

**SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020**  
**+ Afterfeast**  
**+ Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,**  
**+ James the brother of the Lord**  
**+ Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen C1**  
**Confessor Theodoros of Palestine and Constantinople C7**  
**29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

1

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.

**Ekteni**

**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,  
<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 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*

### **Ypakóí**

*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

**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 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. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They both ran, but the other disciple

outran Peter and reached the tomb first; <sup>5</sup> and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, <sup>7</sup> and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> 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.

<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  
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. 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 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!

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

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

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us,  
*for* you take away the sin of the world.

<sup>5</sup> Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right of the Father,  
and have mercy on us.

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

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

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
to be guarded from sin.

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

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

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

<sup>12</sup> O Lord, you have been our refuge  
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;  
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

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

<sup>15</sup> For with you is the source of life  
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

<sup>16</sup> Stretch out your mercy  
to those who know you. Ps 35

### Triságion

#### Resurrection Troparion

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

## LITURGY

### 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****Prokéimenon 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. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. <sup>10</sup>But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. <sup>11</sup>Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." <sup>12</sup>And 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, <sup>13</sup>and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; <sup>14</sup>for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." <sup>15</sup>And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. <sup>1</sup>And the high priest said, "Is this so?" <sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, <sup>3</sup>and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' <sup>4</sup>Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; <sup>5</sup>yet 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. <sup>6</sup>But it was Solomon who built a house for him. <sup>7</sup>Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, <sup>8</sup>'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?' <sup>9</sup>Did not my hand make all these things?' <sup>10</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>11</sup>Which 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, <sup>12</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." <sup>13</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. <sup>14</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; <sup>15</sup>and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>16</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. <sup>17</sup>Then 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. <sup>18</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>19</sup>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." <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."

**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**

<sup>3</sup> 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!