December 9th

Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna

Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: Rejoice

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Rev. 1, 11/14/18, CAH

1) Anna, the worthy name sake of grace,

as she was praying for a child, cried aloud to God,

the Maker and Lord of all things: O Adonai Sabaoth,

Thou well knowest what reproach the childless bear;

do Thou then Thyself dispel the great sorrow within my heart,

and do Thou open wide the floodgates that bar my womb;

her that hath no fruit, do Thou show forth as bearing fruit,

that we might bring the child which shall be born as a gift to Thee,
even while blessing and praising and glorifying with one accord Thy tender compassion,
whereby pardon and great mercy is granted to the world.

2) Anna the chaste was praying of old,
and while entreat ing God with firm and undoubting faith,
she heard the voice of an Angel that gave assurance to her,
promising divine fulfillment of her prayers;
the bodiless minister then declared to her openly:
Thy supplication is come nigh and hath reached the Lord;

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put away thy tears; be not downcast nor sorrowful.

For thou shalt truly be a fruitful olive tree putting forth a comely branch, even Mary, the Virgin who shall bear in the flesh Christ Jesus, the Flower, Who bestoweth His great mercy and peace upon the world.

3) Now doth the hallowed yoke pair bring forth the godly heifer, whence shall come forth the Fatted Calf ineffably in a marvel; and He shall freely be slain truly for the whole world as a sacrifice.
For which cause, with joyful hearts they both offer unceasing thanks

in great compunction to the Master and God of all,

and from this day forth they have all the world in their debt.

Let us then call them blessed, and with faith, dance for godly joy

on the all-hallowed conception of her that

chastely was born of them: our God's Virgin Mother,

even her through whom great mercy is richly given forth.