

ORTHROS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017; TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8
SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY OF CHRIST, WHICH FALLS ON THE
APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

VENERABLE MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR ZOTIKOS OF ROME, THE FRIEND OF ORPHANS; BLESSED THEOPHYLACT, ARCHBISHOP OF OCHRID

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

PSALM 87

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

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 all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!*

THE GREAT LITANY

- Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan N., (for our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), for the venerable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.**
- Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- (In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE FIVE

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 1. O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)

Verse 2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)

Verse 3. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

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

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIFTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL KATHISMATA (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Let us laud the honored Cross of the Lord; let us honor with song His holy Burial; let us glorify His divine Resurrection; for He hath raised the dead from the graves, since He is God, and hath led captive the might of death and the power of Diabolus, and hath shed light on those who are in Hades.

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

Thou hast been called dead, O Lord, Who hast caused death to die. And Thou wast placed in a grave, O Thou Who hast emptied the grave. Above, the soldiers guarded the tomb, but below, Thou didst raise the dead who were from eternity. Wherefore, O Lord Almighty, the Incomprehensible, glory to Thee.

(For the Nativity) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Come, ye faithful, let us see where Christ the Savior hath been born; let us follow with the kings, even the Magi from the East, unto the place where the star doth direct their journey. For there, the Angels' hosts sing praises ceaselessly; shepherds in the field offer a fitting song, while saying, Glory in the highest to Him this day born within the cave from the pure Virgin and Theotokos in Bethlehem of Judea.

Second Kathisma

After Thy third-day Resurrection and the worship of the Disciples, O Lord, Peter cried to Thee: The women made bold to Thee, but I cowered fearing; the thief did speak of Thy Divinity, and I denied Thee ungratefully. Wouldest Thou still, I wonder, call me Disciple, or make me a fisher of the deep? Nevertheless, O God, receive me, repentant, and save me.

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

The transgressors of the law, O merciful Lord, nailed Thee between two thieves and stabbed Thy side with a spear. And Thou didst submit to burial, O Thou Who didst invade the gates of Hades, and didst rise in three days. Wherefore, the women hastened to behold Thee, and told the good tidings of Thy Resurrection to the Apostles, O Savior transcendent in height, and praised of angels. Wherefore, O blessed Lord, glory to Thee.

(For the Nativity) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Why, O Mary, marv'lest thou, amazed at that which is in thee? Because I have given birth in time unto the timeless Son, yet none hath taught me concerning my Child's conception: without a man am I, how shall I bear a Son? Who hath ever seen a birth without man's seed? But, as is written, where God willeth, the order of nature is overcome. Lo, Christ is born now of the pure Virgin in Bethlehem of Judea.

EVLOGETARIA (BENEDICTIONS) IN TONE FIVE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The company of the Angels was amazed, when they beheld Thee numbered among the dead, yet Thyself, O Savior, destroyed the power of Death, and with Thee raising up Adam and releasing all men from Hell.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do ye mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant Angel within the sepulcher cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning did the Myrrh-bearing Women run lamenting unto Thy tomb; but an Angel came toward them saying: The time for lamentation is passed; weep not; but announce unto the Apostles the Resurrection.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes.

The Myrrh-bearing Women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Thy tomb, O Savior. But the Angel spake unto them saying: Why number ye the Living among the dead? In that He is God, He is risen from the grave.

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

We adore the Father, as also His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity in One Essence; crying with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In that thou didst bear the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst redeem Adam from sin, and didst give to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He Who was incarnate of thee, both God and man, hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIFTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL HYPAKOE (Plain Reading)

The minds of the ointment-bearing women were dazzled by the angelic scene, and their souls with the divine Resurrection. Wherefore, they spoke to the Apostles, saying: Declare in the nations the Resurrection of the Lord, Who worketh wonders with you, who bestoweth on us the Great Mercy.

FIFTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL ANABATHMOI (Plain Reading)

First Antiphony

- + O my Lord, I sing to Thee like David in my sorrow. Save my soul from the deceitful tongues.
- + Verily, the life of the dwellers in the wilderness is a very happy one; for by divine passion are they ever carried up.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + By the Holy Spirit are all creations seen and unseen preserved, the control thereof being in Himself Who is without doubt one of the Trinity.

Second Antiphony

- + Come, my soul, let us ascend the mountain yonder, whence cometh thy help.
- + O Christ, let Thy raised right hand encompass me, preserving me from all evil deceits.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + By the Holy Spirit do we speak divinely, saying, Thou art God, Life, Love, Light and Mind. Thou art goodness; Thou dost reign for ages.

Third Antiphony

- + I have been filled with great joy by those who say to me: Let us go into the courts of the Lord. Verily, I have offered a constant prayer.
- + In the house of David dread wonders take place; for there is a burning fire consuming every evil mind.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, the Holy Spirit is the Element of life and its beginning; for through Him doth every living thing breathe; as is the Father and the Word.

PROKEIMENON FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE FIVE

Arise, O my Lord and my God, for Thou dost reign to the end of time. (TWICE)

Stichos: To Thee do I confess, O Lord, from my whole heart.

Arise, O my Lord and my God, for Thou dost reign to the end of time.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)
Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE EIGHTH EOTHINON GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (20:11-18).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if Thou hast carried Him away, tell me where Thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the Disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that He had said these things to her.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Reader: In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross for us, He hath destroyed Death by death.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my

mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall 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 unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Apostles, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given unto us life eternal and Great Mercy.

THE INTERCESSION¹

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous

¹ Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of God; of our Venerable Mother Melania the Younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos of Rome, the friend of orphans; and Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY (Plain Reading)

Godly David on this day is filled with gladness of spirit; Joseph also joineth James in offering glory and praises. They rejoice, for as Christ's kinsmen, they have received crowns: and they praise the One ineffably born upon earth as they cry out with a great voice: O Lord of mercy, save them that honor Thy Name.

By an ineffable counsel, He Who is fleshless is born in the flesh. The Uncircumscribable is now circumscribed with a body, and He preserveth both essences without change. He taketh a beginning, Who by nature is without beginning and alone transcendeth time. Seen as an infant is He Who surpasseth perfection. Carried in arms is He Who beareth the universe. Therefore, at His own Birth, as God He crowneth them that are honored with being His kinsmen. As we glorify them with faith, let us cry out unceasingly: O Lord of mercy, save them that honor Thy Name.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On December 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Nativity of Christ, and we commemorate our Venerable Mother Melania the Younger of Rome; Hieromartyr Zotikos of Rome, the friend of orphans; and Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen. Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O blest James. What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph

the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF BOTH CANONS OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 1 (1). Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is come from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be ye elevated. Sing to the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations, praise Him with joy; for He hath been glorified.

Ode 1 (2). The Lord performed a miracle and saved the people when of old He turned the moist waves of the sea into dry land. And having been born now of a Virgin by His own choice, He hath trodden the way for us to Heaven, being equal to the Father and to men in essence; therefore, do we glorify Him.

Ode 3 (1). Let us cry unto the Son, born of the Father before the ages without transubstantiation, Christ God Who hath been incarnate in these last days of the Virgin, without seed, shouting, O Thou Who hath elevated our state, Thou art holy, O Lord.

Ode 3 (2). Incline Thine ear, O glorious benefactor, to the praise of Thy servants, abolishing the boasting of the proud adversary. And help us who sing to Thee to overcome sin, and confirm us on the unshakeable foundation of faith.

Ode 4 (1). O praised Christ, a stem hath come out of Jesse, and from it hast sprouted a Flower from a dense and shadowed mountain, O immaterial God, coming incarnate from the Virgin that hath not known man. Glory, therefore, to Thy might, O Lord.

Ode 4 (2). The Prophet Habakkuk of old foretold in song the re-creation of mankind; for he was worthy to behold that sign in an ineffable manner; for the Word did come forth as a new Babe from the mountain of the Virgin, for the re-creation of the nations.

Ode 5 (1). Since Thou art the God of peace and the Father of mercies, O Lover of mankind, Thou didst send to us the great Messenger of Thy mind, granting us Thy peace. Therefore, have we been led aright to the light of divine knowledge, glorifying Thee as we come out of darkness.

Ode 5 (2). Grant forgiveness, O Christ, to us who have been in the darkness of our deeds of error since the night, who eagerly praise Thee, since Thou art our Benefactor; that Thou mayest hasten to us and prepare for us a good way, wherein if we walk we shall find glory and honor.

Ode 6 (1). The sea-monster did disgorge Jonah from its belly, as it received him safely like a fetus. As for the Word, when He dwelt in the Virgin, taking from her a body, He was born, preserving her without corruption, and without transubstantiation, preserving His Mother without harm.

Ode 6 (2). Verily, Jonah when he was in the depth of the sea, begged to ascend to Thee and to be rescued from the tempest. But as for me, having been pierced by the arrows of the tyrant, in Thee I seek refuge, O evil-destroying Christ. Hasten Thou to me and deliver me hastily from my negligence.

Ode 7 (1). The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the infidel, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but were singing as they stood in the midst of the flames: Blessed art Thou, God of our fathers.

Ode 7 (2). The youths having clung steadfastly to the love of the King of all, ridiculed the prating and blasphemy of the blaspheming usurper. And being filled with wrath, he delivered them to the terrible fire which did not harm them. Wherefore, they lifted their voices to the Master, saying: Blessed art Thou unto all ages.

Ode 8 (1). Verily, the dewy furnace did shadow the sign of the supernatural wonder; for it burned not the youths whom it received, as the fire of divinity also burned not the womb of the Virgin in which it dwelt. Wherefore, let us offer praise with song, saying: Let all creation praise the Lord, exalting Him forevermore, to the end of ages.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Ode 8 (2). The youths who were cast of old into the fire and remained unburned, were a sign of the womb of the Maiden who gave birth supernaturally while yet sealed. These two matters grace hath accomplished through one miracle, arousing the nations to praise.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

NINTH ODE OF THE FIRST CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

Magnify, O my soul, the God born in flesh from the Virgin.

When the Magi saw a new and strange star appearing suddenly, moving in a wonderful way, and transcending the stars of heaven in brightness, they were guided by it to Christ, the King born on earth in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

Magnify, O my soul, the King born in a cave.

The Magi said: Where is the Child King, the newborn, Whose star hath appeared? For we have verily come to worship Him. And Herod, the contender against God, trembled, and began to roar in folly to kill Christ.

Magnify, O my soul, the God worshipped by the Magi.

Herod ascertained from the Magi about the time of the star by whose guidance they were led to Bethlehem to worship with presents Christ Who guided them, and so they returned to their country, disregarding Herod, the evil murderer of babes, mocking him.

NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND CANON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Lord inside the cave.

Verily it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger therefrom for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to indite well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed difficult to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible and three-personed Godhead.

O pure one, Mother of the Word that appeareth newly from thee, O closed door, verily, as we behold the dark shadowy symbols pass away, we glorify the light of the truth and bless thy womb as is meet.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Magnify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.

The Christ-pleasing people, O Virgin, having deserved to be granted its desire by the coming of God, doth seek now with tears thy help to worship the glory of His enlivening appearance wherein is the renewal of birth; for it is thou who dost distribute grace, O pure one.

KATAVASIAS OF BOTH CANONS OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

Ode 9 (1). *Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.*

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

Ode 9 (2). *Magnify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.*

Verily it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger therefrom for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to begin well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed difficult to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy is the Lord our God. (THRICE)

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool, for He is holy.

THE EIGHTH EOTHINON EXAPOSTELARION IN TONE TWO

Verily, when Mary saw two angels inside the grave she was taken by surprise. And when she, knowing not Christ, but thinking Him the gardener, said to Him, Sir, where hast Thou placed the body of Jesus? She knew from His voice that He was the Savior, and she obeyed Him when He said: Touch Me not; for I am going to My Father. Tell this to My brethren.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

*(**Upon that mount in Galilee**)*

Now with God's Brother, lauded James, * let us all sing the praises * of David, God's own ancestor; * and with them, godly Joseph, * the chaste Betrothed of God's Mother; * for in a godly fashion * they ministered to that divine * Birth of Christ in the city * of Bethlehem, * when with Angels, Magi, and watching shepherds, * they sang the hymn of praise to Him * as to their God and Master.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

*(**The original melody**)*

From the heights our Savior, Christ, * the Dayspring of the East, is come * to visit us; and we, who once * were in the shadow and the dark, * behold, now we have found the truth; * for from a holy Virgin, * the Lord hath been born today.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For the Resurrection in Tone Five

Verse 1. This glory shall be to all His saints.

The grave, O Lord, having been sealed by the transgressors of the law, Thou didst emerge from within like as Thou wast born of the Theotokos; for the incorporeal angels did not know how Thou wert incarnate. Likewise the guardian soldiers were not aware when Thou didst rise; for these two matters were concealed from all seekers. But the wonders appeared to those who worshipped the mystery in faith. Therefore, grant us, who offer praise, joy and Great Mercy.

Verse 2. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.

O Lord, Thou hast demolished the everlasting gates and broken asunder the chains. Thou didst rise from the tomb, leaving behind Thy wrappings and ointments in the grave, in testimony of Thy true three-day Burial, and didst go before into Galilee, O Thou Who wert kept in a cave. Great, therefore, are Thy mercies, O ineffable Savior; have mercy upon us.

Verse 3. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

The women did hasten to Thy tomb to behold Thee, O Lord, Who didst suffer for us. And when they arrived, advancing, they saw an angel sitting on the stone rolled back from fear. And he shouted to them, saying: The Lord hath risen. Go and tell the Disciples that the Savior of our souls is risen from the dead.

Verse 4. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O Lord Savior, Thou didst enter unto Thy Disciples, the doors being closed, as Thou didst come out of the sealed tomb, showing the sufferings of the flesh which Thou didst accept in long-suffering; for Thou didst submit to pains patiently since Thou art the seed of David. But since Thou art the Son of God, Thou didst liberate the world. Great therefore, are Thy mercies, O incomprehensible Savior. Have mercy upon us.

For the Nativity in Tone Four

Verse 5. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Rejoice, O righteous ones, and ye heavens be glad. Sing with joy, ye mountains, for the Nativity of Christ. The Virgin sitteth like the Cherubim, holding in her bosom God the incarnate Word; the shepherds do glorify Him Who was born. The Magi offer presents to the Lord, and the angels give praise, saying, O Lord, hidden from comprehension, glory to Thee.

Verse 6. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

The Father hath been pleased and satisfied; the Word hath become flesh; and the Virgin hath given birth to incarnate God. The star declareth, the Magi worship, the shepherds wonder, and creation rejoiceth.

Verse 7. The Lord said to my Lord, Sit Thou at my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

O Virgin Theotokos, O thou who hast given birth to the Savior, thou hast revoked the ancient curse of Eve; for thou hast become a Mother according to the will of God, carrying in thy bosom God the incarnate Word. Verily, the mystery is inscrutable; but we all glorify it with faith only, crying with thee and saying, O incomprehensible Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 8. From the womb, before the morning star, I begot Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He shall not repent.

Come, let us praise the Mother of the Savior, who appeared a Virgin even after birth-giving, crying, Rejoice, O living temple of God the King, in whom Christ having dwelt worked salvation. Wherefore, we with Gabriel do praise, and with the shepherds do glorify thee, crying: O Theotokos, intercede with Him incarnate of thee to save us.

THE DOXASTICON OF THE SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY IN TONE EIGHT

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

The blood, fire and pillars of smoke are the miracles of the earth which Joel foresaw; for the blood is the Incarnation, the fire is the Divinity, and the pillars of smoke are the Holy Spirit which descended on the Virgin and scented the world. Wherefore, great is the mystery of Thine Incarnation, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE EIGHT

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (THRICE)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

TROPARION IN TONE EIGHT

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of Hades, Thou didst loose the condemnation of Death, O Lord, releasing all mankind from the snares of the enemy. Having manifested Thyself to Thine Apostles, Thou didst send them forth to proclaim Thee; and through them Thou hast granted Thy peace unto the civilized world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

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