

The 10th Day of September

Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos; the Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera,

3 stichera of the Afterfeast, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “O most glorious wonder...”*

O most glorious wonder! /
From childless loins and a barren womb /
Today sprouts a staff bearing blossoms — /
The Mother of God, the unwedded one — /
From the righteous Joachim and Anne! ///
Therefore, the assembly of prophets and patriarchs rejoice at her nativity.

David rejoices today and Jesse dances for joy; /
Levi is exalted /
And righteous Joachim rejoices in spirit; /
The childlessness of Anna is resolved by thy nativity. /
O Mary, Virgin most pure, /
And the assembly of angels with all mankind ///
Joyfully bless thy womb divine!

Rejoice, O union of heaven and earth! /
Rejoice, O temple of the Lord! /
Rejoice, O mother unwedded, /
As Anna most gloriously resolves her barrenness /
And pours forth the remission of sins upon mankind! /
Rejoice, O temple divine! ///
Rejoice, O tabernacle in which the Creator and Lord made His abode!

And 3 stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs...”*

Adorning yourselves with the royal purple of your own blood, /
O virgin maidens, /
Incorruptibly you were united to Christ our God, /
Who is rich in goodness /
And preserved your virginity undefiled /
In the eternal bridal chamber, ///
In the heavenly abode and the palace not made by hands, O holy martyrs!

Imperfect in body, yet perfect in mind /
O glorious martyrs, /
You vanquished the ancient serpent, the author of evil /
By the power of the spirit /
And you revealed the true weakness of his power. /
Therefore, you received your crowns of victory, /
O Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora, ///
Ye great cham'pions of the Holy Trinity.

Although your bones were broken /
Although you were burned by fire and torn by iron nails, /
Suspended on a tree and cut by a sword /
Yet you did not reject Christ the Lord, /
O suffering and all-praised martyrs. /
Therefore, you received your crowns of victory, /
O Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora, ///
Ye great cham'pions of the Holy Trinity.

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast in Tone 2: (the composition of Anatolius)

What is this sound of feasting that we hear? /
Joachim and Anna as they mystically keep the feast! /
'O, Adam and Eve,' they cry, "rejoice with us today: /
For if by your transgression you closed the gate of Paradise in those days of old, /
We have now been given a glorious fruit, Mary the child of God, ///
Who opens its entrance to us all.'

Or, the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 1: To the melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven...."

Let the gate of the temple wherein God dwells be opened /
For Joachim brings within it today in glory /
The Temple and the Throne of the King of all, /
And he consecrates her as an offering to God, ///
Her whom the Lord hath chosen to be His Mother!

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

By thy nativity, O most pure Lady, /
Mystical rays of joy that are beheld by the mind /
Have shone forth unto all the world, /
Proclaiming beforehand to all /

AFTERFEAST NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS; HOLY MARTYRS MENODORA,
METRODORA AND NYMPHODORA

The Sun of Glory, who is Christ our God. /
By this, thou hast been revealed to us ///
To be the mediatrix of true joy and grace.

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

This, thy precious glory, O pure Lady, /
Proclaims thy grace to all the people; /
For it reveals thee as the mediatrix of our present joy, ///
And by thy supplications, the source of our future joy, O most pure Lady.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 2: in the usual melody

She who was preordained to be the Queen of all /
And the habitation of God, /
Has come forth today from a barren womb of joyful Anna. /
She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence; /
Through her cruel Hades has been trampled underfoot, /
And Eve with all her line is established secure in life. /
It is meet and right that we should cry aloud to her: ///
'Blessèd art thou among women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb!'

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

Thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, /
Hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe! /
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /
Hath shone from thee, O Theotokos /
By annulling the curse /
He bestowed the blessing. ///
By destroying death, He hath granted us eternal life.

Matins

The second Canon of the Feast, with 8 Troparia including the Irmos,
and that of the Martyrs with 4 Troparia each — *Incomplete as of 5/2017*

After the Third Ode:

The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Having been lifted up..."*

Steadfast in your struggles for the Holy Trinity /
And in your sisterly love for one another, /
You defeated the great and cunning enemy /

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And in the company of the five Virgins, /
Triumphantly, you entered into the mansions of heaven, /
Where you are forever joyful together with the angels ///
In the presence of the King of all.

After the Sixth Ode:

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, /
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; /
Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. /
And we, thy people, are freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: ///
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.

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