

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

TONE 3

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos / Sunday Before the
Elevation of the Cross [Hieromartyr Autonomus, Bishop in Italy]

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon You, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice.//

Hear me, O Lord.

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 3 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of man, being saved by faith,//

always offers You a song.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising You,//

always offers You a song.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 6 *Idiomela* *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Today God, Who rests upon the spiritual thrones,
has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.
He Who in wisdom established the heavens
has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;
for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,
even His Mother.
O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, //
O Lord, glory to You!

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

This is the day of the Lord!
Rejoice, O peoples,
for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life,
has come forth from the womb!
The gate that faces the East is born
and awaits the entry of the Great Priest.
She alone admits Christ into the world //
for the salvation of our souls.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Although by God's will other barren women
have brought forth famous offspring,
yet, of all those children Mary shines most brightly, as is fitting to God.
For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother,
and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,
in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed.
She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,
Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed,
and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom, //
has wrought salvation for all mankind.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 6 *Idiomela* *(for the Feast, by Stephen of Jerusalem)*

Today the gates of barrenness are opened,
and the virgin gate of God comes forth.
Today grace begins to bear its first fruit,
revealing to the world the Mother of God.
Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens//
for the salvation of our souls.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Today is the prelude of universal joy;
today the winds blow that herald salvation,
and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled;
for the barren woman is revealed as the mother
of her who remained a virgin
after giving birth to the Creator.
From her the One Who is God by nature
takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own;
and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray.//
He is Christ, the Lover of man and the Redeemer of our souls.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Today barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God,
who was chosen from all generations
to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God
in fulfillment of the divine plan.
Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew//
and restored from corruption to life eternal.

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

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has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.
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has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;
for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,
even His Mother.
O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless,//
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Tone 3 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you//
to be the Theotokos.

Aposticha

Tone 3 *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

You are the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

You endured death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
You rose from the dead on the third day,
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

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

Tone 8 *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

Come, all you faithful,
let us run to the Virgin!
For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained before the womb, as the
 Mother of our God,
the treasure of virginity,
the rod of Aaron that budded,
springing from the root of Jesse,
the preaching of the Prophets,
the offspring of righteous Joachim and Anna.
She is born and with her the world is renewed.
She comes from the womb
and the Church is adorned in her majesty.
She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead,
the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King,
in which has come to pass the strange mystery
of the union of the natures that came together in Christ.//
Worshiping Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 3 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

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

Tone 4 Troparion (*Feast*)

Your nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

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Tone 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Feast)*

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death.
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you://
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday Before)

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Epistle

(215) Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before)

(158) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The above two readings are read as one, then:

(240) Philippians 2:5-11 (Feast)

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)

V. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)

Tone 8

V. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear! (Ps. 44:9a)

Gospel

(9) John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before)

(79) Matthew 19:16-26

The above two readings are read as one, then:

(54) Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast)

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginitv is foreign to mothers;

childbearing is strange for virgins.

But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished.//

Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify you.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!