

## **Matins of the Nativity of Christ**

**Priest:** Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen

**Priest:** Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things; Treasury of good things and Giver of life; Come and dwell in us and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, gracious Lord.

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance, granting to thy people victory over all adversaries, and by thy Cross preserving thine estate.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by thy Name; make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art Blessed.

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

**Chanters:** Lord, have mercy. (three times.)

**Priest:** Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

**Chanters:** Lord, have mercy. (three times.)

**Priest:** Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan (N) and all our brethren in Christ.

**Chanters:** Lord, have mercy. (three times.)

**Priest:** For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Chanter:** Amen. Bless Father in the name of the Lord.

**Priest:** Glory to the Holy Consubstantial, Life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Chanter:** Amen

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (three times).

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. (Two times).

### **Psalm 3**

LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people.

### **Psalm 38 (37)**

O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee. My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off. They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. But I, as a deaf man, heard not; and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth. Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs. For in thee, O LORD, do I

hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me. For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is. Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

### **Psalm 63 (62)**

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me. But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes. But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

I meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **Psalm 88 (87)**

O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength: Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth. Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee. Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee? Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee. LORD, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me? I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted. Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off. They came round about me daily like water; they compassed me about together. Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee; let my prayer come before Thee incline thine ear unto my cry.

### **Psalm 103 (102)**

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our

transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul. In all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

### **Psalm 143 (142)**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications: and enter not into judgment with thy servant. O Lord, give ear to my supplications: and enter not into judgment with thy servant.

Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee O God. O Lord our Hope, glory to thee.

**Priest:** In Peace let us pray to the Lord.

*(The Choir responds Lord have mercy to each petition.)*

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our president, civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**(4<sup>th</sup> tone) God is the Lord, which hath shown us light. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name.

**God is the Lord, which hath shown us light. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the Lord Will I destroy them.

**God is the Lord, which hath shown us light. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

This is the Lords doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**God is the Lord, which hath shown us light. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

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**Fourth Mode**

Ἦχος ᾶ Δτ.

*Ison*  
God is the Lord and hath ap - peared un - to us.  
Bless-ed is He that com-eth in the Name of the Lord.

**Troparion of the Nativity (tone 4)**

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshiped the stars did learn therefrom to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come O Lord, glory to thee.

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**Priest:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us; save us; have mercy on us and keep O God by thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee O Lord.

**Priest:** For thine is the might, and thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

**1<sup>st</sup> Kathismata (Tone 4) *Joseph was amazed***

Come, ye faithful, let us see \* where Christ the Savior hath been born; \* let us follow with the kings, \* even the Magi from the East, \* unto the place where the star doth

direct their journey. \* For there, the Angels' hosts \* sing praises ceaselessly; \* shepherds in the field \* offer a fitting song, \* while saying, Glory in the highest \* to Him this day born within the cave \* from the pure Virgin and Theotokos \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, ye faithful, let us see \* where Christ the Savior hath been born; \* let us follow with the kings, \* even the Magi from the East, \* unto the place where the star doth direct their journey. \* For there, the Angels' hosts \* sing praises ceaselessly; \* shepherds in the field \* offer a fitting song, \* while saying, Glory in the highest \* to Him this day born within the cave \* from the pure Virgin and Theotokos \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

### **2nd Kathismata (Tone 4)**

Why, O Mary, marv'lest thou, \* amazed at that which is in thee? \* Because I have given birth \* in time unto the timeless Son, \* yet none hath taught me concerning my Child's conception: \* without a man am I, \* how shall I bear a Son? \* Who hath ever seen \* a birth without man's seed? \* But, as is written, where God willeth, \* the order of nature is overcome. \* Lo, Christ is born now of the pure Virgin \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Why, O Mary, marv'lest thou, \* amazed at that which is in thee? \* Because I have given birth \* in time unto the timeless Son, \* yet none hath taught me concerning my Child's conception: \* without a man am I, \* how shall I bear a Son? \* Who hath ever seen \* a birth without man's seed? \* But, as is written, where God willeth, \* the order of nature is overcome. \* Lo, Christ is born now of the pure Virgin \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

**Priest:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us; save us; have mercy on us and keep O God by thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee O Lord.

**Priest:** For thou art a Good God that lovest mankind and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of .ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### **The Polyeleos Psalm 134 tone 1**

Praise ye the Name of the Lord; O ye servants, praise the Lord. Alleluia

All Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. Alleluia

Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good; Chant unto His Name, for it is good. Alleluia

For I know that the Lord is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. Alleluia

All that the Lord hath willed He hath done, In heaven and on the earth. In the seas and in all the abysses. Alleluia

Bringing clouds up from the uttermost parts of the earth, Lightning for the rain hath He made. He bringeth winds out of His treasures; Alleluia

O Lord, Thy Name endureth for ever, and Thy memorial unto generation and generation. Alleluia

For the Lord will judge his people and because of his servants shall he be comforted.

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the works of the hands of men. Alleluia

They have a mouth but shall not speak, Eyes have they and shall not see, Alleluia

Ears have they and shall not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouth. Alleluia

Let those that make them become like unto them, and all they that put their trust in them. Alleluia.

O ye house of Levi bless ye the Lord, ye that fear the Lord, bless ye the Lord, Alleluia.

Blessed is the Lord out to Sion, Who dwelleth in Jerusalem. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia

Now and ever and unto ages of ages Amen. Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.

**The Polyeleos**  
**Psalm 135 Tone 1**

O Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever. Alleluia

O give thanks unto the God of gods. Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

O give thanks unto the Lord of lords, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him Who alone hath wrought great wonders, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that made the heavens with understanding, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that established the earth upon the waters, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him Who alone hath made great lights, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

The sun for dominion of the day, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

The moon and the stars for dominion of the night, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that smote Egypt with their firstborn, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And led forth Israel out of the midst of them, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

With a strong hand and a lofty arm, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that divided the Red Sea into parts, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And led Israel through the midst thereof, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that led His people through the wilderness, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

To Him that smote great kings, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And slew mighty kings, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

Seon, king of the Amorites, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And Og, king of the land of Basan, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And gave their land for an inheritance, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

An inheritance for Israel His servant, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

For in our humiliation the Lord remembered us, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

And redeemed us from our enemies, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

He that giveth food to all flesh, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

O give thanks unto the God of heaven, Alleluia. For His mercy endureth forever and ever Alleluia

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**, all the earth. Alleluia.

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages Amen**, all the earth. Alleluia.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to thee our God.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kathismata (Tone 4) *Joseph was amazed***

Come, ye faithful, let us see \* where Christ the Savior hath been born; \* let us follow with the kings, \* even the Magi from the East, \* unto the place where the star doth direct their journey. \* For there, the Angels' hosts \* sing praises ceaselessly; \* shepherds in the field \* offer a fitting song, \* while saying, Glory in the highest \* to Him this day born within the cave \* from the pure Virgin and Theotokos \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, ye faithful, let us see \* where Christ the Savior hath been born; \* let us follow with the kings, \* even the Magi from the East, \* unto the place where the star doth direct their journey. \* For there, the Angels' hosts \* sing praises ceaselessly; \* shepherds in the field \* offer a fitting song, \* while saying, Glory in the highest \* to Him this day born within the cave \* from the pure Virgin and Theotokos \* in Bethlehem of Judea.

**Priest:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us; save us; have mercy on us and keep O God by thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee O Lord.

**Priest:** For blessed is thy name, and glorified is thy kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### **Anabathmoi**

From my youth up many passions have warred against me, But do thou help and save me O my Savior.

From my youth up many passions have warred against me, But do thou help and save me O my Savior.

Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up.

Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity and made resplendent by the Triune unity in mystic holiness.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

**Prokeimenon:**

From the womb before the morning star I begot thee. The Lord hath sworn, and he shall not repent.

From the womb before the morning star I begot thee. The Lord hath sworn, and he shall not repent.

Said the Lord to my Lord

From the womb before the morning star I begot thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and he shall not repent.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** For holy art thou, O our god, who restest in the holy place, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.  
Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.  
Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

**Priest:** And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the holy gospel, let us beseech the Lord our God.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the holy gospel.

Peace be to all.

**Choir:** And to thy Spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the holy gospel according to St. Matthew 1:18-25

**Choir:** Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee.

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; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee.

### **Psalm 50 Read not Sung**

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great mercy: according to the multitude of the tender mercies blot out mine iniquity.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged.

For behold, I was shapen in iniquity: and in sin did my mother conceive me.

For behold, thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of thy wisdom thou hast made clear to me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: the bones which thou hast broken shall rejoice.

Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and steady me with a guiding spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways: and the impious shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare thy praise.

For hadst thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it thee: thou delightest not in burnt offerings.

Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offerings:

Then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

2<sup>nd</sup> tone    Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today all creatures shall be filled with joy; for Christ hath been born of the Virgin.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today all creatures shall be filled with joy; for Christ hath been born of the Virgin.

Have mercy on me, O God according to thy loving kindness according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace. Today doth Bethlehem receive him who sitteth with the Father forever. Today the angels glorify, as worthy of god, the babe that is born, shouting, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace, and goodwill among men.

#### **The Intercession:**

O God, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance. Visit thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the

might of the precious and life-giving cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy glorious, all-laudable apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers of our Father Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy and glorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Haralampos and Eletherios; of the holy, glorious great martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Poteini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, who shone in the ascetic life; of the Glorious Prophet Elias, patron of this church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; **of Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh**, whose memory we celebrate and of all thy saints, we beseech thee, O only most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto thee and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy (twelve times, in four sets of three).

**Priest:** Through the mercy and compassions and love for mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### **Hypakoe: Tone 8**

In calling the Magi by a star, Heaven brought the first-fruits of the nations unto Thee, a Babe lying in a manger; and they were astonished that there was poverty. For what is meaner than a cave? And what is lowlier than swaddling clothes? Yet in them the riches of Thy Divinity shone forth. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

### **Kontakikon: Tone 3**

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their

way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

**Oikos:**

Bethlehem hath opened Eden; come, let us see. We have found the delight that is hidden; come, let us lay hold on the things of Paradise within the cave. There hath the unwatered Root appeared, sprouting forth forgiveness; there is found the un-dug Well, whence David of old yearned to drink; there hath the Virgin brought forth a Babe, and straightway made an end to the thirst both of Adam and of David. For this cause, let us hasten thereto, where there is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

**Synaxarion:**

- + **On the twenty-fifth of this month we celebrate the Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**
- + On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi.
- + On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that beheld the Lord.

**Unto Him be glory unto the ages of ages. Amen**

**Katabasias of the Nativity (tone 1)**

**Choir:**

1. Christ is born, glorify him. Christ hath come from the heavens, receive him. Christ is on earth, elevate him. Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations, praise him with joy; for he hath been glorified.

The Lord performed a miracle and saved the people when of old he turned the moist waves of the sea into dry land. And having been born now of a Virgin by his own choice, he hath trodden for us the way to heaven, being equal to the Father and to men in essence; therefore, do we glorify him.

3. Let us cry unto the Son, born of the Father before the ages without transubstantiation, Christ god who hath been incarnate in these last days of the virgin, without

seed, shouting, O thou who hath elevated our state, thou art holy, O Lord.

Incline, O glorious Benefactor, to the praise of thy servants, abolishing the boasting of the proud adversary. And help us who sing to thee to overcome sin, and confirm us on the unshakeable foundation of faith.

4. O praised Christ, a stem hath come out of Jesse, and from it hast sprouted a Flower from a dense and shadowed mountain, O immaterial God, coming incarnate from the virgin that hath not known man. Glory, therefore, to thy might, O Lord.

The Prophet Habakuk of old foretold in song the re-creation of mankind; for he was worthy to behold that sign in an ineffable manner; for the Word did come forth as a new babe from the mountain of the Virgin, for the re-creation of the nations.

5. Since thou art the God of peace and the Father of mercies, O Lover of mankind, thou didst send to us the great messenger of thy mind, granting us thy peace. Therefore, have we been led aright to the light of divine knowledge, glorifying thee as we come out of darkness.

Grant forgiveness, O Christ, to us who have been in the darkness of our deeds of error since the night, who eagerly praise thee, since thou art our Benefactor; that thou mayest hasten to us and prepare for us a good way, wherein if we walk we shall find glory and honor.

6. The sea-monster did disgorge Jonah from its belly, as it received him safely like a fetus. As for the Word, when he dwelt in the Virgin, taking from her a body, he was born, preserving her without corruption, and without transubstantiation, preserving his Mother without harm.

Verily, Jonah when he was in the depth of the sea, begged to ascend to thee and to be rescued from the tempest. But as for me, having been pierced by the arrows of the tyrant, in thee I seek refuge, O evil-destroying Christ. Hasten thou to me and deliver me hastily from my negligence.

7. The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the infidel, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but were singing as they stood in the midst of the flames, Blessed art thou, God of our fathers.

The youths having clung steadfastly to the love of the King of all, ridiculed the prating and blasphemy of the blaspheming usurper. And being filled with wrath, he delivered them to the terrible fire, which did not harm them. Wherefore, they lifted their voices to the Master, saying, Blessed art thou unto all ages.

8. Verily, the dewy furnace did shadow the sign of the supernatural wonder; for it burned not the youths whom it received, as the fire of divinity also burned not the womb of the Virgin in which it dwelt. Wherefore, let us offer praise with song, saying, let all creation praise the Lord, exalting him evermore, to the end of ages.

**We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.**

The youths who were cast of old into the fire and remained unburned, were a sign of the womb of the Maiden who gave birth supernaturally while yet sealed. These two matters grace hath accomplished through one miracle, arousing the nations to praise.

**Priest:** The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

9. I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify him.

Magnify, O my soul, the god born in flesh from the Virgin.

When the Magi saw a new and strange star appearing suddenly, moving in a wonderful way, and transcending the stars of heaven in brightness, they were guided by it

to Christ, the King born on earth in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

Magnify, O my soul, the King born in a cave.

The Magi said: Where is the Child King, the newborn, whose star hath appeared? For we have verily come to worship him. And Herod, the contender against God, trembled, and began to roar in folly to kill Christ.

Magnify, O my soul, the God worshipped by the Magi.

Herod ascertained from the Magi about the time of the star by whose guidance they were led to Bethlehem to worship with presents Christ who guided them, and so they returned to their country, disregarding Herod, the evil murderer of babes, mocking him.

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Lord inside the cave.

Verily it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger therefrom for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to indite well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed wondrous to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible and three-personed Godhead.

O pure one, Mother of the Word that appeareth newly from thee, O closed door, verily, as we behold the dark shadowy symbols pass away, we glorify the light of the truth and bless thy womb as is meet.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Glorify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.

The Christ-pleasing people, O Virgin, having deserved to be granted its desire by the coming of God, doth seek now

with tears thy help to worship the glory of his enlivening appearance wherein is the renewal of birth; for it is thou who dost distribute grace, O pure one.

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify him.

Magi with shepherds did come to worship Christ born in the city of Bethlehem

Verily it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger there-from for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to indite well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed wondrous to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

**Priest:** Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help us; save us; have mercy on us and keep O God by thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee O Lord.

**Priest:** For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and to thee we ascribe glory to the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen

### **Exaposteilaria: The Nativity (tone 3)**

From the heights our Savior, Christ, \* the Dayspring of the East, is come \* to visit us; and we, who once \* were in the shadow and the dark, \* behold, now we have found the truth; \* for from a holy Virgin, \* the Lord hath been born today.

From the heights our Savior, Christ, \* the Dayspring of the East, is come \* to visit us; and we, who once \* were in the shadow and the dark, \* behold, now we have found the truth; \* for from a holy Virgin, \* the Lord hath been born today.

From the heights our Savior, Christ, \* the Dayspring of the East, is come \* to visit us; and we, who once \* were in the shadow and the dark, \* behold, now we have found the truth; \* for from a holy Virgin, \* the Lord hath been born today.

### **Praises (4<sup>th</sup> tone)**

**Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord from the Heavens praise him in the heights to thee O God, is due our song.**

**Praise ye him all his angels praise ye him all his hosts to thee O God is due our song.**

**Praise God in his sanctuary praise him in the firmament of his power.**

**Praise him for his mighty acts praise him according to his excellent greatness.**

Rejoice, O righteous one, and ye heavens be glad Sing with joy, ye mountains, for the Nativity of Christ. The Virgin sitteth like the cherubim, holding in her bosom god the incarnate Word; the shepherds do glorify him who was born. The Magi offer presents to the Lord and the angels give praise, saying, O Lord, hidden from comprehension, glory to thee.

**Praise him with the sound of the trumpet praise him with the Psaltery and harp.**

The Father hath been pleased and satisfied; the Word hath become flesh; and the Virgin hath given birth to incarnate God. The star declaimeth, the Magi worship, the shepherds wonder, the creation rejoiceth.

**Praise him with the timbrel and dance Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.**

O virgin Theotokos, O thou who hast given birth to the Savior, thou hast revoked the ancient curse of Eve; for thou hast become a mother according to the pleasure of God, carrying in thy bosom god the incarnate Word. Verily, the mystery is inscrutable; but we all glorify it with faith only, crying with thee and saying O incomprehensible lord, glory to thee.

**Praise him upon the loud cymbals Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals, let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.**

Come, let us praise the Mother of the Savior, who appeared a Virgin even after birth-giving, crying, rejoice, O living city of God the King, in whom Christ having dwelt worked salvation. Wherefore, we with Gabriel do praise, and with the shepherds do glorify thee, crying, O Theotokos, intercede with him incarnate of thee to save us.

**Tone 6 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

When it was time for thy presence on earth the first enrollment of the world took place. Then it was that thou didst decide to enroll the names of men who believe in thy Nativity. Yea, that commandment did issue forth from Caesar, since the everlastingness of thine eternal kingdom hath been renewed. Wherefore, we offer what is better than moneyed tax, namely Orthodox theological saying; to thee O God, Savior of our souls.

**2<sup>nd</sup> tone Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Today Christ is born in Bethlehem of the Virgin. Today the Beginningless doth begin, and the Word becometh

incarnate. The powers of heaven rejoice, and earth is glad with mankind. The Magi do offer presents, and the shepherds with wonder declaim. As for us we shout ceaselessly, crying,

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

We praise thee we bless thee we worship thee we glorify thee we give thanks unto thee for thy great glory.

O Lord heavenly King god the Father almighty, O Lord the only begotten Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God Lamb of God, Son of the Father that takest away the sin of the world have mercy on us thou that takest away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer O thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father and have mercy on us.

For thou only art holy thou only art the Lord O Jesus Christ to the glory of God the Father Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise thy name forever, yea for ever and ever.

Vouchsafe O Lord to keep us this day without sin.

Blessed art thou O Lord God of our Fathers and praise and glorified be thy name forever Amen.

Let thy mercy O Lord be upon us as we do put our hope in thee.

Blessed art thou O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

Blessed art thou O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

Blessed art thou O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

Lord thou hast been our refuge in all generations, I said be merciful unto me heal my soul for I have sinned against thee.

Lord I have fled unto thee teach me to do thy will for thou art my God.

For with thee is the fountain of life in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy loving kindness unto them that know thee. Holy God, Holy mighty, holy immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, holy immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, holy immortal, have, mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Holy immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God,  
Holy mighty,  
Holy immortal have mercy on us.

**Troparion of the Nativity (tone 4)**

Thy Nativity O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshiped the stars did learn therefrom to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come O Lord, glory to thee.