**DECEMBER 9**

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

 **"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

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

**Tone 4**  *(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. (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.*

(Repeat: “The barren Anna leaped …”)

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

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

(Repeat: “He Who made waters gush forth … “)

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

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.

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

(Repeat: “Behold, the promises of the Prophets … “)

*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, 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!”

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**Aposticha**

**Tone 5** *(Rejoice)*

Anna, named for divine grace,

didst cry 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!”

*v: The fruit of thy body I will set upon thy throne!*

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!

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

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

**Tone 2**

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.

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

***(at Vespers)***

**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 the Divine Liturgy)***

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the Lord is with thee!”

**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 4** **Prokeimenon**

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

*v: Bless God in the churches, the Lord, O you who are of Israel’s fountain! (Ps 67/68:26)*

**Epistle**

 1 Timothy 1:1-7 *(of the day)*

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

 **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

*v. The Lord shall help them, and deliver them, and He shall deliver them from sinners, and save them, because they hope in Him. (Ps 36/37:40)*

**Gospel**

 Mark 8:11-21 *(of the day)*

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

**Communion Hymn**

Rejoice in the Lord, O you 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.