

Matins tone 5 Eothinon 8 the Sunday Before Christmas

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. I laid me down and slept: I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

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. . Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

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 come before 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 com 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.

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.

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Tone 2 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as thou at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, Have mercy upon us.

Tone 4 For the Fore-feast of the Nativity *Joseph was amazed* Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of

Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

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

Kathismata

Plagal First Mode

Let us honor the Cross of the Lord with songs of praise; let us revere with divine hymns His holy burial; His exalted Resurrection let us glorify for from their graves He raised the dead, since He verily is God, and He plundered death's dominion, and brake the might of the devil, and shined great light on those in Hades' gloom

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

O Lord, Thou was called a dead man, Thou that slowest death; in a tomb was Thou laid, Who has emptied the tombs. Above, soldiers guarded the grave; below, Thou didst raise up them that were dead from ages past. O almighty and Incomprehensible Lord, glory to Thee.

For the Fore-Feast

Tone 6 Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

The sayings of the Prophets have now been fulfilled. For on the morrow, our God is born of the Virgin Mary in a manner surpassing speech, and remaineth as He was before His birth. The Magi gather, bearing gifts; the shepherds abide in the field; and we also sing; O Thou Who wast born of a Virgin Lord, glory be to Thee.

Second Kathisma

O Lord, after Thy Resurrection on the third day, when the Apostles had worshipped Thee, Peter cried out to Thee: Women were daring and I was afraid; a thief confessed Thy divinity and I denied Thee; wilt Thou perchance call me a disciple henceforth? Or wilt Thou once again show me forth as a fisher of the deep? But accept me in repentance, O God, and save me.

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

O merciful Lord, the lawless nailed Thee between the condemned, and they pierced Thy side with a spear, Burial didst Thou accept, Who didst destroy the gates of Hades, and Thou didst arise on the third day. The women ran to see Thee, and they announced Thine arising unto the Apostles. O most exalted Savior, Whom the angels praise, O blessed Lord, glory be to Thee.

For the Fore-Feast Tone 8 (*thou, as the Life of all*)

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

The song of the shepherds played on their reed-pipes was stayed by * a great angelic host, which called out to them, saying: * Tarry not in the field now * O ye that shepherd the

nurslings of the flocks; * cry aloud singing praises, * that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, * He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God to save the race of mankind.

Evlogetaria (tone 5)

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The company of the angels was amazed when they beheld thee numbered among the dead, yet thyself O Savior destroyed the power of death, and with thee raising up Adam and releasing all men from Hell.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

Wherefore O women Disciples do ye mingle sweet smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant angel within the sepulchre cried unto the myrrh bearing women behold the grave and understand for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning did the myrrh bearing women run lamenting unto Thy tomb, but an angel came toward them saying the time for lamentation is passed weep not but announce unto the Apostles the resurrection.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrh-bearing women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Thy tomb O Savior but the angel spake unto them saying why number ye the living among the dead in that He is God He is risen from the grave.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. We adore the Father as also the Son and the Holy Spirit the Holy Trinity in one essence crying with the Seraphim Holy, Holy, Holy art thou O Lord.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. In that thou didst bear the giver of life O Virgin thou didst redeem Adam

from sin and didst give to Eve joy in place of sadness and He who was incarnate of Thee, both God and man hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

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 our God and our Hope Glory to Thee.

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

Hypakoe

The minds of the ointment-bearing women were dazzled by the angelic scene, and their souls with the divine Resurrection. Wherefore, they spake to the Apostles, saying, declare in the nations the Resurrection of the Lord, who worketh wonders with you, who bestoweth on us the Great Mercy.

Hymns of Ascent Plagal First Mode

In mine affliction, like David I sing unto Thee, O my Savor, deliver my soul from a crafty tongue.

For those in the desert, life is blessed, in that they soar with divine love.

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

By the Holy Spirit all things, both visible and invisible are governed, for He doth rule by His own power, since He is truly One of the Trinity.

Second

To the mountains, O my soul, let us ascend. Let us go thither, from whence help cometh.

Let Thine uplifted right hand preserve even y from all manner of treachery, O Ghrist.

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

To the Holy Spirit let us say, speaking of thing divine: Thou art God, Life, Love, Light, Mind; Thou art Goodness; Thou reignest unto the ages.

Third

Because of them that said unto me: Let us go up to the courts of the Lord, I send up supplication, being filled with great joy

In the house of David, fearful things are accomplished; for there is Fire there, burning every shameful mind.

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

In the Holy Spirit is the principle of life, whence every living thing is given life, even as it is in the Father and the Word.

Prokeimenon

Arise, O Lord my God, for Thou shalt be king unto the ages.
Arise, O Lord my God, for Thou shalt be king unto the ages.

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Arise, O Lord my God, for Thou shalt be king unto the ages.

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Priest: For holy art thou, O our god, who retest 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 everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Praise ye God in his Saints. Praise him in the firmament of his power.

Let everything 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 John (20:11-18)

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

At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look unto the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Women, why are you weeping? She said to them, "Because they have

taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Women, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary," She turned and said to him, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God, and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Reader: In that we have beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy cross do we adore, O Christ, and thy holy resurrection we praise and glorify; for thou art our God, and we know none other beside thee; we call upon thy name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's holy resurrection. For lo, through the cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing his resurrection: for in that he endured the cross for us he hath destroyed death by death.

Psalm 50

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.

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

Through the intercessions of the apostles, O thou who art merciful. Blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O thou who art merciful. Blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Have mercy on me, O God according to thy loving kindness according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Jesus having risen from the grave as he foretold hath given unto us life eternal and great mercy.

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 the holy and glorious great martyrs, 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, Photeini, 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 Great-Martyr George patron of this church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the ; **Ten martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians and the Holy Fathers**, 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

Kontakion of Tone 5

Thou descended into Hades, my Savior, and shattered its gates, for you are almighty. As Creator, Thou raised the dead and destroyed the sting of death. Thou delivered Adam from

the curse, O loving one. Therefore, all cry out to Thee: Lord, save us.

Oikos

Having heard the words of the angel, the women were overjoyed and stopped their lament and trembling, they witnessed the resurrection. And behold, Christ approached them, saying: Rejoice. Take courage, for I have conquered the world and have saved the captives. Hasten and announce to the disciples that I go before them into Galilee to announce the news. Therefore, we cry out to Thee, O Lord, save us.

Kontakon of the forefeast Tone 1 (*The soldiers standing guard*)

O Bethlehem, rejoice; Ephratha, make thou ready for in her womb the ew-lamb doth ear the Great Shepherd, * and lo, she now urgently maketh hast to give birth to Him. * On beholding Him, the righteous God-bearing Fathers * all rejoice, and with the shepherds sing hymns in praise of * the Virgin that nursed a child.

Oikos for the feast

Beholding the splendor of thy conception shining out, O Virgin, Abraham the friend of God, the celebrated Isaac, Jacob, and all the divinely gathered choir of the Saints rejoice, and they have brought creation to meet thee with words of jubilation, For thou art the cause of joy for all, who didst conceive in thy womb Him that was seen of old in Babylon and past all understanding preserved the children un-burnt, when they were unjustly cast into the furnace. Wherefore, they sing unto Him Who was seen in the hands of the young Maiden, and they praise the Virgin that nursed a child.

Synaxarion:

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke

the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses.

- + On this day we commemorate Adam and Eve, the first fashioned.**
- + We commemorate Abel, the son of Adam.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Seth, the son of Adam.**
- + We commemorate Enos, the son of Seth.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Cainan, the son of Enos.**
- ++ We commemorate the righteous Maleleel, the son of Cainan.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Jared, the son of Maleleel.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Enoch, the son of Jared.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Mathusalah, the son of Enoch.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Lamech, the son of Mathusalah.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Noah, the son of Lamech.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Shem, the son of Noah.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Japheth, the son of Noah.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Arphaxad, the son of Shem.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Cainan, the son of Arphaxad.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Salah, the son of Cainan.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Heber, from whom the Jews were called Hebrews.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Phalec, the son of Heber**
- + We commemorate the righteous Ragab, the son of Phalec.**
- + We commemorate the righteous Seruch, the son of Ragab.**

- + **We commemorate the righteous Nahor, the son of Seruch.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Tharra, the son of Nahor.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Abraham, the son of Tharra.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Isaac, the son of Abraham.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Jacob, the son of Isaac.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Symeon, the son of Jacob.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Levi, the son of Jacob.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Judah, son of Jacob, from whose tribe Christ was born.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Zabulon, the son of Jacob whose tribe was by the sea.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Issachar, the son of Jacob, whose tribe cultivated the earth.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Dan, the son of Jacob, whose tribe was the tribe of Judges.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Gad, the son of Jacob, whose tribe is plundered and plundering.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Asher, the son of Jacob, whose tribe was wealthy in wheat lands.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Nephthalim, the son of Jacob, whose tribe became a great multitude.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Joseph, the son of Jacob, whose tribe was right glorious and illustrious.**
- + **We commemorate the Patriarch Benjamin the son of Jacob whose tribe, though once fierce, became gentle.**
- + **We commemorate Phares and Zara the twins, the sons of Judah the Patriarch.**
- + **We commemorate Esrom, the son of Phares**
- + **We commemorate Aram, the son of Esrom**
- + **We commemorate Aminadab, the son Aram**
- + **We commemorate Naasson, the son of Aminadab.**
- + **We commemorate Salmon, the son of Naasson.**
- + **We commemorate Boaz, the son of Salmon.**
- + **We commemorate Obed, the son of Boaz by Ruth**
- + **We commemorate Jesse, the son of Obed.**

- + **We commemorate David the King, the son of Jesse.**
- + **We commemorate Solomon the King, the son of David.**
- + **We commemorate Roboam the King the son of Solomon.**
- + **We commemorate Abia the King, the son of Roaoam.**
- + **We commemorate Asa the King, the son of Abia**
- + **We commemorate Josaphat the King, the son of Asa**
- + **We commemorate Joram the King the son of Josaphat.**
- + **We commemorate Ozias the King, the son of Joram.**
- + **We commemorate Joatham the King, the son of Ozias.**
- + **We commemorate Ahaz the King, the son of Joatham.**
- + **We commemorate Hezekias the King, the son of Ahaz**
- + **We commemorate Manasses the King, the son of Hezekias.**
- + **We commemorate Ammon the King, the son of Manasses.**
- + **We commemorate Josias the King, the son of Ammon.**
- + **We commemorate Jechonias the King, the son of Josias.**
- + **We commemorate Salathiel, the son of Jechonias.**
- + **We commemorate Zorobabel, who again raised up the Temple in Jerusalem when it had been burned.**
- + **We commemorate Abiud, the son of Zorobabel.**
- + **We commemorate Eliakim, the son of Abiud.**
- + **We commemorate Azor, the son Eliakim.**
- + **We commemorate Sadoc, the son of Azor.**
- + **We commemorate Achim the son of Sadoc.**
- + **We commemorate Eliud, the son of Achim.**
- + **We commemorate Eleazar, the son of Eliud.**
- + **We commemorate Matthan, the son of Eleazar.**
- + **We commemorate Jacob, the son of Matthan.**
- + **We commemorate Joseph the Betrothed, the son of Jacob.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Job.**
- + **We commemorate the Prophet Moses, and Or and Aaron the Priests.**
- + **We commemorate Jesus the Son of Navi.**
- + **We commemorate the Holy Prophet Samuel.**
- + **We commemorate Prophet Nathan.**
- + **We commemorate the Holy Prophet Daniel.**

- + **We commemorate the holy Three Children Ananias, Azarias and Misael.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Sarah, the wife of Abraham.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Rebecca, the wife of Isaac.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Leah, the first wife of Jacob.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Rachel, the second wife of Jacob**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Aseneth, the wife of Joseph the All-comely**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Mariam, the sister of Moses.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Deborah, who judged Israel.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Ruth.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Widow of Sarephtha unto whom Elias was sent.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Shummanite Woman, who gave hospitality to Eliieus.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Judith, who slew Holofernes.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Hannah, the mother of Samuel the Prophet.**
- + **We commemorate the righteous Susanna.**

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy and save us. Amen.

1st Nativity Canon Tone 1

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.

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.

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.
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.
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.
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.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

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.

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

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name; and his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

He hath shown strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the empty with good things and the rich hath he sent empty away.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

He remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed forever.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without stain barest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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.

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

Holy is the Lord our God.

Holy is the Lord our God.

Holy is the Lord our God. Exalt ye the Lord our God and worship at his footstool for he is holy.

Exaposteilaria: (Eothina 8) Tone 2

Verily, when Mary saw two angels inside the grave she was taken by surprise. And when, she knowing not Christ, but thinking him the gardener, said to him, Sir, where hast thou placed the body of Jesus? She knew from his voice that he was

the Savior, and she obeyed him when he said. Touch me not; for I am going to my Father. Tell this to my brethren.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

tone 2 *Upon that Mount in Galilee*

By faith, the Fathers ere the Law * shone bright as stars beforehand, * those foremost of the Patriarchs, * great Abraham and Isaac, * and the illustrious Jacob; * for from them, all the Prophets * and all the just were set afire * like lamps blazing with splendor; * and by the rays * of their hallowed prophecies they enlightened * the whole creation, which had been * shrouded with heavy darkness.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR THE FOREFEAST IN TONE 2

Be glad, O little Bethlehem; * Ephratha, make thou ready; * the Theotokos now doth come * unto the cave and manger * to bring forth God past all telling. * O myst'ry dread and awesome! * this great, divine Nativity, * whose glad forefeast is kept by * the Patriarchs * Abraham and Isaac and godly Jacob, * and all the Prophets joyously, * with Angels and us mortals.

Praises Tone 5

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.

This Glory shall be to all his Saints.

The grave, O Lord, having been sealed by the transgressors of the law, thou didst emerge from within like as thou wast born of the Theotokos; for the incorporeal angels did not know how thou wert incarnate. Likewise the guardian soldiers were not aware when thou didst rise; for these two matters were concealed from all seekers. But the wonders appeared to those

who worshipped the mystery in faith. Therefore, grant us who offer praise joy and Great Mercy.

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

O Lord, thou hast demolished the everlasting gates and broken asunder the chains. Thou didst rise from the tomb, leaving behind thy wrappings and ointments in the grave, in testimony of thy true three-day burial, and didst go before into Galilee, O thou who wert kept in a cave. Great, therefore, are thy mercies, O ineffable Savior; have mercy upon us.

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

The women did hasten to thy tomb to behold thee, O Lord, who didst suffer for us. And when they arrived, advancing, they saw an angel sitting on the stone rolled back from fear. And he shouted to them, saying, The Lord hath risen. Go and tell the Disciples that the Savior of our souls is risen from the dead.

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

O Lord Savior, thou didst enter unto thy Disciples, the doors being closed, as thou didst come out of the sealed tomb, showing the sufferings of the flesh which thou didst accept in long-suffering; for thou didst submit to pains patiently since thou art the seed of David. But since thou art the Son of God, thou didst liberate the world. Great therefore, are thy mercies, O incomprehensible Savior. Have mercy upon us.

(tone 5) Fore the Sunday before the Nativity *Rejoice*

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

Zion, thou sacred city of God, * lift up thy voice, proclaim to all the divinely-blest * memorial of the Fathers, while singing Abraham's praise, * and with Isaac, honor Jacob great of

fame. * For lo, now we magnify Judah, Levi, the Patriarchs, * and the great Moses, wondrous Aaron, and we acclaim * David, Samuel, and with them, Jesus of Navi. * As we strike up divine prefestal praises of Christ our God, * with hymns composed by divine grace, we also ask that we all may find * the bountiful goodness * of the Savior, Who bestoweth Great Mercy on the world.

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

Zion, thou sacred city of God, * lift up thy voice, proclaim to all the divinely-blest * memorial of the Fathers, while singing Abraham's praise, * and with Isaac, honor Jacob great of fame. * For lo, now we magnify Judah, Levi, the Patriarchs, * and the great Moses, wondrous Aaron, and we acclaim * David, Samuel, and with them, Jesus of Navi. * As we strike up divine prefestal praises of Christ our God, * with hymns composed by divine grace, we also ask that we all may find * the bountiful goodness * of the Savior, Who bestoweth Great Mercy on the world.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers and Praised and Glorified is Thy Name unto the ages.

Come, O Elias, thou, who of old * drovest on high in a divine fiery chariot, * divinely-wise Elisseus, and Hezekiah the King, * with Josiah: do ye all exult for joy. * O hallowed and God-inspired twelve-fold band of the Prophets' choir, * dance ye together on the Savior's Nativity; * sing aloud with songs, all ye righteous, and form a choir. * O ye all-blessed Children who were granted the Spirit's dew * to quench the flame of the furnace, make intercession in our behalf, * and boldly entreat Christ * that He graciously bestow His Great Mercy on our souls.

For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Lo, now she hath appeared on the earth * who from all ages had been preached in the Prophets' words, * the pure Virgin

Theotokos, whom the revered and most wise * Patriarchs and righteous companies proclaim. * With them, woman's majesty also danceth for joy today: * Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Hannah all form a choir * with wise Mariam, Moses' sister most glorious. * And with the righteous women, all the ends of the world rejoice, * and all creation together doth render homage, because our God * is come to be born now * in the flesh, and to bestow His Great Mercy on the world.

Tone 8 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

The collection of the Law's teachings maketh plain Christ's divine Nativity in the flesh through them that had preached of grace before the coming of the Law, since, by faith, they had transcended the Law. Wherefore, unto the souls held in Hades, did they foretell Thy Nativity which, through the Resurrection, was the cause of our deliverance from corruption. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

Most blessed art thou O Virgin Theotokos for through him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled Adam is recalled from the dead the curse is made void Eve is set free death is slain and we are endowed with life. Wherefore in hymns of praise we cry aloud blessed art thou O Christ our God who is thus well pleased glory to thee.

The Great Doxology (tone 8)

Glory to thee, who hast shown us the light, glory be to God on high and on earth peace and goodwill among 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.

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of Hades, thou didst loose the condemnation of death, O Lord, releasing all mankind from the snares of the enemy. Having manifested thyself to thine Apostles, thou didst send them forth to proclaim thee: and through them thou hast granted thy peace unto the civilized world, O thou who alone art plenteous in mercy.