

SEPTEMBER 7 - forefeast of the Nativity of the Birthgiver of God

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 and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and was crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit - save us!

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 Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, / the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us. / Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices! / Heaven and earth rejoice together. / Praise her, you families of nations, / for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: / "The barren one gives birth to the Birthgiver of God, the Nourisher of our life!"

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 Birthgiver of God Mary / the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom / by the will of God is born of a barren woman, / being prepared as the chariot of God the Word. / She was fore-ordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

The prokeimenon in the third tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1:48)

THE READING IS FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (9:12-10:7) Brethren, the administration of the service to those in need not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ – who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear. (Psalm 44:11)

v. Before your face the richest of people will pray. (Psalm 44:13)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (3:20-27)

COMMUNION HYMN I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! *(Psalm 115:4)*