

**December 23 – our venerable father Naum of Ochrid, equal-to-the-apostles**

**FIRST ANTIPHON. PSALM 91.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord; to sing praises to Your name, O most High.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

To show that the Lord is upright, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

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

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

**SECOND ANTIPHON. PSALM 92.**

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, He has girded Himself.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

The world also is established, so that it cannot be moved.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of Your saints, O Savior, save us.

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

**THIRD ANTIPHON. PSALM 94**

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is His also.

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

## **TROPARIA**

**Tone 4** Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!

Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit:

If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning!

**Tone 8** By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! // O our holy father Nahum, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

**Tone 4** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, / so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, / O Holy Father Nicholas, /intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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

## **KONTAKION**

**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.

*The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Let the righteous exult in glory! / Let them sing for joy on their couches.*

*v: Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.*

## **THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS**

**(5:22-6:2)** *Brethren:* the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

*Alleluia, Tone 8*

**v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.**

**v. Before your face the richest of people will pray.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (10:11-16)**

**COMMUNION HYMN** I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!