**OCTOBER 1**

**The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

**Ven. Romanus the Melodist[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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

**Tone 1** *(for the Protection)* *(Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

O pure Theotokos, fount of wisdom,

and great help to those in distress,

thou art a speedy aid, protectress, and support of the world.

We the faithful sing in praise of her who is a sea of compassion,

ineffably praising her radiant omophorion:

“Rejoice, O Maiden, full of grace,

the Lord is with thee,//

granting the world great mercy through thee!”

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

The wondrous Isaiah prophesied:

“In the latter days,” said he, “it will come to pass

that the mountain of the Lord shall be revealed,

and the house of the Lord shall be upon the summit of the mountain.”

And of this, O sovereign Lady,

we have seen in thee the true fulfillment.

For the mountains and hills are adorned with churches

that bear the many names of thy festivals.

Therefore, joyfully we sing to thee:

“Rejoice, O highly favored Maiden,

the Lord is with thee,//

granting the world great mercy through thee!”

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

Oh, how marvelous an adornment art thou to all the faithful!

Thou art the true fulfillment of the prophecies,

the glory of the Apostles and the beauty of the Martyrs,

the boast of virginity and the marvelous protection of the whole world.

O sovereign Lady, protect with the omophorion of thy tender mercy

all the people who cry out to thee:

“Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace,

the Lord is with thee,//

granting the world great mercy through thee!”

V. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4** *(for the Protection) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

Thou art like the divinely planted Paradise, O Theotokos,

the place where the Tree of Life was watered by the Holy Spirit.

We acknowledge that thou gavest birth to the Creator of all

Who feeds the faithful with the Bread of Life.

Together with the Forerunner, entreat Him on our behalf;//

and by thy precious omophorion protect thy people from all attacks!

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

Heaven and earth are sanctified;

the Church is radiant, and all the people celebrate,

for behold, the Mother of God enters invisibly with the armies of the Angels,

the Forerunner, and the Theologian,

the Prophets, and the Apostles!

She prays to Christ for Christians

and entreats Him to have mercy on this land and its people,//

who glorify the feast of her Protection.

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

**Tone 1** *(for St. Romanus) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The melodious harp of the Divine Spirit, the flute of the Church,

the nightingale, the cicada, chanting the hymns of God,

places his melodious compositions before us all,//

gladdening those who are wise in God.

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

The most radiant and shining lamp-stand,

the sweetly-sounding harp

whose strings are the words of the Spirit, true in meaning,

sings and teaches to the ends of the earth,//

glorifying the brightness of God with never-ceasing hymns.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Now thou standest with boldness, O Father, before the Master of all.

Pray that we who celebrate thy memory and thy splendid feast

may be delivered from misfortunes and dangers,//

O divinely blessed Romanus!

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

**Tone 6** *(for St. Romanus)*

O Romanus, our father,

thou hast shown thyself to be the first-fruits of good works,

a starting point of salvation;

for, composing angelic songs, thou hast shown thy life to be divine.

Entreat Christ God

that He may deliver from dangers and tribulations//

those who sing praises to thee!

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

**Tone 8** *(for the Protection)*

Today the Powers of Heaven rejoice with us,

and the souls of the just are spiritually assembled

to behold the Queen and Mother glorified by the faithful.

They witness the vision of the Mother of God:

her arms outstretched upon the clouds in prayer,

entreating peace for the world,//

strength for Orthodox Christians, and salvation for our souls.

 **Old Testament Readings** *(Protection)*

 **Genesis 28:10-17**

 **Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**

 **Proverbs 9:1-11**

**Litya**

 **Tone 3** *(for the Protection)*

Today the radiant feast of thy protecting veil has come,

O most pure Virgin.

Thou dost enlighten, more than the sun,

those who in faith and purity of heart confess thee as the true Mother of God,

and who cry out to thy Son:

“O Christ God, by the prayers of the Ever-Virgin,

who in purity and without corruption gave birth to Thee,

preserve Thine inheritance from the enemies that war against it,//

and since Thou art merciful, preserve our souls in peace!”

 **Tone 4**

Thy Son’s people are unable to praise thee fittingly as they desire,

O most pure Lady;

for thou dost always defend all the faithful,

protecting them with thy precious veil,

and praying for the salvation of all who with faith honor thee,//

the pure and true Theotokos.

**Tone 2**

Let us the faithful assemble today

to praise the all-immaculate Queen of all,

the most pure Virgin, the Mother of Christ our God,

for she mercifully ever stretches out her hands to her Son!

And it is she whom glorious Andrew beheld in the air

protecting the people with her precious veil.

Let us sing to her with tenderness of heart://

Rejoice, O protectress, defender, and salvation of our souls!

*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 Protection)*

Having cleansed our hearts and minds,

let us with the Angels splendidly keep festival,

as we sing the song of David to the Virgin,

the bride of the King of All, Christ our God:

“Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place;

Thou and the ark of Thy holiness”;

for Thou hast adorned her as a beautiful palace, O Master,

and hast made her an inheritance for Thy city,

so that, by her prayers and Thy mighty power,//

she might defend it from pagan adversaries.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(for the Protection)*

Since thou art higher than all in heaven and on earth,

more glorious than the Cherubim and most honored of all creation,

Christ has given thee to Christians as defender and protectress.

Therefore we sing to thee, O Lady and refuge of all,

and we celebrate with joy the holy feast of thy Protection.//

Pray to Christ that He may grant us great mercy!

V. *Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

**Tone 5**

O people, let us joyfully sing a song of David

to the Handmaiden and Bride of God,

the Mother of Christ, the King of all:

“Master, at Thy right hand stood the Queen,

decked in robes of gold

and adorned in divine apparel.”

When she, the chosen among women,

had been made more beautiful than all the world,

Thou wast pleased to be born of her in Thy great mercy.

Thou hast given her, the only blessed one,

to Thy people as a helper,//

to guide and protect them from all tribulation.

V. *Even the rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps. 44:11b)*

**Tone 7**

Thou art a mountain greater and more glorious than Sinai, O Theotokos.

Sinai could not bear the descent of God’s glory in images and figures.

It caught fire, and there was thunder and lightning,

but at the command of Him Who encompasses all

thou didst bear in thy womb the divine Fire Himself without being consumed,

the Word of God, Who holds all in the palm of His hand.

As His Mother, thou hast boldness to approach Him;

therefore, O Lady, help those who keep thy holy feast in faith!

In thy mercy, do not forget to visit us,

for thou didst receive the gift from God//

of guiding and protecting thy servants, the Christian flock.

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

**Tone 6** *(for St. Romanus)*

O Romanus, our father,

thou hast shown thyself to be the first-fruits of good works,

a starting point of salvation;

for, composing angelic songs, thou hast shown thy life to be divine.

Entreat Christ God

that He may deliver from dangers and tribulations//

those who sing praises to thee!

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

**Tone 2** *(for the Protection)*

The Church of God is adorned as with a shining crown

by thy precious veil, O Theotokos.

Today she shines with joy,

celebrating mystically and crying to thee:

“Rejoice, precious raiment and crown of the glory of God!

Rejoice, only fulfillment of glory and eternal joy!

Rejoice, haven of those who run to thee,//

our deliverance and our salvation!”

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(St. Romanus)*

Thou didst gladden Christ’s Church by thy melodies

like an inspired heavenly trumpet.

Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God

and didst shine on the world as God’s poet.//

We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

*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** *(Protection)*

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:

“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;

deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,//

that He may save our souls.”

***(at Vigil)***

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Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,

illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:

“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;

deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,//

that He may save our souls.” *(thrice)*

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

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illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:

“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;

deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,//

that He may save our souls.”

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(St. Romanus)*

Thou didst gladden Christ’s Church by thy melodies

like an inspired heavenly trumpet.

Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God

and didst shine on the world as God’s poet.//

We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

 **Tone 8** **Kontakion** *(St. Romanus)*

Thou wast adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit;

thou wast a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus,

for thou didst make it lovely with beautiful hymnody.

Therefore we entreat thee, grant thy divine gift to those who desire it,//

that we may cry out to thee: “Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!”

**Tone 3** **Kontakion** *(Protection)*

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,

and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.

Angels and bishops worship,

Apostles and Prophets rejoice together,//

since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

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

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. *(Lk. 1:46-47)*

V. *For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (Lk. 1:48)*

**Epistle**

 (320) Hebrews 9:1-7 *(Protection)*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

V. *Even the rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps. 44:11b)*

 **Gospel**

 (54) Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 *(Protection)*

**Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps.* *115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*

1. Note: This service follows a different rubric than the one printed in the Liturgical Rubrics published by St. Tikhon’s Monastery Press, as this service is designed to include hymns to St. Romanus the Melodist with those for the Protection of the Theotokos. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)