

July 25

Feast of the Dormition of Holy Ann, the Mother of the Theotokos

(4th Class)

Although this feast is only of the 4th Class, it is often celebrated with greater solemnity.

GREAT VESPERS

Stichera for Ann (Tone 1)

6. O faithful, celebrating the memory of the holy and wondrous ancestors of the Lord, Joachim and Ann, with sacred hymns we glorify the compassionate One who has made them fervent intercessors for our salvation.
5. Today, the previously barren and childless one, who gave birth to the first-fruits of our salvation, is transferred from this life to the next. She entreats the Lord to grant remission of sins to those who sing to her with faith.
4. Celebrating the memory of Your just ancestors, O Christ, we sing to You: for today You transferred Ann from this temporal life to the everlasting life in the presence of God. She is the mother who bore the divine and ever-virgin Mother who wondrously gave birth to You without seed.
3. Behold, the radiant solemnity, a feast-day for the whole world, the holy and glorious dormition of Ann, the wondrous mother who gave birth to the Mother of Life, the living Ark who contained the uncontainable Word. She delivered us from suffering, bringing us never-ending joy, and grants great mercy to all the faithful.

2. O marvelous wonder! The woman who gloriously gave birth to the Virgin who alone is blessed among women, the source of our Life, passes from this temporal life to the never-ending life. Today, the glorious Ann is lifted up from earth to Heaven to exult together with the choirs of Angels; and today we celebrate her sacred feast.
1. Today, in the fervor of the Holy Spirit, all we the faithful celebrate the glorious feast of your holy dormition: behold, you are still with us, granting the grace of healing, consuming all evil spirits around us, and enlightening the hearts of the faithful who sing of your venerable passing, O holy Ann.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 8)

Joachim and Ann, the holy couple, were formerly barren, but they have brought forth the Mother of God, the holy branch from whom has blossomed Christ our God, the salvation of the world. They have passed to the heavenly courts. Together with their daughter, in company with the Angels, they now rejoice and constantly intercede for the world. Joining them in faith, we sing and cry aloud: "Through the Handmaid of God, the all-pure Mary, you are the grandparents of her Son, Jesus Christ: intercede for us!"

Entrance with the Censer. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

READINGS

1.) *Wisdom 3:1-9*

Thus says the Lord: But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth

from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself. As gold in the furnace, He proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in Him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love: because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

2.) *Wisdom 5:15 - 6:3*

Thus says the Lord: The just live forever, and in the Lord is their recompense, and the thought of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown, the beauteous diadem, from the hand of the Lord-for He shall shelter them with His right hand, and protect them with His arm. He shall take His zeal for armor and He shall arm creation to requite the enemy. He shall don justice for a breastplate and shall wear sure judgment for a helmet. He shall take invincible rectitude as a shield and whet His sudden anger for a sword, and the universe shall war with Him against the foolhardy. Well-aimed shafts of lightning shall go forth and from the clouds as from a well-drawn bow shall leap to the mark; and as from His sling, wrathful hailstones shall be hurled. The water of the sea shall be enraged against them and the streams shall abruptly overflow; a mighty wind shall confront them and a tempest winnow them out; thus lawlessness shall lay the whole earth waste and evildoing overturn the thrones of potentates. Hear, therefore, kings, and understand; learn, you magistrates of the earth's expanse! Hearken, you who are in power over the multitude and lord it over throngs of

peoples! Because authority was given you by the Lord and sovereignty by the Most High, who shall probe your works and scrutinize your counsels!

3.) *Wisdom 4:7-14*

Thus says the Lord: The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported-snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. Hail, mystical dove who announce the springtime of grace to us: you lived a chaste and blameless life and gave birth reverently to the treasure of virginity, the spotless Mother of God. O Ewe lamb, you bore the virgin lamb who, in turn, by her word gave birth to the Word, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Holy Ann, grandmother of the Lord who transferred you to Himself from earth, entreat Him to grant our souls great mercy.

All: Exult you just in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

2. Hail, venerable couple, beloved of God and chosen by the Lord for the radiance of your holiness: by divine grace, you prepared the way for the fulfillment of the Law as you gave birth to her who would bring forth the

Author of our Life. Holy Ann and blessed Joachim, lights who have enkindled the resplendent lamp, radiant with grace, the pure Mother of God: in company with her, entreat the Lord to grant our souls great mercy.

All: Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in His commands.

3. Hail, blessed land which budded forth in this world the branch from whom the Lord would blossom, you ceaselessly meditated upon His Law; and in you, grace was fulfilled. Freed from barrenness by your childbearing, you were delivered from corruption by your death, as you radiantly passed from earth to God. Blessed ancestor of Christ our God, you gave birth to His Mother, the lampstand who bore the Light. Together with her, entreat the Lord to grant our souls great mercy.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 8)

Come, all creation, and with cymbals of glory let us all praise the divinely-wise Ann, whose womb bore the holy mountain of God. Today she has departed for the spiritual mountain, the dwelling-place of Paradise. Let us sing to her: "Blessed is your womb which bore her whose womb would carry the true Light of the world! Blessed are your breasts, which nourished the Mother of the Nourisher of our life! Entreat Him to deliver us from every attack of the Enemy and to save our souls from all affliction!"

TROPARION OF ANN (*Tone 4*)



O divinely-wise Ann, you carried in your womb the pure Mother of God, who gave birth to the Life. Wherefore, you now have been carried up joyfully to the inheritance of Heaven, to the abode of those who rejoice in glory. O blessed one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for those who honor you with fervor.

(No Theotokion is used with this, according to Couturier. At Orthros, it is sung twice.)