

## *Great Vespers (tone 3), The Conception of Anna*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God always; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

### **Psalm 104 (103)**

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: Who maketh his angels spirits: his ministers a flaming fire: Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they do down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heavens have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. he causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth: And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted; Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a

refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping, innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, who thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

The sun knowth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. (three times)

O our God and our Hope, Glory to Thee.

## The Great Ektenia

**Priest:** In Peace let us pray to the Lord.

(The Choir responds *Lord have mercy* to each petition).

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our president, civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED”  
TONE 3

**Choir:** O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.

The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.

For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.

But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.

Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.

I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.

In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.

Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.

I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

**Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess thy name:**

O Christ Savior, the might of death hath verily broken down under thy Cross; and the deceit of Diabolus hath ceased; and the race of man hath by faith escaped and been saved. Wherefore, praise is offered thee perpetually.

**For the righteous shall await me, until thou recompense me.**

The whole creation, O Lord God, hath been lighted by thy glorified Resurrection and paradise hath been opened withal. Wherefore, all creatures laud thee and offer thee praise perpetually

**Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.**

I glorify the power of the Father, magnify the power of the Son, and praise the might of the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, indivisible, uncreated, consubstantial Trinity, reigning through all eternity.

**Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.**

Thy glorified Cross, O Christ, do we worship, and thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for by thy wounds we were all healed.

**If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with thee there is forgiveness.**

Let us praise the Savior who was incarnate of the Virgin; for he was crucified for our sake, and arose on the third day, granting us Great Mercy

**Because of thy Name have I waited for thee, O Lord: my soul hath waited upon thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.**

Verily, Christ did descend to hades to bring good tidings to those therein, saying, Have faith now; for I have conquered; for I am the Resurrection, who, unlocking the gates of death, shall set you free.

**Tone 4    For St. Anna's Conception** *Thou who wast called from on high*  
**From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.**

Having past hope borne as fruit the holy Virgin, \* who shall give birth in the flesh unto the God of all, \* once-barren Anna is radiant \* with jubilation, \* rejoicing, dancing and crying mightily: \* All ye tribes of Israel, rejoice with me today \* who have conceived, casting off the blame \* I had when childless; \* the Benefactor hath hearkened to my prayer, \* and in His goodness, He hath been well pleased \* to heal all the pains of my grieving heart \* through the pangs of my childbirth, \* even as of old He promised me.

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

Having past hope borne as fruit the holy Virgin, \* who shall give birth in the flesh unto the God of all, \* once-barren Anna is radiant \* with jubilation, \* rejoicing, dancing and crying mightily: \* All ye tribes of Israel, rejoice with me today \* who have conceived, casting off the blame \* I had when childless; \* the Benefactor hath hearkened to my prayer, \* and in His goodness, He hath been well pleased \* to heal all the pains of my grieving heart \* through the pangs of my childbirth, \* even as of old He promised me.

**Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people.**

He that made water to well up from a dry rock \* granteth now the Ever-virgin Lady to thy womb \* as fruit, O Anna, and it is

she \* from whom the water \* of our salvation shall issue forth for us; \* no more dost thou sojourn on the earth as fruitless earth; \* thou art estranged from reproach henceforth, \* for thou shalt bring forth \* the earth that beareth the Wheat of Life Himself, \* and He shall take away every reproach \* from all mortals, as He is well pleased to do, \* through His bowels of mercy \* being formed in what was not His own.

**For his mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.**

The Prophets' mystic predictions find fulfillment, \* for the holy mountain is established in the womb; \* the great majestic throne of the King \* is being readied; \* and the divine ladder hath been planted firm; \* on the earth, the place where God doth walk hath been prepared; \* the bush that burned not doth now begin \* to bud and sprout forth; \* and the myrrh-vessel of holiness doth now \* well forth to check the streams of barrenness \* of chaste Anna, the eldress of godly mind; \* let us all call her blessed,\* while extolling her with fervent faith.

**Tone 1    Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:**

The mighty work that was kept hidden from Angels and men, that marvelous mystery foretold in oracles from the beginning of time, is today formed as a babe in the loins of chaste Anna: Mary, the Child of God, is prepared as the habitation of the Sovereign King of the ages, for the refashioning of our race. With conscience clear, let us make entreaty, crying unto her: Since thou art the protection of us Christians, intercede with thy Son and God that our souls be saved.

**Tone 3    Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

O Lady of exceeding honor, how can we but wonder at thee giving birth to incarnate God? For thou, O all-blameless, not knowing a man, didst give birth in the flesh to a Son without

father, who before eternity was begotten of the Father without mother, the property and essence of each substance remaining intact. Wherefore, O virgin Mother, beseech him to save the souls of those who assent and confess, with true belief, that thou art the Theotokos.

**Priest:** Wisdom Let us Attend.

### **The Hymn of Thanksgiving at the Lighting of the Lamps**

**Choir:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore all the world doth glorify thee

**Priest:** The Evening Prokeimenon

**The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.**

The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength

**The Lord is king, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.**

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

**The Lord is king,**

**He is clothed with majesty.**

### **The Ektenia**

**Priest:** Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

*(the Choir responds Lord, have mercy to the first two petitions.)*

O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*(The choir responds Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy to this and the remaining petitions.)*

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan, N.

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for *(the servants of God, NN., and)* all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church *(and for the servants of God, NN.,)* and all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **The Evening Prayer**

**Reader:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy be upon us O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes. Blessed art

thou, O Master; make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy one: enlighten me with thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of thy hands. To thee belongeth worship, to thee belongeth praise, to thee belongeth glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages Amen.

### The Litany of Supplication

**Priest:** Let us complete our prayer unto the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy (*after the first two petitions.*)

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant, this, O Lord. (*after the remaining petitions*)

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless blameless, peaceful and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

**Priest:** Peace be to all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** Bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and thine inheritance; for unto thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating thy mercy and looking confidently for thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **Aposticha**

O Christ, who didst darken the sun with thy Passion, and didst light all created things with the light of thy Resurrection, and didst make them to rejoice, accept our evening praise, O Lover of mankind.

**The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel. The Lord hath put on His apparel and hath girded Himself with strength**

Verily, thy life-giving Resurrection hath lighted the whole universe, renewing thy corrupt creation. Wherefore in that thou hast delivered us from the curse of Adam, we shout to thee, O Lord Almighty, glory to thee.

**For He hath made the round world so that it shall not be moved.**

O changeless God, thou didst suffer in the changing body, and when creation could not bear to behold thee suspended on the Cross, it trembled with fear, and sighed, praising thy long-suffering. Then, descending to hades, thou didst arise on the third day, granting life to the world and Great Mercy.

**Holiness becometh Thy house forever O Lord.**

Thou didst suffer death, O Christ, that thou mightest deliver our race from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, and didst arouse with thee those who know that thou are true God, verily illuminating the world, O Lord. Wherefore, glory to thee.

Tone 2 **Glory to the Father and to the Son and To the Holy Spirit: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Today the royal purple hath sprouted from the root of David, and the mystical flower of Jesse beginneth to bud, from which blossomed forth Christ our God, the Savior of our souls.

### The Hymn of Simeon the God-receiver

**Reader:** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### Troparion

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and became the first born from the dead.

He hath delivered us from the depth of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**Tone 4**    **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened; God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised them openly that they should give birth, beyond hope, to the Maiden of God, from whom He, the infinite One was to be born, becoming man, commanding the angel to shout to her: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

**Priest:**    Wisdom.

**Choir:**    Father Bless.

**Priest:**    Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:**    Amen.

Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Priest:**    Most holy Theotokos, save us.

**Choir:**    More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

**Priest:**    Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

**Choir:**    Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father Bless.

### **The Great Dismissal**

**Priest:** May he who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, by the might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and god-bearing fathers; of the Glorious Prophet Elias, patron of this Church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; **whose Conception we celebrate;** and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

**Choir:** Amen