeness of his countenance.

### **Ode 5** **Canon of the Mother of God**

*Irmos:* **R**ising early we cry to Thee, O Lord: Save us, for Thou art our God, and we know none other than Thee.

**S**till the unbearable storm of my passions, O thou who gavest birth to Christ, our Helmsman, and our Lord.

**T**he ranks of angels and the assemblies of men all worship Him who was born of thee, O all-pure Theotokos.

**O** unwedded Theotokos Mary, bring to naught the wishes of the enemies, and gladden the hearts of those who praise thee.

### **First Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* **B**ring my soul, which hast lost its way, toward salvation, out of the night of ignorance with the light of Thy wisdom, O Lord, and establish me upon the path of Thy commandments.

**B**orne into the heights by an inexorable longing for Thee, O Christ, Thou summit of all desires, the hosts of angel glorify Thee without ceasing.

**B**y grace hast Thou established Thy choir of rational and immortal angels to ever praise Thy majesty, fashioning them according to Thine own image, O indescribable One!

**T**hou, O Christ, keepest Thy ministers by Thy side as they are steadfast against evil, for being the source of all goodness, Thou doest good to them that serve Thee worthily.

*Theotokion:* **E**nliven my soul slain by the vile passions of the flesh, O all-undefiled one, who gavest birth the Giver of life, and establish me on the path of the blessed and everlasting life.

### **Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* **W**hy hast Thou cast me away from Thy face, O never setting Light? Why hast this dismal

*darkness covered me, the wretched one? Guide me in return to the light of Thy commandments, I pray Thee.*

**O**nce, in days gone by, Balaam the prophet was not persuaded by the ineffable and divine miracles of God, until an angel appeared at the crossroad to his donkey who wondrously reproved him. Thus, the rational beast changed what Balaam knew of nature.

**A**n angel of God appeared to Peter who, arrested by Herod, was languishing in prison, and he delivered him from bonds and death. Therefore, let us all come and honor the wise archangels, those divine guardians of our souls.

**O** ye angels and archangels, divine ministers of God, through your perpetual intercessions before Him, destroy the discord and the heresies within the Church, and removing all temptations, preserve our lives in peace.

*Theotokion:* **W**e know Thee as the God of all creation, One in two natures, with two wills and actions unconfused, the Son of God who took flesh from a woman, and we venerate the icons of Thine image.

### **Ode 6**

#### **Canon of the Mother of God**

*Irmos:* **G**rant me a robe of light, O Thou who clothes Thyself with light as with a garment, O greatly merciful Christ our God.

**W**e the faithful declare that thou art the temple and the ark of God, the living bridal-chamber and the gate of heaven, O Mother of God.

**O** Mary, bride of God, Christ thy Son, the destroyer of idolatry, who was borne of thee, is God worshipped together with the Father and the Spirit.

**T**he Word of God hath revealed thee, O Theotokos, to be the ladder leading to heaven, for through thee, He hath descended to us on earth.

#### **First Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* **T**hou didst appoint Jonah alone to dwell in the belly of the whale; do Thou deliver me, who am bound in the nets of evil, out from corruption, O Lord.

**B**y a single word didst Thou bring the immortal heavenly hosts into being from not being, O Lord, endowing them with the brilliance of Thy light.

**O** ye incorporeal angels and honorable initiates of the mysteries of God, ye citizens of heaven and divine tabernacles of the Lord, worthily do ye serve the Creator of all.

**T**he rational and intelligent ranks of the bodiless powers ceaselessly praise and glorify Thee as the Maker and Creator of all things, O Pre-eternal Son of God.

*Theotokion:* **O** most pure Lady, thou wast accounted worthy to hold in thy embrace Him, who sits forever with the Father in the Highest. Grant that He be merciful to us, thy servants.

### Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels

*Irmos:* Cleanse me, O my Savior; for great are my transgressions; Lead me from the abyss of sin, I pray, and I cry to Thee: Hear me, O God of my salvation!

**L**et us with trembling and with our lips of clay, praise and honor the bodiless angels who like fire, flame, and light, take immaterial flight away from material corruption.

**S**till the storms of the passions, O ye archangels, and calm all turmoil against the Faith, for ye are truly the fiery commanders of the legions of the Trinity's hosts.

**O** ye archangels of God, Michael and Gabriel, leaders of all the bodiless powers, preserve us from every heresy through your intercessions.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou didst appear of Thine own will from the womb, made flesh of a woman who knew not man. Being God without flesh, Thou hast come as a man in the flesh, O Christ, and we, the faithful, honor Thine appearance.

*Katavasia.*

**The Kontakion of the Bodiless Angels, in Tone 2: To the melody: "When Thou didst descend...."**

**O** ye princes and leaders of the armies of God, /  
Servants of the divine glory and instructors of men, /  
Ask whatever is good for us /  
And bountiful mercy, ///  
**O** ye commanders of the heavenly hosts.

*Ikos:* O immortal Lover of mankind, Thou didst say in Thy scripture that heaven rejoiceth at the repentance of a single man. Therefore, we, wallowing in our sin, boldly and at every hour entreat Thee, who alone are without sin and knowest the hearts of men, to take pity on us, unworthy though we be, and in that Thou art compassionate, to send down upon us Thy loving kindness, granting us the forgiveness of our sins, through the intercessions of the leaders of the bodiless angels who ceaselessly pray for us all.

### Ode 7

#### Canon of the Mother of God

*Irmos:* Long ago in Babylon, the children of Judæa by their faith in the Trinity trod down the flames of the furnace, singing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**B**eing incarnate of the Virgin's womb, Thou hast come to us for our Salvation. Therefore, we acknowledge Thy Mother as the Theotokos, and we cry out to thee in an Orthodox manner: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**T**hou didst raise a Staff from the root of Jesse, O all-blessèd Virgin, from which thy Son hath blossomed forth as the Fruit of salvation unto those who sing to Him with faith: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**F**ill us all with the knowledge and divine power of Three-fold Wisdom of the Most High through the prayers of the Theotokos, who sing to Thee with faith: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

### **First Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos: God came down upon the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and changed the flames into dew. Praise the works of the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.*

**T**hou, O compassionate One, hast shown the immaterial essence of Thine angels to be filled with an ineffable light as they sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God, throughout all ages.

**T**housands of ministering angels stand without ceasing before Him unable to endure the sight of His countenance and they cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God, throughout all ages.

**B**y a single word didst the Word create the race of angels, and having sanctified them by the Holy Spirit, Thou, O God, didst teach them to praise the Trinity forever.

*Triadikon:* **W**e glorify the hypostatic and uncircumscribed nature of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as we cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God, throughout all ages.

### **Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos: Long ago in Babylon, the children of Judæa by their faith in the Trinity trod down the flames of the furnace, singing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

**C**ome, O ye people, and let us clap our hands together with the bodiless angels and let us celebrate on this most auspicious day the commemoration of the wise archangels of Christ, and let us cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**I**n days of old, Abraham, the eye-witness of God and Lot the Glorious, gave shelter to the visiting angels and found fellowship with them crying out: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God of our fathers.

**A**ngels once appeared to Manoah the brave, and to Tobit, most wise, giving them worthy rewards for their struggles in life; and once, an angel saved the three children by quenching the flames of the fiery furnace.

*Theotokion:* **W**e proclaim Thee, O Jesus as two natures in One Person, who hast taken without change, the whole of our human nature from the Virgin, and venerating Thine image, we faithfully honor Thee.

**Ode 8**  
**Canon of the Mother of God**

*Irmos:* *The King of heaven whom the hosts of heaven magnify, we praise and exalt throughout all ages.*

**Q**uench the fiery arrows of deception which the enemy launches at us, O pure one, that we may praise and exalt thee throughout all ages.

**T**hou gavest birth to God the Word, our Creator, and our Savior, in a manner beyond nature, O Virgin; therefore, we praise and exalt thee throughout all ages.

**T**he unapproachable Light who had taken up His abode in thee, O Virgin, hath shown thee to be golden-rayed lamp illumining all unto all ages.

**First Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* *Thou didst display Thy glory upon the holy mountain revealing to Moses the mystery of the Virgin. Let us praise the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.*

**L**et us emulate the life the angels and let our minds soar to the heights, that with them we may, with immaterial voices, praise the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

**T**he angelic members of the heavenly choir are exceedingly joyful as they turn about the throne of God, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

*Refrain:* Most Holy Trinity, our God, glory to Thee.

*Triadikon:* **O** Holy Trinity that maketh Thine angels spirits and Thy ministers a flaming immaterial fire, we ceaselessly sing and exalt Thee throughout all ages.

*Theotokion:* **O** Theotokos, thou wast accounted worthy to hold in thy embrace Him, before whom the legions of angels and archangels in heaven stand trembling in fear. Intercede with Him that those who glorify Him throughout all ages may be saved.

**Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* *The Chaldean torturer became enraged; he ordered the furnace to be heated seven-fold; but seeing the godly youths saved by a great might, he sang to the Creator and Redeemer: Bless Him, O you children, praise Him, O ye priests, exalt Him, O ye people, throughout all ages.*

**T**he Archangel Michael, foremost among all the angels, and together with him the resplendently glorified Gabriel, the initiate of grace, who pledged the Virgin's troth, are worthily praised as they both proclaim and cry aloud: exalt Christ, O ye people throughout all ages.

**B**ehold all the distinct ranks of the angelic hosts, Ezekiel proclaimed foretelling: Among them stand the six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubīm, forming a circle; and with them he beheld the brightly-shining archangels glorifying Christ throughout all ages.

**D**aniel foretold the dread coming of Thy second Coming saying: When the thrones are set and the Ancient of Days takes His seat, He shall lead in thousands of angels, present in awe and crying with perpetual voices to the Trinity throughout all ages.

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

***Theotokion:*** **O**ne in essence as the Father and the Spirit, the Word came of His own free will to us and took from the Virgin the same form as us, not confusing the one with the other in this awesome union, for He himself was shown to be one and the same, in two natures and one person, and we now venerate the image of His likeness.

***We praise, bless, and worship the Lord singing and exalting Him throughout all ages!***

***Katavasia.***

### **Ode 9**

#### **Canon of the Mother of God**

***Irmos:*** *Saved through thee, O most pure Theotokos, we confess thee to be truly the Mother of our God, and together with the angels we magnify thee.*

**T**hou dost fill our minds with joy and gladness, for thou dost grant healing to all who approach thee with faith, piously professing thee as the Theotokos.

**W**ith psalms we praise thee, O joyous Lady, and we cry to thee, Rejoice! For thou hast given to us the Joy of all.

**O** Theotokos, thou hast raised for us the Fruit of thy womb come to mediate not for the corruption, but to grant eternal life to those who taste of it and glorify thee with faith.

#### **First Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

***Irmos:*** *In conceiving the Creator and Lord, thou hast surpassed the laws of nature and hath become the very gateway of Salvation for the world. Therefore, we ceaselessly magnify thee, O Mother of God.*

**W**e magnify Thee, O Christ, who hast ineffably united the things on earth to those in heaven and hast made one Church of angels and men.

**O** ye angels and archangels; ye thrones, dominions, principalities, virtues, and powers; ye cherubīm and seraphīm: pray with the Theotokos for the salvation of the world.

**O** Michael and Gabriel, having been shown to be the advocates for all mankind, visit

those who lovingly honor the common feast of your memorial, and save from every danger those who faithfully sing your praises.

*Theotokion:* **Rejoice**, O holy bride of God, who hast borne for the faithful the Light of the world! Rejoice, shelter and haven for us all! And as God is our Benefactor, pray unto Him without ceasing for us all!

### **Second Canon of the Bodiless Angels**

*Irmos:* *Saved through thee, O pure Virgin, we confess thee to be truly Theotokos, and with the choirs of angels we magnify thee.*

**O** Archangels Michael and Gabriel, foremost of the bodiless angels, you are the champions for the salvation of those in sickness, those travelling by sea and in the air, and those in need.

**O** Gabriel, rejoicing together with the powers and the thrones, intercede for us before the Savior, as thou art chief captain of the angels and the friend of God.

**As** you are the guardians of the world and of the Church, O captains of the hosts on-High, intercede with the Savior on behalf of us all.

*Theotokion:* **O** Theotokos, we glorify thee with one accord that we may be delivered from all passions and dangers, and that our prayers for good may be fulfilled.

### **Exapostilarion of the Bodiless Angels:**

**O** Archangel Michael, chief of the fiery ministers, thou hast received thy commission from the Father of lights and being illumined by the radiant brilliance of His glory, thou standest before His most honored throne as the first among all the immaterial ranks of the heaven hosts.

### **Glory...,**

**O** glorious and divine Archangel Michael, thou leader of the dominions, powers, angels, and archangels, virtues, thrones and principalities, standing now before the throne whose sight no man can bear, preserve, protect and save all those who honor thee, O thou intercessor for the world.

### **Now and ever.... Theotokion:**

**As** being more honorable than the glorious cherubīm, O all-laudable Lady, and more glorious, beyond compare than the awesome seraphīm, and more holy than all the holy angels, O all-pure Birthgiver in the flesh to the Creator of all, entreat thou Him, that He grant us, thy servants, the remission of our sins

**At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 1:** *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

**As** thou art the commander of the heavenly hosts /

And the advocate, guardian, and deliverer of mankind on earth, /  
We faithfully praise, thee, O Archangel Michael, ///  
And pray that we be delivered from every corruption and disease.

**T**oday, the foremost of the divine powers on-High /  
Calls upon the choirs of mortal men /  
To make one choir together with the angels /  
And celebrate as one assembly this feast of great delight ///  
And to sing as one to God the great Thrice-holy Hymn.

**A**s we take refuge under the shadow of thy divine wings /  
O Michael, made wise by God, /  
Preserve and protect us all throughout our earthly lives /  
And in the hour of death, ///  
Be present with us, and in thy compassion help us.

**In Tone 4: *(the composition of Ephraim of Karyes)***

**O** ye holy Archangels /  
Supreme commanders made luminous by the divine light of the Three-fold Sun, /  
You illumine the immaterial legions with the splendid light from on-High, /  
You shine forth with the brilliant fire of the unapproachable Divinity upon the earth, /  
And with lips aflame, you ceaselessly sing the great Thrice-holy Hymn: ///  
Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O our God! Glory to Thee!

**Glory..., in Tone 5:**

**W**herever thy grace casts its shadow /  
The devil is driven out, /  
For Lucifer, the fallen Morning star cannot bear to dwell in thy light. /  
Therefore, we beg thee, to quench the fiery arrows he casts against us ///  
And to deliver us from all his snares, O Archangel Michael.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:**

**We** bless, thee, O Virgin, Mother of God, /  
And worthily we glorify thee, /  
O city that cannot be shaken and unassailable wall, ///  
Invincible protectress and refuge for our souls.

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

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the third Ode of the first canon of the bodiless ones, and 4 from the sixth Ode of the second canon.**

**1-2.** Mightily, hast Thou, O Immortal One, established the powers of heaven that accomplish Thy holy will and ever stand before Thee in the Highest. *(twice)*

**3.** Accept, O Christ, the initiates of Thine incarnation and Thy resurrection, the leaders of the angels, who ever pray for our souls.

**4.** Thou hast appointed the angels as the guardians of mankind in that Thou art compassionate, O Christ, revealing them as the ministers of the salvation of those pleasing to Thee.

**5.** Let us with trembling and with our lips of clay, praise and honor the bodiless angels who like fire, flame, and light, take immaterial flight away from material corruption.

**6.** Still the storms of the passions, O ye archangels, and calm all turmoil against the Faith, for ye are truly the fiery commanders of the legions of the Trinity's hosts.

**7.** O ye archangels of God, Michael and Gabriel, leaders of all the bodiless powers, preserve us from every heresy through your intercessions.

**8. Theotokion:** Thou didst appear of Thine own will from the womb, made flesh of a woman who knew not man. Being God without flesh, Thou hast come as a man in the flesh, O Christ, and we, the faithful, honor Thine appearance.

**The Troparion of the Archangel, in Tone 4:**

O foremost leader of the heavenly hosts /  
We who are unworthy beseech thee /  
By thy prayers to encompass us /  
With the shadow of thine immaterial glory. /  
We fall down before thee, and cry out ceaselessly: /  
Deliver us from all danger! ///  
Since thou art the prince of the ranks of dominions on high!

**The Kontakion of the Bodiless Angels, in Tone 2:**

O ye princes and leaders of the armies of God, /  
Servants of the divine glory and instructors of men, /  
Ask whatever is good for us /  
And bountiful mercy, ///  
O ye commanders of the heavenly hosts.

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:** He maketh His angels spirits / and His ministers a flaming

SYNAXIS ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE BODILESS HOSTS

fire. *Verse:* Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

**The Epistle:** (305) Hebrews 2:2-10

**The Alleluia, in Tone 2:** Praise the Lord, O ye angels of His! Praise Him all His host!

*Verse:* For He spoke and they came into being; He commanded and they were created.

**The Gospel:** (51) Luke 10:16-21

**Communion Hymn:** He maketh His angels spirits and His ministers a flaming fire.  
Alleluia....

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