Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones, has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth. He, Who in wisdom established the heavens, has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind; for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,
ev - en His Moth - er. O God of wonders and Hope of the

hope - less, // O Lord, glo - ry to You!

This is the day of the Lord! Re - joice, O peo - ple,

for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life,

has come forth from the womb! The gate that faces the East is born
and awaits the entry of the Great Priest. She alone admits Christ

into the world // for the salvation of our souls.

Although by God's will other barren women have brought forth famous offspring, yet, of all those children Mary shines brightest, as is fitting to God. For she herself was born wondrously of a
barren mother, and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,
in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed. She is the
only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God, Who passed through
this gate yet kept it closed, and, having ordered all things in His own
wisdom, has wrought salvation for all mankind.
Today the gates of barrenness are opened, and the virgin gate of God comes forth. Today grace begins to bear its first fruit, revealing to the world the Mother of God. Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens for the salvation of our souls.

Today is the prelude of universal joy; today breezes blow...
that herald salvation, and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled;

for the barren woman is revealed as the mother of her who remained a virgin after giving birth to the Creator. From her the One Who is God by nature takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own; and works salvation through the flesh for those who
have gone a-stray. He is Christ, the Lover of mankind and the Redeemer of our souls.

Today the barren Anna gives birth to the hand-maid of God, who was chosen from all generations to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God in fulfillment of the
di-vine plan. Through her we earth-born have been fash-ioned a-new // and restored from corruption to life e-ter-nal.