

## 28th Sunday after Pentecost, Octoechos Tone 3

### Conception of St. Anna

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GREAT VESPERS

*"Blessed is the man..." is sung.*

#### At Psalm 140

*In Tone 3*

10. By Your Cross, O Christ our Saviour,  
the power of Death has been vanquished  
and the deceit of the devil has been destroyed.  
Therefore, mankind, saved by faith,  
offers You hymns of praise forever.

9. O Lord, all creation has been enlightened by Your resurrection,  
and Paradise has been reopened;  
therefore, all creation extols You  
and offers You hymns of praise forever.

8. I glorify the powers of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
and I praise the dominion of the undivided Divinity,  
the consubstantial Trinity,  
Who reigns forever and ever.

7. We adore Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
and with hymns of praise we glorify Your Resurrection;  
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

*In Tone 4*

6. The barren Anna leaped for joy  
when she gave birth to Mary the Virgin  
who in turn will give birth in the flesh to God the Word.  
Overflowing with happiness, she cried out:  
Rejoice with me, all tribes of Israel,  
for I have conceived and put aside my burden of childlessness  
as the Creator has deigned.  
He heard my prayer and healed the pains of my yearning heart.

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4. O Anna, the One who made waters gush forth from a rock  
bestows as a fruit of your womb, the ever-Virgin Lady.  
Through her, our salvation will come.  
Because of this you were delivered from shame.  
No longer will you be on earth as a fruitless soil,  
for you have produced an earth  
which will bring forth the Tree of Life.  
According to His will, He delivered mankind from all shame  
when He became man out of His compassionate mercy.

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2. The sayings of the prophets are now being fulfilled:  
the holy mountain is planted in the womb;  
the divine ladder is set up;  
the throne of the great king is ready;  
the God-inspired city is being adorned.  
The unburnable bush is beginning to bud forth,  
and the treasure house of grace is overflowing.  
It is spreading over the rivers of unfruitfulness of the God-wise Anna  
whom we glorify.

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whom we glorify.

*In Tone 2, Glory...*

Today the mystery which has been announced from eternity,  
whose depth angels and men cannot measure,  
appears in the arms of Anna.  
Mary, the maiden of God is prepared  
to be the dwelling of the Kings of the ages  
who will renew our human nature.  
Let us entreat her with a pure heart and say:  
Since you are the intercessor for all Christians,  
implore your Son and God to save our souls.

*In Tone 3, Now...*

O Lady most honourable,  
how can we but be rapt in wonder  
at you giving birth to the Incarnate God  
who, without a mother, was born of the Father before all ages?  
You gave Him birth in the flesh without a father,  
without a man instrumentality.  
He is God and man whose two natures are intact,  
neither one losing any of its properties.  
Therefore, O Virgin Mother,  
intercede with Him to save the souls  
of those who believe and confess in true faith  
that you are the Mother of God.

### **Readings**

*Genesis 28:10-17*

*Ezekiel 43:27-44:4*

*Proverbs 9:1-11*

### **Litiya**

*In Tone 1*

It is fitting that the Queen of heaven and earth,  
who is more precious than the Cherubim,  
and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim,  
be conceived and remain immaculate as the angels,  
so that they who are servants of the Lord  
can boast of their own Queen, the Mother of God.  
Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so,  
the Creator of all things.

It is fitting that the unique and chosen woman  
be conceived without sin,  
and the power of Satan is now taken away;  
for the Mother of God will never bow before him.  
Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so,  
the Creator of all things.

It is fitting that the Second Eve  
be created and remain without sin  
in the manner of the Second Adam;  
for the rebirth of mankind now takes place,  
just as the fall came through the first Adam and the first Eve.  
Christ has renewed all through his new birth,  
and it was Mary that gave birth to Him.  
Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so,  
the Creator of all things.

*Glory... Now...*

Before the nativity of the Son of God,  
it was fitting for the Father  
to bestow the most pure conception upon the Mother of God,  
who is betrothed of the Holy Spirit,  
that she might be filled with heavenly gifts  
in a manner beyond all other creatures.  
Glory and praise to the Lord who willed it so,  
the Creator of all things.

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 3*

O Christ, Who darkened the sun by Your passion  
and enlightened all creation by Your resurrection,  
accept our evening prayer; for You love mankind.

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.*

O Lord, Your life-giving Resurrection has enlightened the entire universe  
and has revived Your creation which lay in corruption.  
Therefore, we, who have been released from the curse of Adam, cry out to You:  
Almighty Lord, glory to You!

*For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.*

O God, although in Your divine nature You are unchangeable,  
yet in Your human nature You underwent change by suffering in the flesh.  
All creation was prostrate with fear  
when it saw You hanging on the Cross,  
and it groaned in sorrow as it sang the praises of Your long-suffering.  
But You descended into Hades and arose on the third day,  
granting life and great mercy to the world.

*Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

You suffered death, O Christ, to deliver mankind from death.  
And when You arose from the dead on the third day,  
You enlightened the world  
and resurrected all who acknowledge You as God.

*In Tone 2, Glory...*

On this day the royal purple appears,  
descending from the root of David.  
The mystical flower of Jesse buds forth;  
from her shall blossom Christ our God,  
the Saviour of our souls.

*Now...*

We now behold a new wonder,  
greater than the wonders of old.  
For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?  
Who has known a mother to hold in her arms the Source of all Creation?  
It was God's own will to be born in this manner;  
and you, O most pure Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.  
Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.  
Therefore, we venerate you, and ask you to always beseech Him  
to have mercy on us and save our souls.

### **Troparia**

*In Tone 1*

Rejoice, Virgin Mary, Mother of God, full of grace!\* The Lord is with you.\* Blessed are you among women,\* and blessed is the fruit of your womb.\* For you have given birth to Christ, the Deliverer and Saviour of our souls. (2)

*In Tone 4*

Today the chains of barrenness are shattered,\* for having heard the prayer of Joachim and Anna,\* against all hope God has openly promised\* the birth of the Maiden of God,\* from whom the very Infinite One will be born as a man,\* the One who commanded the angels to cry to her:\*\* Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you.