

Matins (tone 6) Eothinon 9
The Sunday After the Nativity of our Lord

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.

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.

Plagal Second Mode

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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 Resurrection (tone 6)

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world; O thou that art risen from the dead! O Lord, Glory to thee.

(tone 2) Sunday after the Nativity

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

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparents of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with Child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to have our souls.

(tone 4) For the Nativity of Christ

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

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped 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.

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 (Tone 6)

When the grave had been opened, and Hades was lamenting Mary cried unto the hidden Apostles: Come forth, ye laborers of the vineyard; preach the word of the Resurrection. The Lord is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

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

O Lord, Mary Magdalen was present at Thy tomb, and thinking Thee to be a gardener, she wept, crying aloud and saying: Where hast thou concealed Him that is Eternal Life? Where has thou laid Him that sitteth on the cherubic throne? For they that guarded Him became a dead for fear. Either give me back my Lord, or cry out with me: O Thou that wast among the dead and hast raised up the dead, glory be to Thee.

For the after-feast the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4 *Joseph was amazed*

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

He Whom nothing can contain, how is He held within a womb? And while in His Father's arms, how in His Mother's pure embrace? Such is His will and good pleasure, and as He knoweth. For being without flesh, He took flesh willingly; for us, He Who Is became what He was not. Without forsaking

His own nature, He hath partaken of what we are. For Christ is born now, twofold in nature, to fill Heaven with mankind.

Second Kathisma

Life lay in the grave, and a seal was set upon the stone. The soldiers guarded Christ as a sleeping King; but having smitten His enemies with blindness, the Lord is risen.

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

Jonas prefigureth Thy sepulcher, and Symeon expoundeth Thy divine Arising, O Immortal Lord; for Thou didst descend as a dead man into the tomb, Thou Who didst break the gates of Hades. As Master Thou didst arise without corruption, for the salvation of the world, O Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness.

For the after-feast of the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4 *Joseph was amazed*

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.

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

By thy willing yet life-giving Death, O Christ, thou hast crushed the gates of hades, because thou art God, and hast opened the old paradise; and having risen from the dead, thou hast redeemed our life from corruption.

Hymns of Ascent Plagal Second Mode

Unto Heaven do I lift up mine eyes, unto Thee, O Word; have pity on me, that I may live for Thee.

Have mercy on us who are utterly abased, and make us useful vessels of Thee, O Word.

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 there the cause of salvation for all. For upon whom-so-ever He doth breathe according to his worth, He doth swiftly raise. Him up above the things of the earth He giveth him wings, He giveth him increase, He doth rank him on high.

Second

Had it not been that the Lord was with us, no one of us could have withstood the enemy's warfare; for thereby are the victorious exalted.

Let not my soul be caught as a sparrow in their teeth, O Word. Woe is me, how shall I be rescued from mine enemies, being a lover of sin.?

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, divine inspiration, goodwill, understanding, peace and blessing are imparted to all, for He is equal in works to the Father and the Word.

Third

They that trust in the Lord are feared by their enemies, and wondrous to all; for they look on high.

Having Thee as a helper, O Savior, the lot of the righteous doth not stretch forth its hand unto iniquities.

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 there dominion over all; Him do the hosts on high worship, with all things below that have breath.

Prokeimenon

O Lord, stir up Thy might and come to save us.

O Lord, stir up Thy might and come to save us.

O Shepherd of Israel, attend, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

O Lord, stir up Thy might and come to save us.

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 (20:19-31)

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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you and when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

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 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, 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 Glorious Prophet Elias, patron

of this church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of **David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, James the Brother of the Lord, of our Virgin-martyr Anysia of Thessalonica; Martyr Philetairos of Nicomedia; Venerable Leon the Archimandrite; Venerable-martyr Gideon of Karakallou monastery on Athos; and Makarios, Metropolitan of Moscow,** 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 6

The life-giver, Christ our God, raised the dead from the valley of death with his life-giving hand, awarding resurrection to all. For he is the Savior, the resurrection, and the life and the God of all.

The Oikos

We the faithful praise and worship Thy cross and tomb, O giver of life, for Thou have chained Hades, O immortal one, and as the almighty God, Thou hast raised the dead with Thee and have shattered the gates of Hades and destroyed the power of death. Therefore, we praise Thee with love; Thou who arose and demolished the power of the deadly enemy. Thou hast raised all who believe in Thee and delivered the world from the arrows of the serpent, and freed us from the errors of the enemy, O mighty One. Therefore, in faith we praise Thy resurrection by which Thou saved us as God of all.

Kontakion of the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ
Third Tone *On this day the Virgin*

Godly David on this day * is filled with gladness of spirit; * Joseph also joineth James * in offering glory and praises. * They rejoice, for as Christ's kinsmen, * they have received crowns: * and they praise the One ineffably born upon earth * as they cry out with a great voice: O Lord of mercy, * save them that honour Thy Name.

Oikos

By an ineffable counsel, he Who is fleshless is born in the flesh. The Uncircumscribable is now circumscribed with a body, and He preserveth both essences without change. He taketh a beginning, Who by nature is without beginning and alone transcendeth time. Seen as an infant is He Who surpasseth perfection. Carried in arms is He Who beareth the universe. Therefore, at His own Birth, as God He crowneth them that are honoured with being His kinsmen. As we glorify them with faith, let us cry out unceasingly: O Lord of mercy, save them that honour Thy Name.

Synaxarion: December 30th

- + **On the thirtieth of this month we commemorate the holy Virgin Martyr Anysia of Thessalonica.**
- + On this day we commemorate our righteous Mother Theodora of Caesarea in Cappadocia.
- + On this day we commemorate the holy Martyr Philetarius of Nicomedia.
- + On this day we commemorate the Count and Six Soldiers who believed in Christ through Saint Philetarus and reposed in peace.
- + On this day our righteous Father Leo the Archimandrite reposed in peace.

- + On this day we commemorated the holy Righteous Martyr Gideon the New, who contested in Tunovo of Thessaly in the year 1818.
- + On this day we commemorate the recovery of the holy relics of our righteous Father Daniel of Pereyaslavl-Zalesky.
- + **On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the betrothed of the Holy virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.**

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy and save us. Amen.

2nd Canon of the Nativity

Tone 1

- Choir:**
1. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 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.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

8. 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.

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.

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

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 begin well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed difficult 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

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 9)

When thou didst enter while the doors were closed, O Lord, then thou didst fill thine Apostles with a holy spirit, breathing into them peace, and saying unto them Loosen ye and bind ye sins. And after eight days thou didst show Thomas thy

hands and thy side. With him, therefore, do we cry to thee,
Thou art the Lord and God.

For the Sunday after the Nativity *Upon that M=mount in Galelee*

Tone 2 Now with God's Brother, lauded James, * let us all sing the
praises * of David, God's own ancestor; * and with them,
godly Joseph, * the chaste Betrothed of God's Mother; * for
in a godly fashion * they ministered to that divine * Birth of
Christ in the city * of Bethlehem, * when with Angels, Magi,
and watching shepherds, * they sang the hymn of praise to
Him * as to their God and Master.

For the Nativity (tone 3) *original melody*

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

**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 Cross, O Lord, is life and resurrection to thy people, and
in it we do trust. Wherefore, thee do we praise, O our risen
Lord; have mercy upon us.

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

Thy burial O Master, hath opened paradise to mankind.
Wherefore, as we escape corruption, we praise thee, O our
risen God; have mercy upon us.

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

With the Father and the Spirit, let us praise Christ risen from the dead. Let us cry unto him, Thou art our life and resurrection. Have mercy on us.

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

Thou hast risen from the tomb in three days, as it was written, O Christ, and hast raised with thee our ancestors. Wherefore, mankind doth glorify thee and praise thy Resurrection.

(tone 4) For the Nativity of Christ

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

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

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.

The Lord said unto my Lord: 'Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet.'

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.

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee.

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

The blood, fire, and pillars of smoke are the miracles of the earth which Joel foresaw; for the blood is the Incarnation, the fire is the Divinity, and the pillars of smoke are the Holy Spirit which descended on the Virgin and scented the world. Wherefore, great is the mystery of thine Incarnation, O Lord, glory 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.