

DECEMBER 25

**The Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ
Great Compline**

(Following "God is with us," we sing the following)

Tone 8

The day is over; I thank You, O Lord!
Grant me to pass this evening and this night without sin, //
and save me, O Savior!

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

The day is over; I glorify You, O Master!
Grant me to pass this evening and this night without giving offense, //
and save me, O Savior!

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

The day is over; I sing to You, O Holy One!
Grant me to pass this evening and this night free from temptation, //
and save me, O Savior!

Tone 6

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-ending songs.
The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices.
All the hosts of Angels honor You with the thrice-holy hymn.
For You, O Father, are from all eternity, with Your co-eternal Son,
and with the Spirit of life, Who is equal to You; //
You have revealed the unity of the Trinity.

O most-holy Virgin and Mother of God,
and you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word,
all you choirs of prophets and martyrs, who enjoy eternal life,
fervently pray for us all, who are in fearful distress,
that we may be delivered from the deceit of the Evil One,
so that we may sing the song of the Angels:
Holy, holy, holy, Thrice-holy Lord, //
have mercy on us and save us!

(after the 2nd Trisagion)

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!

(after the 3rd Trisagion)

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.

Litya

Tone 1 *(by John the Monk)*

Make merry, O heaven and earth, as the Prophets foretold!
Celebrate in the spirit, O Angels and men!
God is born from a woman and appears in the flesh
to those who sit in darkness and shadow.
A cave and a manger welcome Him.
Shepherds announce the wonder.
Wise Men from the East offer gifts in Bethlehem.
Let us from our unworthy lips offer praise like the Angels:
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!”
The Expectation of the Nations has come.//
He has come and saved us from bondage to the Enemy.

Today heaven and earth are united, for Christ is born.
Today God has come to earth, and man ascends to heaven.
Today God, Who by nature cannot be seen,
is seen in the flesh for our sake.
Let us glorify Him, crying:
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!
Your coming has brought peace to us.//
Glory to You, O our Savior!”

“Glory to God in the highest,”
I hear the Angels sing today in Bethlehem.
Glory to Him Whose good pleasure it was
that peace should come upon earth.
The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens.
Light has shone on those in darkness;
it has exalted the lowly, who sing like the Angels://
“Glory to God in the highest!”

Man was created in God’s image and likeness,
but when Jesus saw him fallen through transgression,
He bowed the heavens and came down, dwelling in a Virgin’s womb,
without forsaking His divinity.
Adam, once corrupted, was refashioned.
He cried out: “Glory to Your appearing,//
O my Redeemer and my God!”
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 5 *(by John the Monk)*

The Wise Men, kings from Persia,
perceived without any doubt
that You were born on earth, O Heavenly King.
Drawn by the light of a star, they hurried to Bethlehem.
They offered You acceptable gifts:
gold, myrrh, and frankincense.
They fell down before You and worshipped You,
seeing You, the Timeless One,//
lying in the cave as an infant.

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

Tone 6 (by Germanus)

All the Angels in heaven make merry and dance today.
All creation leaps for joy.
The Lord and Savior is born in Bethlehem.
Every deception of idols is swept away, //
and Christ reigns unto all ages.

Aposticha

Tone 2 (by Germanos)

A great and wondrous mystery unfolds today.
A Virgin gives birth and remains a virgin.
The Word is made flesh without leaving His Father.
Angels and shepherds glorify Him.
Let us join in their song: //
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!”

*V. The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies
Your footstool!” (Ps. 109:1)*

Tone 3 (by Germanos)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of all.
Eden offers a cave.
To those in darkness, a star reveals Christ, the Sun.
Wise Men are enlightened by faith and worship with gifts.
Shepherds behold the wonder, and the Angels sing: //
“Glory to God in the highest!”

V. Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. (Ps. 109:4a)

Tone 3 (by Anatolius)

When Jesus the Lord was born in Bethlehem of Judah,
Wise Men came from the East to worship God made man.
Eagerly opening their treasures,
they offered precious gifts to Him:
purest gold for the King of the ages;
frankincense, for the God of all;
myrrh, for the Immortal One,
as though He were dead three days.
Come, all you nations, let us worship Him! //
He is born to save our souls.

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

Tone 4 *(by John the Monk)*

Sing, O Jerusalem!
Make merry, all who love Zion!
Today Adam's ancient bonds are broken.
Paradise is opened to us.
The serpent is cast down.
Long ago our first mother was deceived by him.
Now he sees a woman become mother of the Creator.
Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
Through Eve, woman became the tool of sin,
bringing death to all flesh,
but through Mary, she becomes the first-fruits of salvation for all the world,
for God, the All-perfect, is born of her.
By His birth He seals her virginity.
He is bound in swaddling clothes to loose the bonds of sin.
Through His birth, the pains of Eve are healed.
Let all creation sing and dance for joy, //
for Christ has come to restore it and to save our souls!

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

Tone 4 *(by Anatolius)*

You have dwelt in a cave, O Christ our God;
a manger welcomed You;
shepherds and Wise Men worshipped You.
Then were the words of the Prophets fulfilled,
and the hosts of Angels marveled and cried: //
"Glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of Man!"

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! *(thrice)*

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).