

ROYAL HOURS FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

FIRST HOUR

(The priest, vested in epitrachelion and phelonion, opens the curtain and begins:)

Deacon: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One..

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest opens the Royal Doors, takes the Gospel and places it in the center of the Church, after which he makes a full censuring of the Church, beginning by censuring around the Gospel and concluding by censuring before it.)

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord, understand my cry. Attend to the voice of my supplication, my King and my God, for to you I shall pray, O Lord. In the morning you will hear my voice. In the morning

I shall stand before you, and you will watch over me, because you are not a God who wants iniquity. The evildoer will not dwell with you, nor will the lawless remain before your eyes. You have hated all those who work iniquity; you will destroy all those who speak lies. The Lord abhors a man of bloodshed and deceit. But I in the abundance of your mercy shall enter your house, I shall worship towards your holy temple in fear of you. Guide me, O Lord, in your justice because of my enemies, direct my way before you. Because there is no truth in their mouths; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open tomb, they deceive with their tongues. Judge them, O God. Let them fall through their counsels; according to the multitude of their impieties cast them out, for they have embittered you, O Lord. And may all those who hope in you be glad; they will rejoice forever, and you will dwell among them, and all those who love your name will boast in you. Because you will bless the righteous; you have crowned him, O Lord, with your good pleasure.

Psalm 44

My heart has uttered a good Word. I tell my works to the King. My tongue is the pen of ready writer. You are lovely with a beauty beyond the children of men. Grace has poured from your lips, therefore God has blessed you forever. Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty warrior. In your splendour and beauty, draw your bow and prosper and reign in the cause of truth and meekness and justice, and your right hand will guide you wonderfully. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; the sceptre of your Kingdom is a rod of justice. You have loved right and hated wrong, therefore God your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your fellows. Your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia, from the ivory palaces which gladden you. Kings' daughters are in your train. The Queen stood at your right hand clothed in a golden robe decked out in many colours. Listen my daughter and see, and incline your ear. And forget your people and your father's house. Then the King will desire your beauty, for he is your God and you shall worship him. And the daughter of Tyre will worship you with gifts. The richest of the people will entreat your favour. All the glory of the King's daughter is within, though she is arrayed in tasselled gold, wrought with many colours. The virgins in her train will be brought to the King, those near her will be brought to you. They will be brought with joy and gladness, they will be led into the King's temple. Instead of your fathers, sons are born to you. You shall make them rulers over all the earth. I will remember your name throughout all generations, therefore people will praise and thank you for ever and ever.

Psalm 45

God is our refuge and our power, a help in the afflictions that beset us greatly. Therefore we shall not be afraid when the earth is troubled, and mountains are removed into the heart of the sea. Their waters roared and were troubled, the mountains were troubled by his might. The surgings of the river delight the City of God; the Most High has sanctified his tabernacle. God is in the midst of her, and she will not be shaken; God will help her towards the morning. Nations were troubled, kingdoms tottered, he uttered his voice, the earth was shaken. The Lord of powers is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob. Come and see the works of God, the wonders he has done upon the earth, putting an end to wars as far as the ends of the earth. He will smash the bow and shatter the weapon, and burn the shields with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The God of powers is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God! (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

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

Troparion in Tone 4 Mary once with aged Joseph went to be enrolled in Bethlehem, for he was of David's line; and she bore in her womb fruit unknown; the time for the birth was at hand, and there was no room in the inn; but the Cave proved a fair palace for the Queen. Christ is born, to raise up his image that had fallen.

Reader: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. What shall we call you, O Full of grace? Heaven? For you made the Sun of justice dawn. Paradise? For you made the flower of incorruption blossom. Virgin? For you remained incorrupt. Pure Mother? For you held in your holy embrace a Son who is the God of all. Implore him that our souls may be saved.

In Tone 8 Bethlehem make ready; let the Manger be prepared; let the Cave receive. The truth has come, the shadow has passed away, and God has appeared among men from a Virgin, formed as we are and making divine what he has put on. And so Adam is renewed with Eve as they cry, 'God's good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our race'.

God will come from Theman, and the Holy One from a mountain overshadowed by forest. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Tone 3 Now the prophetic saying hastens to its fulfilment, which mystically said, 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Juda, are in no way least among the Leaders as you prepare the Cave, for from you will go forth for me in flesh a leader of the Nations, from a Virgin Maiden, Christ God, who will shepherd his people, the new Israel'. Let us all give him great glory.

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

Tone 8 Joseph spoke thus to the Virgin, 'Mary, what is this doing that I see in you? I am at a loss and am amazed, and my mind is struck with dismay. Go quickly from me then and secretly. Mary, what is this doing that I see in you? Instead of honour, you have brought me shame; instead of gladness, sorrow; instead of praise, reproof. No longer will I bear men's reproach; for I took you from the Priests in the Temple as one blameless before the Lord; and what is this sight?'

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son, * today I have begotten you'.

Chanter: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son, * today I have begotten you'.

Reader: Ask me and I shall give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Your possession.

Chanter: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son, * today I have begotten you'.

Reader: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son,

Chanter: today I have begotten you'.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Micah
(5:2-4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the Lord: And you Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, are not least among the thousands of Juda; for from you there will come forth for me the one who is to be ruler in Israel, and his goings out are from the beginning, from eternity. Because of this he will give them until the moment that she who bears child shall bring to birth; and the remainder of his brethren will return to the children of Israel. And he will stand and will see, and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, and they will abide in the glory of the name of the Lord his God; for now they will be magnified even to the extremities of the earth.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews (1:1-12)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren: In many and varied ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the ages. He is the radiance of his glory and the very imprint of his substance, upholding the universe by the word of his power. When he had made purification for our sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers flames of fire.' But to the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is to age on age, the sceptre of justice is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved justice and hated iniquity; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your comrades.' And, 'You, Lord, founded the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle you will roll them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright, let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit!

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: (1:18-25) Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Reader: Direct my steps according to your word, and let no iniquity lord it over me.

Deliver me from the slander of men, and I shall keep your commandments.

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with your praise, O Lord, that I may hymn your glory, all day long your splendour.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion in Tone 3 The Virgin today comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. Dance, world who hear this! Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, him who willed to be manifest, a new child, the God before the ages.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Prayer of the Hours

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the good things to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the

unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Birthgiver of God, we magnify you! In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: God have pity on us and bless us, show his Face to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Christ, the true light, who enlighten and sanctify everyone who comes into the world, may the light of your countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may see your unapproachable light; and direct our steps to the doing of your commandments; at the intercessions of your all-pure Mother and of all your Saints. Amen.

THIRD HOUR

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest censens around the Gospel, after which he censens the iconostasis and the people, concluding by censening before the Gospel.)

Psalm 66

God have pity on us and bless us; show his Face to us and have mercy on us. To make your way known on the earth, your salvation among all nations. Let peoples confess you, O God, let all peoples confess you. Let nations rejoice and be glad, because you judge peoples with equity and guide nations on the earth. Let peoples confess you, O God, let all peoples confess you; earth has given its fruit. May God, our God, bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear him.

Psalm 86

His foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loves the gates of Sion more than all the tabernacles of Jacob. Glorious things have been said of you, City of God. I shall remember Rahab and Babylon to those who know me. See, foreigners and Tyre and people of the Ethiopians, these were born in her. My mother is Sion, a man will say; and a man was born in her, and he the Most high founded her. The Lord will recount in writing of peoples, and of these rulers that have been born in her. Dwelling in you is as that of all who rejoice.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great mercy, and according to the fullness of your compassions blot out my transgression.

More thoroughly wash me from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I do know my lawlessness, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only I have sinned and have done the evil before you, so that you are righteous in your words and conquer in your judging.

For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me.

For, behold, you have loved truth, the unseen and hidden things of your wisdom you have shown me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be cleansed; you will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the humbled bones will rejoice.

Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right Spirit in my inward parts.

Do not cast me away from your Face, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and make me steadfast with a governing Spirit.

I will teach the lawless your ways, and the ungodly will turn around to you.

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will rejoice in your righteousness.

Lord, you will open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

For if you had wanted a sacrifice, I would have given it; you will not be well-pleased in whole burnt offerings.

A sacrifice to God is a shattered spirit; a shattered and humbled heart God will not despise.

Do good, Lord, to Zion in your good pleasure and the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt!

Then you will be well-pleased in sacrifice of righteousness, offering and whole-burnt offerings.

Then they will offer calves upon your altar.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God! (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Troparion in Tone 4 Mary once with aged Joseph went to be enrolled in Bethlehem, for he was of David's line; and she bore in her womb fruit unknown; the time for the birth was at hand, and there was no room in the inn; but the Cave proved a fair palace for the Queen. Christ is born, to raise up his image that had fallen.

Reader: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Birthgiver of God, you are the true vine, who gave bud to the fruit of life; we implore you, Sovereign Lady, intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints that he have mercy on our souls.

In Tone 6 This is our God, another will not be reckoned in comparison with him, born of a Virgin and passing his life among men. The only-begotten Son appears as a mortal, lying in a poor manger, and the Lord of glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes; and a star guides Magi to worship him; and we sing, Holy Trinity, save our souls.

God will come from Theman, and the Holy One from a mountain overshadowed by forest. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Tone 8 Before your Nativity, Lord, the heavenly hosts looked with trembling on the mystery and were struck with wonder; for you were well pleased to be born as a babe, you who adorned the vault of heaven with stars; and you have been laid in a manger of dumb beasts, you who hold all the ends of the earth in the hollow of your hand; for by such a plan your compassion and great mercy have been made known. O Christ, glory to you!

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

Tone 3 Joseph, tell us, how is it that you are bringing to Bethlehem great with child the Maiden you received from the Holy Place? 'I have searched the prophets,' he says, 'and I have been warned by a Angel, and I am persuaded that Mary will give birth to God in a way beyond explanation. To worship him Magi will come from the East, honouring him with precious gifts.' O Lord, incarnate for our sake, glory to you!

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone: For a Child has been born for us,
* and a Son has been given to us.

Chanter: For a Child has been born for us, * and a Son has been given to us.

Reader: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Chanter: For a Child has been born for us, * and a Son has been given to us.

Reader: For a Child has been born for us,

Chanter: and a Son has been given to us.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremias (Baruch 3:35 - 4:4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: This is our God, and there shall be none other reckoned in comparison with him. He has found out all the way of knowledge, and given it to Jacob his servant and Israel his beloved. After this he appeared on earth and lived among men. This is the book of the commandments of God, and the law which exists for ever; all those who keep it fast will have life; but those who abandon it will die. Turn back Jacob, and lay hold of it, walk in the presence of its light to be illumined. Do not give your glory to another, and what is profitable to you to a foreign nation.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Galatians (3:23-29)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: *Brethren:* before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is

neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright, let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit!

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-20).

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'ius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good Will among men!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Reader: Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; may the God of our salvation give us prosperity, our God, the God who saves.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion in Tone 3 The Virgin today comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. Dance, world who hear this! Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be manifest, a new child, the God before the ages.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Prayer of the Hours

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the good things to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Birthgiver of God, we magnify you! In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

Priest: God have pity on us and bless us, show his Face to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

God and Master, Father almighty, Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit, one godhead, one power, have mercy on me the sinner; and by the judgements which you know, save me your unworthy servant; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

SIXTH HOUR

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest censes around the Gospel, after which he censes the iconostasis and the people, concluding by censing before the Gospel.)

Psalm 71

O God give your judgement to the King, and your justice to the son of the King. To judge your people with justice, and your poor with judgement. Let the mountains bring peace to the people, and the hills justice. He will judge the poor of the people and save the sons of the paupers, and humble the slanderer. He will continue as long as the sun, and before the moon for generations of generations. He will come like rain upon a fleece, and like a drop falling upon the earth. In his days justice will dawn, and abundance of peace until the moon be taken away. Ethiopians shall fall down before him, and his enemies lick the dust. Kings of Tharsis and islands shall offer gifts, Kings of Arabs and of Saba shall bring gifts. And all the kings of the earth shall fall down before him, all the Nations shall serve him. For he has delivered the pauper from the man of power and the poor who had no helper. He will rescue their souls from interest and injustice, and their name shall be precious before him. And he shall live, and there shall be given him of the gold of Arabia; and they shall pray for him continually; the whole day they shall praise him. There will be an establishment on the earth, on the peaks of the mountains; its fruit shall be exalted above Libanus, and from the city they will flourish as the grass of the field.

Psalm 131

O Lord remember David and all his meekness; how he swore to the Lord, made a vow to the God of Jacob: If I enter the shelter of my house, if I climb into my bed, If I give sleep to my eyes, slumber to my eyelids and rest to my temples, Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the God of Jacob. See, we heard of it in Ephrata, we found it in the woodland fields. We shall enter his dwellings, we shall worship towards the place where his feet have stood. Arise, Lord, into your rest, you and the ark of your holiness. Your priests will be clothed with justice, and your holy ones will rejoice. For David, your servant's sake, do not turn away the face of your Christ. The Lord has sworn truth to David and he will not annul it: Of the fruit of your womb I shall place on your throne; If your sons keep my covenant and these testimonies of mine which I shall teach them, Their sons too will sit on your throne for ever. For the Lord has elected Sion, has chosen her as a dwelling for himself: This is my dwelling-place for ever and ever, here I shall dwell, for I have chosen her. Her door I shall bless abundantly, her poor I shall fill with bread. Her priests I shall clothe with salvation, and her holy ones will rejoice with great joy. There I shall make the horn of David flourish; I have prepared a lamp for my Christ. I shall clothe his enemies in shame, my holiness will flower upon him.

Psalm 90

One who dwells in the help of the Most High will live under the protection of the of the God of heaven; will say to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, and I shall hope in him. For he will deliver you from the hunters' snare, and from the word which troubles. He will overshadow you with his wings, and under his feathers you will have hope, his truth will encircle you as a shield. You will not be afraid of terror by night, of the arrow that flies by day. Of the thing that prowls in the darkness, of mishap or of the noonday devil. A thousand may fall at your side,

and ten thousand at your right, but it will not come near you. But with your eyes you will behold, and see the reward of sinners. For you, Lord, are my hope: you have made the Most High your refuge. Evils will not approach you, nor a scourge draw near your dwelling. Because he has given orders to his Angels about you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You will walk on asp and basilisk, and trample down lion and dragon. Because he hoped in me, I shall deliver him; I shall shelter him, because he knew my name. He will cry to me, and I shall hear him, I am with him in trouble; I shall rescue him and glorify him. I shall fill him with length of days, and show him my salvation.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God! (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

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

Troparion in Tone 4 Mary once with aged Joseph went to be enrolled in Bethlehem, for he was of David's line; and she bore in her womb fruit unknown; the time for the birth was at hand, and there was no room in the inn; but the Cave proved a fair palace for the Queen. Christ is born, to raise up his image that had fallen.

Reader: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Because we have no boldness because of our many sins, entreat the One born of you, O Virgin Mother of God; for a Mother's plea has great force for the kindness of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-holy, for he is merciful, and able to save, he who even accepted to suffer for us.

In Tone 1 Come, you faithful, let us arise and behold the divine condescension from above, made manifest for us in Bethlehem; and having cleansed our minds, let us by our lives offer virtues instead of myrrh, as we faithfully prepare the entry of the Nativity with treasures of the soul, crying, 'In the highest, glory to God in Trinity, through whom his good pleasure has appeared among men to rescue Adam from the ancestral curse, for he loves mankind.'

God will come from Theman, the Holy One from a mountain overshadowed by forest. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Tone 4 Listen, O heaven and give ear, O earth. Let the foundations be shaken, let trembling seize the regions beneath the earth; because God and the Creator has put on the matter of flesh, and he who created creation with his mighty hand appears in the womb of a creature he fashioned. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgements, and unsearchable his ways.

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

Tone 5 Come, peoples, bearers of Christ, let us behold a wonder that amazes and holds fast every mind, and as we devoutly worship let us with faith sing its praise. Today a Maiden great with child is coming to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord; choirs of Angels run before her. And seeing this

Joseph, the Betrothed, cries out, 'What is the strange mystery in you, O Virgin? And how will you bring forth a child, Calf who have never known the yoke?'

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind.

Chanter: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind.

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.

Chanter: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind.

Reader: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You.

Chanter: The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias (7:10-16, 8:1-4, 8-10)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; in the depth or in the height.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And he [Isaias] said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it a little thing for you to contend with men, and how do you contend with the Lord? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel. He shall eat butter and honey before he knows how to prefer evil or choose good. For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses the evil to choose the good. Then the Lord said to me, "Take for yourself a large new volume and write upon it in with a man's pen, Of making a rapid plunder of spoils; for it is at hand. And get me witnesses, reliable men, Urias the priest and Zacharias the son of Barachias. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, "Call his name Despoil-quickly-plunder-rapidly; for before the child knows how to cry 'Father' or 'Mother,' he will take the power of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of the Assyrians." Know you nations and be worsted; give ear, as far as the extremity of the earth; for if again you have become strong, again you will be worsted. And whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it; and whatever word you speak, it will not remain in you, for God is with us.'

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews (1:10-2:3)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: 'You, Lord, founded the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle you will roll them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.' But to what angel has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken by angels was sure and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright, let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit!

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12).

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now when 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 assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Choir: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Reader: Let your mercies, O Lord, come quickly to our aid, for we are utterly poor; help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. O Lord, deliver us, and have mercy on our sins, for your name's sake.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion in Tone 3 The Virgin today comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. Dance, world who hear this! Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be manifest, a new child, the God before the ages.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Prayer of the Hours

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the good things to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Birthgiver of God, we magnify you! In the name of the Lord, bless, Father.

Priest: God have pity on us and bless us, show his Face to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

God and Lord of powers, and Maker of all creation, who through the compassion of your incomprehensible mercy sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and through his precious Cross tore up the record of our sins, and by it triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness; do you yourself, O Master who loves mankind, accept also our supplications of thanksgiving and entreaty; and deliver us from destroying and dark transgression, and from all our foes, visible and invisible, who seek to harm us. Nail down our flesh through fear of you, and do not let our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but wound our souls with longing for you; that ever gazing upon you and guided by the light that comes from you, seeing you the unapproachable and everlasting light, we may give thanks to

you, the unoriginate Father, with your only-begotten Son and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

NINTH HOUR

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest makes a full censuring of the Church, beginning by censuring around the Gospel and concluding by censuring before it.)

Psalm 109

The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. The Lord will send out for you a rod of power from Sion; rule in the midst of your enemies. With you is the rule in the day of your power, in the splendours of your saints. From the womb before the morning star I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and he will not repent; you are a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedek. The Lord at your right hand shattered kings in the day of his wrath. He will judge among the nations, he will heap up corpses, he will shatter the heads of many upon the land. He will drink from the torrent in the way, therefore he will lift up his head.

Psalm 110

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Great are your works, O Lord, sought out according to all his wishes. Thanksgiving and majesty his work, and his justice abides to age on age. He made remembrance of his wonders; the Lord is merciful and compassionate. He gave food to those who fear him, he will remember his covenant forever. He proclaimed the strength of his works to his people, to give them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are truth and judgement, all his commandments are faithful, established to age on age, made in truth and integrity. He sent redemption to his people; he ordained his covenant forever; holy and fearful his name. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, while a good understanding is for all who do it. His praise abides to age on age.

Psalm 85

Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy; O my God, save your servant who hopes in you. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I shall cry to you all the day; give joy to the soul of your servant, for I have lifted up my soul to you. For you, O Lord, are good and gentle, and full of mercy to all who call on you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I called to you, for you have heard me. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord; none whose works are as yours. All the nations whom you made will come and worship before you, O Lord, and call upon your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Guide me, O Lord, in your way, and I shall walk in your truth; make my heart glad to fear your name. I shall give you thanks, O Lord, my God, with my whole heart; and I shall glorify your name for ever. For your mercy is great towards me, and you have delivered my soul from the lowest hell. O God, the lawless rose up against me, and an

assembly of mighty ones sought my soul, and did not set you before them. And you, Lord, are pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy and true. Look on me and have mercy on me; give your might to your servant and save the son of your maidservant. Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. And again: Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God! (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

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

Troparion in Tone 4 Mary once with aged Joseph went to be enrolled in Bethlehem, for he was of David's line; and she bore in her womb fruit unknown; the time for the birth was at hand, and there was no room in the inn; but the Cave proved a fair palace for the Queen. Christ is born, to raise up his image that had fallen.

Reader: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. O Good One, who was born of a Virgin for our sakes and endured crucifixion; who despoiled death by death and as God revealed resurrection, do not despise those whom you fashioned with your own hand; show your love for mankind, O Merciful One, accept the Mother of God who bore you, as she intercedes for us, and save, O Saviour, a people in despair.

In Tone 7 Herod was struck with amazement when he saw the piety of the Magi, and overcome by wrath he inquired diligently the interval of time. Mothers were left childless and the unripe age of their babes was bitterly harvested. Breasts grew dry and the channels of milk were stopped. Great was the calamity! And so let us, the faithful, devoutly assembled worship Christ's Nativity.

God will come from Theman and the Holy One from a mountain overshadowed by forest. (Habakkuk 3:3)

Tone 2 When Joseph had been wounded by sorrow, O Virgin, as he went to Bethlehem you cried out to him, 'Why are you downcast and troubled seeing me great with child? Why wholly ignorant of the dread mystery that is in me. Now cast away every fear as you understand the strange marvel: for in my womb now God descends to earth through mercy, and has taken flesh. You will see when he is born, as he has been well pleased; and filled with joy will worship him as your Creator. Him the Angels praise unceasingly with the Father and the Holy Spirit.'

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

Tone 6 Today is born of a Virgin, he who holds creation in the hollow of his hand (*three times*). As a mortal he is wrapped in swaddling rags, he who in his being cannot be handled. God lies in a manger, who of old established the heavens in the beginning. He is nourished with milk from the breast, he who rained Manna on the People in the desert. He summons Magi, the Bridegroom of the Church.

He accepts their gifts, the Son of the Virgin.
We worship your birth, O Christ (*three times*).
Show us also your divine Theophany.

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone: "Sion is our mother", a man will say; * and a man has been born in her.

Chanter: "Sion is our mother, a man will say; * and a man has been born in her.

Reader: Her foundations are on the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Chanter: "Sion is our mother, a man will say; * and a man has been born in her.

Reader: "Sion is our mother", a man will say;

Chanter: "and a man has been born in her."

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (9:6-7)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: A child has been born for us, a son has been given to us; whose government is upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Angel of Great Counsel, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Potentate, Prince of Peace, Father of the age to come.' For I will bring peace upon princes, peace and health to him. Great his government, and of his peace there is no bound, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with judgement and with justice from henceforth and for ever more. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the apostle Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from One. For this reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: I will proclaim your name to my brethren, in the midst of the church I will praise you. And again: I will put my trust in him. And again: Here am I, and children whom God has given me. Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear he did not on himself the nature of Angels, but he took on that of the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brethren in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. For because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright, let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Chanter: And to your spirit!

Priest: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (2:13-23).

Chanter: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Choir: Glory to you, O Lord! Glory to you!

(After the Gospel, the priest blesses the people with it and returns the Book of the Gospels to the altar, and the reader continues:)

Reader: For your holy name's sake do not finally reject us, do not annul your covenant, do not take your mercy from us for the sake of Abraham, your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac, your servant, and Israel, your holy one.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion in Tone 3 The Virgin today comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. Dance, world who hear this! Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be manifest, a new child, the God before the ages.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Prayer of the Hours

At every time and at every hour, in heaven and on earth worshipped and glorified, Christ God, long-suffering, great in mercy, great in compassion, loving the just and merciful to sinners, calling all to salvation by the promise of the good things to come; do you, Lord, yourself accept our entreaties at this hour, and direct our lives to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our ideas and deliver us from every distress, evil, and pain. Wall us about with your holy Angels, that protected and guided by their host we may reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: true Birthgiver of God, we magnify you! In the name of the Lord, bless, Father.

Priest: God have pity on us and bless us, show his Face to us and have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen. Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, who have long endured our transgressions, and brought us to this hour in which hanging on the life-giving tree you showed the good Thief the way into Paradise and destroyed death by death, have mercy also on us the sinners and your unworthy servants. For we have sinned and trespassed and are not worthy to raise our eyes and look on the height of heaven; because we have abandoned the way of your justice and walked in the will of our hearts. But we implore your unbounded goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercy, and save us for your holy name's sake, for our days have been wasted in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of our opponent, forgive us our sins, slay our carnal will, that we, having put off the old man, may put on the new, and live for you, our Master and benefactor; and that thus following your precepts we may reach eternal rest, where those who rejoice have their dwelling. For you are the true joy and gladness of those who love you, Christ our God, and to you we give glory, together with your unoriginate Father, and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Typika

(The Beatitudes are read quickly, without singing.)

In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

The heavenly choir hymns You and cries, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Sabbaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces will not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir hymns You and cries, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Sabbaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

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

Amen.

The choir of holy angels and archangels, with all the powers of heaven, sings Your praises and cries, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Sabbaoth; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. In one holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Loose, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in thought, word, or deed, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by day or by night, of the mind or of the intention: forgive them all, for You are good and love mankind.

Reader: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 the evil one.

Priest: For yours 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 to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion in Tone 3 The Virgin today comes to the cave to give birth ineffably to the Word before the age. Dance, world who hear this! Glorify, with angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be manifest, a new child, the God before the ages.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40)

O All-Holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, kingdom undivided, Origin of all good things, be graciously inclined also to me, the sinner. Establish me; give understanding unto my heart, and purge away all my vileness. Enlighten my mind, that I may glorify, sing praises, and adore You, and say: You only are holy, You only are the Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of the Father. Amen.

Chanter: Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore! (3)

Deacon: Wisdom!

People: It is truly proper to bless you, O Birthgiver, ever-blessed, and most pure, and the mother of our God!

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word! True Birthgiver of God, we magnify you!

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: He Who was born in a cave and was laid in a manger for our salvation: Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother and of all the saints have mercy on us and save us as one who is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.