

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020
+ Afterfeast
+ Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
+ James the brother of the Lord
+ Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen C1
Confessor Theódoros of Palestine and Constantinople C7
29th Sunday Tone 4 & Eothinón 7

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

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 our God, we always honour your life-giving cross and glorify your resurrection on the third day. O almighty *Lord*, you have renewed the corrupt nature of the human race and revealed our way to heaven through it, for you are good and the Lover of the human race.

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

O Saviour, you abolished the penalty of the tree of disobedience by being nailed willingly to the tree of the cross. O almighty *Lord*, you broke the bonds of death as God by descending to Hades. Therefore we adore your resurrection from the dead and sing in joy, “Glory to you, O almighty Lord!”

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

O Lord listen to my voice.

O Lord, you smashed the gates of Hades and demolished the kingdom of death by your death. You rescued the human race from corruption and granted the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

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

O people, come and sing about the Saviour's resurrection on the third day. We have all been freed by it from the unbreakable bonds of Hades; we have received life and incorruption. Therefore we cry in unison, "You were crucified, buried and rose again. Unique Lover of the human race, save us by your resurrection."

Tone 1

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

But there is forgiveness with you.

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.

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.

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!"

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

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.

Tone 4

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord

and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O Stephen, your soul was illuminated with the grace of the Holy Spirit *and* your face shone like an angel. Your body was made radiant by the brightness within you *and* the contemplation of God's light was your only

joy. Therefore, O leader and glory of the martyrs, the heavens were marvellously opened to you.

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

The hail of stones became the steps of a ladder by which you ascended to the gates of heaven. You saw the Lord as he stood at the right hand of the Father; he offered you a crown with his own life-giving hand. Truly you have fulfilled the meaning of your name. Now, O glorious conqueror, you stand before him as the first warrior offered in battle.

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

You were distinguished for signs, wonders and heavenly preaching *and* destroyed the malice of the evil council. O blessed Stephen, you begged God to forgive them as they stoned you to death. By using the words of the Saviour as he hung on the Cross, you commended your pure spirit into his hands.

Glory: Tone 1

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 4

O Virgin, the prophet David was a forefather of God through you. He spoke beforehand about you in songs to the *Lord* who worked wonders in you, "At your right hand stood the queen." God, who was well-pleased to be incarnate from you without a father, announced you as mother and source of Life. He wanted to renew his fallen image, which had been corrupted by passion, so he found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain, placed it on his shoulders and brought it to his Father. He joined it to the heavenly powers by his own will. O Theotokos, Christ who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world.

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 4

O Lord, you have annulled our ancestral curse by ascending the cross. You have freed those in chains throughout the ages by descending to Hades and have granted incorruption to the human race. Therefore we glorify your life-giving and saving resurrection with hymns.

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

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

Uniquely-powerful Lord, you made the whole creation quake by hanging on the tree. You have raised those who lived in the tombs by being laid in the tomb; you have granted life and incorruption to the human race. Therefore we glorify your resurrection on the third day with hymns.

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

O Christ, a lawless people handed you over to Pilate and condemned you to be crucified, therefore they proved themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor. You willingly endured burial, rose by your own power on the third day and granted us eternal life and great mercy, for you are God.

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

The women reached your tomb with tears, searched for you, but did not find you. They cried out with grief, “Woe to us! Our Saviour, King of all, how were you stolen? What place can hold your life-bearing body?” But an angel replied to them, “Do not weep but go and proclaim that the Lord has risen and grants us joy, for he is the uniquely-compassionate *Lord*.”

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,
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 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learnt from the angel the joyful message of your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles, “Death is overthrown. Christ our God has risen and grants the world great mercy.”

Tone 4

O Stephen, holy proto-martyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God, you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory. You have shamed the council of your persecutors and seen your Saviour enthroned at the right hand of the Father. Continually intercede for the salvation of our souls.

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.

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 4

The myrrh-bearing women looked at the entrance of the tomb. They were unable to bear the sight of the flaming angel, trembled with wonder and said, "Can it be that the one who opened Paradise to the Thief has been stolen? Or is he risen, who before his passion proclaimed his resurrection? Christ is risen indeed; he grants life and resurrection to those in Hades."

Glory:

O Saviour, you suffered the cross by your free will. Mortal men laid you in a new tomb, although you are the *Lord* who founded the ends of the earth with your word. Therefore the alien was held in bondage and death was plundered without mercy. Everyone in Hades cried out at your life-bearing resurrection, “Christ, the Giver of life, is risen and will remain for ever!”

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.

Kathísma 2

O Saviour, Christ our God, you rose from Hades as immortal and raised the world with you by your resurrection. O Merciful *Lord*, you have broken in pieces the dominion of death and revealed the resurrection to everyone. Therefore we glorify you, only Lover of the human race.

Glory:

Gabriel came down from above and approached the stone where the Rock of Life lay. He was clothed in white and cried out to the mourners, “Stop your tears and wailing, for you have Mercy with you for ever. Take courage, for the *Lord* whom you seek with tears has truly woken. Therefore cry out to the Apostles that the Lord has risen.”

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, the Myrrh-bearers hurried to announce to the Apostles the glad news of your all-glorious resurrection. They proclaimed that you had risen as God and granted the world great mercy.

Anaváthmi Tone 4

Antiphon 1 Ps 128

My Saviour, many passions have fought against me
from my youth, but help and save me.

May those who hate Zion be shamed by the Lord;
they will be withered like grass by fire.

Glory: Both now:

Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit;
it is exalted through purity
and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Antiphon 2 Ps 129

O Lord, I have cried fervently from the depths of my soul;
let your divine ears listen to me.

Everyone who has hoped in the Lord
is higher than everyone who grieves.

Glory: Both now:

The streams of grace gush through the Holy Spirit;
they water all creation to produce life.

Antiphon 3 Ps 130

O Word, let my heart be raised to you;
let none of the world's pleasures enchant me back to earth.

As each of us has affection for his mother,
so we must have even more ardent love for the Lord.

Glory: Both now:

The wealth of divine knowledge, heavenly vision and wisdom
comes from the Holy Spirit;
for the Word unveils all the Father's teaching through him.

Prokeímenon Ps 43

R: O Lord, rise and help us;
free us for your name's sake.

S: O God, we have heard with our ears.

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 apostle, protomartyr and archdeacon Stephen, one of the seven deacons of Acts 6. At his defence before the Jewish Council he showed that the Law and the Temple were not essential for the people of God. He rebuked them for their hardness of heart. Before his stoning he had a vision of Jesus at the right hand of God. On the Twenty Seventh the heaven was opened to him.

On the same day we commemorate our renowned father Theodoros the branded, brother of Theophánis the hymnographer, of Palestine and Constantinople, who lived in the Ninth Century.

Together with them we remember:

Martyr Mavríkios of Apamía with 70 Companions C4

Archbishop Theódoros of Constantinople C7

Ypómnia

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 brother 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 7

From the Holy Gospel according to John (20:1-10)

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁷ and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

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 holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, And James the brother of the Lord, of the holy apostle, protomartyr and archdeacon Stephen, 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. XI2

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: 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 7

When Mary said, "They have taken away my Lord," Simon Peter and the other disciple, the anointed of Christ whom Jesus loved, went quickly to the grave. They came and found the grave clothes in the tomb, together with the napkin which had covered his head lying near them. Therefore they waited until they also had seen the Christ.

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.

Tone 3

Stephen is offered to the King as a living sacrifice, for today he departs in the flesh to the almighty God who came to live in the flesh. He completed his combat with honour for the sake of Christ.

Praises

Tone 4

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.
Almighty Lord, you suffered the cross and death, and rose from the dead.
We glorify your resurrection.

S7: Praise God in his saints;
praise him in his mighty firmament.
O Christ, you have rescued us by your cross from the ancient curse and
suppressed by your death the Devil who was tyrannising our nature. You
have filled everything with joy by your resurrection. Therefore we cry out
to you, “O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to you!”

S6: Praise him for his mighty *deeds*;
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.
O Christ *our* Saviour, lead us into your truth through your cross and rescue
us from the snares of the enemy; you have risen from the dead. O Lord,
Lover of the human race, extend your arm and, at the prayers of your
saints, raise us who have fallen because of sin.

Tone 4

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

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

Tone 2

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

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O archdeacon and proto-martyr Stephen, you are the blessed companion of the angels in heaven and have clothed yourself in holiness. Pray and intercede for us to the Lord and Saviour who alone is sinless.

S2: The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand.” Ps 109

Most holy Stephen, first among deacons and the first among martyrs, you have opened the way for all the saints and lead countless martyrs to the Lord. Therefore the heavens opened and God revealed himself to you. Pray that he will save our souls.

Tone 4

S1: I have begotten you from the womb before the Morning Star. The blessed Stephen, the first-fruits of the martyrs, full of grace and power, did great signs and wonders among the people. Although he shone like an angel, he was stoned by a lawless mob. He saw the glory of the incarnate Son at the right hand of the Father. He was taken up to heaven by the Spirit of love. There he lives with the choirs of angels and prays that our souls may be saved.

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!

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. When he 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!"

Apolytikia

Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learnt from the angel the joyful message of your resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles, "Death is overthrown. Christ our God has risen and grants the world great mercy."

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 Stephen, holy proto-martyr and mighty warrior of Christ our God, you were victorious in battle and crowned with glory. You have shamed the council of your persecutors and seen your Saviour enthroned at the right hand of the Father. Continually intercede for the salvation of 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 18 Tone 8**

R: His sound has gone out into all the earth.

S: The heavens declare God's glory.

Apostolos

From the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

In those days Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyre'nians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cili'cia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. ¹And the high priest said, "Is this so?" ²And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopota'mia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' ⁴Then he departed from the land of the Chalde'ans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; ⁵yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but

promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, ⁴⁹‘Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?’ ⁵⁰: Did not my hand make all these things?’ ⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰: And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 2

S1: O Lord, the heavens will acknowledge your wonders.

S2: God is glorified in the council of the saints.

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.” ¹⁴

And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “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.” ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ²⁰ “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² 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. ²³ 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.”

Especially

Tone 1

O my soul glorify God who is born in the flesh from the Virgin. When they saw the strange course of an unknown and newly shining star which exceeded the brightness of all heavenly light, the Wise Men learnt that Christ the King had been born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.
X2019

Communion Ps 42

³ Send out your light and your truth,
for they have guided me. Alleluia! X 2019

Post Communion

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!