

DECEMBER 26

Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity
Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

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

Tone 2 *(for the Feast, by Germanus)*

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
as we sing of this present mystery:
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
now feast on the delights of Paradise:
for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,

has taken the form of a servant.
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;
He was true God, and He remains the same,
but through His love for mankind,
He has become what He never was: true man.
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://
“O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!”

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

(by Anatolius)

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
the whole universe was filled with light.
The shepherds watched in the fields.
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
But Herod was troubled,
for God had appeared in the flesh.//
He is the Savior of our souls.

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

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.
Your rule is from age to age.
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,
You have filled all creation with joy.
The light of Your coming has shone on us;
every living creature praises You,
the Image of the Father's glory.
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,
the same yesterday, today, and forever,
You have shone forth from the Virgin.//
O God, have mercy on us!

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

What shall we offer You, O Christ,
Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?
Every creature made by You offers You thanks:
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
and we offer You a virgin Mother! //
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

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

Tone 6 *(for the Feast)*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!
Today Bethlehem receives Him Who reigns forever with the Father.
Today Angels glorify the newborn Babe in hymns worthy of God:
“Glory to God in the highest, //
and on earth, peace, good will to men!”

Tone 7 **Great Prokeimenon**

Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who works wonders!
(Ps. 76:13b)

V. You have made known Your power among the peoples! (Ps. 76:14a)

V. And I said, “Now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High.” (Ps. 76:10)

V. I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Your wonders! (Ps. 76:11)

Aposticha

Tone 8 *(for the Feast, by John the Monk)*

A great miracle has come to pass this day:
nature is made new and God becomes Man.
That which He was, He has remained,
and that which He was not, He has taken on Himself //
while suffering neither confusion nor division.

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

O Lord, You have come to Bethlehem
and have made Your dwelling in the cave.
You have heaven as Your throne,
yet You are laid in a manger.
The hosts of Angels attend on every side,
yet You have come down among shepherds,
that in Your compassion You might save mankind.//
Glory to You!

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

How shall I tell of this great mystery?
He Who is without flesh becomes incarnate;
the Word puts on a body;
the Invisible is seen;
He Whom no hand can touch is handled;
and He Who knows no beginning now begins to be.
The Son of God becomes the Son of Man://
Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever!

*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)*

The shepherds hasten to Bethlehem,
revealing the true Shepherd,
Who rests upon the Cherubim and lies in a manger.
For our sake He has taken upon Himself the form of a Child.//
O Lord, glory to You!

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! *(once)*

(at the Divine Liturgy)

(After the Entrance)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ,
O Son of God, born of the Virgin,
save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Feast)*

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!

Tone 6 **Kontakion** *(Synaxis of the Theotokos)*

He Who was begotten before the Morning Star of the Father without a mother,
today is made flesh of you upon the earth without a father.
A star announces the good tidings to the Wise Men,//
while Angels and shepherds sing the praises of your most pure childbearing, O
full of grace!

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon** *(Saturday After)*

I shall make your name to be remembered / in all generations. *(Ps. 44:16)*

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

Epistle

(306) Hebrews 2:11-18 *(Synaxis of the Theotokos)*

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification! (Ps. 131:8)

V. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back. (Ps. 131:11a)

Gospel

(4) Matthew 2:13-23 (*Synaxis of the Theotokos*)

(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

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