

# ROYAL HOURS

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,  
JESUS CHRIST

(CHRISTMAS EVE)



## First Hour

*About the second hour of the day — eight o'clock in the morning on the Eve of the Nativity of Christ. If the Eve of the Nativity falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the Royal Hours are read on the preceding Friday. In such a case, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on that Friday.*

**PRIEST:**     **BLESSED IS OUR GOD...**

**READER:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth; Who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**

**READER:** Amen. Lord have mercy. (*12 TIMES*)

Glory..., now, and ever... 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! (*WITH 3 REVERENCES*)

## Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord,  
And hearken to my prayer.  
Attend to the voice of my supplication,  
O my King and God —

For unto Théé, Lord, will I pray:

Thou shalt hear my voice...

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

Thou shalt hear my voice in the morning;  
In the morning shalt Thou behold me  
As I stand before Thee, Lórd.

For Thou art not a God that loveth wickedness,  
Nor can evil dwell beside Thee.  
Transgressors shall not stand before Thine eyes —  
For Thou hatest all who work iniquity.

Thou shalt destroy all those who speak a lie;  
The bloodthirsty and deceitful shall the Lord abhor.  
But as for me, I shall enter into Thy House in the abundance of Thy mercy;  
And shall worship before Thy Holy Temple in the fear of Thee.

Lead me in Thy righteousness, O Lord;  
Make straight my way before Thee in the face of all mine enemies;  
For in their mouth there is no justice,  
And their heart is full of sin —

Their throat is like an open grave, and their mouth, it does deceive.  
Judge them, O God; let their own thoughts condemn them.  
Cast them out with the multitude of their transgressions,  
For they have risen up against Thee.

Then shall all who trust in Thee rejoice;  
They shall ever shout for joy —  
For Thou shalt dwell among them,  
And all that love Thy Name shall be glorified in Thee,

For Thou, O Lord, wilt bless the righteous;  
Thou shalt crown us with Thy favor,  
And defend us with Thy loving kindness  
As with a perfect shield.

**Psalm 44 (45)**

Blesséd words flow from my heart;  
My tongue is like the pen of a skillful scribe,  
And I say,  
My song is of the King:

Thou art fairer  
Than the sons of men,  
And grace has been shed forth upon Thy lips;  
Thus has God bléssed Thee for ever.

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One,  
 And in Thy majesty and glory,  
 Go Thou forth, prosper and reign,  
 For the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth;  
 Thy right hand shall guide Thee wondrously, Mighty One,  
 For Thine arrows all are sharp,  
 And they fly deep into the hearts of the enemies of the King;  
 Thus shall all the nations fall before Thee.

Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever:  
 And the scepter of Thy kingdom is a rod of righteousness.  
 For Thou lovest righteousness and dost hate iniquity:  
 Therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness beyond  
 Thy fellows.

Thy garments are fragrant with aloes, cassia and myrrh  
 From within the palaces of ivory, whereby Thou art glad.  
 The daughters of the kings are amongst Thy favored,  
 And at Thy right hand stands the Queen arrayed in ophirite and gold.

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear;  
 Forget also thy people, and thy father's house.  
 For the King has desired thy beauty;  
 For He is thy Lord, and thou shalt worship Him.

And the daughter of Tyre shall adore thee with gifts,  
 And the rich among the people shall pray before thy face.  
 For the daughter of the king is all glorious within:  
 And her robes are wrought of gold.

She shall be brought before the King in fine embroidered raiment;  
 And the virgins, her companions, shall be brought before the King.  
 And they shall come with joy and gladness,  
 And they shall enter into the palace of the King.

And thy children shall take the place of thy fathers,  
 And thou shalt make them princes over all the earth.  
 For I shall make thy name to be remembered in all generations  
 Therefore shall all the nations glorify thee forever, and ever.

### **Psalms 45 (46)**

God is our refuge and our strength;  
 Our help in the afflictions  
 That come heavily upon us —  
 Therefore we will not fear,

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

Though the earth be troubled and shaken,  
And the mountains convulsed by His might;  
Though their summits be hurled into the depths of the sea,  
And its waters be enraged and distressed...

For there is a river whose stream gladdens the city of God  
Which the Most High has sanctified as His dwelling —  
For God is there within her midst,  
And shé shall not be moved;

For God shall help her with His countenance  
At the coming of the dawn.  
And the nations all shall tremble,  
And the kingdoms all shall sway;

For when the Lord lifts up His voice,  
The earth staggers and it quakes.  
But the Lord of Hosts is with us:  
And the God of Jacob doth protect us!

O come, and behold the works of the Lord,  
See what wonders He has achieved upon the earth!  
Where, by abolishing all strife and war —  
He breaks the bow, and snaps the spear, and burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God:  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted high upon the earth.”  
The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob doth protect us.

**Glory...**, now, and ever... Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (**THRICE**)

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

**Troparion of the Forefeast**

**Tone 4**

- Mary once, with aged **J**oseph /  
Went to be taxed in **B**ethlehem, /  
For they were of the lineage of **D**avid; /  
And she bore in her womb the fruit that had **not** been sown. /

The time of her birth was at hand and there was no room at the inn; /  
 But the cave provided a fair palace for the Queen. ///  
 Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was  
fallen.

**READER:** Now, and ever... Amen.

*[Theotokion]*

What shall we call thee, O Full of Grace? Heaven — for thou didst shine forth the Sun of Righteousness; Paradise — for thou hast blossomed forth the Flower of Incorruption; Virgin — for thou hast remained undefiled; Pure Mother — for thou hast held in thy holy embrace the Son, Who is God of all. Beseech thou Him to save our souls.

***[Now, the following Stikhera]***

### **Tone 8**

- Make ready, O Bethlehem; /  
 Let the manger be prepared, /  
 Let the cave show its welcome. /  
 The truth has come, the shadow has passed away; /  
 Born of a Virgin, God has appeared to men, /  
 Formed as we are and making godlike the garment He has put on. /  
 Therefore Adam is renewed with Eve, and they call out: ///  
 Thy good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our kind. (TWICE)

**vs:** God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

### **Tone 3**

- Now the prophecy /  
 Draws near to its fulfillment, which mystic'lly said: /  
 "And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, who dost prepare the cave, /  
 Art not the least among the princes: /  
 For out of thee shall come forth unto Me in the flesh /  
 A Governor of the Nations, /  
 Christ our God born of a Virgin Maiden, /  
 And as a shepherd He shall tend His people, a new Israel." ///  
 Let us all give Him glory.

**verse:** O Lord, I have heard...

**vs:** O Lord, I have heard the report of Thee and am afraid.

► Now the prophecy... **[Repeat]**

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

**Tone 8**

► Joseph spoke thus to the Virgin: /  
 “What is this doing, O Mary, that I see in thee? /  
 I fail to understand and am amazed, /  
 And my mind is struck with dismay. /  
 Go from my sight, therefore, with all speed. /  
 What is this doing, O Mary, that I see in thee? /  
 Instead of honor, thou hast brought me shame; /  
 Instead of gladness, sorrow; instead of praise, reproof. /  
 No further shall I bear the reproach of men. /  
 I received thee from the priests of the temple, as one blameless before  
 the Lord. ///  
 And what is this that I now see?”

**Now** and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

► Joseph spoke thus to the Virgin... **[Repeat]**

*[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:*

**READER: The Prokeimenon of Prophecy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

The Lord said unto Me: / Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.

**vs:** Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the Nations for Thine inheritance.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Micah.** (Micah 5:2-4)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**



Thus saith the Lord: "Thou, O Bethlehem Ephratah, who art little among the thousands of Judah, yet from thee shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler in Israel, Whose origin is from of old, even from the days of eternity." Therefore the Lord shall abandon His people until the time when she who is in travail hath brought forth her Child;

then the rest of His brethren shall be converted to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Name of the Lord His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be glorified unto the ends of the earth.

**DEACON:**     ***WISDOM!***

**READER:** **The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews**     (Reading 303; Heb 1:1-12)

**DEACON:**     ***LET US ATTEND.***

**READER:**

Brethren, God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the Prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, through Whom also He created the ages; Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels did He ever say: "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee"? Or again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to me a Me a Son? And again, when He brings the first begotten into the world,

He saith: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He saith: "Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flaming fire." But unto the Son He saith: "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; and the scepter of Thy kingdom is a rod of righteousness. For Thou lovest righteousness and doth hate iniquity; therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy companions," and, "in the beginning, O Lord, Thou didst lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are also the works of Thine hands; they shall all perish, but Thou shalt endure; they shall all wear out like a garment; Thou changest them like raiment, and they pass away: but Thou art ever the same, and Thy years have no end."

**DEACON:**     ***THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY TO HEAR THE HOLY GOSPEL, LET US***

*DEACON: That we may me accounted...*

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

*PRAY TO THE LORD GOD.*

**CHOIR:** Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

**DEACON:** *WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE HOLY GOSPEL!*

**PRIEST:** *PEACE BE UNTO ALL!*

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** *THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

**DEACON:** *LET US ATTEND.*

*[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Matt 1:18-25)]*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

*[And the Reader continues]:*

Order my steps in Thy word and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the treachery of men, and I shall keep Thy commandments. Show the light of Thy countenance upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may sing of Thy glory and majesty all the day long!

**Holy God**, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

**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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...*

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### Kontakion

#### Tone 3 (TROPAR TONE)

- Today the Vírgin **comes to** the cave /  
To give birth ineffably to the pre-**eter**nal Word. /  
Hearing this, be of good cheer, O in**hab**ited earth, /  
And with the angels and the **shep**herds ///  
Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young  
Child, the **pre-eter**nal God.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

**More honorable** than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

**PRIEST:** *GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY  
COUNTENANCE UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.*

**READER:** Amen.

**PRIEST:** *O CHRIST THE TRUE LIGHT THAT ENLIGHTENS AND SANCTIFIES EVERY MAN THAT  
COMES INTO THE WORLD; LET THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTENANCE BE SIGNED UPON US, THAT IN IT WE  
MIGHT BEHOLD THE UNAPPROACHABLE LIGHT. GUIDE OUR FOOTSTEPS IN THE KEEPING OF THY  
COMMANDMENTS, BY THE PRAYERS OF THY MOST PURE MOTHER AND OF ALL THY 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! *(WITH 3 REVERENCES)*

#### Psalm 66 (67)

O God be bountiful to us, and bless us;  
Show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us;  
That we may know Thy way upon the earth,  
And Thy salvation among all the nations.

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God; let áll the people give thanks to Thee.

Let the nations rejoice and be glad:  
For Thou shalt judge the people rightly,  
And shalt guide all the nations of the earth.

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God; let áll the people give thanks to Thee.

For the earth hath yielded forth her fruit;  
And God, our God, shall bless us; Yea, let our ówn God bless us —  
And let the ends of the earth stand in fear of Him.

#### Psalm 86 (87)

Thy foundations are in the holy mountains —  
And the Lord loveth thy gates, O Zion,  
More than all the dwellings of Jacob.  
Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God!

I will speak of Babylon and Rahab  
Unto them that know me;  
Yet behold, there are also Philistia, Ethiopia and Tyre,  
And all the people born therein;

Yet of Zion each of them shall say:  
“Zion is my mother,” and  
“That man also, He was born in her;”  
And “the Most High Himself — He hath established her.”

The Lord shall recount in the record of all people,  
Who, indeed, was born in her;  
For the dwelling of all within thee  
Is the dwelling of those that rejoice.

**Psalm 50 (51)**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
According to Thy great mercy;  
And according to the multitude of Thy compassions  
Blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions:  
And my sin is ever before me.

Against Thee only have I sinned,  
And done that which is evil in Thy sight:  
That Thou mayest be justified in Thy sayings,  
And victorious when Thou dost judge.

Behold, I was conceived in iniquities,  
And in sins did my mother bear me.  
For behold, Thou lovest truth:  
And the secrets of Thy Wisdom Thou hast made known to me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness;  
That the bones which Thou hast humbled may rejoice.

Turn Thy face away from my sins,  
And blot out all mine iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation,  
And uphold me with Thy ruling Spirit.

Then shall I teach transgressors Thy ways,  
And the godless shall return to Thee.  
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation:  
And my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, open Thou my lips,  
And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.  
For if Thou hadst desired a sacrifice,

Thén would I have given it.

But Thou hast no delight in whole-burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit:  
A broken and contrite heart, O God,  
Thou wilt not despise.

Do good, O Lord, to Zion in Thy good pleasure;  
And let the walls of Jerusalem be built.  
Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with oblations and whole-burnt offerings;  
Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar!

**Glory...**, now, and ever... Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (**THRICE**)

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

### **Troparion of the Forefeast**

#### **Tone 4**

► Mary once, with aged **J**oseph /  
Went to be taxed in **B**ethlehem, /  
For they were of the lineage of **D**avid; /  
And she bore in her womb the fruit that had **not** been sown. /  
The time of her birth was at hand and there was no **room** at the inn; /  
But the cave provided a fair **pal**ace for the Queen. ///  
Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was  
**fallen**.

**READER:** Now, and ever... Amen.

*[Theotokion]*

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine who didst bud forth for us the Fruit of Life:  
We pray thee, O Lady, intercede together with the apostles and all the saints,  
that He will have mercy on our souls.

***[Now, the following Stikhera]***

#### **Tone 6**

► This **is** our God /  
And there shall none other be accounted of in comp**ar**ison with Him. /

Born of a Virgin, He comes to dwell among men /  
 Laid in a poor manger, the Only-Begotten Son appears as a mortal man /  
 And the Lord of Glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes. /  
 A star guides the Magi to come and worship Him; ///  
 And we sing: O Holy Trinity, save our souls! (TWICE)

**vs:** God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the mountain  
 overshadowed by the forest.

### Tone 8

- **Before** Thy birth, O Lord /  
 The angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery, /  
 And were struck with wonder: /  
 For Thou who hast adorned the vault of heaven with stars /  
 Hast been well pleased to be born as a babe; /  
 And Thou who holdest all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Thy hand /  
 Art laid in a manger of dumb beasts. /  
 For by such a dispensation has Thy compassion been made  
known, O Christ, ///  
 And Thy great mercy: glory to Thee.

**vs:** O Lord, I have heard the report of Thee and am afraid.

- **Before** Thy birth, O Lord... **[Repeat]**

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

### Tone 3

- Tell us, O Joseph, /  
 How is it that thou bringest to Bethlehem, great with child /  
 The Maiden whom thou hast received from the sanctuary? /  
 "I have searched the prophets," said he, "and have been warned  
 by an angel: /  
 And I am persuaded that Mary shall give birth to God, /  
 In ways surpassing all interpretation. /  
 Magi from the east shall come to worship Him with precious gifts." ///  
 O Lord, who for our sake hast taken flesh: glory to Thee.

**Now** and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- Tell us, O Joseph... **[Repeat]**

*[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:*

**READER: The Prokeimenon of Prophecy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

For unto us a Child is born / unto us a Son is given.

**vs:** And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.** (Baruch 3: 35-4:4)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**

This is our God — and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison with Him. He found the ways of Wisdom and gave them to Jacob, His servant, and to Israel, His belovéd. Afterward, Wisdom appeared on earth and He dwelt among men. Wisdom is the book of the commandments of God; it is the law that endureth for ever. All who embrace it

shall live, and those who forsake it shall die. Return, O Jacob, and embrace it; and walk in the light of the brightness thereof! Do not surrender thy glory to another, or that which is beneficial to thee to a foreign people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God!

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians** (Reading 208; Gal 3:23-29)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**

Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under the law, kept for the faith which should afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God through

faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond 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 seed, and heirs according to the promise.



**DEACON:** *THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY...*

**CHOIR:** Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

**DEACON:** *WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE HOLY GOSPEL!*

**PRIEST:** *PEACE BE UNTO ALL!*

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** *THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE.*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

**DEACON:** *LET US ATTEND.*

*[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Luke 2:1-20)]*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

*[And the Reader continues]:*

Blesséd be the Lord God;  
Blesséd be the Lord from day to day;  
And may the God of our salvation prosper us,  
For He is our God, the God of salvation!

**Holy God**, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

**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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...*

**CHOIR:** Amen...

**CHOIR:** Amen.

### Kontakion

#### Tone 3 (TROPAR TONE)

- Today the Virgin **comes to** the cave /  
 To give birth ineffably to the pre-eternal Word. /  
 Hearing this, be of good cheer, O inhabited earth, /  
 And with the angels and the shepherds ///  
 Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young  
 Child, the pre-eternal God.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

**More honorable** than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

**PRIEST:** **GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTENANCE UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.**

**READER:** Amen.

O God the Master, Father Almighty, O Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, One Godhead, One Power: Have mercy upon me a sinner, and by Thy divine judgments save me, Thine unworthy servant; for blessed art Thou unto 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! *(WITH 3 REVERENCES)*

### Psalm 71 (72)

Give the King Thy justice,  
 And Thy truth, grant to His Son;  
 That He may judge Thy people with righteousness,  
 And with justice, judge Thy poor, O God.

May the mountains bring Thy people peace  
 And the hills justice and righteousness.  
 He shall judge the poor of the people in righteousness,  
 And shall save the children of the needy;

He shall humble the oppressor —  
 Who shall fear Thee for as long as the sun  
 And the moon endure,  
 Forever.

And He shall descend like rain upon the fleece;  
 Like drops of rain that water the earth.  
 In His days shall the righteous flourish,  
 And abundant peace for as long as the moon endures.

And He shall have dominion from sea to sea,  
 And from the river unto the ends of the earth.  
 The Ethiopians shall fall down before him;  
 And His enemies shall lick the dust.

The kings of Tharsis, and the isles, shall bring Him presents:  
 The kings of the Arabians and Sabeans too, shall offer gifts.  
 All the kings shall worship Him, and all the Gentiles shall also serve Him.  
 For He hath delivered the poor from the oppressor; and the needy who had  
 no help.

He shall spare the poor and the oppressed,  
 And the souls of the needy shall He save.  
 He shall redeem their souls from oppression and violence:  
 And their names shall be precious in His sight.

And He shall live,  
 And the gold of Arabia shall be given Him:

And men shall pray in His Name continually;  
And they shall bless Him all the day long.

And bread shall be abundant on the earth,  
Even upon the mountain tops:  
And the fruit thereof shall be as plentiful as the forests of the Levant,  
And the people of the city shall flourish like the grasses of the earth.

May His Name be blessed forever:  
May His Name continue even longer than the sun:  
And in Him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed:  
All the nations shall call Him Blesséd.

Blesséd be the Lord God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders.  
And blesséd is His glorious Name forever, and ever:  
And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.  
Amen and Amen.

### **Psalm 131 (132)**

Remember David, O Lord, and all his meekness:  
How he swore unto the Lord,  
And vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob:  
“Surely I will not enter into my house, nor get into my bed;

I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids,  
Until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”  
We heard it was at Ephratah; we found it in the woodland fields.  
Let us go into His Tabernacle, let us worship at His footstool.

Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place; Thou, and the Ark of Thy holiness.  
Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy saints shall rejoice.  
For Thy servant David’s sake  
Turn not away Thy face from Thine anointed.

The Lord hath sworn to David a sure oath and will not change His mind:  
“One of thy sons will I set upon thy throne.  
If thy children keep My covenant and these testimonies which I shall teach them,  
And their children shall also sit for ever on thy throne.”

For the Lord hath chosen Zion;  
He hath desired it for His habitation:  
“This is My resting-place forever;  
Here I will dwell, for I have chosen it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions:  
I will satisfy her poor with bread.  
Her priests will I clothe with salvation:  
And her saints will shout for joy.

I will make the horn of David flourish there:  
I have prepared a lamp for My Christ.  
His enemies will I clothe in shame:  
But on Him shall His crown flourish.”

### **Psalm 90 (91)**

He that dwelleth in the aid of the Most High  
Shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.  
He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector  
And my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust.”

For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter and from every trouble.  
He shall defend thee under His pinions,  
And thou shalt find refuge under His wings,  
And His truth shall cover thee as with a shield.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night,  
Nor of the arrow that flieth by day;  
Nor the pestilence that walketh in darkness,  
Nor the demon that destroyeth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall beside thee,  
And ten thousand at thy right hand,  
But it shall not come near thee.  
Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the recompense of the wicked.

For Thou, O Lord, art my hope,  
Thou, my soul, hast made the Most High, thy habitation.  
Therefore, no evil shall befall thee,  
And no scourge shall come near thy tent.

For He shall give His angels charge over thee,  
To keep thee in all thy ways.  
They shall bear thee up in their hands,  
Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the asp and basilisk,  
The lion and the dragon shalt thou trample underfoot.

“Because he hath set his love upon Me,  
Therefore will I deliver him;

I will protect him, because he hath known My Name.  
He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him:  
I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and glorify him;  
With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

**Glory...**, now, and ever... Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (**THRICE**)

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

### **Troparion of the Forefeast**

#### **Tone 4**

► Mary once, with aged Joseph /  
Went to be taxed in Bethlehem, /  
For they were of the lineage of David; /  
And she bore in her womb the fruit that had not been sown. /  
The time of her birth was at hand and there was no room at the inn; /  
But the cave provided a fair palace for the Queen. ///  
Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was  
fallen.

**READER:** Now, and ever... Amen.

#### *[Theotokion]*

As there is no boldness in us because of the multitude of our sins, do thou, O Virgin Theotokos, intercede with the Son whom thou hast borne; for the entreaty of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master. Despise not, O Pure One, the prayers of us sinners, for He Who graciously deigned to suffer for us is merciful and strong to save.

#### ***[Now, the following Stikhera]***

#### **Tone 1**

► **Come**, O ye faithful, inspired by God /  
Let us arise and behold the divine condescension from on high /  
That is made manifest to us in Bethlehem. /  
Cleansing our minds, let us offer through our lives virtues instead

of myrrh, /

Preparing with faith our entry into the Feast of the Nativity, /

Storing up treasure in our souls and crying: /

Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, /

Whose good pleasure is now revealed to men, /

That in His love for mankind ///

He may set Adam free from the ancestral curse.

(TWICE)

**vs:** God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the mountain  
overshadowed by the forest.

#### Tone 4

- Hearken, O Heaven, /  
And give ear, O earth. /  
Let the founddations be shaken, /  
And let trembling lay hold upon the nethermost parts of the world. /  
For our God and Creator has clothed Himself in created flesh, /  
And He who with His strong arm fashioned the creation /  
Reveals Himself in the womb of her that He formed. /  
O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! /  
How unsearchable are His judgments ///

**vs:** O Lord, I have heard the report of Thee and am afraid!

- Hearken, O Heaven... [*Repeat*]

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

#### Tone 5

- Come, ye people, bears of Christ! /  
And let us behold wonders that strike and hold fast every  
mind with amazement: /  
And in reverent worship let us sing praises with faith. /  
Today a Maiden great with child comes to Bethlehem to give birth  
to the Lord: /  
And choirs of angels go before her. /  
Seeing these things Joseph, her betróthed, cried out: /  
"What is this strange mystery in thee, O Virgin? /  
And how shalt thou bring forth child, ///  
Calf upon whom the yoke has never come?"

**Now** and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

► **Come**, ye people... **[Repeat]**

*[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:*

**READER: The Prokeimenon of Prophecy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

From the womb before the morning star / have I begotten Thee!

**vs:** The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footsool.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.** (Isaiah 7: 10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**

In those days, the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying "Ask a sign of the Lord thy God; let it be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel. He shall eat of milk curds and honey even before He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted! Then the Lord said to me, "Take a large tablet and write upon it in common letters, 'The pillage

speeds, the plunder hastens.'" And I have reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said unto me, "Call his name 'The pillage speeds, the plunder hastens,' for before the child knows how to cry 'father' or 'mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria." Understand, O ye nations, and submit yourselves; even if your strength returns, again shall ye be overthrown. Take counsel if you wish, but it will do no good; make your plans, but they will not stand, for God is with us.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**



**READER:** The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the  
**Hebrews.** (Reading 304; Heb 1:10-2:3)

**DEACON:** *LET US ATTEND.*

**READER:**

In the beginning, Thou, O Lord, didst lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are also the works of Thine hands; they shall all perish, but Thou shalt endure; they shall all wear out like a garment; Thou changest them like raiment, and they pass away: but Thou art ever the same, and Thy years have no end." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall in-

herit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should drift away. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him.

**DEACON:** *THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY...*

**CHOIR:** Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

**DEACON:** *WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE HOLY GOSPEL!*

**PRIEST:** *PEACE BE UNTO ALL!*

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** *THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

**DEACON:** *LET US ATTEND.*

*[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Matthew 2:1-12)]*

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

*[And the Reader continues]:*

Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, speedily go before us, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of Thy Name; O Lord, deliver us and purge away our sins for Thy Name's sake.

**Holy God**, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*THRICE WITH REVERENCES*)

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...*

**CHOIR:**      Amen.

### **Kontakion**

#### **Tone 3** (*TROPAR TONE*)

- Today the V́rigin **comes to** the cave /  
To give birth ineffably to the pre-**et**ernal Word. /  
Hearing this, be of good cheer, O in**hab**ited earth, /  
And with the angels and the **shep**herds ///  
Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young  
Child, the **pre-et**ernal God.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (*40 TIMES*)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*THRICE*)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

**PRIEST:**      ***GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY  
COUNTENANCE UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.***

**READER:** Amen.

O God, the Lord of hosts, and Author of all creation, Who in Thine ineffable tender mercy hast sent down Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our kind, and through His Precious Cross didst destroy the handwriting of our sins, and didst thereby triumph over the princes and dominions of darkness. Do Thou, the same Lord, Who lovest mankind, accept also these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression, and from all the visible and invisible enemies who seek to do us harm. Nail down our flesh with the fear of Thee, and incline not our hearts to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with longing for Thee, that ever gazing upon Thee, and being guided by thy Light and beholding Thee, the Unapproachable and Everlasting Light, we may send up unceasing praise and thanksgiving unto Thee, the Father without beginning, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thine All-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto 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! (**WITH 3 REVERENCES**)

### Psalm 109 (110)

The Lord said to my Lord:  
 Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.  
 The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter,  
 Rule in the midst of Thy foes!

For with Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power,  
Amid the splendor of all Thy saints:  
Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee.  
The Lord hath sworn and will not change His mind.

Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.  
The Lord at Thy right hand  
Shall crush kings in the day of His wrath.  
He shall judge among the nations,

He shall fill the earth with corpses,  
He shall scatter their heads upon the earth,  
And He shall drink from the stream along the way;  
Therefore, shall He lift up His head.

**Psalm 110** (111)

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
In the company of the upright,  
In the congregation,  
Great are the works of the Lord!

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them.  
His work is glory and beauty,  
And His righteousness endureth  
Forever and ever.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful;  
He hath caused His wonderful works to be remembered;  
He hath given food to them that fear Him;  
He will ever be mindful of His covenant.

He hath declared the power of His works to His people  
To give them the nations as their inheritance.  
The works of His hands are justice and truth,  
And all His commandments are sure.

They are established forever and ever —  
Made in righteousness and truth.  
He hath sent redemption to His people:  
He hath commanded His covenant forever,

And holy and terrible is His Name.  
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And they who do all His commandments  
 Have a good understanding of this.

Yea, His praise endureth forever and ever!

**Psalm 85 (86)**

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me:  
 For I am poor and needy.  
 Preserve my soul; for in awe I worship Thee:  
 O my God, save Thy servant who puts his trust in Thee.

Be merciful unto me, Lord:  
 For I call upon Thee all the day long.  
 Comfort the soul of Thy servant:  
 For unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For Thou, O Lord, art good, and gracious;  
 And of great mercy to all that call upon Thee.  
 Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer;  
 And attend to the voice of my supplications.

I will call upon Thee in the day of trouble:  
 For thou wilt answer me.  
 There is none like Thee among the gods, O Lord;  
 Neither are there any works like Thine.

All the nations whom Thou hast made  
 Shall come and worship Thee, O Lord;  
 They shall glorify Thy Name.  
 For Thou art great, and doest wonders — Thou alone art God!

Teach me Thy way, O Lord;  
 And I shall walk in Thy truth:  
 Let my heart rejoice to fear Thy Name.  
 And I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart:

I will praise Thy Name forever.  
 For great is Thy mercy toward me:  
 And Thou hast delivered my soul  
 From the nethermost hell.

O God, the lawless have risen against me,  
 And the assemblies of the violent

Have sought after my soul;  
They have not set Thee before them.

But thou, O Lord, art compassionate and gracious,  
Long-suffering, most merciful and true.  
Look upon me, and have mercy on me;  
Give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden.

Work in me a sign for good;  
May those who hate me may see it, and be put to shame:  
For Thou, O Lord, hast helped me,  
Thou didst comfort me, O Lord.

**Gloria...**, now, and ever... Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (**THRICE**)

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

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

### **Troparion of the Forefeast**

#### **Tone 4**

► Mary once, with aged **J**oseph /  
Went to be taxed in **B**ethlehem, /  
For they were of the lineage of **D**avid; /  
And she bore in her womb the fruit that had **not** been sown. /  
The time of her birth was at hand and there was no **room** at the inn; /  
But the cave provided a fair **p**alace for the Queen. ///  
Christ is born, that He may raise up again the image that before was  
**f**allen.

**READER:** Now, and ever... Amen.

*[Theotokion]*

O Thou, Who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O Good One, and didst despoil death by death, and as God, didst reveal the Resurrection: O despise not those whom Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand; show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One; accept the Theotokos who gave birth to Thee, and who intercedes for us; and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

**[Now, THE FOLLOWING STIKHERA]****Tone 7**

- **Herod** was struck with amazement on beholding the piety of the **Magi**; /  
 And over**come** by wrath, he inquired closely when the **Child** was born. /  
**Mothers** were bereft of their **infants**, /  
 And by an un**tim**ely death their babes were bitterly **har**vested. /  
**Paps** grew dry and sources of **milk** were stopped. /  
**Great** was the calamity! /  
**There**fore let us, the faithful, gathered in **god**liness, ///  
 Worship the **Nat**ivity of Christ. (TWICE)

**vs:** God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the mountain  
 overshadowed by the forest.

**Tone 2**

- O **Virgin**, /  
 When Joseph went up to Bethlehem wounded by sorrow, thou  
 didst **cry** to him: /  
 “**Why** art thou downcast and **troubled**, /  
 Seeing me **great** with child? /  
 Why art thou wholly ignorant of the fearful mystery that comes  
 to **pass** in me? /  
**Hence**forth, cast every fear aside and understand this strange **mar**vel: /  
 For in my womb God now descends upon earth for **mercy**’s sake /  
 And He has **taken** flesh. /  
 Thou shalt **see** Him according to His good pleasure, when **He** is born; /  
 And filled with joy thou shalt worship Him as Thy **Cre**ator. /  
 Him the angels praise without **ceasing** in song ///  
 And glorify with the Father and the Holy **Spi**rit.

**vs:** O Lord, I have heard the report of Thee and am afraid.

- O **Virgin**... **[Repeat]**

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

**Tone 6**

- He who holds the whole creation in the **h**ollow of His hand /  
 Today is born of the **Vir**gin. /

He whom in essence none can touch /  
 Is wrapped in swaddling clothes as mortal. /  
 God who in the beginning founded the heavens lies in a manger. /  
 He who rained manna down on His people in the wilderness /  
 Is fed on milk from His Mother's breast. /  
 He who is the Bridegroom of the Church calls unto Himself the Magi. /  
 The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts. /  
 We worship Thy birth, O Christ / (3 TIMES) ///  
 Show us also Thy divine Epiphany.

*[Immediately, the Prokeimenon is announced]:*

**READER: The Prokeimenon of Prophecy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

Zion is our mother, a man shall say / and such a man was born in her.

**vs:** His foundations are in the holy mountains.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.** (Isaiah 9:6-7)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**

For unto us a Son is born, unto us a Child is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His Name shall be called 'Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.' Of His peace there shall be

no end; He shall sit upon the throne of David, and shall establish His kingdom with righteousness, and He shall strengthen it with justice from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**DEACON: WISDOM!**

**READER: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews** (Reading 306 ; Hebrews 2:11-18)

**DEACON: LET US ATTEND.**

**READER:**



Brethren, both He that sanctifieth and they who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the Church will I sing praises unto Thee." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Behold, I and the children which God hath given Me." Forasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that

is, the devil, and deliver them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily, He took not upon Himself the nature of angels, but He took upon Himself the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest before God, that He might be a propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help them also that are being tempted.

**DEACON:**     ***THAT WE MAY BE ACCOUNTED WORTHY...***

**CHOIR:**     Lord have mercy. (***THRICE***)

**DEACON:**     ***WISDOM! STAND ARIGHT! LET US HEAR THE HOLY GOSPEL!***

**PRIEST:**     ***PEACE BE UNTO ALL!***

**CHOIR:**     And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:**     ***THE READING IS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.***

**CHOIR:**     Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

**DEACON:**     ***LET US ATTEND.***

***[Now, the Priest reads from the Holy Gospel: (Matthew 2:13-23)]***

**CHOIR:**     Glory to Thee O Lord, glory to Thee.

***[After the Gospel, the Reader continues]:***

Forsake us not utterly, for Thy Name's sake, neither break Thy covenant; nor take Thy mercies away from us, for the sake of Abraham whom Thou lovest, and for the sake of Isaac Thy servant, and of Israel, Thy holy one.

**Holy God**, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (***THRICE WITH REVERENCES***)

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

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**

**CHOIR:**      Amen.

**Kontakion**

**Tone 3** (*TROPAR TONE*)

- Today the Virgin **comes to** the cave /  
To give birth ineffably to the pre-**et**ernal Word. /  
Hearing this, be of good cheer, O in-**hab**ited earth, /  
And with the angels and the **shep**herds ///  
Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young  
Child, the **pre-et**ernal God.

**READER:** Lord, have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

Thou Who at all times, and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ God, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just and showest mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who callest all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, evil and distress. Compass us 'round about with Thy holy angels; that, guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory. For blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (**THRICE**)

Glory..., now, and ever... Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious, beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word, true

Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father (**MASTER**) bless!

**PRIEST:**        ***GOD BE MERCIFUL TO US AND BLESS US, AND SHOW THE LIGHT OF **THY** COUNTEenance UPON US, AND HAVE MERCY ON US.***

**READER:** Amen.

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering toward our sins, and Who hast led us even to this present hour, in which Thou didst hang upon the life-giving Tree, and didst make a way into Paradise for the penitent thief, and didst destroy death by death: Cleanse us sinners and unworthy servants; for we have sinned and have done iniquity, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the heights of heaven, for we have abandoned the way of righteousness and have walked after the desires of our own hearts. But we implore of Thy boundless goodness: Spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, and save us, for Thy holy Name's sake; for our days have passed away in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary, and forgive us all our sins, and mortify our carnal imagination; that putting off the old man we may be clothed with the new man, and may live for Thee, our Master and Benefactor; and that so following after thy commandments, we may attain unto rest eternal, where is the abode of all those who rejoice. For Thou art, indeed, the true joy and gladness of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with the Father, Who is without beginning, and Thine All-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## The Typical Psalms

**READER:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; Blesséd art Thou, O Lord!

### Psalm 102 (103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul:  
And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And forget not áll that He hath done for thee.

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities,  
Who healeth all thine infirmities.

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

Who redeemeth thy life from corruption,  
Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things,  
So that thy youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord showeth deeds of mercy  
And executeth judgment for all that are oppressed.

He made His way known unto Moses  
And His will to the children of Israel.  
The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
Long-suffering and plenteous in mercy.

He will not be always angry,  
Neither will He be wroth with us forever.  
He hath not dealt with us according to our sins  
Nor hath He rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
So far hath He removed our transgressions away from us.

Like as a father that hath compassion on his children,  
So the Lord hath compassion on those who fear Him.  
For well He knoweth our nature,  
And remembereth well that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like the grass —  
For he doth flourish as a flower in the field;  
And once the spirit that is within him passes, he is gone;  
And the place where he grew knoweth him no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting unto  
those who fear Him,  
And His righteousness is upon their children's children;  
Unto such as keep His covenant,  
And to those who remember to do His commandments.

The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens,  
And His Kingdom ruleth over all.  
Bless the Lord, O ye angels of His, mighty in strength,  
Who perform His word, and hearken to the voice of His command.

Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts;  
 All ye ministers of His, all ye who do His will.  
 Bless the Lord, all ye works of His, and in all places of His dominion.  
 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!

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

**Psalm 145** (146)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 I will praise the Lord for as long as I live;  
 I will sing praises to my God while I have being.  
 Put not your trust in princes, in sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to his earth;  
 On that very day his plans perish.  
 Blesséd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
 Whose hope is in the Lord his God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are in them;  
 Who keepeth truth unto eternity;  
 Who giveth nourishment to the hungry;  
 And justice to the oppressed.

The Lord freeth them that are in fetters;  
 The Lord giveth wisdom to the blind.  
 The Lord raiseth them that have been cast down;  
 The righteous are beloved of the Lord.

The Lord giveth shelter to the strangers,  
 And refuge to the orphan and the widow;  
 But the way of the wicked shall perish.  
 The Lord shall reign forever, thy God, O Zion, to all generations.

**Now, and ever**, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Only-begotten Son** and Immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, Who without change didst become man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art One of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!

### **The Beatitudes**

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

Blesséd are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blesséd are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

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

Blesséd are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blesséd are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

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

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

Blesséd are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blesséd 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.

**Glory...,** now and ever.... Amen.

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (REVERENCE)

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (REVERENCE)

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. (REVERENCE)

**The heavenly choir** sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

**vs:** Draw near to Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

**Glory...,** now and ever.... Amen.

The choir of angels and archangels with all the hosts of heaven sings Thy praises, crying: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!"

**The Creed***[If the Divine Liturgy follows, the Creed IS NOT read].*

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 worshipped 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, in mind, or by intention: forgive them all for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

**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 THINE IS THE KINGDOM...**

**CHOIR:**      Amen.

**Kontakion****Tone 3** (*TROPAR TONE*)

- Today the Vírgin **comes to** the cave /  
 To give birth ineffably to the pre-**eternal** Word. /  
 Hearing this, be of good cheer, O in-**hab**ited earth, /  
 And with the angels and the **shepherds** ///  
 Glorify Him whose will it was to be made manifest a young  
 Child, the **pre-eternal** God.

**READER:** Lord have mercy. (**40 TIMES**)

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

O Most Holy Trinity, Mighty, One in Essence, Kingdom undivided, the Cause of all good; have mercy even upon me, a sinner. Confirm and instruct my heart and take away from me every defilement. Enlighten my mind that I may ever glorify, praise and adore Thee, saying: "One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

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*[If the Divine Liturgy follows, we continue]:*

**PRIEST:**     **WISDOM!**

**CHOIR:**     It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos! Ever-blessèd and most pure and the Mother of our God!

**PRIEST:**     **MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!**

**CHOIR:**     More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word! True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

**PRIEST:**     **[THE DISMISSAL OF THE DAY].**

**CHOIR:**     Amen.

**PRIEST:**     **THROUGH THE PRAYERS...**

**CHOIR:**     Amen.  
Lord, have mercy.     **(THRICE)**

**[WE BEGIN VESPERS WITH THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT WITH]:**

**PRIEST:**     **BLESSÈD IS THE KINGDOM...**

**CHOIR:**     Amen. "Come, let us worship...", Psalm 103 **[AND THE REST].**

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*[If the Divine Liturgy DOES NOT follow, we continue]:*

**READER:** Blessed be the Name of the Lord,  
Henceforth and forevermore!     **(THRICE)**

**Glory..., now and ever.... Amen.**



**Psalm 33 (34)**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
His praise shall be continually in my mouth.  
My soul shall make her boast in the Lord:  
Let the humble hear this and rejoice.

O magnify the Lord with me  
And let us exalt His Name together.  
I sought the Lord and He answered me  
And He delivered me from all my troubles.

Come near unto Him and be enlightened  
And your faces shall not ever be ashamed!  
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,  
And delivered him out of all of his afflictions.

The angel of the Lord will encamp 'round them that fear Him  
And He will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blesséd is the man who has his hopes in Him.

O fear the Lord, all ye His saints  
For those who fear Him lack no good thing.  
The rich will become poor and hungry  
But they that seek the Lord shall not want for any good thing.

O come, ye children, hear me  
And I will teach you the fear of the Lord!  
Who is the man that desireth life,  
Who loveth to see good days?

O keep thy tongue away from evil  
And thy lips from speaking guile.  
Turn thyself away from evil,  
And instead do good, seek peace, pursue it!

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
And His ears are open to their prayer:  
But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil  
To destroy their memory from the earth.

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them,  
And He delivered them from all their troubles.

**ROYAL HOURS**  
(MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE)

The Lord is near those humbled in the spirit  
And He will save those with a contrite heart.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous  
And the Lord will deliver them out of them all.  
The Lord keepeth all their bones:  
Not a one of them shall be broken.

Evil is the death of sinners  
And they that hate the righteous shall be destroyed.  
The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants  
And they that hope in Him shall not do any wrong.

**PRIEST:**      ***WISDOM!***

**CHOIR:**      It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos! Ever-blesséd and most pure and the Mother of our God!

**PRIEST:**      ***MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, SAVE US!***

**CHOIR:**      More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word! True Theotokos, we magnify thee!

**PRIEST:**      ***GLORY TO THEE, O CHRIST, OUR GOD AND OUR HOPE, GLORY TO THEE!***

**CHOIR:**      Glory..., now and ever.... Amen.  
Lord have mercy. ***(3 TIMES)***  
Father ***(MASTER)*** bless!

**PRIEST:**      ***[THE DISMISSAL OF THE DAY].***

**CHOIR:**      Amen.

The End  
and Glory be to God.