

The 7th Day of September



Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. The Holy Martyr Sozón; also, the Commemoration of our father among the Saints, John, Archbishop and Wonderworker of Novgorod, whose service follows this. — *incomplete as of 8/2014*)

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

The world is bathed in mystical rays of gladness /
Announcing to all the coming of Christ God, the Sun of Glory, /
Through thy nativity, O most pure one, /
For thou art revealed as the Mediatrix ///
Of true joy and grace.

The glory of this Forefeast, O pure one, /
Announces to all, more than words can express, /
Thy goodwill toward all mankind /
For thou art the future source of our gladness /
And thou art the Mediatrix of our joy, /
O Ever-virgin Theotokos.

The young Maiden, who held God within her womb, /
The most pure Theotokos, /
The glory of the prophets and the daughter of David, /
Is born today of Joachim and Anna chaste in spirit, /
And the curse of Adam that weighed upon us ///
Is abolished by her nativity.

And 3 stichera of the Martyr Sozón, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Girding thy weakness with the strength of Christ, O blessed one /
Thou didst voluntarily bear our weaknesses to thy martyrdom /
And didst joyfully suffer for His sake, /
And didst crush the impotent enemy under thy beautiful feet. /
For this did Christ, the Lover of mankind and the Savior of our souls ///
Wove for thee a crown of victory.

Being wounded, thou didst wound thine enemies, O glorious one, /
And armed with the Cross, thou didst cast them down to the ground. /
Being arrayed in invincible armor and confirmed in love /
Thou wast translated into the mystical kingdom ///

As a victorious martyr and a heavenly man.

Emulating the Lord and Savior, /
Who went to His voluntary sufferings for thy sake, /
Thou didst go of thine own free will to suffer pain and torture /
O passion-bearing martyr Sozon, /
Therefore the Lord honored thee with many heavenly gifts ///
And revealed thee as a fountain of healing for those who love thee.

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Forefeast in Tone 4: *In the usual melody*

The hosts of angels in heaven /
And the human race on earth /
Bless thine honored nativity, Most Holy Virgin, /
For thou didst become the Mother of Christ God, the Creator of all. /
Cease not to pray for us, we implore thee, /
Who have put our hope on God through thee, ///
O most praised Mother of God, who knewest no wedlock.

If it be Friday evening, then: Glory..., The hosts of angels..., Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week (or else, Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "O most glorious wonder..."*

O most glorious wonder /
From the childless loins and a barren womb /
Of the righteous Joachim and Aнна,
Sprouts today the staff bearing blossoms, /
The Mother of God who knew no wedlock, ///
And the assembly of prophets and patriarchs rejoice at her nativity.

Verse: Harken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

David rejoices today and Jesse leaps for joy /
Levi is exalted /
And the righteous Joachim rejoices in spirit. /
The childlessness of Anna is resolved by thy nativity, /
O most pure Mary, joyous in God, ///
And the assembly of angels with mankind hallow thy blessed womb.

Verse: The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

Rejoice, O unification of mankind! /
Rejoice, O temple of the Lord! /

FOREFEAST NATIVITY THEOTOKOS; HOLY MARTYR SOZON

Rejoice, O holy mountain! /
Rejoice, O table divine! /
Rejoice, O candle of the Light! /
Rejoice, honored glory of Orthodoxy! /
Rejoice, O Immaculate Lady! /
Rejoice, offering of manna divine! /
Rejoice, O tabernacle! Rejoice, O burning bush, unconsumed! ///
Rejoice, O Mary, Mother of Christ God, the hope of us all!

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 4: *the composition of Germanus*

The joy of all the world hath shone forth upon us /
The far-famed Virgin, sprung forth from righteous Joachim and Anna. /
On account of her exceeding goodness /
She is become the living temple of God, /
And is in truth acknowledged as the only Theotokos. /
At her prayers, O Christ our God ///
Send down peace upon the world and great mercy on our souls.

The Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:

Thy holy martyr Sozon, O Lord, /
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever..., the Troparion of the Forefeast, in the Same Tone:

From the root of Jesse and from the loins of David /
Mariam, the child of God, is born to us today /
And the whole creation is made new and godlike, /
Rejoice together, O heaven and earth, /
Praise her, O ye kindreds of the nations /
Joachim is glad and Anna rejoices as she cries: ///
The barren woman bears the Theotokos, who sustains our Life.

Matins

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Forefeast, twice; Glory..., that of the Martyr, now and ever..., that of the Forefeast.

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “When the stone had been sealed...”*

7 SEPTEMBER

Being born thyself wondrously from a barren womb /
As a virgin thou didst conceive in a manner beyond understanding /
And gavest birth to the Life of the world. /
Therefore all the powers of heaven sing to thee, O Mother of God: /
Glory to thee, most pure one for coming to us! /
Glory to thy nativity! ///
Glory to thy Virginity, O Mother who knewest no wedlock!

Glory..., now and ever..., [Repeat]

**After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 5: Tone 5: To the melody:
“The co-unoriginate Word...”**

All the powers of heaven rejoice today /
And the race of men make glad together with them, /
The prophets also rejoice /
For they beheld thee of old in secret images: /
The burning bush, the stamen, and the staff /
The door, the divine table, the great mountain; ///
For thou art born today

Glory..., now and ever..., [Repeat]

The Canon

Canon of the Forefeast, with 8 Troparia including the Irmos, in Tone 4
having the acrostic: “I praise the nativity of the divine Virgin Maiden,” the composition of Joseph.
incomplete as of 8/2014

After the Third Ode:

The Kontakion of the Martyr, in Tone 2: To the melody, “The steadfast....”

Let us assemble today /
And with a loud voice let us praise Sozón the martyr, /
Who wisely and faithfully suffered for piety, /
And is an initiate of the mysteries of grace, /
Who generously bestows healing to all ///
And earnestly prays Christ God on behalf of us all.

After the Sixth Ode:

The Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone 3: To the melody, “Today the Virgin....”

Today the Virgin Theotokos /
Mary, the chamber of the heavenly Groom /

FOREFEAST NATIVITY THEOTOKOS; HOLY MARTYR SOZON

Is born by the will of God of a barren woman, /
She is prepared as a chariot for God the Word. /
For to this she had been fore-chosen /
Since she is the divine gate ///
And truly the Mother of Life.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O House of Ephratha....”

Come, all ye born of Adam, /
And let us praise the Virgin /
Who sprang forth from David, ///
The most pure Mary, who gave birth to Christ.

Verse: Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Let us offer our praise to our Lord and Deliverer, /
Who from a barren woman hath given us ///
The Theotokos, and only Ever-virgin.

Verse: The rich among the people shall pray before thy face.

Today the Joy of all the universe , /
The Mother of the King of all, ///
Most gloriously is born from a barren womb.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 2: In the usual melody

She who was pre-ordained to be the Queen of all /
And the habitation of God, /
Hath come forth today from the barren womb of the joyful Anna. /
She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence; /
Through her hath Hades been trampled underfoot, /
Through her hath Eve and all her line been securely established in life. /
It is truly meet that we should cry aloud to her: ///
“Blessèd art thou amongst women, and Blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb!”

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode of the Canon of the Forefeast, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon to the Martyr.

The Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone 4:

From the root of Jesse and from the loins of David /
Mariam, the child of God, is born to us today /

And the whole creation is made new and godlike, /
Rejoice together, O heaven and earth, /
Praise her, O ye kindreds of the nations /
Joachim is glad and Anna rejoices as she cries: ///
The barren woman bears the Theotokos, who sustains our Life.

The Troparion of the Martyr Sozón, in same Tone:

Thy holy martyr Sozón, O Lord, /
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

The Kontakion of the Martyr Sozón, in Tone 2: To the melody, "The steadfast...."

Let us assemble today /
And with a loud voice let us praise Sozón the martyr, /
Who wisely and faithfully suffered for piety, /
And is an initiate of the mysteries of grace, /
Who generously bestows healing to all ///
And earnestly prays Christ God on behalf of us all.

The Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone 3: To the melody, "Today the Virgin...."

Today the Virgin Theotokos /
Mary, the chamber of the heavenly Groom /
Is born by the will of God of a barren woman, /
She is prepared as a chariot for God the Word. /
For to this she had been fore-chosen /
Since she is the divine gate ///
And truly the Mother of Life.

Prokeimenon (for the Saint), Tone 7: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord /
and shall set his hope on Him. *Verse:* Hear my voice, O God, when I pray unto Thee!

The Epistle (for the Saint): (233) Eph. 6:10-17

The Alleluia (for the Saint), Tone 4: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them,
and He delivered them from all their troubles. *Verse:* Many are the afflictions of the
righteous, and the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

The Gospel (for the Saint): (52) John 15:17-16:2

The Communion Hymn (for the Saint): The righteous shall be in everlasting

FOREFEAST NATIVITY THEOTOKOS; HOLY MARTYR SOZON

remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.

Last updated 8/6/14 SDA
9/14/2022 SDA