

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

TONE 2

11th Sunday after Pentecost / The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary / Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 in the pew book, then:
STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!

Tone 2 *(for the Resurrection)*

Come, let us worship the Word of God
begotten of the Father before all ages,
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!
Having endured the Cross,
He was buried as He Himself desired.//
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Christ our Savior
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

With the Archangels
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!
He is our Savior, our Redeemer.
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//
to judge the world which He made.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! (Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

The Angel proclaimed You,
the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!
He is risen as He said,
for He is almighty."
We worship You, O only immortal One.//
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*V. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 6 Idiomela** (for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,
has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.
He Who in wisdom established the heavens
has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;
for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,
even His Mother.
O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless,//
O Lord, glory to You!

V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

This is the day of the Lord!
Rejoice, O peoples,
for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life,
has come forth from the womb!
The gate that faces the East is born
and awaits the entry of the Great Priest.
She alone admits Christ into the world//
for the salvation of our souls.

V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Although by God's will other barren women
have brought forth famous offspring,
yet, of all those children Mary shines most brightly, as is fitting to God.
For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother,
and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,
in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed.
She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,
Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed,
and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom,//
has wrought salvation for all mankind.

*V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 6 Idiomela** (for the Feast, by Stephen of Jerusalem)*

Today the gates of barrenness are opened,
and the virgin gate of God comes forth.
Today grace begins to bear its first fruit,
revealing to the world the Mother of God.
Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens//
for the salvation of our souls.

V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Today is the prelude of universal joy; / today the winds blow that herald salvation, /
and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled;
for the barren woman is revealed as the mother
of her who remained a virgin
after giving birth to the Creator.
From her the One Who is God by nature
takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own,
and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray.//
He is Christ, the Lover of man and the Redeemer of our souls.

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Today barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God,
who was chosen from all generations
to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God
in fulfillment of the divine plan.
Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew//
and restored from corruption to life eternal.

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

Tone 6 *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,
has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.
He Who in wisdom established the heavens
has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;
for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,
even His Mother.
O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless,// O Lord, glory to You!

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(translation of Archimandrite Ephrem Lash)*

The Reading is from Genesis. [28:10-17]

Jacob went out from the well of the oath and journeyed towards Harran. And he lighted on a place and slept there, for the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it at his head; and he slept in that place, and he dreamed. And behold, a ladder set up on the earth, whose head reached to heaven; and the Angels of God were going up and going down upon it. But the Lord stood above it and said: I am the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac, do not be afraid. The land on which you are sleeping I shall give to you and to your seed. And your seed will be like the sand of the earth, and it will be spread abroad to the Sea and Liva and North and East; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth will be blessed. And behold, I am with you, guarding you on every road on which you may journey; and I shall bring you back again to this land, because I shall never abandon you until I have done all that I have said to you. And Jacob arose from his sleep and said: The Lord is in this place, but I did not know it. And he was afraid, and said: How fearful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:72, 44:1]

It shall be from the eighth day and upwards, the Priests shall make your holocausts upon the altar, and those for your salvation; and I shall accept you, says the Lord. And he turned me back by the way of the outer gate of the Holy Place, which looks towards the east, and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, will enter through it, and it shall be shut. Therefore this prince shall sit in it to eat bread. By the way of the Elam of the gate he shall enter, and by that way he shall go out. And he brought me by the way of the gate towards the North, opposite the House; and I saw, and behold the whole house of the Lord was full of glory.

The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

Wisdom has built herself a house. She has slaughtered her beasts and mixed her wine in the mixing bowl, and prepared her table. She her sent out her servants, to invite with a loud proclamation upon the mixing bowl: Whoever is foolish, let him turn to me. And to those who lack wisdom she said: Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine that I have mixed for you. Abandon folly, and you will live; and seek understanding that you may have life, and set aright your understanding with knowledge. One who corrects the wicked will gain dishonour for himself. One who rebukes the impious will get blame for himself; for to the impious rebukes are blows. Do not rebuke the wicked, lest they hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be wiser; teach a just man and he will increase learning. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and the counsel of Saints, understanding. While to know the law is the part of a good mind. For by this means you will live for a long time, and years will be added to your life.

Then the augmented litany.

After the prayer of the bowing of the heads, we serve the

LITY

Tone 1 The first fruit of our salvation is accomplished today, O peoples,
for behold, the Mother and Virgin and vessel of God,
foreordained from ancient generations,
comes to be born from a barren woman.

A flower from Jesse and a rod from his root has budded;
let Adam, our forefather, be glad; let Eve rejoice and delight,
for behold, she who was formed from Adam's rib
plainly declares her daughter and descendant blessed:

"My deliverance has been born," says Eve;

"through her, I shall be freed from the bonds of Hades."

Let David rejoice, striking his lyre, and let him bless God,
for behold, the Virgin comes forth from a barren rock//
for the salvation of our souls!

Tone 2 Come, all you friends of virginity, / and you lovers of purity, / come, and welcome with
love the boast of virgins! / She is the fountain of life that flows from the solid rock; / she is the bush
that springs from the barren ground// and burns with the immaterial fire that cleanses and
enlightens our souls.

Tone 2 What is this sound of feasting we hear? / Joachim and Anna mystically celebrate, saying: / “Rejoice with us today, O Adam and Eve; / for if by your transgression you closed the gate of Paradise to those of old, / we have now been given a glorious fruit, // Mary the child of God, who opens its entrance to all!”

She who was foreordained Queen of all
and the habitation of God,
has come forth today from the barren womb of joyful Anna.
She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence;
shameless Hades has been trampled down through her,
and Eve with all her race is established secure in life.
It is meet and right that we should cry aloud to her://
“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb!”

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

Tone 8 *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Let us strike our spiritual harp on this solemn day of our feast,
for today, from the seed of David,
the Mother of Life is born, dispelling the darkness.
She is the re-creation of Adam, and the recalling of Eve.
She is the source of incorruption and our release from corruption.
Through her we have been made godlike and delivered from death.
So let us the faithful cry out to her with Gabriel:
“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, //
granting us His great mercy through you!”

When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, the remembrance of whose nativity we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trihmeethous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (*name*).

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for our brethren who are in ministries, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say:

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every monastery, city, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, the remembrance of whose nativity we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimythous, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (x1)

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. (twice)

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The priest takes one of the loaves and sings in Tone 7:

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (once)

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. (twice)

Then we sing the Aposticha.

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

By the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree, O Savior.
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.
The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,
asked that Your tomb might be sealed,
but through the mercy of Your compassion,
You accepted the tomb
and rose on the third day!//
O Lord, glory to You!

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Christ, the Giver of life,
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,
descending into hell as the Mighty One
to save those who awaited Your coming,
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

Tone 8 *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Come, all you faithful, let us run to the Virgin!

For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained before the womb, as the Mother of our God,
the treasure of virginity, the rod of Aaron that budded, springing from the root of Jesse,
the preaching of the Prophets, the offspring of righteous Joachim and Anna.

She is born and with her the world is renewed.

She comes from the womb and the Church is adorned in her majesty.

She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead,

the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King,

in which has come to pass the strange mystery of the union of the natures that came together in

Christ.// Worshipping Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

TROPARIA

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 Troparion *(Feast)* *(twice, without Glory...now)*

Your nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for
mankind, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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

Choir: 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 is risen from the dead...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers...

Choir: Amen.