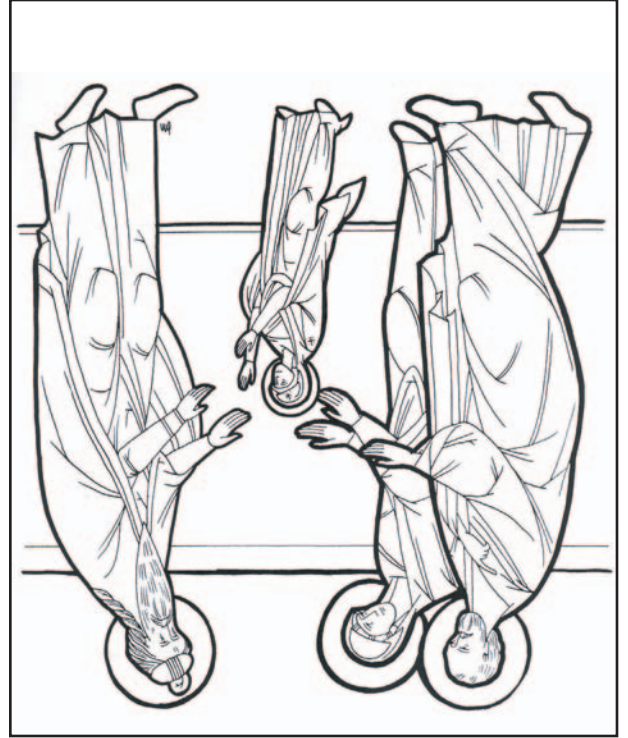


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Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of  
the pleasure of God, and the beginning of  
the preaching of the salvation of  
mankind. Thou hast appeared in the  
Temple of God openly and hast gone before,  
preaching Christ to all. Let us shout  
with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice,  
O thou who art the fulfillment of  
the Creator's dispensation.

Troparion



### Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple

November 21 / December 4

When she was three years old, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, brought Mary to the temple to be consecrated, a common practice for Jewish families of that time. After the high priest Zachariah greeted Mary in the temple, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to lead her into the Holy of Holies. Everyone was amazed at this, because only the high priest was allowed to enter this sacred dwelling place of God, and then only once a year. This sacred event is celebrated on November 21/December 4, when the faithful sing, "The all-pure temple of the Savior today entered the temple of the Lord; for she is the heavenly tabernacle."

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