February 7th
After-Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord in the Temple
Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 2
Special melody: O house of Ephratha

Adapted by Rassem El Massih

1) Open, ye Heaven's gates; for by a Virgin Mother

is Christ brought forth and offered to God the Father

now in the Temple as a new-born babe.

Verse: Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

2) Christ, the live Coal foreseen by the divine Isaiah,

is given to the Elder upon the Theotokos's spotless hands as though with tongs.

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Verse: A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

3) Holding the Sovereign Lord in arms with joy and trembling,

great Simeon the Elder besought release from life as he hymned the Mother of our God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

4) Carrying in her arms the Master and Creator become a newborn infant, the pure and spotless Virgin doth enter in the Temple's courts.