

November 20

Forefeast of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple;

Commemoration of our venerable Father Gregory of Decapolis, and our Father among the Saints, Proclos, Archbishop of Constantinople

(5th Class)

VESPERS

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 1)

6. The virgins bearing torches, who with their light accompany the ever-Virgin, truly prophesy the future in the Spirit. For the Temple of God, the Theotokos, with virginal glory enters as a little child into the Temple.
5. The Theotokos, glorious fruit of a sacred promise, is truly revealed to the world as higher than all creation. Piously led into the House of God, she fulfills the vow of her parents, and she is preserved by the Holy Spirit.
4. O Virgin, fed in faith by heavenly bread in the Temple of the Lord, you brought forth for the world the Bread of Life that is the Word. As His chosen Temple without spot, you were betrothed mystically through the Spirit to be the Bride of God the Father.

For Gregory (Tone 1)

3. You dwell with joy in the tabernacles of Heaven in company with the angels, O holy father Gregory. At your ease before the throne of the Lord, intercede with Him that He absolve the sins and deliver from passions the faithful who celebrate your holy memory.
2. O father Gregory, using your prayers as a scythe, you mowed down the thorns of the passions and worked your soul with temperance, as land under a plow. In it, you

sowed the seeds of faith, which produced fruits of healing for us.

1. Pillar of chastity, vessel of the virtues, lover of silence, O holy father, broken by night-long vigils, inviolable dwelling of prayer, treasury of miracles, intercessor for the faithful who venerate you: thus do we wish to call you, O Gregory.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion (Tone 4)

Today, the Theotokos, the Temple that is to hold God, is led into the Temple of the Lord, and Zechariah receives her. Today, the Holy of Holies rejoices greatly, and the choir of angels mystically keeps feast. With them, let us also celebrate this festival today, and let us cry aloud with Gabriel: "Hail, O full of grace! The Lord is with you, He who possesses great mercy!"

"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

APOSTICHA (Tone 4)

1. The radiance of your teachings and the splendor of your life have adorned the hierarchy, O holy Proclus. You were truly a pillar of the Church, enlightening the whole world by your words. Thus we call you blessed and celebrate your holy and sacred memory with psalms and canticles.

All: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful.

2. Brilliantly did you teach and wisely did you preach the divine Motherhood of the spotless Virgin who gave birth to the Lord of all ages, the Creator, the Son and Word of the Father, who willed to become man for us in these latter days, without His nature being changed. You shamed the foolish impiety of Nestorios.

All: Your priests shall be clothed with holiness; Your faithful shall ring out their joy.

3. You drew golden streams from the wise and divine golden-mouthed preacher. On his throne, you were the successor of his piety, strengthening the flock of Christ by your Orthodox teaching. O holy father, you returned his venerable relics, as a pleasing jewel, to his Church.

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

Theotokion

Come, O people, let us praise her who is undefiled; she who was foretold by the prophets and offered in the Temple, the Mother preordained before all ages, who in this last time has been shown forth as the Theotokos. O Lord, at her intercession, grant us Your peace and great mercy.

TROPARION OF THE FATHERS (*Tone 4*)

O God of our Fathers who always deal with us according to Your compassion, do not remove Your mercy from us, but through the intercessions of our Holy Fathers Gregory and Proclos, direct our lives in peace.

O God of our Fa-thers who al-ways deal— with us ac
cor-ding to Your com-pas - sion do not re-move Your
mer - cy from us, but through the in-ter - ces - sions
of our Ho - ly Fa - thers Gre - go - ry and
Pro - clos,— di - rect— our lives— in peace.

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST (*Tone 4*)

Ann is now preparing a great joy for us all, for she has given birth to the only ever-virginal one, who is a joy that dispels all sadness. Today Ann fulfills her vow with gladness, presenting to the Temple of the Lord the one who is the true Temple of God's Word and His pure Mother.

Anne is now pre - par - ing a great joy - for us all,
for she has giv - en birth - to the on - ly ev - er -
vir - gi - nal one, who - is a joy - that dis - pels all
sad - ness. To - day Anne ful - fills her
vows with glad - - - ness, pre - sent - ing to the
Tem - ple of the Lord the one who is the true Tem - ple
of God's Word and His pure - Mo - ther.