

The 31st Day of December

Leavetaking of the Nativity of Christ; Commemoration of Venerable Saint Melanie.

Note: See the preceding Day. The service to **St. Melanie** is served on the 30th of December because of the Leavetaking today.

The service of the Feast is served today.

Vespers

Usual Beginning. Usual Kathismas. **At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera** from the day of the Feast. Glory..., now and ever... Feast. **Prokeimenon of the Day. Aposticha:** All Feast (from the Great Compline). **Troparion:** Feast. And the rest of Vespers, as usual. The names of the saints commemorated on this day are mentioned at the Dismissal.

Nocturn

The Nocturn is served as usual with the Kathismas and the usual troparia, and prayers, etc., through the prayer: “Remember, O Lord, those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal....” The Dismissal.

Matins

Matins are served as on the Feast itself, except there is no Polieley or Gospel reading. **After** “God is the Lord..., ” the Troparion of the Feast (thrice). Usual Kathismas. Kathisma Hymns: Feast. **Canons:** Feast: first Canon with 8 troparia, including the irmos; second Canon with 6 troparia. **Katavasia:** Irmosi of both canons. **After the 3rd Ode:** Ypakoe of the Feast. **After the 6th Ode,** the Kontakion and Ikos of the Feast. The Magnificat is not sung, but rather the refrain, “Magnify, O my soul...” and then the Irmos of the 1st Canon of Ode 9, and the rest, in order. **After the 9th Ode,** the Exapostilarion of the Feast (twice). **The Praises:** all Feast. The Great Doxology. Troparion: Feast. Usual litanies and the Festal Dismissal: “May He who was born in a cavern....” **At the First Hour,** the Troparion and Kontakion of the Feast.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 6 Troparia: 3 from the Ode 8 of both Canons of the Feast. The Festal Antiphons are not sung. At the Entrance, the Troparion of the Feast; Glory..., now and ever... Kontakion of the Feast. The Prokeimenon, Alleluia and Communion Hymn are taken from the Feast. The Epistle and Gospel are for the day. **We sing the Trisagion** and not, “As many....”

Note: **If the Leavetaking occurs on the Sunday after the Nativity (found on 26th December), then:**

Small Vespers

The stichera for the Resurrection and the Theotokos are sung, as usual.

Great Vespers

The All-night Vigil is served. “Blessèd is the man...” (1st Kathisma). **At** “**Lord, I call...**” stichera on 10, Tone 5: Resurrection—3; Feast—4; Righteous Ones—3. Glory... Righteous Ones; Now and ever... Feast. **Entrance and Prokeimenon of the Day.** **Litya:** the stichera of the Feast. **Aposticha:** All Resurrection. Glory... Righteous Ones; Now and ever... Feast. After the blessing of the loaves, the **Troparia:** “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos” (twice) and Righteous Ones (once).

Matins

After “God is the Lord...,” **Troparia:** Resurrection (twice); Glory... Righteous Ones; Now and ever... Feast. Usual Kathismas. **Kathisma Hymns:** Resurrection. **Polielei and the rest, as usual.** After the Polielei: **Ypakoe and Antiphons:** Resurrection. **Matins Prokeimenon,** as prescribed. “Let every breath...” **Matins Gospel.** “Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ...” Psalm 50, and the rest, as usual. “O God, save Thy people...” **Canons:** Resurrection—4; Righteous Ones—4; Feast (both)—6. Irmos: Resurrection. **Katavasia:** “Christ is born...” **After the 3rd Ode:** Kontakion and Ikos—Righteous Ones. Kathisma Hymns—Righteous Ones; Glory..., now and ever... Feast. **After the 6th Ode:** Kontakion and Ikos—Feast. **The Magnificat is sung.** **After the 9th Ode:** “Holy is the Lord...” The Exapostilaria: Resurrection—4, Feast—4; Glory... Righteous Ones; Now and ever... Feast. **The Praises:** Resurrection—4; Feast—4 (with their verses). Glory... Righteous Ones; Now and ever... “Thou art most-blessèd, O Theotokos...” (as usual). The Great Doxology. Troparion as prescribed. Usual Litanies and Dismissal. Glory..., now and ever... Gospel Sticheron.

Hours

At the First Hour, the Troparion of the Resurrection; Glory..., Feast; Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Hours, etc. Kontakion: Feast. **At the Third and Ninth Hours,** Troparia: Resurrection; Glory... Feast and Righteous Ones (to be said alternately). Kontakia: Feast and Righteous Ones (to be said alternately).

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 12 Troparia: 4 from the Octoechos, 4 from the Ode 9 of the 1st Canon of the Feast, and 4 from the Canon of the Righteous ones. The Festal Antiphons are not sung. At the Entrance, the Troparion of the Resurrection, Feast and Righteous ones; Glory..., Kontakion of the Righteous ones; Now and ever..., Kontakion of the Feast. **We sing the Trisagion** and not, “As many...” **The Prokeimena of the day and the Sunday After.** **Epistle:** (200) Galatians (Sunday After). The Alleluias are of the day and the Sunday After. Gospel: 4) Mathew (Sunday After). Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing: “Magnify, O my soul...” and the rest as on the Feast. The Communion Hymns are Praise the Lord..., and the Feast.

THE LEAVETAKING OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Note: **If the Afterfeast Leavetaking occurs on the Saturday After:**

Then on Friday evening: **At** “**Lord, I call...**” for Glory..., now and ever..., the sticheron of the Feast is sung in place of that from the Octoechos.

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