

DECEMBER 24 - Liturgy for the Saturday before the Nativity of our Lord

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 Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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 Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds//
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little Child!

The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Be glad in the Lord / and rejoice, O you righteous! (*Psalm 31:11a*)

v: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (*Psalm 31:1*)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (3:8-12) Brethren, the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles.
(*Psalm 33:17*)

v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all. (*Psalm 33:19*)

THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (13:18-29)

COMMUNION HYMN

Blessed are they whom You have chosen and taken, O Lord. Their memory is from generation to generation. (*Psalms 64:4a; 101:12b*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!