**SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 9 TONE 6**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos/Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross/**

**Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

*(for the Resurrection)*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,

since Thou art free among the dead,

Thou didst ascend the Cross

raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//

O Almighty Savior, Who drewest life from Thine

own light, have mercy on us!

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Today Christ tramples on death,

for He is risen as He said!

Let us all sing this song,

for He has granted joy to the world:

O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//

O Savior Almighty, have mercy on us!

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?

In heaven Thou dwellest!

In hell Thou didst trample on death!

In the depths of the sea?

Even there is Thy hand, O Master!

To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://

O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 1** *(for the Feast) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Joachim and Anna celebrate the feast,

for they gave birth to the only Theotokos,

the beginning of our salvation.

Together with them we also celebrate today,

blessing the pure Virgin who sprang from the root of Jesse.

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

The Maiden who held God, the pure Theotokos,

the glory of the Prophets, the daughter of David,

is born today of Joachim and chaste Anna.//

The curse of Adam that lay upon us is annulled by her childbearing.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

She who before was as a barren field

gives birth to the fertile ground.

She brings forth a holy fruit from her fruitless womb

and nurtures her with milk.

Oh, great marvel!

The nourisher of Life, who received the Bread of Heaven in her womb,//

is fed with milk at her mother’s breasts!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 4** *(for Joachim and Anna) (Thou hast given a sign)*

Come, O lovers of the feasts of the Church,

let us rejoice in song and celebrate in faith

the memory of the blessed ancestors, Joachim and Anna,

the honored couple who gave birth to the holy

Virgin Mother of God for us!

Now that they have left behind this passing life for the eternal

mansions,//

they ceaselessly pray that we may be saved.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “Come, O lovers of the feasts …”)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Today all creation rejoices with gladness,

uniting to celebrate the annual memory of thine ancestors,

O all-praised Theotokos.

Joachim and Anna sing of the wonder together.

They have been filled with joy by thy birth.

From them our hope has blossomed://

the Mother of Light and the nourisher of our Life.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.*

Today Anna’s spirit leaps for joy.

She exults, having attained her desire;

just as her namesake believed and was blessed with children in

days of old,

she has borne the fruit of the promise, the divine blessing:

the all-pure Mary, who gave birth to our God.//

From her the Sun has risen to those who sat in darkness.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 5** *(by Ephraim of Karia)*

O blessed couple,

ye are exalted above all other parents.

She who is above all creation blossomed from thee.

Joachim, thou art happy indeed to be called the father of such a child.

Joy is thine, O mother Anna,

for from thy womb came the Mother of our life.

Blessed are her breasts, which nourish Him Who feeds everything that

breathes! //

Pray to Him to have mercy on our souls, O all-blessed saints!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, He became Man for our sake,

not divided into two persons but manifest as One in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

**15th Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos/Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross/**

**Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna**

**Litya *(If the rector desires the Litya, these stichera are sung:*)**

**Tone 2** *(for Joachim and Anna) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

The divinely wise Anna,

beholding the nest of a bird in a tree,

called to mind her own childlessness, and cried out:

“Woe is me, O Lord!

I alone, a sinner, have become poor in the fruitfulness that comes

from Thee, O Lord.”

Then God, the Lover of Man, gave her as fruit the Virgin,//

who is more precious than all creation.

*v. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps 44/45:10)*

The divinely wise Anna,

conscious of her barrenness and of the affliction of childlessness,

cried out to God in prayer:

“Remove the grievous bond of barrenness, O Master Christ,

and I will bring forth the child who will give birth to

Thee, O Giver of Life,

when she takes hold of the sacred word that Thou wilt give to her,//

for she it is who gives birth to Thee, the Savior of all mankind!”

*v. The rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps 44/45:12)*

When the Master and God heard thy prayer,

as He did Sarah’s before, when she heard the voice of the angel,

He proclaimed joyous tidings to thee:

“Thou shalt bear the Mother of God.”

And thou didst cry out in gladness of soul:

“Thou hast granted me, deliverance from the reproach of those

who have borne children,

for I shall give birth to the Ever-Virgin,//

O Master and Lord, my God and Creator!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2** *(for the Feast)*

Today the Most Immaculate and Pure One

has come forth from the barren woman.

Today all things rejoice in her nativity.

The bonds of Adam have been broken,

and Eve has been freed from the curse.

All those in heaven rejoice, and peace is given to men.

Glorifying her, we cry aloud:

“Glory to God in the highest,//

and on earth peace, good will towards men!”

**15th Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos/Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross/**

**Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6**  *(for the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,

the Angels in heaven sing!

Enable us on earth//

to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Destroying the gates of hell,

breaking the chains of death,

Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//

O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Desiring to return us to Paradise,

Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.

The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,

“Woe to us, O Savior!

How dost Thou deign to descend to death?

What place can hold Thy life bearing body?

Come to us as Thou didst promise!

Take away our wailing and tears!”

Then the Angel appeared to them:

“Stop your lamentations!

Go, proclaim to the Apostles:

‘The Lord is risen,//

granting us purification and great mercy!’”

*v. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,

by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,

rising on the third day as God in glory,//

granting the world unending life and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(for the Feast)*

O Joachim and Anna, holy couple,

from your barrenness a holy root has sprung.

From her shone Christ our God, the Savior of the world.

Ye have gone to dwell in the heavenly mansions,

to join the most pure Virgin, your daughter.

Ye dance with the angels as ye pray for the world.

We gather this day to praise in song your righteousness.

Through all-holy Mary, the child of God,

ye became the ancestors to Christ.//

Intercede with Him that our souls may be saved!

**15th Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos/Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross/**

**Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna**

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 6** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.//

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Joachim and Anna)*

Since ye were righteous under the law of grace, O

Joachim and Anna,

ye gave birth to the God-given infant for our sake.

Therefore, the divine Church radiantly keeps feast today,

Joyfully celebrating thine honorable memory and giving ^glory to God,//

Who has raised up a horn of salvation form the house of David.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Nativity of the Theotokos)*

Thy nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from thee, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing.//

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.  *(twice)*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Nativity of the Theotokos)*

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

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The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

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Who has raised up a horn of salvation form the house of David.

**Tone 6 Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Joachim and Anna)*

Anna is now no longer barren

and nurses the all-pure one.

She rejoices and calls us all to sing a hymn of praise to Christ,//

Who from her womb gave mankind the only Ever-virgin Mother.

**Tone 4** **Kontakion** *(Nativity of the Theotokos)*

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin,

Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,

Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.

And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and

sing to thee://

“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of

our Life.”

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon**

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! *(Ps 27/28:9))*

*v: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)*

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

*(Lk 1:46-47)*

**Epistle**

Galatians 6:11-18 *(Sunday before the Elevation)*

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps 88/89:20)*

*v: For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.*

*(Ps 88/89:22)*

**Tone 8**

*v: Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps 44/45:10)*

**Gospel**

John 3:13-17 *(Sunday before the Elevation)*

Matthew 22:35-46

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

**Tone 8**

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers;

childbearing is strange for virgins.

But in thee, O Theotokos, both were accomplished.

Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

*(Ps* *115/116:13)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.