

 **Nov 21: Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary**

Text from "[The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship](#)"; Pg. 727

Troparion (Tone 4): Today is the prelude of the good pleasure of God,* and the proclamation of salvation for the human race.* In the Temple of God* the Virgin is clearly revealed,* and beforehand announces Christ to all.* To her, then, let us cry aloud with a mighty voice:* Rejoice, fulfillment of the Creator's plan.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 4): The Saviour's pure temple,* the precious bridal chamber and Virgin,* the sacred treasury of the glory of God,* is brought today into the house of the Lord;* and with her she brings the grace* of the divine Spirit.* God's angels sing in praise of her.* She is indeed the heavenly dwelling place.

Prokimenon (Tone 3): My soul magnifies the Lord,* and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour (Lk 1:46-47).

verse: Because He has regarded the humility of His handmaid; from this day forward all generations shall call me blessed (Lk 1:48).

Epistle: (Hebrews 9:1-7): *Brethren*, now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy-seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail. Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

Alleluia (Tone 8): Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

verse: Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear (Ps 44:11).

verse: The rich among the people shall entreat your countenance (Ps 44:13).

Gospel: (Luke 4:16-22): *At that time Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'* But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!'

Instead of **"It is truly..."**: Seeing the entrance of the pure one, angels marvelled in wonder how the Virgin could enter the holy of holies.

Irmos (Tone 4): Let no hand of the profane touch God's living ark, but instead let the lips of those who are believers sing out ceaselessly in the words of the angel, crying out with great joy to the Mother of God: O pure Virgin, you are truly higher than all.

Communion Verse: I will take the chalice of salvation;* and I will call upon the name of the Lord (Ps 115:13). Alleluia! (3x)