

# *Christmas Day Matins & Liturgy*

## *December 25*

### MATINS

#### *The Trisagion Prayers*

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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 Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

#### *Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross and Theotokion*

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting to the faithful vict'ry over their enemies, and by the power of Your Cross preserving Your habitation.

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

O Lord, Who of Your own goodwill were lifted up on the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Your generous gifts on the new nation which is called by Your name; make glad in Your might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to vict'ry over our enemies, having in Your aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O fearsome Champion, 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 you are she who gave birth to God and alone are blessed.

## *The Litany and Blessing*

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Again we pray our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., and all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER/PEOPLE: 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. (3x)

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. (2x)

## *The Six Psalms*

### *Psalms 3*

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

### *Psalms 38 (LXX 37)*

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble

and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

***Psalm 63 (LXX 62)***

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped. I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

***Psalm 88 (LXX 87)***

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the

pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all your waves. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You. Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your loving-kindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? I have been afflicted and ready to die from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. They came around me all day long like water; they engulfed me altogether. Loved one and friend You have put far from me, and my acquaintances into darkness.

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry.

***Psalm 103 (LXX 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 forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are but dust. As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, You His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who 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 (LXX 142)***

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

O Lord, give ear to my supplications and do not enter into judgment with Your servant. (2x)

Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

***The Great Litany***

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*Exclamation of the First Morning Prayer*

PRIEST: For unto You 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

***“God is the Lord...”- Psalm 118 (LXX 117) (Bulgarian)***

God is the Lord Who has shown the light to us. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

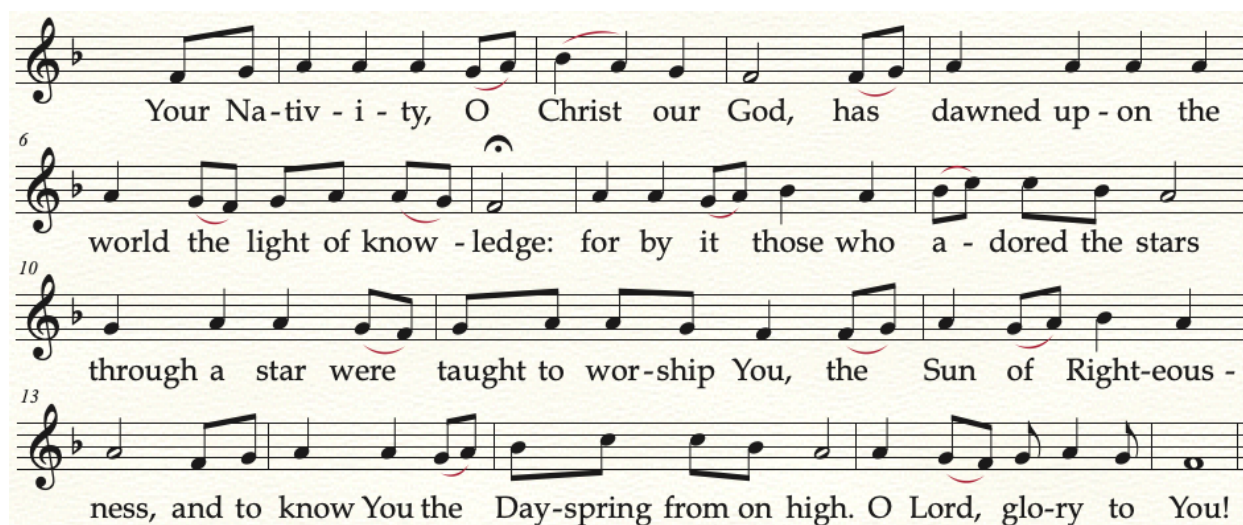
*Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His holy name.*

*Verse: All nations surrounded me; but in the name of the Lord will I destroy them.*

*Verse: The stone which the builders refused has become the head cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*

***Nativity Troparion: Tone 4 (Russian-Greek)***

*Sing Troparion of the Feast (1x)*



***Kathisma Hymns: Tone 4***

*Come, O faithful, and let us behold where Christ is born. Let us join the Magi, kings from the east, and follow the guiding star. Angels sing praises there without ceasing, and shepherds abiding in the fields offer a fitting hymn, saying: "Glory in the highest to Him Who in the cave this day is born of the Virgin Theotokos, in Bethlehem of Judah."*

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

*Why are you filled with wonder, O Mary? Why are you amazed at that which is come to pass in you? "Because I have given birth in time to the timeless Son, yet understand not how I have conceived Him. I have not known man: How then shall I bear a child? Who has ever seen a birth without seed?" "But, as it is written: Where God so wills, the order of nature is overcome." Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem of Judah.*

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen*

*How is He contained in a womb, Whom nothing can contain? How can the One Who rests in the bosom of the Father rest in the arms of a mother? He alone knows, for He has willed it in His good pleasure. For being without flesh, He has been made flesh of His own will; and for our sakes, He Who is, has become that which He was not. Without abandoning His nature, He has shared our human condition. In His desire to fill heaven with our humanity, Christ was born in two natures, both God and man.*

***Polyeleos - Psalm 135 (LXX 134) (Glinsk) - Abbreviated***

*All you servants of the Lord, praise the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Praise the name of the Lord, O you servants of the Lord. Alleluia.*

*You who stand in the house of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*In the courts of the house of our God. Alleluia.*

*Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Sing praises to His name, for it is good. Alleluia.*

*For I know that the Lord is great. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*And our Lord is above all gods. Alleluia.*

*All that the Lord has willed He has done in heaven and earth, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*In the seas and in the abyss. Alleluia.*

***Polyeleon- Psalm 136 (LXX 135) (Byzantine) - Abbreviated***

*O give thanks to the Lord for He is good. Alleluia!*

***Refrain: For His mercy endures forever. Alleluia!***

*To Him Who spread out the earth upon the waters. Alleluia!*

*To Him Who divided the Red Sea in parts. Alleluia!*

*And made Israel pass through the midst of it. Alleluia!*

*It is He Who remembered us in our low estate. Alleluia!*

*And rescued us from our enemies. Alleluia!*

*He Who gives food to all flesh. Alleluia!*

*O give thanks to the God of Heaven. Alleluia!*

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

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, glory to You, O God! (3x)*

*O our God and our hope, glory to You!*

### ***The Little Litany***

#### ***Anavathmoi: Tone 4***

From my youth up many passions have warred against me; but help me and save me, O my Savior. You who hate Zion shall be put to confusion by the Lord; like grass in the fire you shall be withered up. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: Through the Holy Spirit is ev'ry soul enlivened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow, watering all creation with invigorating life.

#### ***Matins Prokeimenon: Tone 4 - Psalm 110 (LXX 109)***

“From the womb before the morning star have I begotten You,” the Lord has sworn and He will not change His mind.

*Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.*

*“Let every breath...”*

*The Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

*Psalm 51 (LXX 50)*

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

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

*Today all things are filled with joy: Christ is born of the Virgin.*

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Today all things are filled with joy: Christ is born of the Virgin.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgression.

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace. Today Bethlehem receives Him Who sits forever with the Father. Today the angels joyfully glorify the babe Who is born, and they cry aloud with holy hymns: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and goodwill among men.*

### ***The Intercession***

#### ***Kontakion Nativity: Tone 3 (Bulgarian, Romanos)***

To - day the Vir - gin gives birth to the One a - bove  
all. The earth of - fers a cave to the un - ap - proach - a - ble.  
All heav - en's an - gels join to sing with the shep - herds  
prais - ing Him. Wise - men jour - ney with a star for God E - ter - nal  
comes. For all man - kind's sake is born:  
the E - ter - nal God, a lit - tle Child.

### ***Ikos***

*Bethlehem has opened Eden: come, and let us see. We have found joy in secret: come, and let us take possession of the paradise that is within the cave. There the unwatered Root has appeared, from which forgiveness flowers forth. There is found the undug Well, from whence David longed to drink of old. There the Virgin has borne a Babe, and quenched the thirst of Adam and David. Therefore let us hasten to this place where now is born the eternal God, a little Child.*

### ***Synaxarion of the Feast***

On December 25, in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

### ***Verses***

*The little Child born is God, and the Mother, a Virgin;*



*What greater marvel has ever appeared in creation?  
On the twenty-fifth, Mary the Virgin gave birth to God.*

On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi. Worshipping You, O Word, these wise men come from the nations, and show forth the worship that You shall receive from the nations.

On this day we commemorate the Shepherds that behold the Lord: Shepherds come and abandon their own flock, and hasten to see Christ the Good Shepherd.

Thus entered into the world He, Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather a foreigner named Herod was reigning. This Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind. Unto Him be glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

***1<sup>st</sup> Nativity Canon Katavasiae – Tone 1 (Carpatho-Russian)***

***Ode 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon (by St. Cosmos)***

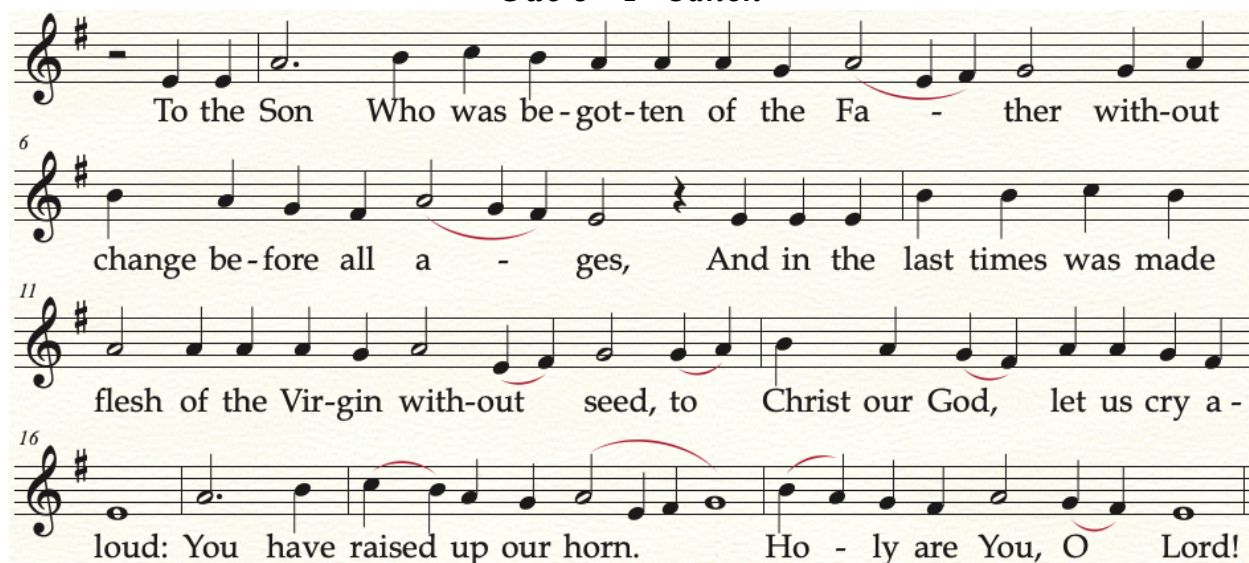
Christ is born glo - ri - fy Him. Christ comes from heav - en,  
6 meet Him. Christ is on earth, be ex - al - - ted. O  
12 all the earth sing to the Lord. And sing prais - es in  
17 glad - ness O peo - ple; for He has been glo - ri - fied.

***Ode 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon (by St. John of Damascus)***

*Of old the Master Who works wonders saved His people, making the watery wave of the sea into dry land; and now of His own will has He been born from a maiden, and so He establishes a path for us by which we may mount to heaven. We glorify Him Who in essence is equal to the Father and to mortal men.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**

**Ode 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon**



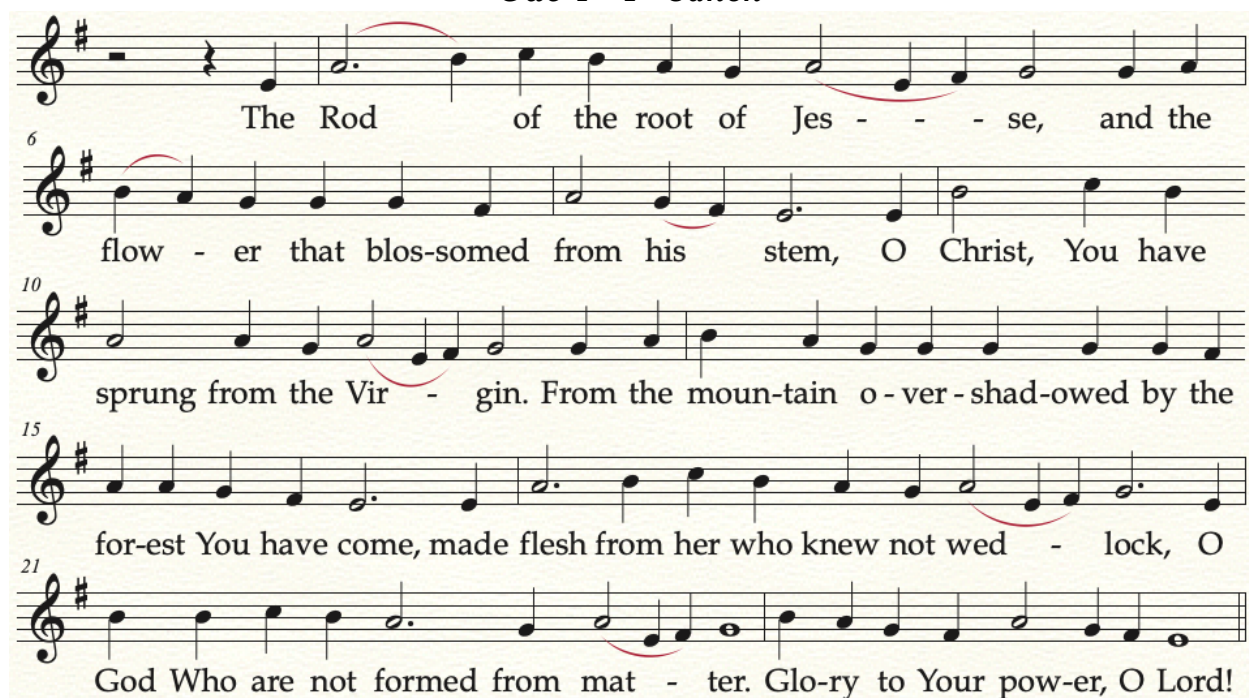
1  
To the Son Who was be-got-ten of the Fa - ther with-out  
6  
change be-fore all a - ges, And in the last times was made  
11  
flesh of the Vir-gin with-out seed, to Christ our God, let us cry a -  
16  
loud: You have raised up our horn. Ho - ly are You, O Lord!

**Ode 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon** (may be omitted)

*Graciously accept, O Benefactor, the praises of Your servants, and bring down the despiteful and haughty looks of the enemy. O Blessed Lord, Who sees all, raise us up far above sin, and establish Your singers firm and unshaken upon the foundation of the faith.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.** (may be omitted)

**Ode 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon**



1  
The Rod of the root of Jes - - - se, and the  
6  
flow - er that blos-somed from his stem, O Christ, You have  
10  
sprung from the Vir - gin. From the moun-tain o-ver-shad-owed by the  
15  
for-est You have come, made flesh from her who knew not wed - lock, O  
21  
God Who are not formed from mat - ter. Glo-ry to Your pow-er, O Lord!

**Ode 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon**



*The Prophet Habakkuk of old was counted worthy to behold ineffably the figure and symbol of Christ's birth, and he foretold in song the renewal of mankind. For a young babe, even the Word, has now come forth from the mountain that is the Virgin, for the re-creation of mankind.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**

**Ode 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon**



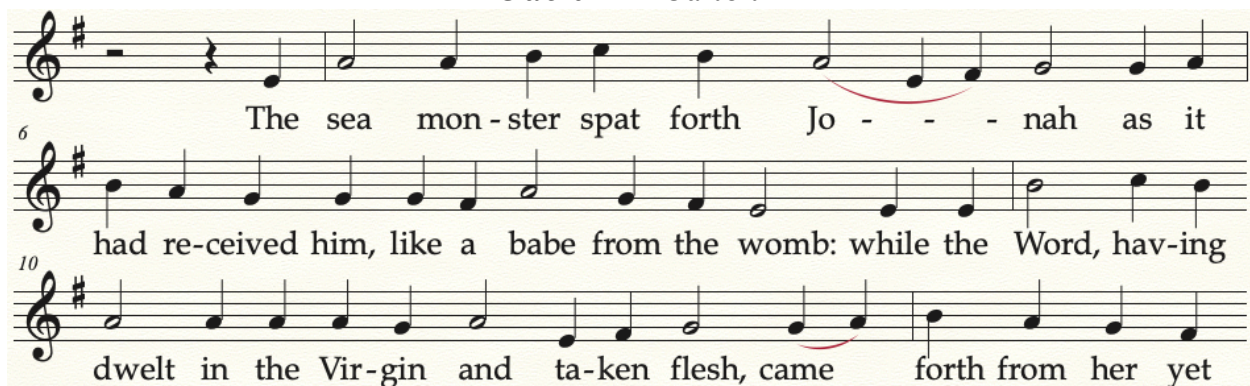
As You are God of peace and Fa - ther of mer -  
cies, You have sent to us Your An - gel of great coun - sel,  
grant - ing us peace. So are we gui - - - ded t'wards the  
light of the know - ledge of God, and watch - ing by night we  
glo - ri - fy You, O Lov - er of man - kind.

**Ode 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon**

*Grant forgiveness, O Christ, to us who have been in darkness of our deeds of error, who eagerly praise You, and we sing to You, O Christ, as our Benefactor. Come to us and grant us cleansing, prepare the path for us that we may ascend and find glory and honor.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**

**Ode 6 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon**



The sea mon - ster spat forth Jo - - - nah as it  
had re - ceived him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, hav - ing  
dwelt in the Vir - gin and ta - ken flesh, came forth from her yet

14  
 kept her un - cor - rupt. For be - ing Him - self not sub - ject to de -  
 19  
 cay, He pre - served His Moth - er free from harm.

### Ode 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon

*Truly, Jonah when he was in the depths of the sea, begged to ascend to You and to be rescued from the storm. But as for me, having been pierced by the arrows of the tyrant, I call upon You, the Slayer of evil. Come quickly to me and deliver me from my slothfulness.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**

### Ode 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon

Scorn - - - ing the im - pi - ous de - cree, the  
 5 Chil - dren brought up to - geth - er in god - li - ness  
 9 feared not the threat of fire, but stand - ing in the  
 14 midst of the flames, they cried a - loud: "Bless - ed are You, O  
 20 God of our fa - - - thers!"

### Ode 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon

*The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the tyrant, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but as they stood in the midst of the flames, they sang to the Master: Blessed are You, O God of our fathers!*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**



### Ode 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon



The musical score for the 1st Canon of Ode 8 is written on ten staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with red curved lines indicating phrasing. The lyrics are: "The fur - - - nace moist with dew was the im - age and figure of a won - der past na - ture. For it burnt not the Chil - dren whom it had re - ceived, e - ven as the fire of the God - head con - sumed not the Vir - gin's womb in - to which He had de - scend - ed. There - fore in praise let us sing: Let the whole cre - a - tion bless the Lord and ex - alt Him a - bove all for - ev - - - er! Let us praise, bless and wor - ship the Lord; sing - ing and ex - alt - ing Him through - out all a - - - ges."

### Ode 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon

*The youths of old who were cast into the fire and remained unburned, prefigured the womb of the Maiden that remained sealed, when she gave birth in fashion past nature. It was the same grace of God that brought both these wonders to pass in a miracle and rouses the peoples to sing in praise.*

**Refrain: Glory to You our God, glory to You.**



DEACON: The Theotokos and Mother of Light, let us honor and magnify in song.

**Ode 9 – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon**

*“O my soul magnify her who is more honorable and who is more glorious than the heavenly hosts.*

*Irmos: A mystery I behold which is strange and wondrous. The cave is heaven and the Virgin is the throne of the cherubim. In the confines of a manger is laid the infinite Christ our God, Whom we praise and magnify.*

Refrain *O my soul magnify God born in the flesh from the Virgin.*

*The Magi, beholding the strange course of an unknown and newly shining star that exceeded the brightness of all heavenly light, learned from it that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.*

Refrain *O my soul magnify the King born in a cave.*

*“Where is the new-born Child and King, Whose star we have seen?” said the Magi, “for we have come to worship Him.” Herod, the enemy of God, was troubled, and in his wild madness he plotted how to kill Christ.*

Refrain *O my soul magnify the pure Virgin who has given birth to Christ the King.*

*Herod inquired as to what time the guiding star appeared, which brought the Magi to Bethlehem to worship Christ with gifts. Led back to their own land by that same star, they returned not to Herod, but mocked the wicked slayer of children.*



### Ode 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Canon

*“Today the Virgin bears the Master... (Irmos) ...It would be easier...” (omitted)*

Refrain *Today shepherds behold the Savior wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.*

Refrain *Today the Master Who cannot be touched is wrapped as a babe in swaddling rags.*

*O Mother of the Word, O pure one, we have seen the shades that are past and the dim figures of the Word and now that He has appeared from the closed gate, we glorify the Light of the truth, and bless your womb as is fitting and right. (may be omitted)*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit  
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Refrain *O my soul magnify her who has delivered us from the curse.*

*The people who delight in Christ have attained their desire, being counted worthy of the coming of God, and now they humbly pray, O Virgin, and seek with tears your help to worship the glory of His Life-giving appearance, that is the renewal of birth. For grace comes from you, O pure one.*

### 9<sup>th</sup> Ode Katavasia – 1<sup>st</sup> Canon

O my soul mag-ni - fy her who is more hon'-ra-ble  
and who is more glo-rious than the heav'-nly hosts.  
*Irmos*  
A mys - ter y I be - hold which is strange and won -  
drous: the cave is heav'n, and the Vir - gin is the throne of the  
Cher-u - bim. In the con - fines of the man - ger is laid the In-fin-  
ite, Christ our God. Whom we praise and mag - ni - fy.

### 9th Ode Katavasia – 2nd Canon

To-day the Vir - gin bears the Mas - ter and gives birth  
to the Lord in a cave.

*Irmos*

It would be eas - i - er to keep si-lence in fear and stay  
safe from dan - ger; while it is hard in - deed to com -  
pose hymns with love sung in har-mo-ny, still we pray to you, O  
Vir - gin Moth - er of our God: give us strength so we can  
right - ly hon - or you.

### The Little Litany

#### Exapostilarion: Tone 2 (Znamenny) - (1x)

5 Our Sa - - - vior the Day - spring from the  
9 east, has vis - i - ted us from on high,  
13 and we who were in dark-ness and shad - ow have found the  
truth: for the Lord is born of the Vir - gin.

***Praises: Tone 4 (Znamenny)***

***Psalms 148***

Let every breath praise the Lord. To You, O God, is due a song. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest! To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! To You, O God, is due a song.

*Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!*

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.

*Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!*

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

*Let us celebrate and O heavens, greatly rejoice! And you mountains, dance for joy! Christ is born, and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh. Shepherds glorify the new-born Child, the magi offer the Master gifts, and the angels sing praises, saying: O Lord past understanding, glory to You!*

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp.

*It was the good pleasure of the Father that the Word became flesh, and the Virgin bore God made man. A star spreads the tidings abroad, the Magi come and worship, the shepherds stand amazed, and the creation is filled with mighty joy.*

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

*O Virgin Theotokos who have borne the Savior, you have overthrown the ancient curse of Eve. For you have become the Mother of Him in Whom the Father was well pleased, and have carried at your bosom God the incarnate Word. We cannot fathom this mystery: but by faith alone we all glorify it, and crying out with you saying: O Lord past all understanding, glory to You!*

Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

*O come, let us sing the praises of the Mother of the Savior, who after bearing child still remained virgin. Rejoice, you living city of God the King, in which Christ has dwelt, bringing our salvation to pass. With Gabriel we sing your praises; with the shepherds we glorify you, crying aloud: O Theotokos, intercede with Him for our salvation Who took flesh from you.*

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



(Tone 6)

*When it was time for Your coming upon earth, the first taxation of the world was held; and then You made ready to enroll the names of all who believed in Your birth. For this cause, Caesar published such a decree, since Your timeless and eternal kingdom was newly made manifest. Therefore, as we pay our earthly tribute money, at the same time, we offer You the wealth of our Orthodox Faith O God and Savior of our souls!*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Tone 2)

*Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem! Today He Who knows no beginning now begins to be. The Word is made flesh! The powers of heaven greatly rejoice, the earth rejoices with mankind, the magi offer gifts, the shepherds proclaim the marvel, and we cry aloud without ceasing: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!*

### ***Great Doxology***

Glory to You, Who have shown us the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.**

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world**

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

**For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

**Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.**

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

**Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.**

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

**Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.**

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.



**Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: “Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”**

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

**For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.**

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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.

**Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.**

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

*Nativity Troparion: Tone 4*

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has dawned upon the world the light of knowledge: for by it those who adored the stars through a star were taught to worship You, the Son of Righteousness, and to know You the Dayspring from on high, O Lord, glory to You!

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHYRSOSTOM

*The First Antiphon (Psalm 49, 111)*

Through the intercessions...

*Verse: I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.*

*Verse: The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.*

*Verse: His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endures forever. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### *The Second Antiphon - Psalm 112 (LXX 111)*

O Son of God, **Who were born of the Virgin**, save us who sing to You:  
Alleluia.

*Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth, the generation of the upright will be blessed.*

*Verse: Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.*

*Verse: Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous.*

### *The Third Antiphon - Psalm 21 (LXX 20)*

*Sing Troparion of Nativity with verse by cantor (3x)*

*Verse: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 'til I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

*Verse: The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.*

*Verse: With You is the dominion of Your power, in the beauty of Your saints.*

### *Nativity Troparion: Tone 4 (Russian-Greek)*

Your Na-tiv - i - ty, O Christ our God, has dawned up - on the  
world the light of know - ledge: for by it those who a - dored the stars  
through a star were taught to wor-ship You, the Sun of Right-eous -  
ness, and to know You the Day-spring from on high. O Lord, glo-ry to You!

### *Entrance Hymn*

*Verse: "From the womb before the morning star have I begotten You." The Lord has sworn and He will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."*

O Son of God, **Who were born of the Virgin**, save us who sing to You:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Nativity Troparion: Tone 4 (Russian-Greek)*

Your Na-tiv - i - ty, O Christ our God, has dawned up - on the  
world the light of know - ledge: for by it those who a - dored the stars  
through a star were taught to wor-ship You, the Sun of Right-eous -  
ness, and to know You the Day-spring from on high. O Lord, glo-ry to You!

*Glory to the Father...*

*Kontakion Nativity: Tone 3 (Bulgarian, Romanos)*

To - day the Vir - gin gives birth to the One a - bove  
all. The earth of - fers a cave to the un-ap-proach-a - ble.  
All heav - en's an - gels join to sing with the shep-herds  
prais-ing Him. Wise-men jour-ney with a star for God E - ter-nal  
comes. For all man-kind's sake is born:  
the E - ter - nal God, a lit - tle Child.

*Anti-Trisagion*

*“As many as have been baptized...”*

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x)

***Prokeimenon - Psalm 66 (LXX 65)***

Let all the earth worship You and sing unto You, let praise Your name Most High.

*Verse: Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name.*

*Verse: Make His praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are Your work!"*

*Verse: Through the greatness of Your power, Your enemies shall cringe before You.*

***The Epistle Reading - Galatians 4:4-7***

Brethren, when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

***The Alleluia before the Gospel - Psalm 19 (LXX 18)***

*Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.*

*Verse: Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.*

***The Gospel Reading - Matthew 2:1-12***

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



### *Magnification Hymn: 9<sup>th</sup> Ode Matins*



6 O my soul mag-ni - fy her who is more hon'-ra-ble  
and who is more glo-rious than the heav'-nly hosts.


10 *Irmos*  
A mys - ter y I be - hold which is strange and won -  
14 drous: the cave is heav'n, and the Vir - gin is the throne of the  
19 Cher-u - bim. In the con - fines of the man - ger is laid the In-fin-  
23 ite, Christ our God. Whom we praise and mag - ni - fy.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). It includes measure numbers 6, 10, 14, 19, and 23. Red curved lines indicate phrasing. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present above the final measure.

### *Communion Hymn - Psalm 111 (LXX 110)*

The Lord has sent redemption, sent redemption to His people. Alleluia (3x)

### *Exapostilarion: Tone 2 (Znamenny)*



5 Our Sa - - - vior the Day - spring from the  
9 east, has vis - i - ted us from on high,  
and we who were in dark-ness and shad - ow have found the  
13 truth: for the Lord is born of the Vir - gin.

The musical score is written on four staves in B-flat major (two flats). It includes measure numbers 5, 9, and 13. Red curved lines indicate phrasing.

*Nativity Canon Hypakoe: Tone 8 (Byzantine)*

5 Call-ing the Ma-gi by a star, heav-en brought the first

9 fruits of the Gen-tiles un-to You, a Babe ly-ing in a

13 man-ger: and they were a-mazed to see no scep-ter, no

19 throne but on-ly ut-ter pov-er-ty. For what is mean-er than

23 a cave, and what is hum-bler than swad-dling clothes?

26 Yet there-in shone forth the wealth of Your di-vin-i-ty:

Glo-ry to You, O Lord!

*Post Communion Hymn*

*Instead of "We have seen the true Light..." we sing the Nativity Troparion.*

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has dawned upon the world the light of knowledge: for by it those who adored the stars through a star were taught to worship You, the Son of Righteousness, and to know You the Dayspring from on high, O Lord, glory to You!

*The Dismissal*

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation*, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother... at the supplication of (*N., patron of the church*), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.





*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

*Christmas Carols*

## **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels:

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,  
CHRIST THE LORD.  
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO,**

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation,  
Sig all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:

## **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth;  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## **Angels We Have Heard of High**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO,  
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO,**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem, and see  
Him Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

## **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n  
and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills  
and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.



## **The First Noel**

The first Noel, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in  
fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**NOEL, NOEL, NOEL, NOEL,  
BORN IN THE KING OF ISRAEL.**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there, in His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

## **O God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen;  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day.  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray.

**O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY,  
COMFORT AND JOY  
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY.  
BORN IN THE KING OF ISRAEL.**

In Bethlehem in Israel,  
This blessed Babe was born,  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn;  
To which His mother, Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn.

## **We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

**O STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT  
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT,  
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL PROCEEDING,  
GUIDE US TO THE PERFECT LIGHT.**

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Pray'r and praising all men raising,  
Worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Earth to the heav'ns replies.

