

October 1

THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

*At Vespers, at Ps 140, we sing these stikhiry in Tone I [O divnoje chudo – O marvelous wonder]*

O pure Theotokos,  
you are a great protection to those in affliction,  
a speedy helper,  
the salvation of the world and its confirmation,  
an abyss of mercy, source of God's Wisdom,  
the protection of the world.

Let us sing, O Faithful,  
ineffably praising her radiant stole:  
Rejoice, o joyous one,  
the Lord is with you,  
granting the world - through you - great mercy.

Isaiah prophesied wondrously,  
for, he said,

“In the last days the Lord's mountain will be revealed  
and the house of the Lord on the summit of the mountain.”

And we indeed have seen the true fulfillment of this prophecy in you,

O Lady,  
for the mountains and hills are adorned  
with temples in the many names of your feasts.  
Wherefore with joy we cry out to you:  
Rejoice, o joyous one,  
the Lord is with you,  
granting the world - through you - great mercy.

O! You are the wondrous beauty to all the faithful,  
the true fulfillment of prophecy,  
the glory of the apostles and the adornment of the Martyrs,  
the boast of virginity,  
and the most wonderful protection for all the world.

With the cloak of your mercy,  
O Theotokos,  
protect all the Orthodox people who cry out:  
Rejoice, o joyous one,  
the Lord is with you,

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granting the world - through you - great mercy.

*Then these stikhiry in Tone IV {Os gennaion en martysin - Jako doblja – As one noble among the martyrs}*

O Theotokos,  
we see that you are like the Paradise planted by God,  
the place of the tree of Life watered by the Holy Spirit,  
for we recognize you as the one who gave birth to the God of all,  
Who nourishes the faithful with the bread of life.  
Together with the Forerunner,  
pray to Him for us,  
and with your pure stole,  
protect your Orthodox people from ev'ry attack.

Heaven and earth are sanctified,  
and the church is made radiant  
and all peoples rejoice:  
for behold, the Mother of God, with the armies of angels,  
with the Forerunner and the Theologian,  
with the Prophets and the Apostles,  
invisibly has entered.  
She prays Christ for Christians, the He have mercy on this city and  
people,  
who glorify the feast of her Protection.

O Theotokos,  
you are the beauty of Jacob,  
the heavenly ladder,  
on which the Lord came down to earth.  
In these things, images of your purity and glory were revealed.  
The angels in heaven and men on earth bless you,  
who gave birth to the God of all,  
for you pray for the whole world,  
by your mercy protecting those who keep your noble feast.

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Glory... both now and ever...., *Tone VI*

The leaders of the noetic hosts rejoice with us,  
gathered in spirit into a sensible choir,  
seeing the Queen and Lady of all  
glorified by the faithful with many titles.  
The souls of the just also rejoice,  
for they are witnesses of the vision,  
seeing her in the air, stretching out her most pure hands in prayer,  
asking peacefulness for the world,  
strength and confirmation for Orthodox Christians,  
and salvation for our souls.