

**SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER 2018**  
**+Afterfeast of the Nativity of our Lord**  
**Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,**  
**James the brother of the Lord**  
**Martyr Anyisia of Thessalonica C3-4**  
**Venerable Meláni the Roman C5**  
*Transferred*  
**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday Tone 6 & Eothinón 9**

**VESPERS**

**Lord I have cried**

Tone 6

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, you were victorious over Hades. You ascended the cross  
and raised with you those who sat in the shadow of death, for you  
are free among the dead and pour out life from your light. O  
almighty Saviour, have mercy on us.

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.  
Today Christ has trampled on death, for he has risen as he said and  
granted joy to the world, so that we may all sing this hymn, "O  
unapproachable Light, Source of life, almighty Saviour, have mercy  
on us."

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;  
O Lord listen to my voice.  
O Lord, where shall we sinners flee from you, for you are in all  
creation? In Heaven? It is there that you live. In Hades? It is there  
that you trampled on death. In the depths of the sea? Even there is  
your hand, O Master. As we flee to you and fall down before you,  
we pray, "You rose from the dead; have mercy on us."

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.  
O Christ, we glory in your cross. We sing and honour your  
resurrection. For you are our God and we know no one else apart  
from you.

Tone 2

S6: O Lord *our* Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you.  
Come and greatly rejoice in the Lord as we speak about this present  
mystery. The dividing wall has been destroyed *and* the flaming  
sword turns back. The Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life  
and I partake of the delight of Paradise from which I was thrown out  
through disobedience. For the express image of the Father, the  
imprint of his Eternity, takes the form of a servant, and, without  
undergoing change, he comes from an unwedded mother. For what  
he was, he has remained, true God. He has taken on himself what  
he was not; he became man in his love for the human race. Let us  
cry aloud to him, "O God born from a virgin, have mercy on us."

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for the sake of your name;  
my soul has waited for your word,  
my soul has hoped in the Lord.  
When the Lord Jesus was born from the holy Virgin, all the world  
was enlightened. The shepherds watched in the fields, the Wise  
Men adored and the angels praised in song, but Herod was troubled,  
for God has appeared in the flesh; *he is* the Saviour of our souls. *X2*

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

1

O Christ our God, your kingdom is a kingdom of all the ages and  
your rule is from generation to generation. You were incarnate by  
the Holy Spirit and made man from the ever-Virgin Mary. You  
have enlightened us by your coming. O Light from Light,  
Brightness of the Father, you have made the whole creation shine  
with joy. Everything with breath praises you, for you are the image  
of the Father's glory. O God, you are and have always been. You  
have shone from a virgin; have mercy on us.

Tone 1

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord  
and abundant redemption with him.  
He will redeem Israel  
from all his offences.

Let us all praise King David the ancestor of God, for the Virgin  
came from him and from this stem bloomed the flower, Christ. He  
renews the fallen nature of Adam and Eve, for he is compassionate.

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

In his old age Joseph the betrothed clearly saw the prophecies  
fulfilled. He was given a mysterious command, but received  
enlightenment from the angels who cried, "Glory to God, for he has  
granted peace to the world!"

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

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord. He is a bishop, but also a  
courageous martyr. O Jesus, our God, *you were* wrapped in  
swaddling clothes in the manger of a cave, so save those who praise  
you through his prayers.

Glory:

Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James.  
One was the king of the prophets. The other was an apostle and the  
first bishop. Because we have been saved from error through their  
teaching, we can glorify Christ who shone in human form from the  
Virgin to save our souls.

Both now: Tone 6

Most holy Virgin, who will not bless you? Who will not sing about  
your most pure childbearing? O pure *Lady*, the uniquely-fathered  
Son shone timelessly from the Father, but was ineffably incarnate  
from you. He was God by nature, but became man for our sake. He  
was not divided into two persons, but known as one in two natures.  
O honourable and all-blessed Lady, 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.

**Prokeimenon**

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*.

### Aposticha

#### Tone 6

O Christ our Saviour, the angels in heaven sing hymns to your resurrection. Enable us who are on earth to glorify you with purity of heart.

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;  
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. *Ps 92*  
You destroyed the gates of brass, broke the chains of Hades and raised the fallen human race, for you were almighty God. Therefore we cry out in unison, "O Lord, glory to you who rose from the dead!"

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. *Ps 92*  
Christ who desired to restore us after our fall, was nailed to the cross and placed in a tomb. The myrrhbearing women sought him with tears and cried, "Woe to us, O Saviour! How do you stoop to live in the tomb? What place can hide your life bearing body? Come to us as you promised; take away our lamentation and tears." Then the angel appeared to them and cried, "End your lamentation. Go and proclaim to the apostles that the Lord has risen; he grants us pardon and great mercy."

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. *Ps 92*  
O Christ, you have been crucified as you determined and you captured death by your burial. You rose on the third day as God in glory, and have granted the world eternal life and great mercy.

#### Glory: Tone 6

O Lord, your marvellous Nativity is a memorial for priests and a source of joy for rulers. We glorify it and say, "Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, O Lover of the human race."

#### Both now:

Today all the angels of heaven exchange good news and rejoice. The whole creation sings for joy, for the Lord and Saviour is born in Bethlehem. The error of idolatry has disappeared and Christ reigns for all ages.

### 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

#### Apolytikia

#### Tone 6

The angelic powers were at your tomb; the guards became like dead men. Mary stood beside your grave and sought your most pure body. You took Hades captive and came away from it unscathed.

You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, you rose from the dead; glory to you!

#### Tone 2

O holy Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ our God, the amazing wonders which you have witnessed. You have seen a Virgin great with child, you gave glory with the shepherds, you worshipped with the Wise Men and an angel of the Lord revealed the wonders to you. Therefore pray to Christ God to save our souls.

#### Tone 4

O Christ our God, your nativity has illuminated the world with the light of wisdom. For by it, O Sun of Justice, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship you and to know you as the Dawn from above. O Lord, glory to you!

### 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

#### Tone 6

When the tomb was opened, Hades lamented and Mary cried to the Apostles *who were* in hiding, "O workers of the vineyard, come out and proclaim the word of the resurrection, 'The Lord has risen and grants the world great mercy.'"

#### Glory:

Mary Magdalene stood beside your tomb and, because she thought that you were the gardener, said with loud lamentation, "Where have you hidden the Eternal Life? Where have you laid the one who sits on the throne of the Cherubim? Those who were guarding him have died with fright. Either give me my Lord or cry out with me, 'Glory to you, for you were among the dead, yet you made the dead rise!'"

Both now: Tone 4

O faithful, come and see where Christ is born. Let us join the Wise Men, kings from the east, and follow the guiding star. Angels continually sing praises there and the shepherds who live in the fields offer an appropriate hymn and say, "Glory in the highest to the one who is born today from the Virgin and Theotokos in the cave in Bethlehem of Judah.

### **Kathisma 2**

Life lay in the tomb and the seal lay over the stone. The soldiers guarded Christ like a sleeping King. When he had invisibly struck his enemies, the Lord rose.

Glory:

O immortal Lord, Jonah prefigured your burial and Simeon foretold your divine resurrection. For you went down as a corpse into the tomb and shattered the gates of Hades. O Christ our God, Enlightener of those in darkness, you rose as Master without corruption for the salvation of the world.

Both now: Tone 4

"O Mary, why are you filled with wonder? Why are you amazed at what has come to pass in you?" "I have given birth in time to the timeless Son, yet I do not understand how I conceived him. I have not known a man; how then could I bear a child? Who has ever seen a birth without seed?" But as it is written, "When God so wills, the order of nature is overturned." Christ is born from the Virgin in Bethlehem of Judah.

### **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, you have shattered the gates of Hades as God and have opened to us the former Paradise by your voluntary and life-giving

death. You have saved our lives from corruption by rising from the dead.

### **Anaváthmi Tone 6**

Antiphon 1 Ps 122

O Word, I raise my eyes to you in heaven;  
have pity on me so that I may live for you.

O Lord, have mercy on us who are of no worth  
and restore your vessels for service.

Glory: Both now:

The cause of salvation is in the Holy Spirit;  
if he decides to breathe on one of these,  
he quickly raises him from earthly things, gives him wings,  
makes him grow and gives him standing above.

Antiphon 2 Ps 123

If the Lord had not been among us,  
none of us could have firmly struggled with the enemy,  
but the victors will be exalted.

O Word, do not let my soul be taken like a sparrow in their teeth.  
Alas! How can I, a lover of sin, be set free from the enemies?

Glory: Both now:

Everyone is made divine  
and given joy, peace and blessing through the Holy Spirit,  
for he is equally active with the Father and the Lord.

Antiphon 3 Ps 124

Those who trust in the Lord are fearful to their enemies  
and objects of wonder to everyone,  
for their vision is above.

O Saviour, the land of the just has you for helper  
and will not extend its hands to do wrong.

Glory: Both now:

The power over everyone is vested in the Holy Spirit;  
the hosts of heaven worship him as also every earthly breath.

### **Prokeimenon Ps 79**

R: O Lord, stir up your power and come to save us.

S: O Shepherd of Israel, listen.

### **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

Today holy David is filled with joy. Joseph and James offer hymns of worship. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They offer their hymns of praise to the *Lord who was born ineffably on earth and cry out, "O merciful one, save those who honour you."*

### **Íkos**

The bodiless *Lord* is born in the flesh by an ineffable decision. The one whom no space can encompass is covered with a body. He has two natures, but is without change. The only Person *who is* timeless by nature enters into time. The one who surpasses all perfection allows himself to be visible as a Child. The one who supports the inhabited earth is held in human arms. Those who went before him are proud of their kinship to him. As God he crowns them in his birth. We glorify them in faith and continually cry out, "O merciful *Lord*, save those who honour you."

### **Synaxáron**

Today we remember the holy virgin martyr Anysía of Thessalonica who lived during the Third and Fourth Centuries. After the death of her parents she distributed her wealth and began to live in asceticism and holiness. A pagan developed lustful intentions towards her; she resisted him. When he realised that she was a Christian he murdered her. On the Thirtieth she was killed with the spear, for she was a chosen victim.

Together with her we remember:  
 Apostle Timon the Deacon of the Seventy C1  
 Nun Theodóra of Constantinople C8  
 Bishop Egwin of Worcester C8  
 Metropolitan Makários of Moscow C16  
 Monk and New Martyr Gideon of Karakallou C19

### Ypómnima

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ we remember the divine ancestors, Joseph the betrothed of our holy pure virgin Theotokos, of James, the rother of the Lord and of the prophet and King David. O God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of your holy ones. Amen.

### Katavasías

1: In times past the Master who accomplishes wonders saved his people and made the watery wave of the sea into dry land. Now he has been willingly born from a maiden and so establishes a path for us by which we can ascend to heaven. We glorify him the *Lord* who is equal in being with the Father and also with mortal men.

3: O Benefactor, graciously accept, the praises of your servants and bring down the spiteful, haughty looks of the enemy. O blessed Lord, you see everything, so raise us far above sin and establish your singers firm and unshaken on the foundation of the faith.

4: In past time Habakkuk the prophet was counted worthy to see ineffably the figure and symbol of Christ's birth; he foretold in song the renewal of the human race. For a young Baby, even the Word, has now come from the mountain, which is the Virgin, for the renewal of the peoples.

5: O Christ, we watch in vigil during the night of the deeds of dark error and sing to you as our Benefactor. "Come to us and grant us cleansing. Ease the path for us by which we may ascend and so attain glory."

6: Jonah was enclosed in the remotest depths of the sea; he implored you to come and still the storm. O Christ, I am pricked by the dart of the tyrant and call out to you, the Slayer of evil; I implore you to come quickly and rescue me from my slothfulness.

7: The children were captured and held fast by love for the King of all. They did not despise the ungodly threats of the tyrant in his boundless fury. As the terrible fire withdrew before them, they said to the Master, "Blessed are you throughout all the ages!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The children of the Old Covenant who walked in the fire without being burnt, prefigured the womb of the Maiden which remained sealed when she gave birth in a manner beyond nature. The same grace of God brought both these wonders to pass in a miracle and raised the nations to sing in praise.

### 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 9

From the Holy Gospel according to John (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me, Thomas? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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 XXX, 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: It would be easier, as a refuge from danger, for us to keep silence in fear. O Virgin, it is hard indeed to compose songs in love which are put together in harmony. O Mother, give us strength to fulfil our good intention.

### 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 5

When you had entered while the doors were shut, you filled your apostles with the Holy Spirit. You breathed peace on them and said, "Forgive sins or retain them." After eight days you showed Thomas your hands and your side. Therefore we cry out with him, "My Lord, and my God!"

Let us praise David, the forefather of God, together with James, the Lord's noble brother, and the divine Joseph who was betrothed to the Theotokos, for they served the divine birth of Christ in Bethlehem in a manner which was right for God. They sang praises with the angels, the Wise Men and shepherds, for he is God and Lord.

Our Saviour, the Dawn from the east, has visited us from above. We who were in darkness and shadow have found the truth, for the Lord is born from the Virgin.

### Praises

Tone 6

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, your cross is life and resurrection for your people. We place our trust in it and praise you as our risen God. Have mercy on us.

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

O Master, your burial has opened Paradise for the human race. We have been rescued from corruption and praise you, our risen God. Have mercy on us.

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

Let us praise Christ, together with the Father and the Spirit, *for he* has risen from the dead. Let us cry to him, "You are our Life and Resurrection, have mercy on us."

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

O Christ, you rose from the grave on the third day according to the Scriptures; you raised our forefather with you. Therefore the whole human race glorifies you and praises your resurrection.

Tone 4

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

O just, celebrate! O heavens, rejoice greatly! O mountains, dance for joy, for Christ is born. The Virgin is enthroned like the Cherubim and carries on her bosom God the Word *who was* made flesh. Shepherds glorify the new-born child and Wise Men offer the

Master gifts. Angels sing praises and say, "O Lord, *you are* beyond understanding, glory to you!"

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;  
praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O virgin Theotokos, you have given birth to the Saviour and have overthrown the curse of Eve. For you have become the Mother of him in whom the Father was well pleased and have carried God the incarnate Word on your bosom. We cannot fathom the mystery, but we all glorify it by faith alone. We cry out with you and say, "O Lord beyond all understanding, glory to you!"

S2: The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies a stool for your feet." Ps 109

Come and sing the praises of the Saviour's Mother. After she had given birth to the Child she still remained a virgin. Rejoice, O living City of the King in which Christ has lived and brought to pass our salvation! Together with Gabriel, we sing your praises. Together with the shepherds, we glorify you and cry, "O Theotokos, intercede for our salvation with the one who took flesh from you!"

S1: I have fathered you from the womb before the Morning Star;  
the Lord has sworn and will not change his mind.

It was through the good pleasure of the Father that the Word became flesh and the Virgin gave birth to the God *who was* made man. A star spreads abroad the news *and* the Wise Men worship. The shepherds stand amazed and creation is filled with great joy.

Glory: Tone 8

The blood, fire and pillars of smoke are the earthly miracles foreseen by the prophet Joel. The blood prefigures the Incarnation; the fire is the Divinity and the pillars of smoke are the Holy Spirit who descended on the Virgin like incense for the whole world. Great is the mystery of your Incarnation! 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!

<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. After he had destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

### LITURGY

#### Antíphon 1 Ps 110 Tone 2

S1: O Lord, I will thank you with my whole heart;  
I will proclaim all your wonders.

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

S2: In *the* council of the upright and in an assembly,  
great are the Lord's works!

S3: They are studied for all his purposes!

S4: His work is honour and splendour;  
his justice remains from age to age.

S5: Glory: Both now:

#### Antíphon 2 Ps 111 Own Tone

S1: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord;  
there is great desire in his commandments.

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

S2: His seed will be mighty on the earth;  
an upright generation will be blessed.

S3: Glory and wealth are in his house  
and his justice remains from age to age.

S4: Light has risen in the darkness for the upright;  
he is merciful, compassionate and just.

S5: Glory: Both now:  
*Monogenes*

#### Antíphon 3 Ps 109 Tone 4

S1: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit on my right  
until I make your enemies a stool for your feet."

R: O Christ our God, your nativity has illuminated the world with the light of wisdom. For by it, O Sun of Justice, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship you and to know you as the Dawn from above. O Lord, glory to you!

S2: The Lord will send you a mighty sceptre from Zion.  
S3: Sovereignty is yours on the day of your power  
*and* in the splendour of your saints.

#### 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!"

### Apolytikion

Tone 6

The angelic powers were at your tomb; the guards became like dead men. Mary stood beside your grave and sought your most pure body. You took Hades captive and came away from it unscathed.

You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, you rose from the dead; glory to you!

**Tone 4**

O Christ our God, your nativity has illuminated the world with the light of wisdom. For by it, O Sun of Justice, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to worship you and to know you as the Dawn from above. O Lord, glory to you!

**Tone 2**

O holy Joseph, proclaim to David, the ancestor of Christ our God, the amazing wonders which you have witnessed. You have seen a Virgin great with Child, you gave glory with the shepherds, you worshipped with the Wise Men and an angel of the Lord revealed the wonders to you. Therefore pray to Christ God to save our souls.

*Of the Church*

**Kontákion**

**Tone 3**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent Being and the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable *Lord*. Angels with shepherds glorify him. The wise men travel with the star, because for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

**Triságion**

**Prokeímenon Ps 67 Tone 4**

R: God is wonderful in his saints.

S: Bless God, in *the* assemblies.

**Apóstolos**

From the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brothers, I want you to know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup>For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I violently persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>*You have* heard how I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, because I was so extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and had called me through his grace, <sup>16</sup>was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not talk to flesh and blood. <sup>17</sup>Neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away to Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him for fifteen days. <sup>19</sup>But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**Alleluia Ps 131 Tone 3**

S1: O Lord, remember David and all his humility.

S2: The Lord has sworn in truth to David and will not set it aside.

**Gospel**

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (2:13-23)

At that time an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." <sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." <sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, <sup>20</sup> "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who

sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Communion Ps 148**

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