

DECEMBER 25

**The Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

The First Antiphon

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Your wonders known. *(Ps. 110:1a)*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. *(Ps. 110:1b-2a) (Refrain)*

They are sought out according to His will. *(Ps. 110:2b) (Refrain)*

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. *(Ps. 110:3) (Refrain)*

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

The Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *(Ps. 111:1)*

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. *(Ps. 111:2) (Refrain)*

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever. *(Ps. 111:3) (Refrain)*

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous. *(Ps. 111:4) (Refrain)*

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

(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...”)

The Third Antiphon

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand." (Ps. 109:1a)

Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

"Until I make Your enemies Your footstool!" (Ps. 109:1b)

Troparion of the Feast

The Lord will send You the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of
Your enemies!" (Ps. 109:2)

Troparion of the Feast

With You is dominion on the day of Your power, in the radiance of holiness.
(Ps. 109:3)

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse

Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has
sworn, and will not change His mind: "You are a priest forever, after the
order of Melchizedek." (Ps. 109:4)

Troparion of the Feast

Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The Wise Men journey with the star,//
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

(Instead of the Trisagion)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon

Let all the earth worship You and praise You; / let it praise Your Name, O Most High! *(Ps. 65:3)*

V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Epistle

(209) Galatians 4:4-7

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)

V. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (Ps. 18:2)

Gospel

(2) Matthew 2:1-12

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

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven – the cave;
the cherubic throne – the Virgin;
the manger – the place where Christ lay:
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence,
for that is a safer course;
so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs
to you, O Virgin.
But grant us strength, O Mother,
equal to our natural calling.

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. *(Ps. 110:8a)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, ("The Services of Christmas", 1981).