

THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER: POSTFEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS; GREAT MARTYR CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

At "O Lord, I have cried...", 3 stichera for the Feast in tone I:

ome, all who love the **feasts** of the **Church!** * Let us honor the only pure Theotokos and **Vir**gin with **hymns!** * for **she** is led into the **Temple** of **God** * now to live there in **splendor.** * **She** is indeed the most holy **temple** of **Christ** * **and the media**tor of **all** our **joy**.

Prophet, throw open the doors! * Receive with faith the boast and radiant joy of Angels and men! * She is to be brought into the Temple of the Lord, * that there she may live and dance, * for she is the temple * and the abode of God.

The Theo<u>to</u>kos Mary is brought into the **Temple**, * receiving bread from the Angel who appeared and **cried to her:** * "Rejoice, for you shall conceive a Son without **knowing a man!** * O blessed Virgin Theotokos, **Bride of God**, * **you** are the good inheritance * **and restoration** of **mortal men**.

Then 3 stichera for the Great Martyr Catherine in tone I:

Today the city of Alexandria adorns itself with wisdom, O Martyr, * having your childhood garments within your holy temple. * Therefore, O Catherine, * we also celebrate in reverence your honoured memory. * Pray for those who honour you!

Today let us celebrate the memory of Catherine, * for by great word and deed she truly trampled all the powers of the foe * and the opposition of the orators. * By her prayers, O God, * deliver us from the godless enemy!

R ejoice, most glorious and honoured Martyr Catherine, * for the mountain of Sinai where Moses beheld the bush that burned yet was **not consumed** * now **keeps** your God-pleasing **body**, * translated there by the gracious **mer**cy of **Christ** * awaiting the time of His second coming!

Glory... for Great Martyr Catherine in tone II:

Olivers of the martyrs, * let us hasten joyfully to the feast of the divinely-wise Martyr Catherine! * Let us crown her with praises as with flowers, crying out to her: * "Rejoice, for you denounced the insolence of foolish orators * filled with ignorant thoughts and led them to the divine Faith! * Rejoice, for you gave your body over to torments for love of your Creator * and were not destroyed, * for you were an invincible woman! * Rejoice, for you have inherited the mansions on high as the reward for your struggles!" * Now you delight in eternal glory. * Desiring this glory, may we who hymn you not lose our hope in it!

At the Aposticha, Glory... for Great Martyr Catherine in tone II

You acquired an immaterial life; * coming before the godless tribunal, * you stood arrayed in divine might, O victorious and honoured Catherine,* wearing the radiance of God as an adornment of flowers!* You mocked the tyrants command, O greatly suffering one, * ending the insolent speech of the orators.

Both now... for the Feast in tone VIII:

David foretold you, O all-pure one, * as he foresaw the sanctification of your entry into the Temple. * Thus, all the ends of the earth feast today* and glorify you, O all-praised one. * For, O Mother of the Word of Life, * a virgin before giving birth and remaining incorrupt after giving birth,* Zachariah is joyful and accepts you in the Temple, O Lady. * The Holy of Holies rejoices and receives you, the wellspring of our life. * Therefore, we also cry out in songs to you: * "Beseech your Son and our God in our behalf, * that He grant us great mercy!"

At the dismissal troparia, Glory... for the Great Martyr in tone V:

Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, * the divine Catherine, protectress of Sinai, our <u>aid</u> and our **help.** * For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the <u>spirit</u>, * and now, crowned as a martyr, she **asks** great **mer**cy for **all.**

Both now.. of the Feast in tone IV:

'oday 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, fulfilment of the

Creator's plan.