**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 Tone 3**

**28th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Conception by Righteous Ann of the Most-holy Theotokos**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 3**

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!*

**Tone 3**  *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death’s dominion has been shattered;

the devil’s delusion destroyed.

The human race, being saved by faith,//

always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising Thee,//

always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

*(for the Resurrection, by Anatolios)*

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//

for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Savior incarnate of the Virgin,

for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day,//

granting us great mercy.

*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.*

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:

“Be bold! Now I have triumphed!

I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out,//

for I have shattered the gates of death!”

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

**Tone 4**  *(for the Conception) (Called from on high)*

The barren Anna leaped for joy

when she conceived Mary the Virgin,

who in turn will conceive in the flesh God the Word.

From the fullness of her joy, she cried out:

“Rejoice with me, all ye tribes of Israel,

for I have conceived according to the will of God my Savior.

He has answered my prayer and ended my shame,

in fulfillment of His promise, He will heal the pains of my heart,//

through the pains of child-bearing.”

*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: “The barren Anna leaped …”)

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

He Who made waters gush forth from the rock,

permitted thy womb to carry the ever-Virgin Mary

through whom our salvation will come.

By this, thou wast delivered from shame;

no longer wilt thou dwell on earth as barren,

for thou wilt bear the earth bringing forth the Tree of Life.

According to His will, He has delivered the human race from all shame,

by taking on our human form and becoming man,//

for He is rich in mercy.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Behold, the promises of the Prophets are fulfilled.

The holy mountain is planted in the womb.

The divine ladder is set up, the great throne of the King is ready.

The place for the Lord's passage is prepared.

The dry bush, which the fire could not consume, is blossoming.

The treasury of grace is an abundant flow of blessing

which heals the barrenness of Anna,//

whom we glorify with faith.

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

**Tone 2** *(for the Conception, by Germanus)*

Today the great mystery announced from all eternity,

whose depths angels and men cannot perceive,

appears in the barren womb of Anna.

Mary, the Maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the eternal

King,

Who will renew our human nature.

Let us entreat her with a pure heart and say:

“Intercede for us with thy Son and our God//

that our souls may be saved!”

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

**Tone 3**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder

at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,

to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//

to be the Theotokos.

**28th Sunday/Conception by Righteous Ann of the Most-holy Theotokos**

**Litya *(following the sticheron to the Temple, we sing:*)**

**Tone 5** *(Rejoice)*

Anna, named for divine grace,

cried out in her prayer,

beseeching the Creator and God of all:

“O Master, Thou dost perceive the shame of barrenness;

heal the pain of my heart!

Open my womb to make it fruitful,

that we may offer Thee the child as a gift,

and give glory and praise with hymns and songs//

to Thy love through which the world receives great mercy!”

*v: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back!*

Anna besought the Lord in fervent prayer for a child.

The voice of the angel proclaimed to her:

“God has granted thee the desire of thy prayer.

Do not weep, for thou shalt be a fruitful olive tree,

bearing the wondrous branch of the Virgin,

who will bring forth in the flesh the blossom—Christ,//

Who grants the world 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 5** *(Rejoice)*

The honorable parents, Joachim and Anna,

have given birth to the lamb

who will give birth in a manner past understanding

to the Lamb of God Who is to be sacrificed for all mankind.

They offer to God unceasing and humble praise.

Therefore let us rejoice and give them fervent glory

for the birth of the one born from them in a marvelous way,//

the Theotokos, through whom the world receives great mercy!

**28th Sunday/Conception by Righteous Ann of the Most-holy Theotokos**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3**  *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,

enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.

Delivered from Adam’s curse, we sing://

O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,

Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.

Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.

It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.

By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//

Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,

to deliver the human race from death.

Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,

raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God//

and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

*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 Conception)*

Today a royal cloak of purple and fine linen

is woven from the loins of David,

and the mystical flower of Jesse is blossoming://

from it will come forth Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

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***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

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 4** **Troparion**  *(Conception of the Theotokos)*

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken:

God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna.

He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God,

by whom the Uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man;

He commanded an angel to cry to her:

“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, //

the Lord is with thee!”

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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. *(thrice)*

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

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the Lord is with thee!”

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**  *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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

Today the universe rejoices,

for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God’s dispensation, //

for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word.

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing

praises! *(Ps 46/47:6)*

*v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

*(Ps 46/47:1)*

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon**

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. *(Ps 67/68:35)*

**Epistle**

Colossians 1:12-18

Galatians 4:22-31 *(Conception of the Theotokos)*

**Tone 3**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps 30/31:1)*

*v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!*

*(Ps 30/31:2)*

**Tone 1** *(Conception of the Theotokos)*

*v. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, and He is their protector in time of affliction. (Ps 36/37:39)*

**Gospel**

Luke 17:12-19

Luke 8:16-21 *(Conception of the Theotokos)*

**Communion Hymns**

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just! *(Ps 32/33:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.