

**SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018**  
**+ Birthday of John the Baptist**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Tone 3 & Eothinón 4**

**VESPERS**

**Lord I have cried**

Tone 3

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,  
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

O Lord, listen to me.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.

O Christ our Saviour, the dominion of death has been shattered by your cross and the deception of the Devil has been destroyed. The human race which has been saved by faith always offers you a hymn.

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.

O Lord, everything has been enlightened by your resurrection and Paradise has been re-opened. The whole creation praises you and continually offers you a hymn.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;

O Lord listen to my voice.

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son, and I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit, the undivided, uncreated Divinity, the consubstantial Trinity who reigns for all time.

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.

O Christ, we bow down in worship before your precious cross. We glorify and praise your resurrection, for we have all been healed by your wounds.

## Tone 4

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

John is born and he ends Zachariah's silence. The father cannot keep silent when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born. When at first, he did not believe, his tongue was silenced, but now John has been born to free his father. He is the voice of the Word, the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;  
 my soul has waited for your word,  
 my soul has hoped in the Lord.

Today the voice of the Word is born and releases the voice of Zachariah. He reveals the harvest of the Church and frees the bonds of infertility. The candlestick of the Light is approaching. The ray of the sun proclaims his coming for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord from morning watch until night,  
 from morning watch.

The messenger of God's Word comes from the womb. He is the greatest among those born of women and the highest among the prophets.

Wonderful events precede the divine mystery. *There was* a fruitfulness beyond age, followed by a conception without seed. You have worked miracles for our salvation. Glory to you!

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord  
 and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

Today the prophet and Forerunner appears from the womb. *He is* John the baptiser of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he saw the Queen come to her servant, carrying in her womb the timeless God, he leapt in his mother's womb and sang for joy.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord; every people, acclaim him!

Most glorious wonder! Zachariah asked the angel of the Word, "How can Elizabeth conceive and bear a son? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." For his unbelief, he was condemned to silence. Yet today he sees the birth and resumes his speech. He enters into joy, and

cries out, “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people; he has granted the world great mercy.”

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us  
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Most praised John, universal Apostle, you are the good news of Gabriel, the fruit of infertility, the holy and just flower of the desert and the dear friend of the Bridegroom, Christ. Plead with him to save our souls.

Glory: Tone 6

Today the Forerunner heralds the coming of the Word of God; today Zachariah's tongue is freed from silence, for the father cannot remain silent at the birth of the Forerunner who will boldly proclaim the world's rescue.

Both now: Tone 3

All-honoured *Virgin*, how can we not wonder at your giving birth to the *Lord* who is God and man? For, all-pure *Lady* without experience of man, you gave birth to a Son in the flesh who was begotten without mother from the Father before time. He underwent no mingling, change or division, but preserved the attributes of each nature. Therefore, O Lady and virgin Mother, plead with him to save the souls of those who acknowledge you in the Orthodox manner to be the Theotokos.

### **Phos Ilarón**

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory  
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,  
when we come to the setting of the sun  
and see the light of evening,  
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you  
with voices of praise,  
O Son of God *and* Giver of life.  
Therefore the world glorifies you.

### **Prokeímenon**

P/D: The Evening Prokeimenon

R: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.

S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

### Prophecies

1: From the Book of Genesis (17:15-17, 19, 18:11-14, 21:1-8)

In those days God said to Abraham, "As for Sar'ai your wife, you shall not call her name Sar'ai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" <sup>19</sup>God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring and Sarah will have a son." The Lord visited Sarah as he had said and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham called the name of his son, who was born to him and who Sarah bore for him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup>And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; every one who hears will laugh over me." <sup>7</sup>And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would suckle children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." <sup>8</sup>And the child grew and was weaned; Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

2: From the Book of Judges (13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21)

In those days there was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Mano'ah. His wife was barren and had no children. <sup>3</sup>And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "See, you are barren and have no children, but you will conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup>Therefore beware, drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, <sup>5</sup>for see, you will conceive and bear a son. No razor must come on his

head, for the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the hand of the Philistines." <sup>6</sup>Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me. His appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very terrible. I did not ask him from where he came and he did not tell me his name; <sup>7</sup>but he said to me, 'See, you will conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'" <sup>8</sup>Then Mano'ah pleaded with the Lord and said, "O, Lord, I pray you, let the man of God whom you sent come again to us, and teach us what we are to do with the boy that will be born." <sup>13</sup>And the angel of the Lord said to Mano'ah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her beware. <sup>14</sup>She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded her let her observe." <sup>17</sup>And Mano'ah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honour you?" <sup>18</sup>And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?" <sup>21</sup>The angel of the Lord appeared no more to Mano'ah and to his wife. Then Mano'ah knew that he was the angel of the Lord.

3: From the Prophet Isaiah (40:1-3, 9, 41:17-18, 45:8, 48:20-21, 54:1)

Thus says the Lord:

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem  
and cry to her,  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her lawlessness is pardoned,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries,  
"Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness;  
make straight a highway for our God in the desert.

<sup>9</sup>Go up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings.  
Lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings;  
lift it up *and* do not fear.

Say to the cities of Judah,

"See your God!"

<sup>17</sup>When the poor and needy seek water  
and there is none,

and their tongue is parched with thirst,

I the Lord will answer them;

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

<sup>18</sup>I will open rivers on the bare heights  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys.

I will make the desert a pool of water  
and the dry land springs of water.

<sup>8</sup>O heavens, shower from above  
and let the skies rain down justice.

Let the earth open that salvation may sprout  
and let it also cause justice to spring up;

I the Lord have created it.

<sup>20</sup>Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea;  
declare this with a shout of joy.

Proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth  
*and* say, "The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!"

<sup>21</sup>They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts;  
he made water flow for them from the rock  
he struck the rock and the water gushed out.

<sup>1</sup>"Sing, O barren *woman* who did not bear;  
break into singing and cry aloud,  
you who have not been in labour!

For the children of the desolate one will be more  
than the children of the one who is married,  
says the Lord.

## **Ektení**

### **Prayer**

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs

praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

### **Plirotiká**

#### **Prayer**

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit

D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*Amen.*

### **Apósticha**

#### Tone 3

O Christ, you darkened the sun by your passion and enlightened the whole creation with the light of your resurrection. O Lover of the human race, accept our evening hymn.

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;

the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. Ps 92

O Lord, your life-bearing resurrection enlightened the whole inhabited earth and recalled your creation which had become corrupt. Therefore we, who are rescued from the curse of Adam, sing, “O almighty Lord, glory to you!”

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. Ps 92

You are the changeless God, yet were changed by suffering in the flesh.

Because creation could not endure seeing you on the cross, it was filled with fear, yet praised your patience. You have granted the world life and great mercy by descending into Hades and rising on the third day.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. Ps 92

O Christ, you endured death in order to rescue our human race from death.

You rose from the dead on the third day, raised with you those who knew you as God and enlightened the world. Glory to you!

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

Elizabeth greeted the Virgin Mary, “Why is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me? You bear the King, and I, his soldier. You bear the Lawgiver, and I, the herald. You bear the Word, and I, the voice, which preaches the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **Song of Simeon**

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace  
 according to your word,  
<sup>2</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
 which you have prepared before all peoples,  
<sup>3</sup> a light of revelation for *the* nations  
 and *the* glory of your people Israel.

### **Triságion Prayers**

#### **Apolytíkiá**

Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He has trampled down death by death and become the first born from the dead. He has rescued us from the depths of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

Tone 4

O prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honour you in love on your birthday. For by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's infertility; you proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in a union without confusion and freely endured the cross for us by his own will. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

#### **Dismissal**

### **ORTHROS**

**God is the Lord Ps 117**

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,  
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,  
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing  
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

### **Apolytikia**

#### Tone 3

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#### Tone 3

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### **Small Litany**

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

## **Kathísma 1**

Tone 3

Christ is risen from the dead, the firstfruits of those who sleep. He is the firstborn of all creation and the Maker of everything created. He restored the corrupt nature of our race in himself. O Death, you will reign no more, for the Master of all has destroyed your power.

Glory: Tone 4

Today the bud of Zachariah has bloomed for us and brings joy to the minds and spirits of the faithful. He is the adornment of the desert and support of the prophets. Therefore he has been revealed as Christ's Forerunner and witness of his coming. Let us then cry out to the Baptist in unity as we sing songs of the Spirit. "O prophet and herald of the truth, intercede that we may be saved."

Both now: Tone 4

All-pure Virgin Theotokos, I implore you to heal the cruel sufferings of my soul. Grant me forgiveness of the sins which I, the wretched one, have mindlessly committed, polluting my soul and body. Woe is me! What shall I do at the hour when the angels separate my soul from my passion-ridden body? Be then my helper and most fervent intercessor, for I, your servant, have you as my hope.

## **Kathísma 2**

O Lord, Hades was dismayed when it saw your unchanging divinity, yet observed your voluntary passion. It mourned and said, "I tremble before the flesh of the incorruptible Person. I see the one who cannot be seen as he mysteriously fights me, while those I hold in my power are crying out, 'O Christ, glory to your resurrection!'"

Glory: Tone 8

O far-famed John, first among prophets, you were most gloriously born as the true herald of the coming of Christ, far-famed John. As the voice of the Word you cried, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." You prepared the way for the Lord and were revealed to the ends of the earth as the Forerunner of grace, the Baptist and Apostle. Plead with Christ our God to grant forgiveness of sins to those of us who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

Both now: Tone 8

All-holy virgin Theotokos, I pray to you, "Heal the passions of my soul and grant me to see my sins, for I have wounded my body and soul in my foolishness. Woe is me! What shall I do in the hour when the angels part my soul from my body? Be then, O Lady, a helper and a warm defender, for I, your unworthy servant, have you as my hope."

### **Evlogitária**

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them, Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb."

Glory:

We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:

O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)

O our God and our hope, glory to you.

### Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

### Ypakói

*Read without note*

The radiant angel caused amazement through his appearance and brought dew by his words to the myrrhbearing women, “Why do you seek the Living in a grave? The one who has emptied the tomb has risen and has changed corruption, *for he is the Lord* without change. Say to God, ‘How fearful are your works, for you have saved the human race!’”

### Anaváthmi Tone 3

Antiphon 1 Ps 125

O Word, you freed the captivity of Zion from Babylon,  
so pull me from the passions of life in the same way.

Those who sow divine tears in the South  
will reap everlasting sheaves with joy.

Glory: Both now:

Every good gift comes from the Holy Spirit,  
for he is radiant, together with the Father and the Son;  
everything lives and moves in him.

Antiphon 2 Ps 126

If the Lord had not built the house of virtues,  
then we would labour in vain;

while he protects the soul no one destroys our city.

The saints are always like the fruit of the womb for you;

O Christ, they have been adopted as sons by the Father  
through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Glory: Both now:

All wisdom and holiness are observed in the Holy Spirit,  
for he is the essence of all creation.

Let us worship him with the Father and the Word,  
for he is God.

Antiphon 3 Ps 127

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways;  
 for they eat the life-giving fruits of the commandments.  
 O chief Shepherd, rejoice as you see your children  
 who carry branches of good deeds around your table.

Glory: Both now:

All richness of glory is the Holy Spirit's  
 and from him come grace and life for all creation,  
 for he is praised with the Father and the Word.

### **Prokeimenon Ps 95**

R: Say among the nations that the Lord reigns,  
 and has founded the world which will not be moved.

S: Sing to the Lord a new song.

### **Small Litany**

For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up  
 glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and  
 for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

### **Kontákion**

Tone 3

The woman who had been infertile has become fruitful, and today gives  
 birth to the Forerunner of Christ. He is the greatest and last of the  
 prophets, for when he stood in the waters of the Jordan, he placed his  
 hands on Christ whom all the prophets had announced. By doing this he  
 became a prophet himself, a preacher and Forerunner of the Word of God.

### **Íkos**

Let us now praise the Forerunner of the Lord! Elizabeth has produced him  
 today from an unfruitful womb for the priest, yet not without seed. Only  
 Christ passed through an impassable dwelling without seed. An infertile  
 woman gave birth to John, but he was not born without the help of man. A  
 pure Virgin, whom the Father and the Spirit of God overshadowed, bore  
 Jesus. The one who came from the infertile woman was revealed as a  
 prophet of the *Lord* who was born from a virgin without seed. *He was a*  
*preacher and forerunner of the Word of God.*

### **Synaxáron**

Today we remember the birthday of the honourable glorious prophet and forerunner, John the Baptist. He was born to be the Forerunner of the Messiah. (Luke 1:76) He was raised as a Nazarite. (They did not drink wine.) O Zachariah, rejoice! O wife, be glad, for every mother of a man can be envious! You have only one son rather than many, yet how great is this Forerunner born on the Twenty Fourth!

Together with him we also remember:

Abbot Anthony of Dymsk (Novgorod) C13

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

### **Katavasías**

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise all her glory.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, in your divine glory spiritually establish your choir which is assembled in chorus. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your mercy.

4: The counsel of God cannot be scrutinised. The Most High was incarnate from a Virgin. The prophet Habakkuk foresaw this and cried, “Glory to your power, O God!”

5: O Virgin, all creation was amazed at your divine glory, for you knew no man. You held thee God of all in your womb and gave birth to the eternal Son. You order salvation for all those who praise you.

6: O devout people, come and clap hands while we observe this divine and most precious feast of the Mother of God. Let us glorify God who was born from her.

7: The devout youths worshipped the Creator rather than created things. They courageously trampled on the threatening fire and joyfully sang, “Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers.”

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The *Lord* who was born from the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. The one who was then prefigured has now been born on earth and

gathers the whole inhabited earth to sing, “All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

### **Gospel Dialogue**

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in his mighty firmament. Ps 50

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

### **Eothinón Gospel 4**

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:1-12)

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; <sup>5</sup> and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

## Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord and praise his resurrection. For he has destroyed death by death by enduring the cross for us.

## Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy  
 and wipe out my offence through your great pity.  
<sup>4</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act  
 and cleanse me from my sin,  
<sup>5</sup> for I know my lawlessness  
 and my sin is always before me.  
<sup>6</sup> I have sinned against you alone  
 and done what is evil before you  
<sup>6b</sup> so that you might be right in your words  
 and overcome when you are judged,  
<sup>7</sup> for see, I was conceived in lawlessness  
 and my mother desired me in sin,  
<sup>8</sup> for see, you have loved truth  
 and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.  
<sup>9</sup> You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
 you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.  
<sup>10</sup> You will make me hear about joy and gladness;  
 humbled bones will rejoice.  
<sup>11</sup> Turn your face from my sins  
 and wipe out all my lawlessness.  
<sup>12</sup> O God, make a pure heart within me  
 and renew an upright spirit within me.  
<sup>13</sup> Do not banish me from your presence  
 or remove your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>14</sup> Restore your saving joy to me  
 and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.  
<sup>15</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways

and the ungodly will return to you.

<sup>16</sup> O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,  
*then* my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

<sup>17</sup> O Lord, you will open my lips  
and my mouth will announce your praise,

<sup>18</sup> for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;  
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

<sup>19</sup> Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;  
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

<sup>20</sup> O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,

<sup>21</sup> then you will be pleased with a just sacrifice,  
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;  
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the apostles.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy:

Jesus has risen from the tomb as he foretold  
and grants us eternal life and great mercy.

### **Intercession**

#### *Short form*

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the holy Prophet and Forerunner John, and of all the saints.

We ask you, only merciful Lord, “Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us.”

*Lord have mercy. X12*

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

### Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.  
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;  
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

<sup>2</sup> For he has regarded his servant’s humility;  
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

<sup>3</sup> For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me  
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation  
on those who fear him. R:

<sup>4</sup> He has accomplished strength with his arm  
*and* scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

<sup>5</sup> He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones  
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*  
and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:

<sup>6</sup> He has helped his servant Israel  
in remembering his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: Let every earthborn mortal spiritually rejoice and carry lamps. be  
radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers  
celebrate as they honour the sacred wonders of the Theotokos and cry,  
“Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!”

### **Small Litany**

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

### **Holy is the Lord**

Holy is the Lord our God. *X3*

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.  
for he is holy.

### **Exaposteilária**

Tone 4

Let us be radiant and shine with virtues while we see the angel in brilliant clothing as he stands inside the tomb. He brought life to the downcast faces of the myrrhbearing women. Let us learn about the resurrection of the Lord of heaven. Let us hurry to the tomb with Peter and wonder at the great event. Let us wait to see Christ the Life.

Tone 3

Today the joyful birth of the Forerunner loosens the tongue of his father and the infertility of his mother. He proclaims the coming joy and gladness. Therefore all creation joins in keeping this feast.

O pure Theotokos, the prophets announced, the apostles taught and the holy martyrs openly acknowledged your Son to be God of all. Together with them, we glorify you, for we have been saved through you from the ancestral condemnation.

### **Praises**

Tone 3

Let everything with breath  
praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.  
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his powers.  
To you, O God, is due a song.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.

Come, every nation, and learn the power of the awesome mystery, for Christ our Saviour, who is the Word from the beginning, was crucified and willingly suffered burial for our sake. He rose from the dead so that he might save all things; let us worship him.

S7: Praise God in his saints;  
praise him in his mighty firmament.

O Lord, your guards spoke about all the wonders, but the deluded council filled their right hands with gifts, imagining that they would then conceal your resurrection which the world glorifies. Have mercy on us!

S6: Praise him for his mighty *deeds*;  
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.

Everything was filled with joy on learning the proof of the resurrection. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found an angel in radiant clothing sitting on the stone. He said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen as he foretold; he goes ahead of you to Galilee."

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp.

O Master, we see light in your light. For you have risen from the dead and, as the Lover of the human race, grant salvation to man, so that the whole creation may glorify you, the only sinless *Lord*. Have mercy on us!

Tone 8

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;  
praise him with strings and flute.

Most glorious wonder! John the Forerunner of God the Word hurries to come from an aged womb. He allows the bound tongue to speak clearly and sweetly by his birth. Glory to your ineffable dispensation, by which you save our souls, O Christ, for you alone are compassionate!

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;  
praise him with joyful cymbals.  
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

Most glorious wonder! Among those born of women, the greatest of prophets loosens the reproach of a mother's infertility. He comes in the strength and spirit of Ilías to prepare the way of the Lord. Glory to your ineffable dispensation, by which you save our souls, O Christ, for you alone are compassionate!

S2: Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people. Lk 2

Most glorious wonder! The one who announced the birth of Christ to the human race, reveals every heavenly matter by his voice. By being born he destroys infertility with divine strength and releases the voice of Zachariah. O Master, your marvellous works are great! Through them, save those who honour your great Forerunner.

S1: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Most glorious wonder! The prophet and Forerunner is revealed from above. He is the greatest among those born of women, the highest of prophets, and the Forerunner of the coming of Christ. He leapt in his mother's womb. O Lover of the human race, your gifts are great! O Christ, save our souls through them, for you are all-powerful.

Glory: Tone 6

Today the Forerunner John, the star of stars, and the cherished *man* of God, is born on earth from an infertile womb. He reveals the faith which dawns from the heights and prepares a true Passover for the faithful.

Both now: Tone 2

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the One who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled. The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was. Glory to you!

### **Great Doxology**

Glory to you who have shown us the light!  
glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

<sup>2</sup> We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,  
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

- <sup>3</sup> O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,  
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,  
and you, O Holy Spirit!
- <sup>4</sup> O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us,  
*for* you take away the sin of the world.
- <sup>5</sup> Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right of the Father,  
and have mercy on us.
- <sup>6</sup> For only you are holy, only you are Lord,  
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless you every day  
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144
- <sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
to be guarded from sin.
- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!  
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3
- <sup>10</sup> O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,  
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.
- <sup>16</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord!  
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118
- <sup>12</sup> O Lord, you have been our refuge  
from generation to generation. Ps 89
- I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40
- <sup>14</sup> O Lord, I have fled to you;  
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142
- <sup>15</sup> For with you is the source of life  
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35
- <sup>16</sup> Stretch out your mercy  
to those who know you. Ps 35

## Triságion

### Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. When he destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

## LITURGY

### Antiphon 1 Ps 91

S1: It is good to thank the Lord  
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning  
and your truth by night,

S3: For the Lord our God is upright  
and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

### Antiphon 2 Ps 92

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;  
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself,

R: Save us, O Son of God.  
You arose from the dead  
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he founded the world  
which will not be moved.

S3: Your throne *was* made ready in the past;  
you are from eternity.

*Monogenes*

### Antiphon 3 Ps 94

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,  
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He has trampled down death by death and become the first born from the dead. He has rescued us from the depths of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving  
and gladly cry to him with psalms,  
S3: For the Lord is a great God  
and a high king over all the earth.

### **Entrance Ps 94**

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.  
Save us, O Son of God.  
You arose from the dead.  
We sing to you, “Alleluia!”

### **Apolytikia**

#### **Tone 3**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He has trampled down death by death and become the first born from the dead. He has rescued us from the depths of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

#### **Tone 4**

O prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honour you in love on your birthday. For by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's infertility; you proclaimed to the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

### *Of the Church*

### **Kontákion**

O unfailing protection of Christians and unchanging mediator before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to those of us who faithfully cry to you, “O Theotokos, you always protect those who honour you, so hurry to intercede for us and hasten to plead for us.”

### **Trisagion**

### **Prokeimenon Ps 63 Tone 7**

<sup>11</sup> The just will rejoice and hope in the Lord;  
all the upright in heart will be praised.

<sup>1</sup> O God, listen to my prayer when I plead with you;

rescue my soul from *the* fear of the enemy.

### **Apostolos**

From the Letter of Paul to Romans (13:11-14:4)

Brothers, you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

<sup>12</sup>The night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then throw out the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us conduct ourselves

becomingly as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and dissipation, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision to gratify the flesh its desires.

<sup>1</sup>As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats; for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

### **Alleluia Lk 1 Tone 1**

<sup>68</sup> Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

### **Gospel**

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:1-25, 57-68, 80)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theoph'ilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. <sup>5</sup> In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> Now while he

was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,<sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.<sup>10</sup> And the whole crowd of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.<sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.<sup>12</sup> And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John.<sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth;<sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord, and he will drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God,<sup>17</sup> and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Ilías, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."<sup>18</sup> And Zechari'ah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."<sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.<sup>20</sup> And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."<sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechari'ah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple.<sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb.<sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.<sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying,<sup>25</sup> "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."<sup>26</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son.<sup>27</sup> And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.<sup>28</sup> And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father,<sup>29</sup> but his mother said, "Not so; he will be called John."<sup>30</sup> And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name."<sup>31</sup> And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called.<sup>32</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John."<sup>33</sup> And they all marvelled.<sup>34</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.<sup>35</sup> And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these

things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> And his father Zechari'ah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

### **Communion Ps 111**

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia