

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017  
TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY 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

*NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.*

**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.**

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ. Then, the following:*

EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE APODOSIS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below.*

### 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 THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR

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.

### APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

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.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

### KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

### THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany)

*All those on earth worship thee and sing unto Thee: Alleluia to God, O all the earth.\**

**The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

*\* The Prokeimenon is for the Nativity, in recognition of the Apodosi of the Feast.*

### THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany)

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were

baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE ONE

*Magi and shepherds came to worship Christ Who was born in the city of Bethlehem.*

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 onerous to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.

- *After Communion, instead of singing "We have seen the true light", sing the Festal Apolytikion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ."*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, and rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; 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 and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of *Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous 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: have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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