

Saturday, November 21

Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple

Tropar, tone 4: Today is the prelude of the benevolence of God, * and the herald of the salvation of mankind, * for the Virgin openly appears in the temple of God * and foretells Christ to all. * Let us also with full voice exclaim to her: * “Hail, fulfillment of the Creator’s plan.”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and always and forever. Amen.

Kondak, tone 4: The most pure temple of the Saviour, * richest palace and holy treasury of the glory of God, * today enters the house of the Lord, * bringing grace which is in the Spirit of God. * The angels of God sing to her: * this is the heavenly tabernacle.

Prokimen, tone 3: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Verse: Because He has regarded the humility of His handmaid; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Epistle: Hebrews 9: 1 - 7

Brothers and Sisters! The first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was constructed, the outer one, in which were the lampstand, the table and the showbread; this was called the holy place. Behind the second veil was the tabernacle called the holy of holies, in which were the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant entirely covered with gold. In the ark were the golden jar containing the manna, the rod of Aaron which had blossomed, and the tablets of the covenant. Above the ark were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the place of expiation. We cannot speak now of each of these in detail. These were the arrangements for worship. In performing their service the priests used to go into the outer tabernacle constantly, but only the high priest went into the inner one, and that but once a year, with the blood which he offered for himself and for the sins of the people.

Alleluia Verses: Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.

The rich among the people shall entreat your countenance.

Gospel: Luke 10: 38 - 42; 11: 27 - 28

At that time Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord’s feet and listened to his words. Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to him and said, “Lord, are you not concerned that my sister has left me to do the household tasks all alone? Tell her to help me.” The Lord in reply said to her: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and upset about many things; one thing only is required. Mary has chosen the better portion and she shall not be deprived of it.” While he was saying this a woman from the crowd called out, “Blest is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” “Rather,” he replied, “blest are they who hear the word of God and keep it.”

Instead of ‘It is truly right . . .’: Seeing the entry of Mary the most Pure,* the angels marveled at how a virgin could enter the holy of holies.* Since no hand of the wicked* may touch the living Tabernacle of God,* may the lips of the faithful endlessly sing out with joy* to the Mother of God the greetings of the angel:* “O pure virgin,* you are truly above all creatures!”

Communion Hymn: I will take the chalice of salvation; and I will call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!