

November 21st. Readings at Vespers.

(1) The Reading is from Exodus. *(40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35)*

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “On the first day of the first month you shall set up the Tent of the Testimony, and you shall put in it the Ark and cover it with the veil. You shall bring in the table and the lampstand; and you shall set there a golden altar to burn incense before the Ark of the Testimony. And you shall put a covering on the door of the Tent of the Testimony. Then you shall take the oil of anointing and anoint the Tent and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its vessels; and it shall be holy. And you shall consecrate the Altar of Burnt Offerings; it shall be most holy.” And Moses did all that the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel had commanded him. And a cloud covered the Tent of the Testimony and the glory of the Lord filled the Tent. Moses was not able to enter the Tent of the Testimony, because the cloud overshadowed it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tent.

(2) The Reading is from the Third Book of Kings. *(7:51; 8:1, 3-4, 5, 6-7, 9-11)*

It came to pass when Solomon had finished building the House of the Lord, he assembled all the elders of Israel in Zion, to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Zion. And the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, the Tent of the Testimony, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tent of the Testimony. And the King and all Israel went before the Ark. And the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the Temple, into the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the Ark so that the cherubim made a covering above the Ark and its holy things above. There was nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of the Covenant which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord had made a Covenant. And when the priests came out from the holy place, a cloud filled the house. And the priests were unable to stand to minister because of the presence of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord God Almighty filled the house.

(3) The Reading is from the Prophet Ezekiel. *(43:27 - 44:4)*

Thus says the Lord: “It shall be from the eighth day and onwards, the Priests shall make your whole burnt sacrifices on the altar, and those shall be for your salvation; and I shall accept you,” says the Lord Adonai. And he turned me back by the way of the outer gate of the Holy Place, which looks towards the east, and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: “This gate shall be shut, and it shall not be opened; and no one shall pass through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, will enter through it, and it shall be shut. Therefore the prince will sit in it to eat bread. He will enter by way of the gate Elam, and by that way he will go out.” And he brought me by the way of the gate to the Holy Place, towards the North, opposite the House; and I saw, and behold the house of the Lord was full of glory.