November 21: The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
Stichera of the Praises (on Sunday)
Tone 1, Special Melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."
Seven Lakes Hermitage Melody

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance,

I-descant
II-chant
melody

Praise Him with strings and flute.

The vir-gins bear-ing lamps, who with their light accompany the ev-er

Vir-gin,_ ver-ily prophesy the future in Spi-rit.

for the Temple of God, the The-o-to-kos,_ en-ters with

virginal glory
vir-gin-al glo-ry as a little child into the tem-ple.

Stichos: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation.

Let ev-ery breath praise the Lord.

The The-o-to-kos, glorious fruit of a sa-cred pro-mise,

is tru-ly revealed unto the world as higher than all cre-a-tion.
Pi-ously led into the house of God, she fulfills the vow of her parents and she is preserved by the Holy Spirit.

**Stichos:** The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King,

Those near her shall be brought unto the King.

O Virgin, fed in faith by heavenly bread in the temple of the Lord,
thou hast brought forth unto the world the Bread of life that is the Word; and as His chosen temple without spot,
thou wast betrothed mystically through the Spirit, to be the Bride of God the Father.
*Stichos:* They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing,

They shall be brought into the temple of the King.

Let the gate of the temple wherein God dwells be opened:

for Joachim brings within today in glory

the Temple and Throne of the King of all,

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and he consecrates as an offering to God her whom the Lord has chosen to be His Mother.

Stichera translation from the "The Festal Menaion", Faber and Faber, London, ©1969, Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos Timothy Ware

Psalm verse translation from "The Psalter According to the Seventy", Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline MS, ©1987


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