

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025
+Afterfeast of the Nativity of Our Lord
Martyrs of Nikomedía C4
Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
James the brother of the Lord
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 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.

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

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace. Today Bethlehem receives the *Lord* who always sits with the Father. Today angels glorify with holy hymns the Baby who is born. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

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.

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 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 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*

Ypakóï

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 martyrs who were burnt in Nikomedía in the Fourth Century. The pagans closed and sealed the doors of the church, piled firewood around it and set it on fire. On the Twenty Eighth the martyrs perished in the fire which engulfed the church.

Together with them we remember:

Apostle Nikánor the Deacon C1

Myrrh-gusher Simeon of Athos C14

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 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.

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 the Holy Forefathers, 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.

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.

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 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.

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

O uniquely-fathered Word of God, in your love for the human race you came to earth without leaving the bosom of the Father. You became truly man, so that you could suffer the cross and death in the flesh, although you are without passion in Divinity. You have granted the human race immortality by your resurrection, for you alone are all-powerful.

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

Today Christ is born from the Virgin in Bethlehem. Today the *Lord* who knows no beginning, begins to be. Today the Word is made flesh. The powers of heaven greatly rejoice and the earth with the human race is glad. The Wise Men offer gifts, the shepherds proclaim the wonder and we continually cry aloud, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men!”

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

Antiphon 1 Ps 110 Tone 2

S1: O Lord, I will acknowledge 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 the assembly,
great are the works of the Lord!

S3: They are researched for all his purposes!

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

S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 111 Own Tone

S1: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord;
he will take great pleasure 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 powerful on the earth;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

S3: Glory and wealth *will be* 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

Antiphon 3 Ps 109 Tone 4

S1: The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand
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 sceptre of power from Zion;
rule among your enemies.

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 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. ¹²For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I violently persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴*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. ¹⁵But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and had called me through his grace, ¹⁶was 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. ¹⁷Neither 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. ¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹But 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.”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.

Communion Ps 42

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

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!