

**October 1, 2021**  
**Protection of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary**

Troparion:

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy illumined by your coming, O Mother of God. Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you: "Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection; deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, your Son and our God that He may save our souls."

Kontakion:

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and bishops worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone (Song of the Theotokos):

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(Vs.) For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb. 9-1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

Alleluia Verses:

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

(Vs.) The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also seated herself at the Lord's feet, and listened to His word. But Martha was worried about much serving. And she came up and said, "Lord, is it no concern of yours that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her therefore to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her." Now it came to pass as He was saying these things, that a certain woman from the crowd lifted up her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you." But He said, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."