

## Also on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of November



**Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos; Repose of the Right-believing Great Prince Alexander, in schema given the name Aleksii.**

**Note:** A Vigil is served in his temple or at the discretion of the Rector or the Superior.

### Small Vespers

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

**T**hou didst bud forth from a pious root, O blessèd prince, anointed by God, /  
Revealing thyself as a sweet fruit of piety and truth, /  
Imbuing all who honor thee in faith /  
With the sweet fragrance of harmony and peace. /  
Pray then together with the angels to Christ, O blessed one ///  
That He may grant them peace and great mercy. (*twice*)

**T**hou hast inspired the earthborn to strive for the heavens /  
By emulating the lives of the bodiless angels. /  
Thereby, thou didst attain to the mansions of heaven /  
Where thou dost dwell with all the saints.  
Pray then together with them to Christ, O ven’rable one, ///  
That He may grant to those who honor thee peace and great mercy.

**T**hou art radiantly adorned with faith and piety /  
As a most worthy and scepter-bearing prince; /  
And thou art illumined by the Light of the Holy Trinity /  
For being its steadfast defender. /  
Thou hast shone upon the whole earth with the light of thy miracles, ///  
And thou art the fervent intercessor for our souls.

### Glory..., Tone 6:

**F**rom thy youth thou didst love Christ, O ven’rable father, /  
And being resplendently adorned with piety and truth /  
Thou wast chosen by God to be a ruling prince; /  
And by thine almsgiving and the purity of life /  
Thou wast shown to be a spacious dwelling of the Holy Spirit. /  
Ceaselessly beseech Him, O Alexander, thou blessed prince, /  
That thy native land and the lands of all the world, ///  
May abide in peace and that all Orthodox Christians may be saved.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 8 <sup>1</sup>:**

**D**avid prophesied concerning thee, O pure one, /  
 Foretelling thine entry and thy consecration in the temple. /  
 Keeping this feast today, the ends of the earth glorify thee, /  
 O far-famed Lady. /  
 Zachariah rejoices as he receives thee at thine entry this day into the temple, /  
 Thou Mother of the Word of life, who, Virgin before childbirth, hast remained  
Virgin after giving birth. /  
 The Holy of Holies is filled with exultation as it welcomes thee, /  
 Who dost sustain our life. /  
 Therefore, we also cry to thee in song: /  
 Entreat thy Son and our God on our behalf, ///  
 That we may be granted great mercy.

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

**T**he blessed prince Alexander, O Lord, /  
 Through the gift of grace /  
Became a chosen dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. /  
 Therefore, we now offer him these songs of praise.

**Verse:** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**R**ejoice, O blessèd prince, /  
 Thou praise of all the Christian lands, /  
 The glory of their defenders, /  
 The conqueror of the barbarians, /  
 The protector of orphans and widows, ///  
 And the confirmation of the Orthodox faith.

**Verse:** **B**lessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

**R**ecieve these hymns of praise /  
 From us, thy people, O blessèd one, as we beseech thee: /  
 Pray to Christ that He may grant the remission of sins ///  
 To those who piously honor thee.

**Glory..., in Tone 8:**

**O** great and blessèd prince Alexander, wise in God, /  
 Thou didst earned the inheritance of sanctity, /

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<sup>1</sup> In some books, Tone 6.

By spurning all the glory of this world; /  
Through this, thou didst feed the orphaned and didst clothe the poor, /  
Thou didst free those held in captivity, /  
And thou didst enter into the indescribable joy of thy Lord. /  
Standing now before Him together with all the angels, /  
Pray to Him that He may grant to those who piously honor thee ///  
The remission of their sins and great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion, in Tone 4:**

**C**ome, all ye faithful, /  
And let us praise her who alone is undefiled; /  
She who was foretold by the prophets and offered in the temple,  
The Mother pre-ordained before all ages, /  
Who in the last times hath been shown forth as Theotokos. ///  
O Lord, at her intercessions grant us Thy peace and great mercy.

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

**O** blessed Alexander /  
Thou pious shoot growing from a blessèd root, /  
Christ hath revealed thee as a divine treasure of the Russian Land, /  
A new wonderworker, glorious and well-pleasing to God /  
Today we assemble to celebrate thy memory with faith and love; /  
Rejoicing with psalms and hymns we glorify Christ who gave thee the grace of  
healing. /  
Entreat Him to strengthen thy suffering children, /  
That they may be well pleasing to God ///  
And that all Orthodox Christians may be saved.

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

**T**oday is the preview of the good will of God /  
And the proclamation of the salvation of man: /  
The Virgin appears clearly in the temple of God, /  
And Christ is foretold to all. /  
To her, therefore, let us cry with mighty voices: /  
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment ///  
Of the Creator's providence.

**Great Vespers**

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

**At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera:**

**3 stichera, of the Feast, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven...."***

**H**aving received the fruit of the promise come from the Lord /  
 Joachim and Anna offer the Mother of God in the temple today; /  
 For she is truly an acceptable sacrifice /  
 And Zacharias, the great High Priest ///  
 Receives her with his blessing.

**T**he Holy of Holies /  
 Is fittingly brought to dwell in the holy places today /  
 And before her go the virgins adorned with virtue, carrying their torches /  
 For she is truly an acceptable sacrifice, ///  
 And as a most sacred vessel offered to God.

**L**et the gate of the temple wherein God dwells be opened /  
 For Joachim brings within the glorious temple and throne of the King of all, /  
 And he consecrates her as an offering to God ///  
 Whom the Lord hath chosen to be His Mother.

**And these 5 stichera, of the Saint, in Tone 2: *To the melody, "With what crowns of praise..."***

**W**ith what crowns of praise shall we honor Alexander the blessed prince, /  
 The strength of pious kings and the praise of the Orthodox faithful? /  
 For he reveals to all his glorious wonders /  
 As a companion of the angels, an inexhaustible fountain of divine healings, /  
 And a river of miracles flowing with spiritual gifts. ///  
 For his sake Christ grants our lands peace and great mercy. (twice)

**W**ith what laurels of victory shall adorn Alexander the blessed prince, /  
 The rule of piety, who exposes heretical teachings? /  
 The bright adornment of the Church, /  
 Truly a wise and God-pleasing physician, /  
 Healer of the sick and our deliverance from misfortunes. /  
 He cast down the enemies for the sake of Christ ///  
 Who hath great mercy on us.

**W**ith what humble lips shall we praise Alexander the most wise prince, /  
 Who truly shines like the sun and stands as our intercessor before the Trinity? /  
 The consolation of those in sorrow and defender of the weak, /  
 The praise of the faithful of our land, and river of mercy. /  
 The unmercenary physician of the sick; ///  
 A true follower of Christ, who hath great mercy on us.

**W**ith what spiritual songs shall we praise Alexander the glorious prince? /

The shining lamp of the never-setting supernatural Sun /  
The rule of righteousness, and joy of all Orthodox Christian lands, /  
The fortress and bastion of all the faithful /  
Protector of the orphaned and defender of the abused; /  
A bright beacon, enlightening all with the light of his miracles ///  
Through Christ who grant to us great mercy.

**Glory..., in Tone 6:**

**L**et all the cities and countries rejoice with us today, /  
Clap their hands, and make glad with spiritual songs of praise, /  
For, behold, Alexander the blessed prince,  
Our great physician and deliverer /  
Offers to us the treatment of heavenly medicine /  
Granting both physical and spiritual healing to all /  
Through the action of the Holy Spirit, /  
From whom every age and generation hath abundantly received; /  
Therefore, let us glorify Christ our God ///  
Who, for his sake, grants us great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Feast, in Tone 8:**

**A**fter thy birth, O Lady and Bride of God, /  
Thou hast gone to dwell in the temple of the Lord /  
There to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, /  
For thou art thyself holy; /  
And Gabriel then was sent to thee, O Virgin all immaculate, to bring thee food. /  
All the powers of heaven stood amazed, /  
Seeing the Holy Spirit dwelt in thee. /  
Therefore, O Mother of God, without stain or blemish, ///  
Glorified in heaven and on earth, save the race of mankind.

*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 the Wisdom of Solomon (Chapter 3:1-9)**

<sup>3:1</sup>**B**ut the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. <sup>2</sup>In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, and their departure is taken for misery, <sup>3</sup>and their going from us to be utter destruction; but they are in peace. <sup>4</sup>For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. <sup>5</sup>And having been a little chastised they shall be greatly

rewarded, for God proved them and found them worthy for Himself. <sup>6</sup>As gold in the furnace hath He tried them and received them as a whole burnt offering. <sup>7</sup>And in the time of their visitation they shall shine and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. <sup>8</sup>They shall judge the

nations and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever. <sup>9</sup>They that put their trust in Him shall understand the truth, and such as be faithful in love shall abide with Him, for grace and mercy is to His saints, and He hath care for His elect.

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon: (Chapter 5:15 — Chapter 6:3)**

<sup>5:15</sup> **B**ut the righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. <sup>16</sup>Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand; for with His right hand shall He cover them, and with His arm shall He protect them. <sup>17</sup>He shall take to him His zeal for complete armor and make the creation His weapon for revenge upon his enemies. <sup>18</sup>He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate and indifferent judgment instead of a helmet. <sup>19</sup>He shall take holiness for an invincible shield. <sup>20</sup>His severe wrath shall he sharpen for a sword, and the creation shall fight with him against the unwise. <sup>21</sup>Then shall the right aiming

thunderbolts go abroad; and from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they fly to the mark. <sup>22</sup>And hailstones full of wrath shall be cast out as a stone bow, and the water of the sea shall rage against them, and the floods shall cruelly drown them. <sup>23</sup>Yea, a mighty wind shall stand up against them, and like a storm shall blow them away; thus iniquity shall lay waste the whole earth, and ill dealing shall overthrow the thrones of the mighty. <sup>6:1</sup>Hear therefore, O ye kings, and understand; learn, ye that be judges of the ends of the earth. <sup>2</sup>Give ear, ye that rule the people, and glory in the multitude of nations. <sup>3</sup>For power is given to you of the Lord, and sovereignty from the Highest

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)**

<sup>4:7</sup> **T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. <sup>8</sup>For old age is not honored for length of time, nor is it measured by number of years; <sup>9</sup>but wisdom is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. <sup>10</sup>There was one who pleased God and was so beloved of Him, that while living among sinners he was taken up. <sup>11</sup>He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. <sup>12</sup>For the fascination of wickedness

obscures that which is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. <sup>13</sup>Being so perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; <sup>14</sup>for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. <sup>15</sup>Yet this the peoples saw and did not understand, neither did they take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are upon His holy ones, and He hath care for His elect.



**At the Litya, these stichera of the Saint:**

**In Tone 3:**

All nations and countries, O blessed one, /  
Praise thee earnestly and proclaim thy wonders; /  
For Christ hath revealed thee as a bright and shining star ///  
Bringing light to our souls.

**In Tone 4:**

All the princes and the people, /  
All the rich and the poor together, /  
Rejoice on this festive day /  
And celebrate the memory of their great defender, /  
Alexander, the great and blessed prince: ///  
We praise him as our helper and the intercessor for our souls.

**In Tone 5:**

O ven'rable and God-pleasing Aleksii /  
Thou wast truly bless't from thy mother's womb /  
And didst rightly receive the name "Defender." /  
Thou wast brightly adorned with good deeds /  
And proved a pure and worthy vessel of the Spirit /  
By whom wondrous miracles are worked through thee ///  
For all who come to thy holy relics with faith.

O divinely-crowned prince Alexander, /  
The strong and light-bearing defender of the Faith, /  
The glory of righteous rulers, the invincible cham'pion of all Christians. /  
Thou didst devote thy life for their sake, /  
And now, in thy repose, thou dost ever protect them ///  
Through thy prayers keeping them safe from the assaults of the enemy.

O wise and venerable prince Alexander, /  
Being inspired by thy love for God /  
Thou didst willingly travel to the people who knew Him not, /  
There, thou didst amaze the godless king /  
And obtained from him a lasting peace for thy Christ-loving people. /



Now as then, do thou ever entreat God for us ///  
That He will be merciful to us when the Day of Judgment comes.

**Glory..., in Tone 2:**

**C**ome, ye assemblies of Christians, /  
Ye pious princes and faithful rulers, /  
Ye hierarchs and Christ-loving people; /  
Come, and let us praise our divinely-crowned prince Alexander, /  
And let us sing to him: /  
Rejoice, O rightly-named soldier of the Trinity! /  
Rejoice, O pride of the Christ-bearing princes anointed by God! /  
Rejoice, thou who raises the horn of all Christians ///  
And entreats Christ that He grants us peace and great mercy.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Feast, in Tone 5:**

**A** feast of great joy and happiness hath dawned for us today! /  
For she who remained virgin after giving birth /  
Is led into the temple of the Lord. /  
Zachariah, the father of the Forerunner, is glad and cries out with joy: /  
“The Mediatrix for the suffering draws near the Holy of Holies /  
To be sanctified, in that she herself is the holy habitation of the God of all;” /  
Joachim, her father, rejoices with Anna, her mother  
For they have brought the spotless Lady as an offering to God; /  
Rejoice, ye mothers! Be glad, ye virgins! /  
And delight with joy, O ye barren, /  
Let all mankind rejoice today /  
For the Queen of all, who of old hath been foretold ///  
Hath opened to us the kingdom of heaven.

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

**T**hou hast appeared like the sun enlightening the universe /  
And thy wondrous miracles have shone over all the earth, O blessed one. /  
Therefore, all the faithful have come together on this day ///  
To glorify Christ, who delivers us from every misfortune through thy prayers,.

**Verse:** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**R**esplendent in the light of divine glory /  
And with the rays of thy miracles, /



RIGHT-BELIEVING GREAT PRINCE ALEXANDER NEVSKY

Thou dost ever pray to Christ, O blessèd Alexander, ///  
To deliver us from every misfortune.

*Verse:* **B**lessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His  
commandments.

**N**either from Rome nor Sion didst thou shine forth, O divinely-wise one, /  
But from the lands of Rus', /  
Freely granting healing to all, O most glorious one, ///  
Who come to thee with faith and love.

**Glory..., in the Tone 1: (in the usual melody)**

**R**ejoice and be exceedingly glad, O city of Vladímir, /  
And celebrate this bright feast, O Church of Christ, /  
In which lie the precious relics of our blessèd prince Alexander, /  
Most-gloriously pouring forth wondrous miracles /  
Upon all who come before them with faith. /  
Come, then, all ye people, and let us worship, /  
Let us run and gather together, singing psalms, rejoicing, /  
And let us venerate the precious relics of our great physician — /  
The everlasting joy of those who sorrow, /  
The hope of the abused, and the praise of the Russian lands, /  
A true helper to all nations against the enemies of piety, ///  
To all a defender and intercessor for the salvation of our souls.

**Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Feast, in Tone 6: (by Sergius of the Holy City)**

**T**oday, let us, the arrays of the assembled faithful, /  
Triumph in spirit /  
And reverently praise the child of God, Virgin and Mother of God, /  
As she is offered in the temple of the Lord: /  
She, who was forechosen from all the generations /  
To be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Master and God of all, /  
O virgins bearing lamps, go ye before her, /  
Honoring the majestic advance of the Ever-virgin. /  
Ye mothers, setting aside every sorrow, /  
Follow them in gladness, /  
Singing the praises of her who became Mother of God and Mediatrix of joy for the  
world. /  
With the angel joyfully let us all cry “Rejoice!” to her who is full of grace ///

And ever intercedes for our souls.

**After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the Saint, Tone 4:**

**O** blessèd Alexander /  
Thou pious shoot growing from a blessèd root, /  
Christ hath revealed thee as a divine treasure of the Russian Land, /  
A new wonderworker, glorious and well-pleasing to God /  
Today we assemble to celebrate thy memory with faith and love; /  
Rejoicing with psalms and hymns we glorify Christ who gave thee the grace of  
healing. /  
Entreat Him to strengthen thy suffering children, /  
That they may be well pleasing to God ///  
And that all Orthodox Christians may be saved.

**And of the Feast, in Tone 4:**

**T**oday is the preview of the good will of God /  
And the proclamation of the salvation of man: /  
The Virgin appears clearly in the temple of God, /  
And Christ is foretold to all. /  
To her, therefore, let us cry with mighty voices: /  
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment ///  
Of the Creator's providence.

**Note:** If a Vigil is not served, then, the Troparion of the Saint (once), Glory..., now and ever...; of the Feast (once).

**Matins**

**At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Feast**, Today is the preview..., **twice**;  
Glory..., **that of the Saint**, O blessèd Alexander, thou pious shoot...; Now and ever...,  
**and that of the Feast**, Today is the preview..., **once**.

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4:** *To the melody, “Joseph was amazed....”*

**R**ejoice, O city of Vladimir, /  
Shining forth in Russia as a new and glorious Thessalonica /  
And rejoice together with the Church, with loving hymns, /  
For the relics of the bless't and most wise prince Alexander /  
Grant miraculous streams of healing to all. /  
Therefore let us all cry out to him: /

RIGHT-BELIEVING GREAT PRINCE ALEXANDER NEVSKY

Heal our every disease and sickness through thy holy prayers, O blessed one, /  
And deliver us from every temptation and sorrow, ///  
For we faithfully and lovingly honor thy memory. (twice)

**Glory..., now and ever, the Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in Tone 1: To the melody, "When the stone had been sealed..."**

**B**eing thyself the Holy of Holies, O Theotokos, /  
Thou wast brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, as was worthy of thee, /  
For thou art the living shrine of the Lord /  
And truly the divine habitation of the Holy Spirit, O Virgin Mother. /  
Therefore, thy Son, the only-begotten of the Father and consubstantial with the Spirit /  
Made his abode in thee, who knoweth no wedlock, ///  
By this deifying the race of mankind.

**After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 3: To the melody, "The beauty of virginity...."**

**W**e call with thanksgiving upon the favorite of Christ /  
Who is humble, great, and merciful: /  
Release us from the passions which war against us /  
And deliver us from the snares cast by the demons. /  
We entreat thee, O blessed one, /  
To pray Christ God that He grant us pease and great mercy. (twice)

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in Tone 4: To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today"**

**T**oday the universe is filled with joy /  
On this glorious feast of the Mother of God /  
And it calls out to thee: ///  
Truly thou art the divine cloud of heaven

**After the Polyelely, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody: "Of Wisdom...."**

**T**he Holy Spirit, O blessed one, /  
Established thee on the pastures of thy native land /  
To plant a harvest of salvation. /  
Then Christ revealed thee as beacon of light to all. /  
Rejoice, therefore, with boldness before the Lord ///  
For He hath given thee a crown of victory. (twice)

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in the same Tone: (and melody)**

**B**efore thou wast conceived, O pure one, /  
Thou didst consecrate thyself to God, /  
And after thy birth thou didst present thyself as an offering to Him. /  
Thus fulfilling the prophecy: /  
The Holy of Holies comes to dwell in the Holy place, /  
Offered as a candlestand for the Can-dle of light, /  
And revealed as the receptacle of the unapproachable and divine Light! ///  
Great indeed is thy coming, O bride of God and Ever-virgin Lady.

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

**Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:**

**P**recious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

*Verse:* **W**hat shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

**L**et every breath praise the Lord! ...

**Gospel:** (43) Matthew 11:27-30.

**After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel Sticheron, of the Saint, Tone 6:**

**O** come, all ye faithful, /  
And let us sing a song of praise to the blessed saint: /  
Rejoice, thou pillar of light enlightening us with the brilliance of thy miracles! /  
Rejoice, thou dew bearing cloud quenching the flames of our passions, ///  
Thus ennobling the thoughts of the faithful, O blessèd Alexander.

### **The Canon**

**The Canon of the Feast of the Entrance, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos, in Tone 1, and two Canons of the Saints with 8 Troparia each, in Tones 4 and 8.**

**Note:** Should the Rector or Superior direct that the service to St. Alexander be served outside the season of the Afterfeast of the Entrance, then we sing the Resurrection Canon to the Theotokos, with 6 Troparia, including the Irmos, in Tone 2: Of old, an immaterial ladder...

### **Ode 1**

#### **The Second Canon of the Feast, Tone 1**

*The composition of Basil, the Monk*

RIGHT-BELIEVING GREAT PRINCE ALEXANDER NEVSKY

***Irmos:** Let us all sing a song of victory to God, who by His mighty arm has done marvelous wonders and saved Israel, for He has been glorified.*

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

**L**et us this day hasten together to the Theotokos, honoring her in song, and let us keep spiritual fest; for she is offered in the temple as a gift to God.

**L**et us praise in songs the glorious advance of the Theotokos; for today as a precious gift she is prophetically offered in the temple, who is herself a Temple of God.

**A**нна without reproach greatly rejoiced, offering her child in the temple as a precious gift to God, while Joachim, bright with joy, kept feast with her.

**D**avid, the forefather praised thee of old in hymns, O Virgin Bride of God, calling thee Daughter of Christ the King: Him thou hast borne as Mother and thou hast fed Him as thy child.

**T**he Theotokos, when she was three years old after the flesh, was led to the Lord; and Zachariah, the priest of God, received her in the temple with rejoicing and established her there.

**Y**e virgins carrying lamps, be of good cheer today and begin the song; ye mothers, join in praises to the King and Mother, as she enters the temple of Christ the King.

**First Canon of the Saint, Tone 4:**

***Irmos:** In days of old Israel crossed the depths of the Red Sea with dry-shod feet, and vanquished the power of Amalek in the wilderness by Moses' arms upraised in the form of the Cross.*

***Refrain:** Holy right believing prince Alexander pray to God for us!*

**H**aving received in our heart, O blessed Lord, the grace of spiritual wisdom and strength, and in our souls, the blessings of the virtues, let us piously offer praise to Alexander, the glorious prince.

**A**s thou art a great luminary shining over the Russian lands and all the world like a second sun with the light of thy miracles, pray on behalf of us all, O blessed prince Alexander.

**T**hou art the beauty of the Church, O blessed one, adorning her with thy prayers, and now we entreat thee: deliver us from every attack of the enemy those who praise thee, O Alexander.

***Theotokion:** Rejoice, O wellspring of Grace! Rejoice, O ladder and portal of heaven!*

Rejoice, O candlestick, and golden vessel, thou unhewn mountain that gavest birth to Christ, the Giver of Life to the world.

**Second Canon of the Saint, Tone 8:**

*Irmos:* Having crossed the water as though it were dry land and escaped from the wickedness of the Egyptians, the children of Israel cried aloud: Let us sing to our Redeemer and our God.

**G**rant us the wisdom and the words with which to worthily praise the worker of miracles, O Christ God, that we may joyfully praise his memory.

**L**et us praise with psalms and spiritual songs the blessed prince, and gathering around his holy tomb, let us venerate it with our tears as we cry out: Rejoice, O Alexander, thy homeland's most radiant star!

**G**lory...,

**O** godly-wise Alexander, thou wast nurtured the newly illumined Russian lands where thou didst attain great wisdom, receiving the grace of working miracles in thine old age.

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

*Theotokion:* **T**hou gavest birth to Christ, both God and Man, the giver of the Law, beyond the laws of nature, O all-pure Lady! Entreat thou Him, that He may deliver us from our sins.

*Katavasia:*<sup>2</sup> **C**hrist is born, glorify Him....

**Ode 3**

**The Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* **L**et my heart be established according to Thy will, O Christ our God, who hast established the second heaven above the waters, and hast founded the earth upon the floods, O Thou All-powerful.

**O** ye who love the feasts, celebrate and be glad in spirit, exulting today in the holy feast of the Daughter of the King and the Mother of our God.

**B**e glad today, O Joachim and rejoice exceedingly in spirit, O Anna, who now present unto the Lord your daughter, as a three-year old victim of sacrifice, holy and utterly without spot.

**D**welling-place of God, the Theotokos Mary, three years old after the flesh, is offered

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<sup>2</sup> The Katavasia is taken from the Canon of the Nativity of Christ, as the Feast of the Entrance falls within the season of the Christmas Fast.

## RIGHT-BELIEVING GREAT PRINCE ALEXANDER NEVSKY

in the holy temple, and the virgins her companions, carrying lamps, go before her.

**T**he spotless ewe-lamb of God, the dove without blemish, the tabernacle that is to hold God, the sanctuary of the glory, has chosen to dwell in the holy temple.

**T**hree years old in the flesh and many years old in spirit, more spacious than the heavens, and higher than the powers above, let the Bride of God be praised in song

**C**elebrating the coming of the Theotokos into the sanctuary, let us too, carting lamps today in spirit, go in joy with the virgins to the temple.

**Y**e priests of God, clothe yourselves by grace in righteousness, going in joy to meet the Daughter of the King and God as she enters the Holy Place.

### First Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** The Church rejoices in Thee, O Christ, and it cries aloud: Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge, and confirmation!*

**T**he glory of thy miracles has spread throughout the whole world, O blessed one, for through them, thou hast illuminated the universe, and delivered us all from harm.

**L**et us worthily praise the blessed and ruling prince Alexander, for he generously grants his miracles to all and he prays to the Lord on behalf of us all.

**T**hy reliquary, O blessed one, is an inexhaustible well-spring of miracles, from which rivers of healing pour forth upon those who honor thy memory with faith.

***Theotokion:*** **T**hou alone art the Mediatrix, surpassing all nature, for us here on earth. Therefore, we cry out to thee: Rejoice!

### Second Canon of the Saint

***Irmos:** O Lord, Creator of the vault of heaven and founder of the Church, strengthen me in Thy love, for Thou art our supreme desire and the support of the faithful, O Thou who lovest mankind.*

**T**hou hast truly appeared like a great star, O blessed Alexander, driving away the deep darkness of despair with the bright light of thy miracles, O wise one.

**S**tanding today before the Throne of Grace, thou dost rejoice together with all the angels, generously granting healings to all the world. Save us through thy prayers, O blessed Alexander.

**T**he light of thy life, O venerable one, has been revealed by God to all. Therefore, all who light a candle before thy shrine in faith, receive illumination from Him.



*Theotokion:* **A**s God, who is truly enthroned in the eternal kingdom and clothed in the beautiful raiment of thy flesh, O Mother of God, He descended into Hades and destroyed the power of death.

*Katavasia:* **T**o the Son born before all time....

**The Sessional Hymn, in Tone 8:**

**T**hou hast appeared as a star shining in the East /  
Enlightening all with the purity of thy life and thy spiritual beauty. /  
Thou wast truly the earthly abode of the Holy Spirit /  
And after many years in the grave, the incorruption of thy relics was revealed. /  
From them, there now pour forth rivers of healing miracles /  
And we the faithful cry aloud to thee: ///  
Rejoice, O blessed and right-believing prince Alexander. (twice)

**Glory..., now and ever..., the Sessional Hymn of the Feast, in Tone 4:**

**T**he ewe-lamb without blemish, /  
The immaculate dwelling place of God /  
The Theotokos, Mariam, is joyously led into the house of the Lord, /  
Where she is upborne by the angels, /  
As we the faithful ceaselessly sing her praises, /  
Gratefully raising our voices and crying aloud: ///  
Thou art our glory and our salvation, O immaculate Lady!

**Note:** Should this be outside the season of the Afterfeast, then we sing this  
Theotokion, in Tone 8:

**A**s the pure bride of the Creator, /  
And the Mother of the Savior, /  
As one who knew not wedlock: /  
The all-praised receptacle of the essence of the Comforter, /  
Hasten to deliver me who has become the abode of evil, /  
The plaything of demons and their evil spite; /  
And make me the bright dwelling place of virtues, /  
O radiant and incorruptible one! /  
Drive away the clouds of my passions, ///  
And through thy prayers, make me worthy to partake of the things of heaven.

**Ode 4**

**The Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* **B**eholding beforehand in the Spirit the Incarnation of the Word, Habákkuk

*crying aloud proclaimed: "Thou shalt be acknowledged when the years draw nigh; Thou shalt be manifested when the time is come." Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

**O** prophet Isaiah, prophesy to us: who is the Virgin that shall conceive? 'It is she who has come forth from the root of Judah and who was born of David the King, the glorious fruit of a holy seed.

**O** ye virgins, bring your songs, and with lamps in hand praise the advance of the pure Theotokos, who now enters the temple of the Lord, and keep ye the feast with us.

**Be** glad, O Joachim and Anna, who now present unto the Lord in the temple, as a three-year old victim of sacrifice, your daughter that shall be the pure Mother of Christ our God, the King of all.

**O** venerable Holy of Holies, thou dost love to dwell in the holy temple; and thou abidest, O Virgin, in converse with the angels, receiving bread most marvelously from heaven, O thou who dost sustain our life.

**When** all hope was gone, Joachim and Anna gave birth to the immaculate Virgin, and in piety they promised to offer her to God. Today they fulfill their promise, giving the child as a sacrifice in the house of God.

**The** rod of Aaron once put forth a shoot, prefiguring, O pure Virgin, thy divine childbirth; for without seed shalt thou conceive and not suffer corruption; and after bearing child shalt thou remain Virgin, giving milk to a babe who is God of all.

**Ye** virgins, with piety hasten to the Virgin, and ye mothers to the Mother: together let us honor the Child born to Joachim and Anna, as a blameless Sanctuary, and the Mother that bore Christ, as a holy Tree bringing forth fruit to God. Let us all joyously keep fast.

### **First Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos: Beholding Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, lifted up upon the Cross, the Church stood rooted in place, and rightly it cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

**Who** can describe thy kindness and love towards all, especially the poor, and when, upon thy death, thou didst stretch out thy hand to the hierarch as if thou were still alive, thou didst and received the forgiveness of all thy sins.

**This** day, the day of thy holy commemoration, calls many to celebrate in spirit and to partake of the food of incorruption and divine joy.

**Thou** hast presented thyself before the very Light of Divinity as thou wast indeed the beloved son of the Light; and with joy and beauty, thou dost now rejoice together with

the angels, O blessed one.

*Theotokion:* Shower me with the brilliant rays of thy light, O all-immaculate Maiden, that during the night, the temptations of the passions may not take hold of my heart amid the light of the rising Sun of Truth.

### Second Canon of the Saint

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

Enlighten those who celebrate thy holy feast with the light of the three-fold Sun of grace and deliver them from the dark gloominess of the demons, O most glorious prince Alexander.

Let Thou didst spring forth rivers of miracles, O blessed one, giving drink to the hearts of the faithful and drying up the murky waters of pagan belief.

Archpastors and priests, monastics and the laity, all the elders and the youths of every age, rejoice and extol thy blessed memory in song, O Alexander.

*Theotokion:* I shall not fear mine enemies for I have thee as my helper, and I shall not be put to shame, O all-pure Mother of God, for I have thee as my intercessor.

### Ode 5

#### The Second Canon of the Feast

*Irmos:* O Christ the Master and God who lovest mankind, cause Thy radiant and everlasting light to shine upon us, who ponder early in the morning upon the judgements of Thy commandments.

Let us, the Orthodox, all hasten together with our lamps and glorify the Mother of God, for today she is offered to the Lord as an acceptable sacrifice.

Let the forefathers rejoice exceedingly today, O Lady, and let her that bore thee make glad with thy father: for their fruit is led unto the Lord.

Let us all, keeping feast in faith, sing the praises of the immaculate maiden, most glorious and of many names, for she conceived in the flesh the divine Victim and sacrificial Offering.

4. The contract of thy betrothal, the divine tokens of thy Motherhood past all understanding, O pure Virgin, are written today by the Holy Spirit in the house of God.

Let the forecourt of the glory of our God be opened and let it receive, as a victim of sacrifice three years old and without blemish, the Mother of God who was never to

know wedlock.

**L**et us sing the praises of that greatly venerated and overshadowed mountain, the Ever-virgin who became the Mother of God; for she has made the light shine to the ends of the earth.

### **First Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos:* *Thou hast come, O Lord, as a light into the world, a holy light turning from the darkness of ignorance those who sing to Thee with faith.*

**T**hy truly wondrous and all-glorious memory has dawned over the land of the birth, O blessed prince, and all the assemblies of the faithful rejoice.

**T**he doors of Eden have been opened unto thee, and with joy, thou dost accept the praise of all the righteous saints as the Triune and ineffable light of the kingdom of heaven now shines upon thee.

**C**ome, O ye faithful, and let us praise our heavenly protector, for today, the great prince Alexander, the pious helper of widows and orphans, has assembled us all.

*Theotokion:* **T**he image of the Most Holy God came to dwell in thy womb, where the Lord put on our image through thee, O immaculate Lady.

### **Second Canon of the Saint**

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

**L**et Thou wast given the grace of healing, O glorious Alexander, granting those in sorrow health through thine intercessions. Thereby thou hast put down the assaults of the enemy while granting the world great wonders.

**T**hou hast appeared as a glorious and shining star, O deliverer of captives, protector of the needy, physician of the sick, and the defender of thy land.

**T**hou hast appeared in thy homeland as a wondrous worker of miracles, O blessed prince Alexander, and as a brilliant luminary over all the world, thou hast chased away the darkness of the passions, and enlightened all.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou hast delivered mankind from the bonds of death and corruption through Him whom thou didst bear without seed, O all-pure Lady, granting joy to all who rightly glorify thee.

### **Ode 6**

### **The Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* **I** cry aloud, as did the Prophet Jonah: Do Thou, who art good, set my life

*free from corruption, and save me, Thou Savior of the world, as I cry aloud: Glory to Thee!*

**O** ye faithful, let us feast in spirit the Mother of God, singing her praises with piety; for she is indeed more holy than heavenly powers.

**O** ye faithful, let us praise in spiritual songs the Mother of the Light, for today has she been made manifest to us as she enters the temple of God.

**T**he ewe-lamb without blemish, the pure dove, is brought as an offering in the house of God: the undefiled Virgin who was foreordained to become the Mother of God.

**T**he Temple of God, the heavenly Tabernacle, accomplished her entry into the temple of the Law, and from her the Light has shone on us in darkness.

**A** child in the flesh but perfect in soul, the holy Ark enters into the house of God, there to feed upon divine grace.

**B**y thine intercessions set us free from every temptation and danger of soul, for we run to thee, O far-famed Mother of Christ our God.

### **First Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos: I will sacrifice to Thee with a voice of praise, O Lord! The Church cries out to Thee, having been cleansed of the blood of demons by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.*

**T**hy holy memory, Alexander, gladdens the whole universe, as it calls all the faithful to thy honored shrine, where we now joyfully assemble earnestly pray, O glorious one: deliver us, thy people, from the assaults of the enemy.

**T**hy native land together with all the world, praises thee exceedingly, O wonderworking great prince Alexander, on this feast day celebrating thy memory.

**L**et us joyfully bless the protector of widows and orphans and our unfailing helper in times of troubles, and let us say: deliver from every sorrow those who faithfully honor thy holy memory, O blessed Alexander.

*Theotokion:* **T**he Holy Lord, Jesus, who resteth in His holy places, came to dwell in thy womb, O holy Virgin, and he glorifies those who honor thee in faith, O blessed Maiden.

### **Second Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos: Cleanse me, O Savior, for many are my transgressions, and lead me from the depths of evil, I pray Thee, and I cry: Hear me, O God of my salvation.*

**T**hou didst bud forth from a pious shoot, O glorious Alexander, and didst take root in a fertile land, making thyself into a fitting abode for the Holy Spirit; and now thou dost bless all who come to thee in faith, O blessed one.

**T**he holy Church honors thee as a vessel of the virtues, and a pious model for all earthly princes. Therefore, she honors thee, O blessed one, and she sings: grant to those who lovingly venerate thy holy memory, thy courage to fight against every evil transgression.

**A**ll who are in peril or sorrow and who come to thy holy shrine receive a portion of the grace dwelling within thee, for thou art the ever-flowing fountain of healing to all.

*Theotokion:* **T**hou gavest birth to the inexhaustible Source of incorruption, O most holy Temple and the Mother of God.

*Katavasia:* **T**he sea monster cast out Jonah unharmed....

**The Kontakion of the St. Alexander, in Tone 8: To the melody “As the first-fruits ....”**

**W**e truly honor thee as a shining star /  
Rising from the East and illumining the lands of the West, /  
Enlightening all lands with thy good works and miracles, /  
Bathing in light the faithful who honor thy memory. /  
Therefore, we, being thy people, celebrate thy repose on this day. /  
Pray to save thy homeland and our country from every danger and calamity /  
And all those hastening to the shrine of thy relics and faithfully crying to thee: ///  
Rejoice, O blessed Alexander, our strength and confirmation.

***Ikos:*** Thou didst appear as a great wonderworker in the Russian lands, O blessed prince Alexander, invisibly visiting the Christian people and bountifully granting healings to those coming to thee in faith. Therefore, we sing to thee: Rejoice, O brilliant star granting great miracles to us! Rejoice, victor over the prideful king by the power of God! Rejoice, deliverer of the city of Pskov from the faithless! Rejoice, despiser of the Latin heresies, trampling them down into nothingness! Rejoice, for obtaining the grace of incorruption in the place of corruption! Rejoice, for attaining to the everlasting light! Rejoice, for thou dost now rejoice with the angels! Rejoice, for watering the thoughts of the faithful with the dew of grace! Rejoice, for casting away the darkness of the passions! Rejoice, thou defender of thy native land and protector of thy city. Rejoice, O great and rightly-believing prince Alexander, our heavenly protector.

## Ode 7

### The Second Canon of the Feast

***Irmos:*** **T**he furnace was sprinkled with dew, O Savior, and the children danced for joy as they sang: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

**L**et us exult today in the joy of the feast; let us rightly honor, Joachim and Anna, and let us sing the praises of the immaculate Virgin.

**L**et David prophesy, who said in spirit: ‘Virgins shall be brought before thee; they shall be brought into the temple to the Queen and Mother.’

**T**he ranks of angles rejoiced exceedingly and the spirits of the righteous were glad, when the Mother of God was led into the sanctuary.

**M**ary without spot rejoiced in boy and spirit, dwelling as a sacred vessel in the temple of the Lord.

**R**eceiving heavenly food, she who was to become the Mother of Christ the Savior according to the flesh, increased in wisdom and grace.

**T**hy wise parents led thee to the innermost part of the temple, O immaculate Virgin, there to be brought up in astonishing fashion and prepared as the dwelling-place for Christ our God.

### **First Canon of the Saint**

***Irmos:** In Babylon of old, the children of Abraham trampled upon the flames of the furnace as they sang aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

**T**oday, the Church of Christ celebrates the feast of Alexander, given to us by God, who truly pours forth healings to all who earnestly entreat him and praise him with love.

**A**ll the lands of the earth have heard the tidings that a great wonderworker hath arisen in the city of Vladímir, whose relics pour forth countless miracles of healing to all who fervently seek them.

**T**oday the temple of God is filled with joy, for in it repose the wonderworking relics of the blessèd great prince Alexander, which pour forth rivers of healing to all who come and venerate them with faith and love.

***Theotokion:** Rejoice, thou sanctified abode of God, for through thee, O Theotokos, joy comes to all who sing: Blessèd art thou among women, O all-immaculate Lady!*

### **Second Canon of the Saint**

***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!*

**L**et Thou hast shone forth as a beautiful star, shining with the virtues and enlightenment upon all. Therefore, we beseech thee to enlighten all who sing: Rejoice, O right-believing great prince Alexander!

**T**oday, a great multitude of priests, monastics, faithful, rich and poor alike, from every



city and from all the ends of the earth are coming to offer joyful praise to Christ and to His favorite, the most glorious prince Alexander.

**T**hy miracles have blossomed like a multitude of flowers, O blessed one, as have thy healings given to all who come to thee, seeking thy protection, O wise and truly wondrous one.

*Theotokion:* **G**od has come forth in the flesh for our salvation from thy virginal loins, and knowing thee, therefore, as His Mother, we faithfully cry out: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

### Ode 8

#### The Second Canon of the Feast

*Irmos:* **H**im, whom the angels and all the hosts of heaven fear as Creator and Lord, you priests praise, you children glorify, and you people bless and exalt above all forever.

**B**right with joy today, Joachim makes glad; and Anna without reproach, offers unto the Lord God the sacrifice given to her according to the promise, her holy daughter.

**T**he saints David and Jesse exult today and Judah is filled with pride; for from their root a branch has sprouted, the pure Virgin from whom the pre-eternal God is to be born.

**T**oday Mary, the immaculate and living Tabernacle, is offered up in the house of God, and Zachariah receives her in his hands as a holy treasure of the Lord.

**L**et us, the faithful, honor the true Virgin and Mother of God, as a gate of salvation, a spiritual mountain, and a living ladder, who is blessed by the hands of the priests.

**P**rophets, apostles, and martyrs of Christ, ranks of angels and all those who dwell on earth: let us honor with hymns the pure Virgin, for she is the blessed Mother of the Most High.

**T**hey that divinely bore thee, O immaculate and most pure Lady, offered thee in the temple as a spotless sacrifice; and in an ineffable manner thou dost lodge in the sanctuary of God, there to be prepared as a dwelling-place for the Word.

#### First Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* **S**tretching forth his hands, Daniel the prophet closed the mouths of the lions in the pit; and the young lovers of piety, girded with strength, quenched the power of the fire crying out: Bless ye the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

**L**et All the hosts of angels praise thee, O Glorious one, and all mankind ceaselessly honors thy precious memory, O glorious prince Alexander.

**G**od hath greatly honored the Russian lands through thy miracles, O Alexander, and He hath enriched thee with His many gifts. Beseech Him, therefore, to have mercy on us all.

**R**ightly wast given the name Alexander, meaning “the defender of the people,” for truly thou wast the strong helper and true defender of all the faithful people, O great and blessed prince.

*Theotokion:* **T**he holy prophet, rightly foretold thee as the portal of heaven, the unhewn and overshadowed mountain, the untilled earth, and the radiant cloud from which the Giver of light, the Sun of righteousness arose granting light to those in darkness, O Virgin.

### **Second Canon of the Saint**

*Irmos:* *The holy children, inspired by God while treading down the flames in the fiery furnace sang: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord.*

**T**hy feast has dawned upon us, and it enlightens the hearts of all who praise thee with faith with its brilliant light, O most glorious prince Alexander.

**T**hy joyful feast has come upon like the Day of salvation! Let us assemble together and cleanse our souls and bodies as the glorious Alexander calls us to do.

**T**he stream of miracles flowing from thy reliquary, O Alexander, heals all maladies, washing away the stench of the passions and the infections of horrible diseases; and it fills the thirsting hearts of those who honor thee with love.

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

*Theotokion:* **T**hy divine Birthgiving was prefigured by the youths in the fiery furnace O Virgin Mother, as was the divine fire burning like an ember within thy womb, O pure Lady.

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

*Katavasia:* **T**he furnace moist with dew....

### **Ode 9**

#### **The Second Canon of the Feast**

*Irmos:* **L**et us all magnify the radiant cloud, in which the Master of all descended, as dew from heaven upon the fleece, and for our sake took flesh and was made man, He who is without beginning: for she is the pure Mother of our God.

**F**rom the righteous Joachim and Anna a fruit came forth according to the promise, Mary the Child of God. A young girl after the flesh, as acceptable incense she is offered in the holy temple, that she who is herself holy may dwell in the Holy Place.

**L**et us praise in hymns the child by nature who was shown forth as Mother beyond nature; for today she is offered to Lord in the temple of the Law as a sweet-smelling fragrance, the spiritual fruit of her righteous parents.

**C**ome all ye faithful, to offer to the Theotokos the salutation of the angle, and let us raise our cry: Rejoice, O bride most beautiful! Rejoice, bright cloud, for from thee the Lord hath shone forth upon us as we sat in the darkness of ignorance! Rejoice, O Lady, thou hope of all.

**O** Holy of Holies and pure Mother of God, Mary, from the snares of the enemy and from every heresy and affliction, at thine intercessions set us free who venerate with faith the icon of thy holy form.

**F**ar greater than the cherubīm, high above the seraphīm, and more spacious than the heavens, art thou shown forth, O Virgin, for thou hast contained within thy womb our God whom nothing can contain, and hast ineffable given Him birth. Entreat Him earnestly on our behalf.

**O** Virgin Mother of God, intercede for those who with faith seek refuge beneath thy compassion, and who piously worship thy Son as God and Lord of the world, that they be delivered from corruption and danger and from manifold temptations.

### **First Canon of the Saint**

***Irmos:** Christ, the Chief cornerstone not cut by human hands, who united two different natures was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin. Therefore, with joy we magnify thee, O Theotokos!*

**B**eautiful both in body and in soul shining with the aura of piety and divinely endowed wisdom, thou wast an instrument of the Holy Spirit, and upon thy passing from this world to a life of immortality, rejoicing, thou didst attain to eternal glory, O divinely-wise prince Alexander.

**L**ike the ascending great Day Star didst thou arise over the Russian Lands illumining them with the rays of piety, and dispelling the deep darkness of the heretics, O glorious prince Alexander.

**We** celebrate thy presentation before the Lord on this day and are filled with joy and gladness as we praise thee, O rightly-named Alexander.

***Theotokion:*** **E**nlighten us, who are sit in the darkness of ignorance, with the light of thy mercy, O thou who alone gavest birth to God, our Savior and Redeemer, who crowns and anoints the saints.

## Second Canon of the Saint

*Irmos:* The heavens were filled with fear, the ends the earth were filled with awe, for God revealed Himself in the flesh to men and thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, so the leaders of men and angels magnify thee, O Theotokos.

**T**hou art a great shield and fortress protecting the Land of thy birth, O prince Alexander, and defending her Orthodox faithful, and thy fame is known throughout the world. Therefore, we beseech thee: Preserve thy homeland and every nation from the evil assaults of the enemy.

**S**hining upon those in darkness with the rays of the eternal light, O glorious one, establish us in the knowledge of the true Joy, who praise thee, O Alexander.

**H**ow is it possible to praise thee worthily? No one can fully tell of all thy manifold miracles, and the many bounties thou hast bestowed upon all mankind, O blessed great prince Alexander!

*Theotokion:* **T**he Sun of Truth, Christ our God, whom thou didst bear in thine arms, arose from thee like the dawn of a new day upon those lost in the shadows of darkness.

*Katavasia:* I behold a strange, most glorious mystery....

### **The Exapostilarion of the Saint:**

**T**he word of thy greatness hath spread to all the lands of the earth, O great prince Alexander, and even the wives of the Moabite warriors warn their children of thy coming; so may our invisible enemies now be frightened by thine awesome greatness as they gather against the army of thy Christ-loving people. *(twice)*

### **Glory..., now and ever, the Exapostilarion of the Feast:**

**L**et us praise in faith, Mary the Child of God whom long ago the assembly of the prophets foretold, speaking of her as the jar of manna and Aaron's rod, the tablet of the Law and mountain unhewn; for she is led into the Holy of Holies, there to be brought up unto the Lord.

**Note:** Should this service to St. Alexander be served outside the season of the Afterfeast of the Entrance, then: Glory..., now and ever...; and this Exapostilarion:

**T**hou gavest birth to Christ, the King of Glory, the counselor and messenger of the divine will, whose Cross the apostles preached as they enlightened the nations, teaching us to glorify thee as Theotokos, and to worship Him whom thou didst bear.

**On the Praises, 4 stichera of St. Alexander, in Tone 8:** *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder...."*

**O** most glorious wonder! /  
Being enlightened by the Holy Spirit, O Alexander, most wise, /  
Thou didst discern the errors of the Latins, /  
And exposing their vain desires thou didst crush them and their arrogant designs; /  
Instructing them in the power of the Orthodox Faith. /  
For this cause, thou didst receive thy reward from Christ in heaven /  
Where thou dost rejoice with the angels and all the righteous saints, ///  
Ever praying that our souls may be saved. *(twice)*

**How** can we worthily praise or describe the glorious wonders /  
Of Alexander the blessed and glorious prince? /  
How he cures all of their diseases; /  
Not only of those who come before his precious relics /  
But also those who live in far-away lands. /  
He never fails to hear those who call upon him. /  
Therefore his name is honored throughout the world ///  
As he prays for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

**How** can we honor the great prince Alexander, /  
As an apostle or a preacher? /  
For he swept every heretical vanity away, /  
He ruled his homeland with justice and virtue; /  
He rebuilt the ruined temples filling them with praises to God, /  
And returned the scattered people back into their homes;  
He cared for the widows, the orphaned and the poor, /  
To all he was a defender in misfortune and sorrow, ///  
And he ever prays that our souls may be saved.

### **Glory..., of the Saint, in Tone 2:**

**Come**, O ye nations, /  
And let us clap our hands with joy! /  
And come, all ye children of the Russian lands, /  
Ye monks and princes, ye priests and the faithful, /  
And let us celebrate the festive memory of Alexander the blessed prince; /  
And standing around the precious shrine of his healing relics, /  
Let us adorn it with wreaths of flowers woven from our hymns of praise: /  
Let us sing, Rejoice, thou praise of thy native land! /  
Rejoice, thou confirmation of the glorious city of Vladimir! /  
Rejoice, thou protector of the Orthodox faithful! ///

Rejoice, defender of thy homeland and fervent intercessor for our souls.

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

**T**oday the pure Virgin is led to the temple, /

To become the habitation of God the King of all, who sustains our life. /

Today as a three-year old sacrifice the most pure Sanctuary is led into the Holy of Holies. /

To her let us cry out with the angel: ///

“Rejoice, thou who alone art blessed among women!”

**The Great Doxology and Dismissal.**

**Liturgy**

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia:** 4 from Fifth Ode of the Second Canon of the Feast, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the First Canon of the Saint.

**1.** Let us, the Orthodox, all hasten together with our lamps and glorify the Mother of God, for today she is offered to the Lord as an acceptable sacrifice.

**2.** Let the forefathers rejoice exceedingly today, O Lady, and let her that bore thee make glad with thy father: for their fruit is led unto the Lord.

**3.** Let us all, keeping feast in faith, sing the praises of the immaculate maiden, most glorious and of many names, for she conceived in the flesh the divine Victim and sacrificial Offering.

**4.** The contract of thy betrothal, the divine tokens of thy Motherhood past all understanding, O pure Virgin, are written today by the Holy Spirit in the house of God.

**5.** Thy holy memory, Alexander, gladdens the whole universe, as it calls all the faithful to thy honored shrine, where we now joyfully assemble earnestly pray, O glorious one: deliver us, thy people, from the assaults of the enemy.

**6.** Thy native land together with all the world, praises thee exceedingly, O wonderworking great prince Alexander, on this feast day celebrating thy memory.

**7.** Let us joyfully bless the protector of widows and orphans and our unfailing helper in times of troubles, and let us say: deliver from every sorrow those who faithfully honor thy holy memory, O blessed Alexander.

**8. Theotokion:** The Holy Lord, Jesus, who resteth in His holy places, came to dwell in thy womb, O holy Virgin, and he glorifies those who honor thee in faith, O blessed Maiden.

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

Today is the preview of the good will of God /  
And the proclamation of the salvation of man: /  
The Virgin appears clearly in the temple of God, /  
And Christ is foretold to all. /  
To her therefore, let us cry with mighty voices: /  
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment ///  
Of the Creator's providence.

**The Troparion of Saint Alexander, also in Tone 4:**

O blessèd Alexander /  
Thou pious shoot growing from a blessèd root, /  
Christ hath revealed thee as a divine treasure of the Russian Land, /  
A new wonderworker, glorious and well-pleasing to God /  
Today we assemble to celebrate thy memory with faith and love; /  
Rejoicing with psalms and hymns we glorify Christ who gave thee the grace of  
healing. /  
Entreat Him to strengthen thy suffering children, /  
That they may be well pleasing to God ///  
And that all Orthodox Christians may be saved.

**The Kontakion of St. Alexander, in Tone 8: *To the melody "As the first-fruits ...."***

We truly honor thee as a shining star /  
Rising from the East and illumining the lands of the West, /  
Enlightening all lands with thy good works and miracles, /  
Bathing in light the faithful who honor thy memory. /  
Therefore, we, being thy people, celebrate thy repose on this day. /  
Pray to save thy homeland and our country from every danger and calamity /  
And all those hastening to the shrine of thy relics and faithfully crying to thee: ///  
Rejoice, O blessèd Alexander, our strength and confirmation.

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

The most pure temple of the Savior, /  
The precious bridal chamber and Virgin, /  
The sacred treasure of the glory of God /  
Is led today into the house of the Lord; /  
With her she brings the grace of the Divine Spirit, /  
Of her the angels of God sing in praise: ///



23 NOVEMBER

“Truly she is the tabernacle of heaven,”

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7:** Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.

*Verse:* What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

**The Epistle:** (213) Galatians 5:22-6:2.

**The Alleluia, Tone 2:** Blessèd is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *Verse:* His seed shall be mighty in the land.

**The Gospel:** (43) Matthew 11:27-30.

**The Communion Hymn:** The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

RLE 11/19/2014 SDA  
UPDATED 3/4/2016 SDA  
11/18/2022 SDA