

SEPTEMBER 8

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6*

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!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*
- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Tone 6 *Idiomela* (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.*

* Music for the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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* *(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;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6 *(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!

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 28:10-17

Ezekiel 43:2-44:4

Proverbs 9:1-11

Litya

Tone 1 *Idiomela* (by Stephen of Jerusalem)

The first fruit of our salvation is accomplished today, O peoples,
for behold, the Mother and Virgin and vessel of God,
foreordained from ancient generations,
comes to be born from a barren woman.

A flower from Jesse and a rod from his root has budded;
let Adam, our forefather, be glad; let Eve rejoice and delight,
for behold, she who was formed from Adam's rib
plainly declares her daughter and descendant blessed:

"My deliverance has been born," says Eve;

"through her, I shall be freed from the bonds of Hades."

Let David rejoice, striking his lyre, and let him bless God,
for behold, the Virgin comes forth from a barren rock //
for the salvation of our souls!

Tone 2

Come, all you friends of virginity,
and you lovers of purity;
come, and welcome with love the boast of virginity!
She is the fountain of life that flows from the solid rock;
she is the bush that springs from the barren ground //
and burns with the immaterial fire that cleanses and enlightens our souls.

Tone 2 (by Anatolius)

What is this sound of feasting we hear?
Joachim and Anna mystically celebrate, saying:
"Rejoice with us today, O Adam and Eve;
for if by your transgression you closed the gate of Paradise to those of old,
we have now been given a glorious fruit, //
Mary the child of God, who opens its entrance to all!"

She who was foreordained Queen of all
and the habitation of God,
has come forth today from the barren womb of joyful Anna.
She is the divine sanctuary of the eternal Essence;
shameless Hades has been trampled down through her,
and Eve with all her race is established secure in life.
It is meet and right that we should cry aloud to her: //
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb!"

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

Tone 8 *(by Patriarch Sergius)*

Let us strike our spiritual harp on this solemn day of our feast,
for today, from the seed of David,
the Mother of Life is born, dispelling the darkness.
She is the re-creation of Adam, and the recalling of Eve.
She is the source of incorruption and our release from corruption.
Through her we have been made godlike and delivered from death.
So let us the faithful cry out to her with Gabriel:
"Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you, //
granting us His great mercy through you!"

Aposticha

Tone 4 *Idiomela* *(by Patriarch Germanus)*

The joy of all the world has dawned for us from the righteous ones;
the all-praised Virgin who springs from Joachim and Anna.
Through the abundance of goodness she becomes the living temple of God,
and she alone is acknowledged as truly the Theotokos.
Through her prayers, O Christ God, //
send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

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

As foretold by the Angel's prophecy,
you have come forth today, O Virgin,
the most sacred fruit of righteous Joachim and Anna.
You are the heaven and throne of God, the vessel of purity,
heralding joy to all the world, you that bring us our life;
you destroy the curse and give blessing in its stead.
Wherefore on this feast of your birth, O Maiden called by God, //
entreat peace for the world and for our souls great mercy!

V. Even the rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps. 44:11b)

Let the barren and childless Anna today clap her hands with gladness!
Let those on earth be decked in splendor;
let rulers leap for joy;
let priests be glad in blessing; let the whole world keep the feast!
For behold the Queen and immaculate bride of the Father
has sprung forth from the root of Jesse.
No longer will women bear children in sorrow,
for joy has blossomed forth,
and the Life of mankind now dwells in the world.
No longer are the offerings of Joachim be turned away,
for the lamentation of Anna has been changed to joy.
She cries: "Rejoice with me, all you chosen of Israel,
for behold, the Lord has given me the living palace of His divine glory
for our common gladness and joy//
and for the salvation of our souls!"

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

Tone 8 *(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.

Tone 4 Troparion

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. *(sung thrice at Great Vespers)*

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 4 Troparion

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The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
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Tone 4 Kontakion

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 3 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Theotokos)*

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

V. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (Lk. 1:48)

Epistle
(240) Philippians 2:5-11

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

V. Even the rich among the people shall pray before your face. (Ps. 44:11b)

Gospel

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

(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

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

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