

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021
DORMITION OF THE RIGHTEOUS ANNA

Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, from the lineage of Levi, as was Aaron the high priest. Matthan had three daughters: Mary, Sophia and Anna. Mary married, lived in Bethlehem and gave birth to Salome; Sophia married, also lived in Bethlehem, and gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Forerunner; Anna married Joachim in Nazareth, and in old age gave birth to Mary, the Most-holy Theotokos. Joachim and Anna had lived together in marriage for fifty years, and yet had remained barren. They lived devoutly and quietly, and of all their income they spent one third on themselves, distributed one third to the poor and gave the other third to the Temple, and they were well provided for. Once when in their old age they came to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice to God, the high priest Issachar reprimanded Joachim, saying: "You are not worthy that a gift be accepted from your hands, for you are childless." Others, who had children, pushed Joachim behind them as one unworthy. This greatly grieved these two aged souls and they returned home in great sorrow. Then the two of them fell down before God in prayer, that He work a miracle with them as He once had with Abraham and Sarah, and give them a child as a comfort in their old age. Then God sent His angel, who announced to them the birth of "a daughter most-blessed, by whom all nations on earth will be blessed and through whom the salvation of the world will come." Anna straightway conceived, and in nine months gave birth to the Holy Virgin Mary.

According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the reign of Saint Justinian the Emperor (527-565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since Saint Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and veil were transferred to Constantinople.

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: six stikhera of the resurrection in tone 4, followed by four stikhera for the Saint

Resurrection, tone 4:

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;
by it You have renewed the corrupted nature of mankind, O almighty One.
By it You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//
for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.
By descending to hell, O almighty God,
You broke the bonds of death.

Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://
“Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!”

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.
You delivered the human race from corruption,//
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

Come, O people,
let us sing of the Savior’s Resurrection on the third day!
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.
By it, we have received life and incorruption.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
Life-creating and almighty Savior, glory to You!

Angels and mortals sing of Your Resurrection on the third day, O Savior.
By it, the ends of the earth have been illuminated.
By it we have been delivered from bondage to the enemy.
Save us by Your Resurrection!//
Life-creating and almighty Savior, Glory to You!

You have shattered the gates of brass
and destroyed the chains of death, O Christ God.
You have raised the fallen human race.//
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Anna, tone 4:

You faithfully observed the law
And worked unceasingly for God the Creator.
He granted you motherhood, O Anna:
Your child brought forth Christ in the flesh.
With the Virgin Mother we honor you,//
And celebrate today your holy dormition.

O divinely-wise Anna,
you gave birth to the bearer of Life.
You presented your pure child to a life with God.
Together with the heavenly hosts,
you rejoice in the riches from on high.
We commemorate your falling asleep,//
and on this day we honor the Divine Wisdom in faith.

Having divine wisdom, you gave birth to the Door of Heaven,

and you achieved heavenly glory forever.
We celebrate your holy dormition, O Anna,
and ask you to pray that the turmoil of passions not destroy us, //
and that we be spared from fear and desolation.

tone 1:

Behold, a bright festival and a radiant day bringing joy to the world,
the holy and praiseworthy falling asleep of Anna of great fame,
from whom was born the bearer of Life,
the living Ark who contained the uncontainable Word,
the release from despondency, the cause of joy, //
who bestows great mercy upon all the faithful.

GLORY... for the Saint, tone 8:

The blameless pair, from whose fruitless loins,
sprang forth the holy branch, the Theotokos,
from whom dawns upon the world the salvation that is Christ our God,
the holy couple, Joachim and Anna,
have now been translated to the heavenly dwellings,
with their own daughter, the most pure Virgin,
and they celebrate with the Angels, as they intercede for the world.
We also come together and devoutly sing their praise, saying:
“You who have become the Forebearers of Christ,
through the child of God and all-pure Mary, //
intercede on behalf of our souls!”

NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatic in tone 4:

The Prophet David was a Father of the Lord through you, O Virgin.
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in you:
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,
since God was freely born of her without a father.
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder
and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly pow’rs. //
Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

APOSTIKHA: all stikhera of the resurrection in tone 4:

You have annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race. //
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,

You shook all of creation.

By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//

Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

The lawless people, O Christ,

handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,

thus proving themselves ungrateful before their benefactor.

But voluntarily You endured burial,

rising by Your own power on the third day as God,//

granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

With tears the women reached Your tomb,

searching for You, but not finding You.

They wept with wailing and lamented:

“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,

how were you stolen?

What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”

An angel replied to them:

“Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,//

Granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

GLORY... NOW AND EVER... for the Saint, tone 8:

Come together, all creation,

let us praise the divinely-wise Anna with cymbals and psalms!

Through her womb she gave birth to the divine mountain.

Today she is translated to the spiritual mountain and mansions of Paradise.

Let us cry out to her:

“Blessed is your womb, which bore the one who carried the Light of the world in her
womb!

Entreat Him that He may deliver us from all tribulation and assaults of the Enemy,//
and that He may save our souls!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel

The joyous message of Thy Resurrection;

They cast away the ancestral curse

And elatedly told the apostles;

Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,

Granting the world great mercy.

Saint Anna, tone 4

Divinely wise Anna,

You carried in your womb the pure mother of God, who gave life to our Life.

Therefore, you are now carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven,

To the abode of those who rejoice in glory,

Where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honor you, ever blessed
one.