

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Day of December

### Commemoration of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos.

#### Vespers

**At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Called from on high....”***

The barren Anna leaped for joy /  
When she learned she was to bear Mary the Virgin, /  
Who in turn will conceive and bear in the flesh God, the Word; /  
And overflowing with joy she cried aloud: /  
Rejoice with me, all ye tribes of Israel, /  
For I have conceived, according to the will of God my Creator; /  
He answered my prayer and He ended my shame, /  
And in fulfillment of His promise, He hath healed the pain of my heart ///  
Through the pain of childbearing. *(twice)*

**H**e who made water to flow forth from a rock /  
Permitted thy womb to carry the Ever-virgin Mary  
Through whom our salvation will come. /  
No longer shalt thou be a barren plot of ground on the earth /  
For thou shalt give birth to the earth which will bud forth the Tree of Life, /  
Thus, according to His will, He hath delivered the human race from its shame /  
By taking on our lowly nature and becoming man ///  
For He is rich in mercy. *(twice)*

**B**ehold! The promises of the prophets are fulfilled! /  
The holy mountain is planted in Anna’s womb, /  
The divine ladder is set up, the great throne of King is made ready, /  
The place for the passage of the Lord is prepared, /  
The unburnt bush is planted and ready to blossom, /  
And the treasury of holiness is flowing with fruitful rivers of blessings ///  
That heal the barrenness of Anna, whom we glorify with faith. *(twice)*

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 2: *(the composition of Germanus)***

**T**oday the great mystery announced from all eternity, /  
Whose depths angels and men cannot measure, /  
Appears in the barren womb of Anna. /  
Mary, the maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the King of Eternity /  
Who will renew our human nature. /  
Therefore, let us entreat her with a pure heart and say, /  
Intercede for us before thy Son and God, ///  
That He may save our souls.

*Or, the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.*

**At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 5: To the melody, "Rejoice...."**

Aнна, the name-sake of divine grace, /  
Cried out asking for a child in prayer /  
Saying to the Creator, to the God of all: /  
O Lord of hosts, Thou knowest my shame of barrenness, /  
Heal, Thou, the pain of my heart and open the waters of my womb, /  
Make what is fruitless to be fruitful /  
That we may offer to Thee the child as a gift, /  
And in unity of mind we may bless, praise, and glorify thy loving kindness ///  
Through which the world obtains great mercy.

*Verse:* The Lord hath sworn and will not change His mind.

**O**nce, when Aнна was in prayer, beseeching the Lord with great fervor for a child, /  
She heard the voice of an angel /  
Who told her that God had granted her wish, /  
Saying: Do not grieve, for the Lord hath heard thy prayer. /  
Wipe away thy tears, for thou shalt become an olive tree /  
Sprouting a magnificent branch, /  
The Virgin from whom will spring the Flower, Christ in the flesh, ///  
Who grants the world great mercy.

*Verse:* And the fruit of thy womb will I set upon thy throne.

**T**he hon'orable couple Joachim and Anne /  
Have given birth to their lamb /  
Who in turn will give birth ineffably to the Lamb of God /  
Who is to be sacrificed for the sake of all mankind. /  
They offer the Lord unceasing and humble praise. /  
Let us, therefore, honor and fervently glorify them, /  
Overflowing with joy at this birth of the one who was born of them in a miraculous  
way: /  
Mary the Mother of our God ///  
Through whom great mercy is granted to all.

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

**T**oday the royal robe of porphyry /  
Is woven from the loins of David  
And the mystical flower of Jesse is blossoming. ///  
From it will come forth Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

**The Troparion of St. Anna, in Tone 4:**

**T**oday the bonds of barrenness are broken, /  
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna; /  
And He has promised them beyond all their hopes /  
That they should bear the Maiden of God /  
By whom the Infinite One was born as mortal man, /  
Who commanded the angel to cry out to her: ///  
“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee!”

*Note: This Troparion is sung by itself, without a Theotokion.*

**Matins**

—Incomplete as of 11/2018

At **“God is the Lord...,”** the Troparion, thrice.

Two Canons of St. Anna, the first with 8 Troparia including the Irmos,  
the second with 6 Troparia.

**After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of St. Anna, in Tone 4:**

**T**oday the universe rejoices /  
For Anna has conceived, the Mother of God by divine grace. ///  
The one who is to bear ineffably the Word of God.

RLE 11/2/2018 SDA  
UPDATED 12/10/2018 SDA  
11/29/2022 SDA