December 9th
Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 4
Special melody: Thou who wast called from on high
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

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1) Having past hope borne as fruit the holy Virgin,
who shall give birth in the flesh unto the God of all,

once barren Anna is radiant with jubilation,

rejoicing, dancing, and crying mightily:

All ye tribes of Israel, rejoice with me today,

who have conceived, casting off the blame I had when childless;

the Benefactor hath hearkened to my prayer,

and in His goodness, He hath been well pleased
to heal all of the pains of my grieving heart
through the pangs of my child - - - birth,

e - ven as of old He prom - ised me.

2) He that made wa - ter to well up from a dry rock

grant - eth now the Ev - er - vir - gin La - dy to thy womb

as fruit, O An - na, and it is she from whom the wa -

t of our sal - va - tion _ shall is - sue forth for us;

no more dost thou so - journ on the earth as fruit - less earth;

thou art es - tranged from re - proach hence - forth, for thou shalt bring forth

the earth that bear - eth the Wheat of Life Him - self,
and He shall take away every reproach from all mortals, as he is well pleased to do, through His bowels of mercy being formed in what was not His own.

3) The Prophets' mystic predictions find fulfilment, for the holy mountain is established in the womb; the great majestic throne of the King is being readied; and the divine ladder hath been planted firm; on the earth, the place where God doth walk hath been prepared;

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the bush that burned not doth now begin to bud and sprout forth

and the myrrh ves sel of holiness doth now

well forth to check the streams of barrenness

of chaste Anna, the eldress of godly mind;

let us all call her blessed,

while ex toll ing her with fervent faith.