

FEBRUARY 2

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple Vespers

Sing "Lord, I Call.." in the tone of the week

Sing the first seven (7) Stichera in the tone of the week

Then sing the Festal Stichera as below

*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 (Idiomela) (by Patriarch Germanos)

*Simeon, tell us, Whom you bear in your arms,
That you rejoice so greatly in the Temple?
To Whom do you shout and cry aloud:
"Now I am set free, for I have seen my Savior?"
This is He Who was born of a Virgin;
This is God the Word, Who came forth from God,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and has saved man.//
Let us worship Him!*

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

*Simeon, receive Him Whom Moses once beheld in darkness,
Granting the Law on Sinai,
Now that He has become a Babe subject to the Law!
This is He Who spoke through the Law.
This is He, of Whom the Prophets spoke,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and has saved man.//
Let us worship Him as the Almighty One!*

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

*Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!
Let us receive Him Whose salvation Simeon saw!
This is He Whom David announced;
This is He Who spoke in the Prophets,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and Who speaks through the Law.//
Let us worship Him!*

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

Tone 6 *(by John the Monk)*

*Let the gate of heaven be opened today,
For the unoriginate Word of the Father
Has made a beginning in time without forsaking His divinity.
As a Babe forty days old,
Of His own will He is brought by the Virgin, His Mother,
As an offering in the Temple of the Law.
The Elder receives Him in his arms,
Crying as a servant to his Master:
“Let me depart for my eyes have seen Your salvation!”//
Glory to You, O Lord, for You have come into the world to save the human race!*

*Old Testament Readings –
Feast of The Meeting of our Lord – Feb. 2*

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

PRIEST: *Peace be unto all.*

READER: *And with your spirit.*

DEACON: *Wisdom!*

READER: *The first reading is from Exodus.*

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

READER: (Ex 12:51-13:3, 10-12, 14-16, 22:29, Lev 12:1-4, 6-8, Num 8:16-17)
And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.” And Moses said to the people: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year. And it shall be, when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, that you shall set apart to the

Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's. So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt. You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me."

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean. And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled. 'When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then he shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female. And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons--one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.' For they are wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel. For all the firstborn among the children of Israel are Mine, both man and beast; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them to Myself."

DEACON: *Wisdom!*

READER: *The second reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.*

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

READER: (Is 6:1-12) *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed." Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, The Lord has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.*

DEACON: *Wisdom!*

READER: *The third reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.*

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

READER: (Is 19:1-5, 12, 16, 19-21) *The burden against Egypt. Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst. "I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; Everyone will fight against his brother, And everyone against his neighbor, City against city, kingdom against kingdom. The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, And they will consult the idols and the charmers, The mediums and the sorcerers. And the Egyptians I will give Into the hand of a cruel master, And a fierce king will rule over them," Says the Lord, the Lord of hosts. The waters will fail from*

the sea, And the river will be wasted and dried up. Where are they? Where are your wise men? Let them tell you now, And let them know what the Lord of hosts has purposed against Egypt. In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which He waves over it. In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the Lord and perform it.

Aposticha

Tone 7 *(for the Feast)*

*Zion, adorn your bridal chamber and welcome Christ the King!/
Salute Mary, the heavenly gate!/
Fashioned as a throne of the Cherubim!/
She carries the King of glory!/
The Virgin is a cloud of light/
Who has borne in the flesh the Son begotten before the morning star!/
Simeon, taking Him in his arms, proclaimed to the peoples::/
This is the Lord of life and death; the Savior of the world!*

v. Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation!

*The unwedded Mother has brought into the temple the One who shone forth before the ages from the Father./
In these latter times He was born from the Virgin's womb!/
He gave the law on Mount Sinai, yet makes Himself obedient to the ord'nance of the Law!/
She has brought Him to the priest and righteous elder whose appointed lot it was to see Christ the Lord!/
Simeon, receiving Him in his arms, rejoiced greatly and cried aloud::
This is God co-eternal with the Father, the Redeemer of our souls!*

v. A Light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel!

*The Theotokos carried in her arms the One who is borne aloft upon the Cherubim,/
And praised in song by the Seraphim./
The Giver of the Law Who fulfills the commandment of the Law/
Was made flesh of the unwedded one./
She gave Him into the arms of the priest and elder./
Holding the Life he asked to be released from life, saying:/
Now, Master, let me depart to declare to Adam,/
That I have seen the pre-eternal God and Savior of the world,//
Who was made a babe without undergoing change!*

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

Tone 8 (by Andrew of Crete)

*He Who is borne on high by the Cherubim/
And praised in hymns by the Seraphim /
Is brought today according to the Law into the holy Temple /
Resting in the arms of the elder as on a throne. /
From Joseph He receives gifts fitting for God: /
A pair of doves, a symbol of the spotless Church /
And of the newly chosen people of the Gentiles,/
And two young pigeons, /
For He is the originator of the two Covenants, both Old and New. /
Simeon, now granted the fulfillment of the prophesies concerning himself,
Blesses the Virgin and Theotokos Mary./
He foretells in figures the Passion of her Son./
From Him he begs release, crying aloud:/
“Now, Master, let me depart as You have promised me,/
For I have seen the pre-eternal Light//
And the Lord and Savior of the people who bear the name of Christ!”*

At the Troparion, sing first the tone of the week, and then,

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

Tone 1 Troparion (*Meeting of the Lord*)

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
Enlight'ning those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
You accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!*

FEBRUARY 2

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple Divine Liturgy

First Antiphon

MY HEART O - VER - FLOWS WITH A GOOD - LY THEME; I AD - DRESS MY VER - SES

REFRAIN

TO THE KING! THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF THE THE - O - TO - KOS, O SAV - IOR

SAVE US! MY TONGUE IS LIKE THE PEN OF A REA - DY WRI - TER. REFRAIN

GRACE IS POURED UP - ON YOUR LIPS, THERE - FORE GOD HAS BLESSED YOU FOREV - ER.

REFRAIN

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HO - LY SPI - RIT,

NOW AND EVER AND UNTO AGES OF A - GES. A - MEN. REFRAIN

Second Antiphon

GIRD YOUR SWORD UPON YOUR THIGH, O MIGHTY ONE, IN YOUR GLORY AND MA -

REFRAIN

JES - TY! O SON OF GOD, CARRIED IN THE ARMS OF SIMEON THE RIGHT - EOUS, SAVE US

WHO SING TO YOU, A - LE - LU - IA! BEND YOUR BOW AND PROSPER AND REIGN,

BE - CAUSE OF TRUTH AND MEEKNESS AND RIGHT - EOUS - NESS! REFRAIN YOUR AR - ROWS

ARE SHARP IN THE HEART OF THE KING'S EN - E - MIES; THE PEOPLES FALL UN - DER YOU!

THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KING - DOM IS A SCEPTER OF RIGHT - EOUS - NESS.

(and then immediately “Only Begotten Son” as on the following page)

Only Begotten Son

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, now and ever and unto

a - ges of a - ges. A - men. On - ly be - got - ten Son and Im - mor - tal

Word of God. Who for our salvation willed to be in - car - nate of the Ho - ly

Theotokos and ever Vir - gin Ma - ry. Who without change became man and was

cru - ci - fied, Who is One of the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty, glorified with the Father and

the Ho - ly Spi - rit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death,

save us.

Third Antiphon

V: Hear, daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house!

TROPARION - TONE 1

RE - JOICE, O VIRGIN THEOTOKOS, FULL OF GRACE! FROM YOU SHONE THE SUN

OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, CHRIST OUR GOD, EN - LIGHT' - NING THOSE WHO SAT

IN DARK - NESS! REJOICE AND BE GLAD, O RIGHTEOUS EL - DER. YOU

AC - CEP - TED IN YOUR ARMS THE REDEEMER OF OUR SOULS, WHO GRANTS US

THE RES - SUR - REC - TION.

V: The richest of the people shall entreat Your favor!

V: I will cause Your name to be celebrated in all generations!

The Introit (chanted by priest) *The Lord has made known His salvation: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the Gentiles!*

(then is sung the Troparion in the tone of the week, "Glory...", then the Patronal Troparion, "Now and ever...", and then)

KONTAKION - TONE 1

BY YOUR NA - TI - VI - TY, YOU SANC - TI - FIED THE VIR - GIN'S WOMBI

The first line of the musical score for the Kontakion in Tone 1. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

AND YOU BLESSED SIMEON'S HANDS, O CHRIST GOD. NOW YOU HAVE COME

The second line of the musical score. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

AND SAVED US THROUGH LOVE. GRANT PEACE TO ALL ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS, O

The third line of the musical score. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

ONLY LOVER OF MAN - KIND!

The fourth and final line of the musical score. It concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Epistle Reading - Feast of The Meeting of our Lord – Feb. 2

DEACON: *Let us attend.*

PRIEST: *Peace be unto all.*

READER: *And with your spirit.*

DEACON: *Wisdom!*

READER: *The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone:*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

CHOIR: *(repeats Prokeimenon)*

READER: *For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*

CHOIR: *(repeats Prokeimenon)*

READER: *My soul magnifies the Lord*

CHOIR: *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

DEACON: *Wisdom!*

READER: *The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.*

PRIEST: *Let us attend!*

READER: *(Heb 7:7-17) Brethren: Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there He receives them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."*

PRIEST: *Peace be to you, reader.*

READER: *And to your spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

CHOIR: *(sings Alleluia)*

READER: *Lord now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation.*

CHOIR: *(sings Alleluia)*

READER: *A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.*

CHOIR: *(sings Alleluia)*

Gospel Reading - Feast of The Meeting of our Lord – Feb. 2

DEACON: *Wisdom. Let us attend.*

PRIEST: *Peace be unto all.*

CHOIR: *And with your spirit.*

DEACON: *The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.*

CHOIR: *Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!*

PRIEST: *Let us attend.*

DEACON: {Luke 2:22-40} Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own heart also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

O VIRGIN THEOTOKOS, HOPE OF ALL CHRIS - TIAN! PRO - TECT, PRE - SERVE AND

SAVE THOSE WHO HOPE IN YOU! WE FAITHFUL SAW THE FIGURE IN THE SHADOW

OF THE LAW AND THE SCRIP - TURES: EV - 'RY MALE CHILD THAT OPENED THE WOMB

WAS HO - LY TO GOD. THEREFORE WE ALSO MAGNIFY THE FIRST-BEGOTTEN SON

OF THE UN-ORIGIN-ATE FA - THER, THE FIRST - BORN SON OF THE UN WED-

ED MO - THER!

Communion Hymns

*Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*