

26th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
Commemoration of our Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite

VESPERS: Tone 1

- P. Regular Beginning
 C. Lord I have cried...
1. **Accept** our evening prayers, O **Holy** Lord,/ and grant us remission **of** our sins,/ for only Thou hast shown forth **unto** the world// the Resurrection.
 2. **Walk** about Zion, ye **people**,/ and **encompass** her./ Give glory therein to Him Who is risen **from** the dead./ For **He** is our God// Who hath delivered us from our **iniquities**.
 3. **Come** ye people, praise and **worship** Christ,/ glorifying His Resurrection **from** the dead:/ for He is Our God, Who hath delivered the world// from the beguiling of the **enemy**.
 4. Ye **heavens** be glad, sound the **trumpets**,/ ye foundations **of** the earth./ Shout for joy ye **hills**, for lo!/ Emmanuel hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ and He, the Giver of life, hath put death to death by raising **Adam** up,// because He **loveth** mankind.

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 1)

5. The **lamp-bearing virgins**,/ who with splendor accompany the Ever-**virgin**/ **truly** prophesy the future in **spirit**;/ for, in that she is the **temple** of God,// the Theotokos is led as a child into the temple with virginal **glory**.
6. The Theotokos, the right glorious fruit of the holy **promise**,/ is truly **revealed** to the world;/ **she** who surpasseth all things is piously escorted into the **temple** of God/ and fulfillleth the vow of her **parents**,// preserved by the divine **Spirit**.
7. **Having** been faithfully nurtured with **heavenly** bread/ in the temple of the Lord, O **Virgin**,/ **thou** gavest birth **unto** the Word,/ the Bread of **life** for the world./ To **Him** wast thou mystically betrothed beforehand by the **Spirit**,/ in that thou art the chosen and most immaculate **temple**,// betrothed to God the **Father**.

Stichera for the Saint (Tone 1)

8. **Dwelling** with gladness in the mansions of heaven, O **father**,/ and standing boldly with the angels before the **throne** of the Lord,/ **pray** thou that He grant release from sins and the **passions**// unto those who on earth celebrate thy memory **with** faith.
9. **Having** hewn down the tares of the **passions**/ with the scythe of prayer, O father **Gregory**,/ and **worked** the ground of thy soul with the plough of

abstinence,/ thou didst scatter the seeds of piety upon it,// thereby producing for us the fruits of **healing**.

10. We **call** thee a receptacle of the virtues, O **venerable** one,/ a friend of silence, a keeper of **vigils**,/ a **model** of chastity, an **abode** of prayer/ which **cannot** be taken away,/ a **treasury** of **miracles**,// who prayest for those who honour thee, O **Gregory**.

Glory...(Tone 4)

Today the Theotokos, the temple which **contained** God,/ is brought into the **temple** of the Lord,/ and Zachariah **receiveth** her;/ today the Holy of holies **rejoiceth**,/ and the choir of the angels doth mystically keep **festival**./ And we, celebrating **with** them today,/ cry out with **Gabriel**:/ Rejoice, O thou who art **full** of grace!// The Lord is with thee, Who hath great **mercy**!

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 1)

Let us **praise** the Virgin **Mary**,/ glory of all the world and doorway to **heaven**,/ who begotten of man hast **borne** the Lord:/ and who, adornment of the faithful, is sung by the **angelic** hosts./ For she hath been shown forth as Heaven and Temple of the **Godhead**./ She it is, who breaking down the middle wall of **enmity**,/ ushered in peace and threw the Kingdom **open**./ Therefore with her as **anchor** of our faith,/ we, in the Lord born of her, have a **Defender**./ Make bold therefore, ye people of **God**, make bold,// for He, the Almighty will defeat your **enemies**.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
 C. O Joyful Light...
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)
 P. Augmented Litany
 R. Vouchsafe...
 P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

- C. Litya - *first sticheron of the temple and then the following:*

G/B... of the Forefeast (Tone 1)

Let **heaven** rejoice toda-ay **from** on high,/ and let the clouds rain down **gladness**/ for the **exceeding** glorious mighty **works** of our God;/ for, lo! the gate which faceth **toward** the East,/ having been **born** of the barren woman according to God's **promise**,/ and been dedicated to God as His **dwelling**-place,/ is **today** brought into the temple as an unblemished **offering**./ Let David rejoice, **striking** his harp;/ for he **said**: Virgins shall follow **after** her,/ those near her shall be brought into the **tabernacle** of God,/ into His **sanctuary**, to be raised in the **habitation** of Him/ Who was incorruptibly begotten of the Father **before** time began,// for the **salvation** of our souls.

- P. *Litya prayers in back of Church.*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 1)

1. We were set **free** by Thy **passion**, O Christ,/ and we were redeemed from corruption by Thy **Resurrection**.// Unto Thee, O Lord, be **glory**.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. Let the creation exult, the **heavens** make glad,/ the nations clap their **hands** with joy:/ For Christ our Saviour, because He **loveth** mankind,/ hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ put death to death and given us life by raising fallen **Adam**,// father of **all** mankind.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. O **Thou** Who art beyond all **understanding**,/ King of **heaven** and earth,/ for love of mankind hast been of Thine own Will **crucified**:/ Hell was filled with bitterness when it **met** Thee below/ and the souls of the just at receiving **Thee** rejoiced./ And when he saw Thee, the Creator, in the depths, **Adam** rose up./ What a **wonder** this is:/ That the life of all men should **taste** death/ in His desire to give light to the world that **cries** and says:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, risen **from** the dead.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. The **myrrh**-bearing women bringing **spices**,/ hastened mourning **to** Thy tomb,/ and when they found Thy immaculate Body gone and learnt from the **angel**/ of the unprecedented and all-glorious **wonder**,/ they said to the Apostles: "The Lord is **risen**,// granting the world great **mercy**."

G/B... (Tone 4)

Come, all ye **faithful**,/ let us praise her who alone is **immaculate**,/ who was **proclaimed** by the prophets and is led into the **temple**:/ her who before time began was called to be a **mother**,/ and in latter times was shown to be the **Theotokos**.// Through her supplications, O Lord, grant Thy peace and great mercy **unto** us.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Anna now beforehand doth betroth joy unto all,/ bringing forth the only Ever-virgin as fruit which allayeth grief,/ and today she bringeth her, rejoicing,/ into the temple of the Lord, in fulfillment of her promise.// For she is the pure Mother, the temple of God the Word.

P. Blessing of the loaves

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3

Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 1

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 1) x2

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;/ While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;/ Thou didst rise on the third Day, O Saviour/ granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life./ Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory... Troparion for the Saint (Tone 3)

Thou wast a model of abstinence, illumining all with the divine Spirit./ Thou hast completed the race of the Orthodox Faith,/ enlightened the world with thy teaching and denounced the thoughts of the heretical./ O venerable father Gregory,// entreat Christ God, that he grant us great mercy.

Both... Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Anna now beforehand doth betroth joy unto all,/ bringing forth the only Ever-virgin as fruit which allayeth grief,/ and today she bringeth her, rejoicing,/ into the temple of the Lord, in fulfillment of her promise.// For she is the pure Mother, the temple of God the Word.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...
R. Kathisma II
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

The soldiers guarding Thy tomb, O Saviour, became as dead men because of the radiance of the angel who appeared before them, proclaiming the resurrection to the women. We glorify Thee, the Destroyer of corruption, and we bow down before Thee, our one God Who hast risen from the grave.

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Nailed to the Cross of Thine own will, and laid in the tomb as one dead, O compassionate Bestower of life, by Thy death Thou didst break the dominion of death, O Mighty One; for the gatekeepers of hades trembled before Thee, and Thou didst raise up with Thyself the dead of ages past, in that Thou alone lovest mankind.

G/B... At the sound of Gabriel's voice calling out to thee: "Hail, Virgin," the Master of all things became incarnate in thee, thou the Holy Tabernacle, as David the righteous said. In bearing thy Creator, thou hast shown thyself to surpass the vastness of the heavens. Glory unto Him Who dwelt in thee. Glory unto Him Who from thee came forth. Glory unto Him, Who by thy childbirth hath set us free.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Very early the women arrived at the tomb and, beholding the appearance of the angel, they trembled. The tomb shone forth life, and the miracle filled them with awe. Wherefore, going to the disciples, they proclaimed

the resurrection: Christ hath made hell captive, in that He alone is mighty and powerful; and destroying the fear of damnation by the Cross, He hath raised up with Himself all who had fallen prey to corruption!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Thou wast nailed to the Cross, O Life of all, and wast reckoned among the dead, O immortal Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, with Thee raising Adam up from corruption. Wherefore, the hosts of heaven cried out to Thee, O Christ, Bestower of life: Glory to Thy resurrection! Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

G/B... O Mary, precious receptacle of the Master, raise us up who have fallen into the chasm of grievous despondency, transgressions and sorrows; for thou art salvation, help and mighty intercession for sinners, and thou savest thy servants.

C. Polyeleos
 C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:
 The repentance of the thief stole paradise, and the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers announced joy: for Thou didst arise, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

When I am sorrowful, hearken unto my pain, O Lord. Unto Thee do I cry. Unceasing divine desire befitteth those in the wilderness, who are beyond this vainglorious world.

G/B... Worship and glory are due the Holy Spirit, as also to the Father and the Son. Wherefore, let us hymn the single dominion of the Trinity.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Thou hast brought me up to the mountains of Thy laws, O God. Illumine me with the virtues, that I may hymn Thee.

Taking me in Thy right hand, O Word, preserve and protect me, that the fire of sin may not consume me.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit is every creature restored, returning to its primal state; for He is equal in power with the Father and the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

My spirit was glad and my heart rejoiceth for those who said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

There is great fear in the house of David, for there, when the thrones are set up, all the tribes and nations of the earth will be judged.

G/B... It is meet and fitting to offer honour and worship, glory and power unto the Holy Spirit, as to the Father and the Son, for the Trinity is a unity in nature, but not in Persons.

P. Prokimenon:

Now will I arise, saith the Lord, / I will establish them in salvation, I will be manifest therein.

V. The words of the Lord are pure words.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #4

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Thy victorious right arm/ hath in godly manner been glorified
in strength;/ for as almighty, O Immortal One,/ it smote the
adversary,// fashioning anew the path of the deep for the
Israelites.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Thou Who in the beginning didst divinely fashion me out of dust with
Thine all-pure hands, Thou didst stretch out Thine arms upon the Cross,
calling forth from the earth my corrupt body, which Thou hadst received from
the Virgin.

Thou didst assume mortality for my sake and didst surrender Thy soul
unto death, O Thou Who by Thy divine breath didst instill my soul within me;
and having loosed the everlasting bonds, thou didst glorify it with
incorruption, raising it up with Thee.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of grace! Rejoice, O ladder and door of heaven!
Rejoice, O lampstand and golden jar, thou unquarried mountain, who for the
world gavest birth unto Christ, the Bestower of life.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

What fitting hymnody can our weakness offer thee, who alone art full of
grace, to whom Gabriel hath mystically taught us to chant: "Rejoice, O
Virgin Theotokos, Mother unwedded!"?

With a pure heart, O ye faithful, let us spiritually cry out to the
Ever-virgin Mother of the King of the hosts on high: Rejoice, O Virgin
Theotokos, Mother unwedded!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The most holy and immaculate one cometh forth to make her abode within
the Holy of holies, that she may become the sanctified temple of our
All-holy God; and virgin maidens precede her.

The pre-eternal counsel of our pre-eternal God arriveth at fulfillment
when thou, O most immaculate Mistress, dost come forth to dwell in the Holy
of holies, as the abode of the Word.

Thy godly parents lead thee, who art to become the Mother of God, into the Holy of holies, to make thy habitation, thereby fulfilling the promise they made when they offered up entreaty, O all-pure one.

O Mistress, strengthen thou the weakness of my heart and make it steadfast, for it hath been shaken by the passions, that with faith and love I may call thee blessed, who art the ever-blessed and most immaculate one.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

By thy supplications, O blessed Gregory, enliven my lowly soul, which hath been slain by the passions; for thou hast now received life which ageth not, having mortified thy members on earth with the struggles of asceticism, O venerable one.

Abstaining from the pleasures of the body with purity of mind, O father, from childhood thou wast an instrument of the Spirit, splendidly receiving His powers and being recognized as godly of visage.

Glory... With divine desire thou didst cause the desires of the flesh to wither away, O blessed one, and thou didst espouse to thyself purity as a bride, from whom thou didst beget all the virtues as children for thyself, and who made thee a child of God, O ever memorable one.

Both... O all-pure and blessed one, thou heavenly ladder stretching from earth to the heavens, whereby God the Word hath come down to mortal men--O ineffable wonder and incomprehensible vision!-- save those who have recourse unto thee.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

I shall open my mouth/ and the Spirit will inspire it,/ and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother:/ I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast// and joyfully praising her wonders.

Canticle Three

Irmos: Thou, Who alone hast known the weakness of human nature,/ having in Thy mercy formed Thyself therein:/ Thou girdest me about with power from on high,/ that I may chant to Thee:/ Holy is the living temple of Thine ineffable glory,// O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

As God, O Good One, Thou hast taken pity on me who have fallen; and it being Thy good pleasure to come down to me, Thou hast by Thy crucifixion raised me up to cry unto Thee: Holy is the Lord of glory, immutable in goodness!

As enhypostatic Life, O Christ, clothing Thyself in me who have become corrupt, in that Thou art the God of lovingkindness, and descending to my mortal dust, O Master, Thou didst destroy the dominion of death; and having risen after three days of death, Thou hast clothed me in incorruption.

Theotokion

Conceiving God in thy womb through the all-holy Spirit, O Virgin, thou didst remain unconsumed; for the bush which burned without being consumed clearly, to Moses the Law-giver, proclaimed thee beforehand, who received the unbearable Fire.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O Virgin, following the sayings of the prophets, we truly call thee the light cloud; for the Lord came upon thee to cast down the handiworks of the falsehood of Egypt and to enlighten those who worship them.

Accounted worthy to perceive the transcendent Mind as far as he was able, Gabriel offered thee a cry of joy, O immaculate Virgin, openly announcing the conception of the Word and proclaiming His ineffable birth.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The virgin maidens who undertake to bear candles with splendor prefigure what is to come; for from her will the enlightenment of knowledge come, which looseth the darkness of deception.

Anna of old, filled with divinely wise zeal, fulfilleth her vow and escorteth to the sanctuary thee, her most sacred offspring, who art to give birth unto God, O most immaculate one.

The sun spread forth its rays, beholding the radiant cloud stretched down at the behest of God within the Holy of holies, from whence remission will rain forth upon the stony passions.

Having made His abode within thee in His loving-kindness, O most immaculate and pure one, God deifieth me who was seduced aforetime by the deception of the serpent and corruption; and He giveth me again the food of incorruption.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

Having ascended the mountain of the virtues, O venerable father, thou didst enter into the darkness of vision and, comprehending, thou didst contain, as far as thou wast able, Him Who is unapproachable in essence, O father, being filled with enlightenment.

With heavenly light He Who was born in a cave for the deliverance of mortal men illumined thee like Paul, O most blessed one, who of old wast dwelling in a cave, showing thee to be luminous, O father Gregory.

Glory... The heavenly portal, the most pure Mother of Christ, furnished thee with wings, O father, who wast beset by the assaults of the demons, and through the grace of the Spirit she enabled thee to soar above them with strength.

Both... Rejoice, O thou who alone gavest birth to the Lord of all! Rejoice, thou who hast mediated life for men! Rejoice, thou mountain

overshadowed and unquarried, confirmation of the faithful! Rejoice, O most immaculate one!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **M**other of God,/ thou living and **p**lentiful fount,/ give **s**trength to those united in spiritual **f**ellowship,/ who sing hymns of **p**raise to thee:/ And in thy divine **g**lory// vouchsafe unto them crowns of **g**lory.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Today, on the right notable feast of the Theotokos/ hath the whole world been filled with gladness, crying:// She is the tabernacle of heaven!

R. Ikos of the Forefeast

The Creator, Fashioner and Master of all, Who bowed Himself down in His ineffable loving-kindness, seeing, in His unique love for mankind, that which He had fashioned with His own hands fallen, took pity and willed to raise it up a more divine building by His condescension, in that He is good by nature and merciful. Wherefore, He took Mary, the pure Virgin, as the mediatrix of the mystery, and through her desired to bear our nature. She is the tabernacle of heaven.

Kontakion for St. Gregory (Tone 3)

The Church knoweth thee to be a sun radiant with the beauties of the virtues,/ illumining all with rays of healings, O favorite of Christ./ Wherefore, we celebrate thine honoured memory and honour thy struggles,// O most blessed and all-wise father Gregory.

There is no ikos for St. Gregory

R. Sessional Hymns

Illumined with divine splendor, thou hast driven away the darkness of the soul-destroying passions, O all-wise Gregory; and caught up to the most pure heights of dispassion, thou hast all-gloriously shone forth rays of healings, having made thine abode in the never-waning light of the kingdom of Christ.

G/B... Give praise, ye virgins! Keep the forefeast, ye mothers! Ye people, give glory! Ye priests, bless the all-pure Mother of God! For having been born before, a babe in the flesh, she hath been brought to the temple as the most holy temple of God. Wherefore, celebrating this spiritual feast, we hymn her as the intercessor for the human race.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Gazing with the eyes of foresight upon thee,/ the mountain overshadowed by the grace of God,/ Habbakuk prophesied that the Holy One of Israel would come forth from thee,// for our salvation and restoration.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Who is this Saviour Who issueth forth from Edom, wearing a crown of thorns, His robe stained red, lifted up upon the Tree? He is the Holy One of Israel, Who is come for our salvation and restoration!

Behold, ye disobedient people, and be ashamed! For He Whom ye madly asked Pilate to lift up on the Cross as a malefactor hath destroyed the power of death and risen as God from the tomb!

Theotokion

O Virgin, we know thee to be the tree of life; for it is no fruit deadly for men to eat which thou hast put forth, but the delight of everlasting Life, for the salvation of us who hymn thee.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

We hymn thy great and awesome mystery, for, hiding Himself from the captains of the armies of heaven, He Who Is descended upon thee like rain upon the fleece, for our salvation, O all-hymned one.

O most hymned Theotokos, thou Holy of holies, expectation of the nations and salvation of the faithful: from thee hath the Deliverer, Lord and Bestower of life shone forth, Whom do thou entreat, that thy servants be saved.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Sacred tongues proclaimed thee beforehand to be the dwelling of Him Who is infinite in nature, O pure one. Wherefore, choirs of virgins accompany thee to the Holy of holies, bearing lamps.

Joachim and Anna won glory, escorting and bearing thee with gladness into the holy temple, O all-holy temple of God, pure and most immaculate Mistress.

The sentence pronounced upon our ancestors is annulled; for, lo! a branch hath sprung forth which shall bear for us the incorrupt Cluster Who shall bring the wine of gladness unto the ends of the earth.

The Word, the Creator, finding thee alone to be most immaculate, made His abode within thy womb, accomplishing our salvation through grace, O all-pure one, in His ineffable wisdom.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

He Who in His goodness for our sake became a stranger by a strange descent, O Gregory, seeing thee a stranger for His sake, received thee who wast far from thy homeland and made thee a divine heir of His kingdom, adorned with the virtues.

For Christ Who for our sake became a babe and a child, O venerable one, thou didst give thyself over to a school of children, being as innocent as a babe, O divinely wise and venerable father; and with divine humility thou didst humble the malice of the enemy, O blessed Gregory.

Glory... Watered with the showers of thy tears as with divine dew, O father Gregory, thou didst cause every virtue to grow and didst bring all fruitfulness to blossom like a fruitful tree of perfect fasting planted by springs of water.

Both... O blessed and most immaculate Mother of God, heal thou the wounds of my soul, still the pleasures of the flesh, illumine my darkened heart, bring peace to my mind and deliver me from all the harm and assaults of the enemy.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the **Godhead**,/ Jesus the **true** God,/ is **come** in a **swift** cloud,/ and with His pure hand He has saved **those** who cry:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: O Christ, Who hast enlightened the ends of the world/ with the radiance of Thy coming,/ and illumined them by Thy Cross:/ With the light of Thy divine knowledge/ enlighten the hearts of those// who hymn Thee in Orthodox manner.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Jews put the great Shepherd and Lord of the sheep to death by the Tree of the Cross; but the dead buried in hades did He deliver, like sheep, from the dominion of death.

Having announced peace by Thy Cross and proclaimed remission to those held captive, O my Saviour, Thou didst put to shame him who hath dominion, as though he were naked, by Thy divine resurrection showing him to be impoverished.

Theotokion

Disdain not the requests of those who petition thee with faith, O most hymned and all-pure one, but accept and convey them to thy Son, the one God and Benefactor; for thee have we acquired as our intercessor.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The hosts of heaven are gladdened at the sight of thee, and with them the companies of men rejoice; for they have been joined together by thy birthgiving, O Virgin Theotokos, which we glorify as is meet.

Let all the tongues and thoughts of men be moved to the praise of thee who art truly the adornment of mankind, for the Virgin standeth forth, clearly raising to glory those who with faith hymn her wonders.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Let the clouds drop down righteousness today, for in the temple of God, as in the sky, the divine cloud is spread out which letteth drop the Sweetness which taketh away all the bitterness of our souls.

Strange is thy conception, strange thy nativity, O all-pure Virgin, strange thy coming forth and thine entering of the holy place, and strange are thine all-glorious works, past recounting and understanding.

The most Holy Spirit sanctified thee wholly who abode within the temple and wast fed with heavenly food, O all-adorned Bride of the Father. Wherefore, thou becamest the Mother of the Word.

Setting all my hope on thee, O Maiden, I flee to thy compassions. Show forth my fallen soul to be untouched by the malice of the demons and unweakened by the floods of pleasures.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

By thine actions thou didst show thyself to be a fertile vine of the Word, O venerable father, bearing the magnificent ripe grapes of the virtues which exude the spiritual wine of salvation which maketh glad the hearts of the faithful.

Glorious Rome, receiving thee, O father, with faith from the East as a never-waning lamp, was enlightened by thy precious gifts; for thou didst have Christ within thy soul like a light illumining those who looked upon thee, O father.

Glory... Walking the paths of life with godly vigilance as a favorite of God, as a husbandman of the commandments of Christ with the power of the Spirit, thou didst slay the serpent who lay in wait for thee to bruise thy heel.

Both... O Ever-virgin Mother, intercessor for the world, pilot me and guide me to the right path, and direct my thoughts along the straight paths of righteousness, setting aright the steps of my soul.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The whole **world** was amazed at thy divine **glory**,/ for **thou**, O Virgin who hast not known **wedlock**,/ hast **held** in thy womb the **God** of all,/ and hast given birth to an **eternal** Son,// Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy **praises**.

Canticle Six

Irmos: The uttermost abyss hath engulfed us,/ and there is none to deliver us./ We are accounted as lambs for the slaughter./ Save Thy people, O our God,// for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

We were grievously wounded by the offense of the first-created man, O Lord, but we have been healed by the wounds wherewith Thou wast wounded for us, O Christ; for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak.

Thou hast led us up out of hades, O Lord, having slain the all-devouring monster and set his power at naught by Thy might, O Omnipotent One; for Thou art Life, Light and Resurrection.

Theotokion

The ancestors of our race rejoice in thee, O all-pure Virgin, receiving through thee the Eden which they lost through transgression; for thou wast pure before giving birth and art so after birthgiving.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

As servants the ranks of heaven attend thy birthgiving, marveling, as is meet, at thy seedless parturition, O Ever-virgin; for thou wast pure before birthgiving and art so even after giving birth.

The enemy was slain by thy life-bearing Fruit, O thou who art full of the grace of God; and we who were in bonds have been freed. Wherefore, I cry: Destroy Thou the passions of my heart!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Strengthened by the grace of God, the parents of the divine Virgin lovingly surrender her, like a pure dove, to be raised in the Holy of holies.

Lighting lamps, O pure one, the maidens, dancing, radiantly escort to the temple of God thee who art to receive the Light Who proceedeth from the Light.

A palace full of glory, the great proclamation of the prophets, the holy throne, is led into the Holy of holies, making herself ready for the King of all.

I hymn thy conception, O Maiden, I also hymn thine ineffable nativity; and I likewise hymn thy protection, whereby we who flee to thy serenity are delivered from all harm.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

Deified by mystic visions and divine splendors, and by thy yearning for God, O most sacred one, as a divine prophet, as a favorite of God thou hast been vouchsafed the grace of God.

Thou didst perfect thy life in silence, O divinely inspired one, and wast shown to be above the tumults of life, higher than the passions, a strange wanderer of all the earth.

Glory... Like a clear mirror thou wast enriched with divine radiance; like a sacred vessel thou hast adorned the temple, O Gregory, and thou hast illumined the heavenly Church of the firstborn.

Both... O Mary, pure palace of the King, having cleansed me by thy supplications, who have become the foul den of thieves, show me to be a holy temple for Him Who was born of thee.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

As we **celebrate**/ this sacred and solemn feast of the **Mother** of God,/ **let** us come, **clapping** our hands,/ O people **of** the Lord,/ and give **glory** to God// Who was **born** of her.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion, Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,/ raising the world with Thyself./ Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished./ Adam exults, O Master!/ Eve rejoices, for she is free from bondage, and cries to Thee;// Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

R. Ikos

Let us hymn as God the Almighty Who rose on the third day, Who broke down the gates of hades, Who raised up from the grave those held there from ages past, and Who appeared to the myrrh-bearing women, as He was well pleased to do, telling them first to rejoice and to proclaim joy unto the apostles, in that He alone is the Bestower of life; wherefore, with faith the women proclaimed the signs of victory to the disciples. Hades groaneth and death uttereth lamentation; the world is filled with gladness, and all rejoice with it, for Thou, O Christ, didst grant resurrection unto all.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: O Theotokos, we the faithful,/ perceive thee to be a noetic furnace;// for, as the supremely Exalted One saved the three youths,/ in thy womb the praised and most glorious God of our fathers// wholly renewed the world.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The earth was afraid, the sun hid itself, the light grew dim, the divine veil of the temple was rent in twain, and the rocks split asunder; for the Righteous One, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Wounded among mortals of Thine own will for our sake, as though helpless, O supremely Exalted One, Thou, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of the water of eternal life! Rejoice, paradise of delight! Rejoice, bulwark of the faithful! Rejoice, thou who knewest not wedlock! Rejoice, universal joy, through whom the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers hath shone forth!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Rejoice, O pure one! From thee hath the Shepherd, the supremely Exalted One, come forth, in His unapproachable compassion truly clothing Himself in the skin of Adam, in me, in all of man: the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers.

The pre-eternal God truly became the new Adam through thy pure blood. Him do thou now entreat that He restore me who have grown old, who cry: Praised and all-glorious is the God of our fathers!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The holy temple received thee as a radiant sun, shining forth a radiance of salvation upon the ends of the earth, O pure Virgin, who shalt contain the Son of God.

Let us all clap our hands, beholding her who knew not wedlock bearing the images of deliverance; for by the hand of an angel is she fed who shall ineffably give birth for us to the Bread of life.

All the souls of the righteous beneath the earth proclaimed thee, O golden dove, and they declare thee to be her who beareth the calm which endeth the noetic deluge and who danceth with piety in the Holy of holies.

In that thou art beautiful, thou gavest birth to the Beauteous One Who restoreth our ugliness to its pristine beauty, O most immaculate Maiden. To Him do we chant: O Lord God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

With outpourings of thy tears thou didst quench the fire, O Gregory, and didst pour forth the water of dispassion and the pure beverage of healings for those who chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Upborne by the perfection of honourable love as in a chariot of fire, thou didst mount to the summit, whereon thou didst acquire thy life, O divinely wise one, crying: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Glory... With thy standing in vigils thou didst still the threefold billows of the passions, and having fallen into the sleep of the righteous, thou hast passed over into never-waning light, crying: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Both... O pure virgin who gavest birth to Light, enliven me who am perishing and dying through sin; save me and rescue me from Gehenna, who chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Holy** Children bravely trampled upon the **threatening** fire,/ preferring not to worship created things rather than the Creator,/ and they **sang** in joy:/ 'Blessed art Thou and **praised** above all,// O Lord God of our **fathers**.'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Shining in the furnace more brightly/ than gold in a crucible in the beauty of their piety,/ the children of Israel said:/ Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!// Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Word of God, Who by Thy will dost create and refashion all things, transforming the shadow of death into life everlasting by Thy sufferings: Thee do all of us, the works of the Lord, unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt for all ages.

Thou didst destroy distress and misery within the gates and strongholds of hades, O Christ, rising from the tomb on the third day. Thee do all Thy works unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt as Lord for all ages!

Theotokion

Let us hymn her who without seed supernaturally gave rise to Christ, the Pearl of great price, through the divine Effulgence; and let us say: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The radiant bridal-chamber, whence Christ the Master of all issued forth like a Bridegroom, let us all hymn, crying aloud: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Rejoice, O glorious throne of God! Rejoice, bulwark of the faithful, through whom Christ hath shone light upon those in darkness, who call thee blessed and cry aloud: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

"Hearken and understand, O wise elder," Anna saith to Zachariah through divine counsel; "Accept the pure Maiden whom we have conceived, with valiant soul; for, for her sake shall deliverance come to pass. Let us lead her into the holy temple, crying: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!"

"The Lord alone is blessed," cried the priest. "Those who made declaration unto us now manifestly show us the gates of life, the divinely inhabited palace, wherein the Messiah, the King of all, shall make His abode. To Him doth all the earth cry out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!"

"Behold, O most wise elder," Anna said with reverence, "receive with splendor the most comely Maiden whom God hath given me, and prophesy that she alone shall bring to a material end what was foretold. With the other prophets thou dost cry out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!"

"Now have I most clearly realized," the elder said with understanding, "a tree will grow in the midst of the temple, which will truly put forth a divine Fruit Who shall lead into paradise those driven out because they ate of the food of corruption, who shall cry out with joy: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!"

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

Patiently sending up thy supplications to God, thou didst receive that for which thou didst ask with faith, O most blessed one; for when thou didst sleep at night, an angel appeared to thee, who gave thee a fiery sword which cutteth down the passions of thy heart, cleanseth thee with immaterial fire and illumineth thee with ineffable glory.

Like the most radiant sun hast thou shone noetically with the brilliant light of the virtues, O Gregory, illumining all the earth with the effulgence of thy miracles and enlightening those who piously chant: Ye children, bless; ye priests, chant; ye people, exalt Christ supremely forever!

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

Hearing the hymnody of the angels while yet in thy mortal body, from which the senses of thy soul were manifestly delighted, O Gregory, thou wast shown to be godly and radiant of visage, crying out to the Master: Ye children, bless; ye priests, chant; ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

Both... O most pure one who gavest birth to the Judge and Lord, Him do thou entreat as thy Son, at the hour of judgment, condemnation and fire, of darkness devoid of light and the gnashing of teeth, that He deliver those who piously chant with faith: Ye priests, chant; ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Offspring** of the Theotokos/ saved the holy Children in the **furnace**./ **He** Who was then prefigured has since been **born** on earth,/ and He gathers together all the creation to sing:/ O all ye **works** of the Lord,// bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: The bush which burnt with fire yet was not consumed/ showed forth an image of thy pure birthgiving./ And we pray now that the furnace of temptations/ which rageth against us may be extinguished,// that we may magnify thee unceasingly, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

How have the iniquitous and disobedient people, plotting evils, justified a proud and ungodly man, yet condemned to the Tree the Righteous One, the Lord of glory, Whom we magnify as is meet?

O Saviour, Thou unblemished Lamb Who takest away the sins of the world: Thee Who hast risen on the third day do we glorify with the Father and Thy divine Spirit; and, theologizing, we magnify the Lord of glory.

Theotokion

Save Thy people, whom Thou hast acquired by Thy precious blood, O Lord, granting peace to Thy churches through the supplications of the Theotokos, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Every rule of praise is overturned by the magnitude of thy glory, O all-pure one. Yet accept the hymns of praise which we, thine unworthy servants, earnestly offer thee with love, O Mistress Theotokos.

Thy wonders are past understanding! For thou, O most pure Virgin who alone outshinest the sun, hast enabled all to understand the newest of wonders, thine incomprehensible birthgiving. Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Behold, the holy mountain of God entereth the Holy of holies escorted with radiant lamps. From her shall be quarried the Stone which shall crush the temples and idols of the demons and shall make men themselves into temples and honourable habitations of God.

With radiant mouth Anna cried out in the temple of God: "To Thee, O Master, do I offer the Maiden Thou hast given me, from whom, in Thine ineffable loving-kindness, Thou shalt become a mortal man and shalt save the world which Thou hast created, magnifying her as Thy Mother!"

Lo! the day of salvation hath dawned for those in the night of evils! The portal of heaven, the holy habitation of God, opening the gates of the temple, entereth into the Holy of holies accompanied by lighted lamps, to be nurtured by the holy hosts.

Illumine the eyes of my soul, O pure one who gavest birth to the Light, lest the most profound darkness of sin may not overtake me and the deep of despair cover me; but do thou thyself save me and guide me to the haven of the will of God.

Holy Father Gregory, pray to God for us!

With the sweat of thy fasting thou didst quench the burning coal of sin, O wise one, and thou didst manifestly receive grace from heaven in the guise of fire which burneth not, but rather bedeweth and showeth thee to be mighty in strength over the passions.

Thou didst blossom like a rose, like a fragrant lily, amid the vales of fasting, O father Gregory. Wherefore, thou pourest forth fragrant myrrh, and thy bones abundantly perfume our life; for thy cheeks have been shown to be full, like a cup, of sweet fragrance.

Glory... The shrine wherein thy precious and much-suffering body lieth, poureth forth the grace of miracles upon us, O father Gregory, sanctifying the souls and bodies of us who have been enriched by thee and have thee as an intercessor and fervent helper.

Both... We, the faithful, with joy give utterance to the cry of Gabriel for thee: Rejoice, O garden of paradise who put forth the Tree of life! Rejoice, thou lifting of the curse, crown of martyrs, boast of the venerable and confirmation of the pious!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Let every mortal **born** on earth,/ radiant with light, in spirit **leap** for joy;/ and **let** the hosts of the angelic powers **celebrate**/ and honour the holy feast of the **Mother** of God,/ and **let** them cry:// Hail! Pure and blessed ever-Virgin, who gavest **birth** to God.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Four, (Luke 24:1-12)

Lightning-bright with the virtues, we see standing upon the life-bearing tomb a man in shining garments while the women bearing myrrh bowed down their faces to the earth. Let us learn of the rising of Him Who reigns over heaven and let us hasten with Peter to Life in the tomb and wondering at that which has happened let us stay to behold Christ.

Glory... Exapostilarion for St. Gregory

Thou wast a holy temple, O hierarch, and through divine communion thou art now become a god and a citizen of paradise, wherein thou dost partake directly of the tree of knowledge and incorruptible glory, mindful of those who with love and faith praise thee, O wise Gregory, sacred father.

Both... Exapostilarion for the Forefeast

A day of prefestival doth the temple now observe for the all-pure entrance of Mary, the Theotokos, whom the angels hymn and men call blessed, and whom virgins accompany, bearing lamps and dancing, into the temple of the Lord.

C. Lauds: Tone 1 Stichera

Let **every** bre-ath **praise** the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
 Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
 Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
 The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
 The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth, Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples, To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to **all** His saints.

1. We **praise** in song Thy saving **passion**, O Christ, // and glorify Thy Resurrection.

V. Praise ye God in His saints, / praise Him in the firmament of His **power**.

2. Give **peace** to our **lives**, / O Thou, the only **Almighty** Lord, / Who hast endured the Cross and hast **laid** death low // and risen **from** the dead.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts, / praise Him according to the multitude of His **greatness**.

3. Vouch**safe** that we may praise and glorify Thee with a pure **heart**, O Christ, / Who hast **despoiled** death, // and raised up man through Thy Resurrection.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, / praise Him with **psaltery** and harp.

4. **Glorifying** Thy divinely fitting **condescension**, / we praise **Thee**, O Christ. / Born of the Virgin without parting from the **Father**, / Thou hast suffered as man and willingly **endured** the Cross. / Glory be to Thee, O Lord, Who, preceding as from a **chamber**, // hast risen from the tomb to **save** the world.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, / praise Him with **strings** and flute.

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 1)

5. **Come**, ye **faithful**, / and, assembling, let us honour with hymns her who was most gloriously born of a barren **mother**: / the divine **Bride** and

Mother of the Creator;/ and let us go forth with virgins and lamps to **meet** her// as she entereth the Holy of holies of the **temple**.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. Having **gathered** words of the Spirit from noetic **meadows**,/ like divers **flowers**,/ let us **joyously** weave wreaths of praise for the **Virgin**// and offer her a gift on her forefeast, **as** is meet.

V. The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee.

7. Let the **gates** of the temple of the Lord be made **ready**,/ and let them be **opened**;/ and, **rejoicing**, let them receive the dwelling-place of **glory**,/ her who alone transcendeth the heavens in manner past **understanding**;/ and let them hymn Christ the **Saviour**.

V. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King.

8. Let **heaven** rejoice toda-ay **from** on high,/ and let the clouds rain down **gladness**/ for the **exceeding** glorious mighty **works** of our God;/ for, lo! the gate which faceth **toward** the East,/ having been **born** of the barren woman according to God's **promise**,/ and been dedicated to God as His **dwelling-place**,/ is **today** brought into the temple as an unblemished offering./ Let David rejoice, **striking** his harp;/ for he **said**: Virgins shall follow **after** her,/ those near her shall be brought into the **tabernacle** of God,/ into His **sanctuary**, to be raised in the **habitation** of Him/ Who was incorruptibly begotten of the Father **before** time began,// for the **salvation** of our souls.

Glory... Gospel Sticheron, (Tone 4)

It is very early in the **morning**/ and the women went to Thy **tomb**, O Christ,/ but the **Body** desired by them was **not** to be found./ Therefore two men stood by them in shining **garments**/ and said to them as they were **much** perplexed:/ "Why seek ye the living **among** the dead?/ He is risen as He **beforehand** said./ Why remember ye **not** His words?"/ And believing the things they had seen they **proclaimed** them/ but it was thought that the good tidings were **idle** tales./ So dull still were the **disciples**./ But Peter ran and beholding, gave Thee glory in himself for the **wonders**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God, // Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology
Dismissal Tropar:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Forefeast/Saint alternating
Kontak: Forefeast/Resurrection/Saint/Forefeast in order

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia: (Temple of a Saint)

Tropar Sunday
Tropar Forefeast
Tropar Temple
Tropar St. Gregory
Kontak Temple
Glory... Kontak St. Gregory
Both... Kontak Forefeast

Prokimenon for Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Prokimenon for St. Gregory (Tone 1)

My mouth shall speak wisdom...

Epistle(s): Eph 5:9-19 & Gal 5:22-6:2

Alleluia for Tone 1

V. The God that giveth avengement unto me hath subdued peoples under me.

V. It is He that magnifieth the salvation of His king and worketh mercy for His anointed, for David, and for his seed unto eternity.

Alleluia for St. Gregory (Tone 2)

Gospel(s): Luke 12:16-21 & Matt 11:27-30

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & In everlasting remembrance...