

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018
+ Conception of the Forerunner
17th Sunday Tone 8 & Eothinón 6
Luke 1

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 8

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.

² 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, we offer you our evening hymn and reasonable worship, for you were pleased to have mercy on us by your resurrection.

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

O Lord *our* Lord, do not banish us from your face, but be pleased to have mercy on us by the resurrection.

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

O Lord listen to my voice.

Rejoice, O holy Zion, mother of the churches, dwelling place of God! For you were the first to receive remission of sins by the resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father, begotten before the ages, was incarnate in the latter times from the *woman* who was ignorant of marriage. He willingly endured crucifixion until death. By his resurrection he has saved man who was dead from the past.

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

But there is forgiveness with you.

O Christ, we glorify your resurrection from the dead by which you have freed the race of Adam from the tortures of Hades. As God you have granted the world eternal life and great mercy.

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.

Glory to you, O Saviour Christ, only begotten Son of God! You were nailed to the cross and raised from the tomb on the third day!

Tone 4

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

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

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

As the godly Zachariah sacrificed within the holy temple and offered up the petitions of the people to the Benefactor and all-merciful One, he saw the holy angel who cried to him, "Your prayer and petition have been heard. O priest, take courage and believe in me, for you will have a son, the holy Forerunner, who will be greater than all those born from women. *He will be* greater than Ilias in power and will go before Christ. X2

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

Zachariah replied, "You appear strange to me in sight and manner; strange in words and in report. For I have come to ask for the salvation of the people and not to acquire a son as you proclaim. I find you opposed to their request and fear you do not tell the truth. For how will what you say be believed? The limbs of Elizabeth have died and I am already aged. These are sure signs that I must not believe your words."

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

"O Zachariah, why do you not believe my words? Why do you say that I bear false news? As an archangel of God I stand with you; what I have been commanded is what I say to you. But since you were faithless and

have not believed, you will be dumb and speechless until you see the divine fulfilment of my words. When Elizabeth has given birth to the voice and great Forerunner of the Word, your tongue will be loosened and you will bless the God of Israel.

Glory: Tone 6

Today the fruit of prayer, John the Forerunner, comes into bud from an infertile womb. O wilderness, give glory! Dance, all people! See, the herald of repentance begins to take flesh in his mother's womb. O lovers of the feast, come and exult in his glorious conception as we cry out, "You are greater than those born of women. Do not cease to intercede for those who faithfully honour your divine conception so that we may receive forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

Both now: Tone 8

The King of Heaven, appeared on earth and lived with men because of his love for the human race. He took flesh from the pure Virgin and, after he had assumed it, came from her. The Son is one in two Natures, yet one Person. Therefore we truly proclaim him as perfect God and perfect man, and we acknowledge Christ as our God. O unwedded Mother, plead with him to have mercy on our souls.

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.

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 8

O Jesus you descended from heaven and ascended the cross. You *are* the immortal Life who came to death; *you are* the true Light for those in darkness *and* the Resurrection of all. Our Light and Saviour, glory to you!

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

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

Let us glorify Christ who rose from the dead. He took up soul and body, then separated them both in suffering. His most pure soul descended to Hades, which he plundered. The holy body of the Redeemer of our souls did not see corruption in the tomb.

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

O Christ, we glorify your resurrection from the dead with psalms and hymns. Through it you have freed us from the torments of Hades and, as God, have granted eternal life and great mercy.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. Ps 92
 O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth, you have brought about existence for me without passion by your passion on the cross. You accepted burial, rose in glory and raised Adam with you by your all-powerful hand. Glory to your resurrection on the third day through which you have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins, for you are the only compassionate *Lord!*

Glory: Tone 6

O Baptizer, you came as an angel from an infertile womb. You lived in the desert from the very *moment of* your swaddling clothes. You were revealed as the seal of all the prophets, for you were made worthy to baptize in the Jordan the one whom they saw in various ways and foretold in figures. You heard the voice of the Father come from heaven and bear witness to his sonship. You saw the Spirit in the form of a dove draw down the voice on the one who was baptized. Since you are greater than all the prophets, do not cease to intercede for us who celebrate your memory in faith.

Both now:

O Theotokos, you are the true vine who came into bloom for us with the Fruit of Life. O Lady we pray you, together with the Forerunner and all the saints to intercede with him so that he may have mercy on our souls.

Song of Simeon

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

Triságon Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 8

O merciful *Lord*, you descended from above and accepted the three-day burial in order to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to you!

Tone 4

Hail, O previously infertile *woman*! You have conceived the light of the Sun who will illuminate the whole inhabited earth which has been darkened by blindness. Rejoice, O Zachariah, and cry out with boldness, for the prophet of the Most High desires to be born!

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.

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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*

Kathisma 1

The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the tree and wrapped it in fine linen. He anointed it with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But, O Lord, you rose on the third day and granted the world great mercy.

Glory:

The angel stood at the tomb and cried to the myrrhbearing women, “Myrrh is correct for the dead, but Christ has revealed himself a stranger to corruption, so proclaim that the Lord is risen and grants the world great mercy.”

Both now:

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most glorious. We praise you, for Hades has been laid low and death has been slain through the cross of your Son. We were dead in sin, but have risen and been granted life. We have obtained Paradise, our former delight, therefore we thank and glorify Christ our God, for he alone is mighty and great in mercy.

Kathisma 2

You did not prevent the stone of the tomb from being sealed; you rose and granted the rock of faith to everyone. O Lord, glory to you.

Glory:

The choir of the disciples, joined the myrrhbearing women and rejoiced in unison. Therefore, together with them, we keep the feast to glorify and honour your resurrection. O Lord and Lover of the human race, grant your people great mercy through them.

Both now:

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for Hades has been captured through the *Lord* who was born from you. Adam has been recalled, the curse has been annulled, Eve has been set free, death has been slain and we have been granted life. Therefore we cry, "Blessed is Christ our God, who was so well-pleased! Glory to you!"

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

O Christ our God, the women went to the grave in order to anoint your body after the Passion. They saw angels in the tomb and were afraid, for they heard them say, “The Lord has risen and grants the world great mercy.

Anaváthmi

Antiphon 1 Ps 122

O Saviour, I raise the eyes of my heart towards you;
save me with your illumination.

O my Christ, have mercy on us,
for we frequently and at every hour give you grief;
give us the means to turn back to you before the end.

Glory: Both now:

The rule, blessing and control of creation are the Holy Spirit’s
for he is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Antiphon 2 Ps 123

If the Lord were not among us,
who could be protected from the murderous enemy?

O Saviour, do not hand over your servant to their teeth.
They move against me like a lion,
for they also are my enemies.

Glory: Both now:

The first cause of life and regal honour is the Holy Spirit’s,
for as God, he gives all creatures power,

and guards them in the Father and the Son.

Antiphon 3 Ps 124

Those who put their trust in the Lord are like the Holy Mountain;
they are never shaken by the attacks of Beliar.

Do not let those who live for God
stretch out their hands to lawless deeds,
for Christ will not set aside the rod for his inheritance.

Glory: Both now:

All wisdom streams from the Holy Spirit.
Grace comes from him to the Apostles;
the Martyrs are crowned for their struggles
and the Prophets are given vision.

Prokeímenon Ps 145

R: The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

S: Praise the Lord, O my soul.

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

Read without note

O almighty Saviour, Hades became afraid when it saw the miracle of your
resurrection from the tomb. The dead rose and creation, together with
Adam, saw this and rejoiced together with you. My Saviour, the world
praises you for ever.

Íkos

O Saviour, you are the light of those in darkness; you are the resurrection
of everyone and the life of mortals. O Word, when you despoiled the
might of death and shattered the gates of Hades, you raised us all with you.
O Lover of the human race, the dead saw this and wondered at the miracle
and all creation rejoiced together at your resurrection. Therefore, my
Saviour, we also glorify and praise your condescension and the world
praises you for ever.

Synaxárium

Today we celebrate the conception of the holy renowned prophet, forerunner and Baptist John. Elizabeth was at length able to conceive in her old age. The story reminds us of Sarah and Anna in the Old Testament. On the Twenty Third the one who went before his Master was conceived six months before him.

Together with him we remember:

Just Women Xanthippi and Polyxéne C2

Virgin Martyr Irais of Alexandria C4

Abbot Adomnan of Iona C8

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, strengthen those who are united in spiritual fellowship and who sing your praises. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your divine glory.

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 6

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:36-53)

At that time, when Jesus rose from the dead, he stood in the midst of his disciples, and said to them, "Peace be with you!"³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit.³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts?³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have."⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from

Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God. Amen.

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.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin,
⁵ for I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done what is evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be right in your words
and overcome when you are judged,
⁷ for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother desired me in sin,
⁸ for see, you have loved truth
and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
humbled bones will rejoice.

- ¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
- ¹² O God, make a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
- ¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹⁴ Restore your saving joy to me
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.
- ¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
- ¹⁶ O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
- ¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will announce your praise,
- ¹⁸ for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
- ¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
- ²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,
- ²¹ 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 Anna, of the holy renowned prophet, forerunner and Baptist John, and of holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and 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.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ 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:

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

⁵ 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:

⁶ 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 6

O Saviour, when you rose from the grave, you revealed yourself as human
 by nature. You stood in the midst of the disciples, ate with them, and
 taught them about the baptism of repentance. Then you ascended to your
 heavenly Father after promising to send them the Advocate. Glory to your
 resurrection, most divine and incarnate God!

Tone 2

The glorious Conception of the Forerunner announces beforehand the
 King who is soon to be born from the Virgin, for this child himself is born
 from infertile Elizabeth and the aged elder and priest Zachariah. O Lord,
 save and have mercy on the whole human race through their prayers,
 together with those of the Theotokos and John your Baptizer.

Those of us who have been saved from the ancient curse through your
 divine child bearing, cry out to you in joy and thanksgiving with the holy
 Archangel's greeting, "Hail! Hail, all pure *Lady*, virgin Theotokos, the
 rescuer of Adam! Hail, O revered *Virgin* through whom we escape death!
 Hail, for through you we gain the Kingdom of Heaven!

Praises

Tone 8

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.

O Lord, everything with breath glorifies you. For you, the only Lover of the human race, have destroyed death by your cross and revealed to the peoples your resurrection from the dead.

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

Do the Jews say that the soldiers who guarded the King destroyed him instead? Do they say that the stone did not preserve the Rock of life? Either let them give up the buried *Lord* or adore with us the one *who has* risen with us and say, “Glory to your great mercies! O Saviour, glory to you!”

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

O people, rejoice and be glad! An angel sitting on the stone has announced to us the glad news and said, “Christ, the Saviour of the world, has risen from the dead and filled everything with sweet fragrance.” O people, rejoice and be glad!

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

O Lord, before your conception an angel came with the greeting, “Hail!” to the *Lady* who was full of grace and an angel rolled the stone from your glorious tomb at your resurrection. The one announced the signs of joy in place of sorrow, the other proclaimed to us the life-giving Master in place

of death. Therefore we cry out to you, “O Lord and Benefactor of all, glory to you!”

Tone 1

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;

praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;

praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O prophet, forerunner and baptist John, creation rejoices in your conception. Your divine birth announces to us the birth of the Master. Therefore those of us who are on earth rightly praise you in unison. X2

S2: My child, you will be called the prophet of the Highest,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways. Lk 2

The angel found conception by an infertile woman to be a wonderful testimony and he offers it to Mary as a confirmation. Therefore we praise Elizabeth who once was infertile, together with her husband, Zachariah, and John.

S1: *We should* worship in holiness and justice before him
all the days of our life.

The divinely-prepared lamp of the eternal Light, the friend of the Bridegroom, the great morning star of the Sun of glory, the living voice of the Word of God, the Forerunner of the presence of the Lord, is now conceived at the announcement of an archangel.

Glory: Tone 6

O Christ, since you are the true peace of God to man, you granted peace to your disciples after your resurrection. You revealed their fear when they thought they saw a spirit, but by showing them your hands and feet, you eased the anxiety of their souls. They still doubted, but you took food with them, reminded them about your teaching and opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. You made the eternal covenant with them. After blessing them, you rose and ascended into heaven. Therefore, together with them, we worship you. O Lord, glory to you!

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!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ 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.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² 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

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life

and in your light we will see light. Ps 35
 16 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. After he had destroyed death by death, he

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

Antíphon 3 Ps 94

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

Tone 8

O merciful *Lord*, you descended from above and accepted the three-day burial in order to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to you!

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 8

O merciful *Lord*, you descended from above and accepted the three-day burial in order to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to you!

Tone 4

Hail, O previously infertile *woman*! You have conceived the light of the Sun who will illuminate the whole inhabited earth which has been darkened by blindness. Rejoice, O Zachariah, and cry out with boldness, for the prophet of the Most High desires to be born!

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.”

Triságion

Prokeimenon Ps 63 Tone 7

- ¹¹ The just will rejoice and hope in the Lord;
all the upright in heart will be praised.
¹ 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 the Galatians (4:22-27)

Brothers, Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written: "Be glad, O infertile woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labour pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

Alleluia Ps 91 Tone 4

- ¹³ The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹⁴ Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
will blossom in the courts of our God.

Sunday Luke 1

The call of the fishermen

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (5:1-11)

At that time while the people pressed upon Jesus to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. ² And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.
³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out

a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, ⁷ they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Communion Ps 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!