SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2026
+ Forefeast of the Nativity
± Great-Martyr and God-bearer Ignátios of Antioch C2
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.

O people, let us celebrate the Forefeast of Christ's nativity. Let us raise our minds on high and go up to Bethlehem in Spirit. Let us see the Virgin with the eyes of our soul as she hurries to the cave to give birth to the Lord and God of all. When Joseph first saw the great wonder, he thought that he saw only a human child wrapped in swaddling clothes, but from all that came to pass he discovered the child to be the true God who grants the world great mercy.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O people, let us celebrate the Forefeast of Christ's nativity. Let us raise our minds on high and go up to Bethlehem in Spirit. Let us see the great mystery in the cave, for Eden is opened once again, when God comes from a pure Virgin, yet remains the same perfect God and perfect man. Therefore, let us cry aloud to him, "Holy God, Father without beginning, holy mighty, incarnate Son, holy immortal, the Spirit and Advocate, O Holy Trinity, glory to you.

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

Listen, O heaven! Be attentive, O earth! See the Son and Word of the Father as he comes to be born from a maiden who has not known man, through the good pleasure of the Father who fathered him before all ages. He is conceived by the co-operation of the Holy Spirit. O Bethlehem, be prepared! O Eden, open your gates, for the one who is comes to be what he was not. The *Lord* who formed all creation takes the form of a man and grants the world great mercy.

Tone 4

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with *him*.
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.
O blessed Ignátios, you are rightly called the God-bearer, for when the Lord in his goodness took you into his arms to show you the wisdom of the greatest philosophy, you received the light of innumerable fires. You absorbed the streams of light like a sponge in the profound depth of his divine brilliance. Therefore you followed the footsteps of Christ who called you. So ask him to save and enlighten our souls.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord; every people, acclaim him!
O holy father, you were wounded by the love of God which burnt within your heart like a passionate flame, and were eager to press on to the Lord. Then you spoke with your well-known words, "I am the wheat of my Creator and will be ground by the teeth of wild animals in order to become the pure bread of our God who is the Word." Ask him to enlighten and save our souls.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.
O holy bishop, you ascended the cross with Christ and spoke in divinely inspired words, "The *Lord* whom I love has been crucified; allow me to have the privilege of sharing in the passion of my God." Therefore you imitated the sun by travelling from east to west. O blessed father, you shed light along your final journey and were given the heavenly crown in the kingdom of Christ. So ask him to enlighten and save our souls.

Glory: Tone 8:
O God-bearer Ignátios, you received a reward by embracing Christ as your love. You sealed the priestly work of the Gospel of Christ with your blood and became the wheat of the immortal Sower. While you were ground by the teeth of wild animals, you offered yourself as a loaf of sweet bread to Christ. O blessed passion-bearer, continually pray for us.

Both now:
O Bethlehem, receive the living City of God; the unfading Light comes to be born in you. Rejoice, angels in heaven! Send up glory, O men on earth! Bring your glorious gifts from Persia, O Wise Men! Begin the

thrice-holy hymn with sweet melody, O shepherds! Let every breath praise the Creator of all.

Both now: Tone 6
O cave of Bethlehem, be prepared to welcome the Mother who carries Christ in her womb. O manger, receive the Word who wipes out the sin of the human race. O shepherds, keep watch and then testify to the awe-inspiring wonder. O Wise Men, come from Persian and carry your gifts to the King. For the Lord has emerged from a virgin Mother, yet she bowed to him like a servant. She spoke to him within her heart and said, "How were you conceived in me? My God and Saviour, how did you grow in me?"

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 8

O blessed Ignátios, your soul was as strong and hard as stone. You cried to your dear Christ with great longing, "It is not a material fire which burns within me, but the voice of the living Water which lives within my heart. It continually cries, "Come to the Father. " Therefore in your desire to be with Christ and because you were inflamed with the Holy Spirit, you urged the animals to take you quickly from this world. Continually pray for the salvation of our souls.

Both now:

See, the time of our salvation is at hand. O cave, prepare yourself, for the Virgin approaches to give birth to her Son. O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, be glad and rejoice, for from you our Lord shines out like the dawn. O mountains and all districts around Judah, be attentive, for Christ is coming to save the human race which he created and loves.

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

Apolytíkia

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 saint inspired by God, you became a partner of the apostles in their way of life and a successor to their thrones; you found the means for approaching divine vision. Therefore you have truly taught the word of truth and fought for the faith even to death. O hieromartyr Ignátios, pray to Christ God to save our souls.

Tone 4
O Bethlehem, prepare, for Eden has been opened to all. O Ephratha, adorn yourself, for the Tree of Life blossoms from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb is a spiritual Paradise which has been planted with the divine Fruit. If we eat from it, we will live for ever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which he made in the beginning.

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*

Kathísma 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 1
The *Lord* has bowed the heavens and taken up his home in the Virgin. As it is written, he comes to be born in our flesh in the cave of Bethlehem. The *Lord* who gives life to children in the womb himself becomes a Child! Let us all joyfully go to meet him in the integrity of our hearts.

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:
Rejoice, O Zion! Be prepared, O Bethlehem! The *Lord* who holds the whole creation in his hands announces his boundless condescension by sending a star. The *Lord* before whom the heavenly powers stand in awe is coming into the world. He will be born from a Virgin without undergoing change. He is the Lover of the human race!

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 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Be prepared, O Ephrata! See the Ewe is approaching to give birth to the Chief High Shepherd whom she carries in her womb. When they see this, the God-bearing fathers rejoice and sing with the shepherds, "The Virgin nourishes the Creator with her own milk."

Íkos

O Virgin, when they see the majestic radiance of your childbearing, Abraham, the lover of God, and the renowned Isaac rejoice with the whole choir of saints assembled by God. They bring creation out to meet you with joyful greetings. For the *woman* who brings joy to all is revealed. She has conceived in her womb the *Lord* who was once seen in Babylon and preserved beyond understanding the youths who had been unjustly thrown into the furnace. Therefore they will produce a song to the One

who is seen in the hands of the Maiden and will glorify the Virgin who nurses him.

Synaxárion

Today we remember the holy virgin martyr Juliana and her companions of Nikomedía who lived in the Fourth Century. She refused to accept a pagan marriage and her father beat her. Then he denounced her to the authorities. On the Twenty First the one whose charm could not be matched was killed.

Together with her we remember:
Martyr Theomistóklis of Myra in Lykía C3

Ypómnima

Let us praise Adam, Abel, Seth and Enos, Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, Samuel, David, Solomon, Job, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, the Twelve Prophets, Eliezar, Zachariah and John the Baptist. Through the prayers of your holy ancestors, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

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 Ancestors, of the martyr Juliana,, 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:

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.

Tone 6
O Saviour, when you rose from the grave, you revealed yourself as human by nature. You stood in the midst of the disciples, ate with them, and taught them about the baptism of repentance. Then you ascended to your heavenly Father after promising to send them the Advocate. Glory to your resurrection, most divine and incarnate God!

Tone 3

Let us who love the fathers come together and rejoice in their memory. Let us rightly praise Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from whom Christ was revealed as coming in the flesh in his great compassion.

Let us praise Adam, Abel, Seth and Enos, Enoch and Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, Job and Aaron, Eliezar, Joshua, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David and Solomon.

All-pure and blameless *Lady*, O Virgin Mary, come to help me at the fearful day of judgment, for I am wretched. Be my pleader with your Son to rescue me from every pain and punishment.

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 2
S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.
Now let us all celebrate the memorial of the holy Forefathers. Let us praise their way of life for which they have been glorified.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Now let us all celebrate the memorial of the holy Forefathers. Let us praise their way of life for which they have been glorified.

S2: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers,
to be praised and greatly exalted for ever. Dan 3
The youths rejoiced in the furnace and extinguished the power of the fire. They sang a hymn of praise to the almighty God.

S1: For you are just in everything that you have done for us
and all your works are true. Dan 3
Daniel the prophet was shut in the lions' den. Although he lodged with wild animals, he was preserved unharmed in spite of their malice.

Glory: Tone 7
Come and let us all faithfully celebrate the fathers before the Law. *It is* our annual commemoration of Abraham and those with him. Let us rightly honour the tribe of Judah and praise the youths in Babylon who quenched the flames of the furnace, for they were an image of the Trinity. Together with them, let us praise Daniel and hold fast to the predictions of

the prophets. Let us cry with Isaiah, "See, a virgin will conceive in her womb and bear a son, Emmanuel, who is God with us.

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

Antiphon 1 Ps 91

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.

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

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,
S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.
S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 92

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself,

R: Save us, O Son of God.
You arose from the dead
We sing to you, “Alleluia!”

S2: For he founded the world

which will not be moved.
S3: Your throne *was* made ready in the past;
you are from eternity.
Monogenes

Antíphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 4

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

R: 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."

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,
S3: For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You arose from the dead.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytíkia

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."

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 3
Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will ineffably give birth to the pre-eternal Word. O inhabited earth, rejoice when you hear the news!

Glorify with the angels and shepherds the one who chose to be revealed as a new born Child, *yet was* God before the ages.

Triságion

Prokeimenon Daniel Tone 8

R: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.
S: For you are just in everything that you have done for us.

Apostolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)
Brothers, by faith Abraham lodged in the land of promise, as though in a foreign land; he lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. [10] For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. [32] And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to speak about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets. [33] Through faith they conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, [34] quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength from weakness, became valiant in war and put foreign armies to flight. [35] Women received their dead back by resurrection. Some were tortured and refused to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. [36] Others suffered mocking and scourging, even chains and imprisonment. [37] They were stoned, sawn in two, killed with the sword, and went about in skins of sheep and goats. *They were* destitute, afflicted *and* ill-treated. [38] The world was not worthy of them. They wandered over deserts and mountains, and *were* in dens and caves of the earth. [39] And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, [40] since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Alleluia Ps 98 & 33 Tone 4

S1: Moses and Aaron *were* among his priests.
S2: The just cried and the Lord heard them.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (14:16-24)
[1] The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. [2] Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of

Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, [3] and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, [4] and Ram the father of Ammínadab, and Ammínadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, [5] and Salmon the father of Bóaz by Rahab, and Bóaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, [6] and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uríah, [7] and Solomon the father of Rehobóam, and Rehobóam the father of Abíjah, and Abíjah the father of Asa, [8] and Asa the father of Jehóshaphat, and Jehóshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzíah, [9] and Uzzíah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekíah, [10] and Hezekíah the father of Manásseh, and Manásseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josíah, [11] and Josíah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. [12] And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoníah was the father of Sheáltiel, and Sheáltiel the father of Zerúbbabel, [13] and Zerúbbabel the father of Abíud, and Abíud the father of Elíakim, and Elíakim the father of Azor, [14] and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Elíud, [15] and Elíud the father of Eleázar, and Eleázar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, [16] and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. [17] So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. [18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; [19] and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; [21] she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [23] "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Communion Ps 148

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