

The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century. On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, the Fool-for-Christ St Andrew, at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard." On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Reflection from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, October 1st, 2017

Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos; St. Romanus the Melodist

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Hebrews 9:1-7
Gospel Luke 6: 31-36; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion (*for the Protection*)

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God. Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee: "Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection; deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,// that He may save our souls."

Tone 4 Troparion (*for Venerable Romanus*)

Thou didst gladden Christ's Church by thy melodies like an inspired heavenly trumpet. Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God and didst shine on the world as God's poet.// We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 8 Kontakion (*for Venerable Romanus*)

Thou wast adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit; thou wast a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all

-wise Romanus, for thou didst make it lovely with beautiful hymnody. Therefore we entreat thee, grant thy divine gift to those who desire it, that we may cry out to thee: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!"

Tone 3 Kontakion (*for the Protection*)

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and bishops worship, Apostles and Prophets rejoice together,// since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, October 1st - *Protection of the Theotokos*

- 9:00 AM - Baptism of Anna Johnson
- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, October 4th - *Hieromartyr Hirotheus*

- 6:45 AM - Coffee and Books

Thursday, October 5th - *Ss Peter, Aleksy, Philip, Jonah, and Germogen*

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers for Apostle Thomas and St. Innocent

Saturday, October 7th - *Martyr's Sergius and Bacchus*

- 7:00 PM - Readers Vespers
- Father Nicholas Away