**The Nativity of the Holy Virgin**

**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**20-е Воскресенье После Троицы – Покров Пресвятой Богородицы– Глас 3**

**Тропари и Кондаки после Малого Входа:**

**Тропарь Воскресный Глас 3:**

Да веселятся Небесная,/ да радуются земная;/ яко сотвори державу/ мышцею Своею Господь,/ попра смертию смерть,/ первенец мертвых бысть;/ из чрева адова избави нас,// и подаде мирови велию милость.

**Тропарь Покрова Глас 4:**

Днесь, благовернии людие, светло празднуем,/ осеняеми Твоим, Богомати, пришествием,/ и к Твоему взирающе пречистому образу, умильно глаголем:/ покрый нас честным Твоим Покровом/ и избави нас от всякаго зла,/ молящи Сына Твоего, Христа Бога нашего,// спасти души наша.

**Кондак Воскресный Глас 3:**

Воскресл еси днесь из гроба, Щедре/ и нас возвел еси от врат смертных;/ днесь Адам ликует и радуется Ева,/ вкупе же и пророцы с патриархи воспевают непрестанно// Божественную державу власти Твоея.

**Кондак Покрова Глас 3:**

Дева днесь предстоит в церкви/ и с лики святых невидимо за ны молится Богу,/ Ангели со архиереи покланяются,/ апостоли же со пророки ликовствуют:// нас бо ради молит Богородица Превечнаго Бога.

**Послание к Галатам (1:11-19):**

11Возвещаю вам, братия, что Евангелие, которое я благовествовал, не есть человеческое, 12ибо и я принял его и научился не от человека, но через откровение Иисуса Христа. 13Вы слышали о моем прежнем образе жизни в Иудействе, что я жестоко гнал Церковь Божию, и опустошал ее, 14и преуспевал в Иудействе более многих сверстников в роде моем, будучи неумеренным ревнителем отеческих моих преданий. 15Когда же Бог, избравший меня от утробы матери моей и призвавший благодатью Своею, благоволил 16открыть во мне Сына Своего, чтобы я благовествовал Его язычникам,- я не стал тогда же советоваться с плотью и кровью, 17и не пошел в Иерусалим к предшествовавшим мне Апостолам, а пошел в Аравию, и опять возвратился в Дамаск. 18Потом, спустя три года, ходил я в Иерусалим видеться с Петром и пробыл у него дней пятнадцать. 19Другого же из Апостолов я не видел *никого,* кроме Иакова, брата Господня.

**Послание к Евреям (Покров) (9:1-7):**

1И первый завет имел постановление о Богослужении и святилище земное: 2ибо устроена была скиния первая, в которой был светильник, и трапеза, и предложение хлебов, и которая называется Святое. 3За второю же завесою была скиния, называемая Святое Святых, 4имевшая золотую кадильницу и обложенный со всех сторон золотом ковчег завета, где были золотой сосуд с манною, жезл Ааронов расцветший и скрижали завета, 5а над ним херувимы славы, осеняющие очистилище; о чем не нужно теперь говорить подробно. 6При таком устройстве, в первую скинию всегда входят священники совершать Богослужение; 7а во вторую - однажды в год один только первосвященник, не без крови, которую приносит за себя и за грехи неведения народа.

**Евангелие От Луки (6:31-36):**

31И ка́к хотите, чтобы с вами поступали люди, та́к и вы поступайте с ними. 32И если любите любящих вас, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники любящих их любят. 33И если делаете добро тем, которые вам делают добро, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники то́ же делают. 34И если взаймы даёте тем, от которых надеетесь получить обратно, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники дают взаймы грешникам, чтобы получить обратно столько же. 35Но вы люби́те врагов ваших, и благотворите, и взаймы давайте, не ожидая ничего; и будет вам награда великая, и будете сынами Всевышнего; ибо Он благ и к неблагодарным и злым. 36Итак, будьте милосерды, как и Отец ваш милосерд.

**Евангелие От Луки (Покров) (10:38-41; 11:27-28):**

38В продолжение пути их пришел Он в одно селение; здесь женщина, именем Марфа, приняла Его в дом свой; 39у неё была сестра, именем Мария, которая села у ног Иисуса и слушала слово Его. 40Марфа же заботилась о большом угощении и, подойдя, сказала: Господи! или Тебе нужды нет, что сестра моя одну меня оставила служить? скажи ей, чтобы помогла мне. 41Иисус же сказал ей в ответ: Марфа! Марфа! ты заботишься и суетишься о многом, 42а одно только нужно; Мария же избрала благую часть, которая не отнимется у неё. 27Когда же Он говорил это, одна женщина, возвысив голос из народа, сказала Ему: блаженно чрево, носившее Тебя, и сосцы, Тебя питавшие! 28А Он сказал: блаженны слышащие слово Божие и соблюдающие его.

**Слово от Св Феофана Затворника:**

Коренная, исходная заповедь - люби. Малое слово, а выражает всеобъятное дело. Легко сказать люби, но не легко достигнуть в должную меру любви. Не совсем ясно и то, как этого достигнуть; потому-то Спаситель обставляет эту заповедь другими пояснительными правилами: люби, "как самого себя; и как хотите, чтобы с вами поступали люди, так и вы поступайте с ними". Тут указывается мера любви, можно сказать, безмерная; ибо есть ли мера любви к самому себе и есть ли добро, которого не пожелал бы себе кто от других? Между тем, однако, это предписание не неисполнимо. Все дело стоит за тем, чтобы войти в совершенное сочувствие с другими так, чтобы их чувства вполне переносить на себя, чувствовать так, как они чувствуют. Когда это будет, нечего и указывать, что в каком случае надо сделать для других: само сердце укажет. Ты только позаботься поддерживать сочувствие, а то тотчас подойдет эгоизм и возвратит тебя к себе и заключит в себя. Тогда и пальцем не пошевелишь для другого и смотреть на него не станешь, хоть умри он. Когда сказал Господь: люби ближнего, как самого себя, то хотел, чтобы вместо нас, стал в нас, т. е. в сердце нашем, ближний. Если же там по старому будет стоять наше "я", то не жди добра.

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost –– The Protection of the Mother God –– Tone 3**

**Troparion (Resurrection) (Tone 3):**

Let the heavens rejoice!/ Let the earth be glad!/ For the Lord has shown strength with His arm./ He has trampled down death by death./ He has become the first born of the dead./ He has delivered us from the depths of hell,/ and has granted to the world// great mercy.

**Troparion (Protection) — Tone 4**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy / illumined by your coming, O Mother of God. / Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you: / “Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection; / deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, / your Son and our God that He may save our souls.”

**Kontakion (Resurrection) (Tone 3):**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,/ leading us from the gates of death./ On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;/ with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

**Kontakion (Protection) — Tone 3**

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.

**Galatians 1:11-19  *(Epistle)***

**11** But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. **12** For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. **13** For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. **14** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **15** But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, **16** to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, **17** nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. **18** Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

**19** But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

**Hebrews 9:1-7  *(Epistle, Theotokos)***

**1** Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. **2** For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; **3** and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, **4** which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; **5** and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. **6** Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. **7** But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance;

**Luke 6:31-36  *(Gospel)***

**31** And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. **32** But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. **36** Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

**Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28  *(Gospel, Theotokos)***

**38** Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. **39** And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” **41** And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. **42** But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” **27** And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!” **28** But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

**On the Protection of the Mother of God –– from OCA.org:**

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos: “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 venerate Her, Apostles and prophets rejoice together, Since for our sake she prays to the Eternal God!”

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop’s Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and “for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation.”

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered important by the Slavic Churches but not by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew’s death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the PROLOGUE, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, “For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!”

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, “With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land.” Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, “Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.”