

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

TONE 5

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord; Leavetaking of the Nativity

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

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 5**      *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,

You have put the devil to shame.

By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify You, O only begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//

And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

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

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man  
and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

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

*(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. (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.*

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

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!

*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 1**      *(for King David)      (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God,  
for from him came the virgin stem;  
from this stem blossomed the Flower - Christ.  
Delivered from corruption, Adam and Eve cry out to Him,//  
for He is compassionate.

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

**Tone 1**      *(for St. Joseph)      (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

In his old age Joseph the Betrothed clearly saw the prophecies fulfilled.  
He was given a mysterious command,  
but he received enlightenment from the Angels who cried out://  
"Glory to God, for He has granted peace to the world!"

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

**Tone 1**      *(for St. James)*      *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord!  
He is a bishop and also a courageous martyr.  
Therefore, O Jesus,  
God wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave and manger,//  
through his prayers save those who praise You!

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

**Tone 6**      *(for the Righteous Ones)*

Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James:  
one was the Prophet King,  
and the other - an Apostle and the first bishop.  
Since we have been saved from error by their teachings,//  
let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the Virgin and took on flesh//  
in order to save our souls!

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

**Tone 2**      *(by Cassia the nun)*

When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,  
the many kingdoms of men came to an end,  
and when You were made man of the pure Virgin,  
the many gods of idolatry were destroyed.  
The cities of the world passed under one single rule,  
and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead.  
The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,  
and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the Godhead,  
when You, our God, were made man.  
Great is Your mercy, O Lord, glory to You!

## Aposticha

### Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify You in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Savior.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of man,  
You overthrew the gates of hell, //  
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,  
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.  
You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God. //  
Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Your crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.  
You have captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
You have opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise //  
and save us, O Lover of man!

*V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

For our sake, You accepted death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //  
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

**Tone 6**      *(for the Righteous Ones)*

Your Nativity became the commemoration of priests,  
and the strength and joy of kings,  
Rejoicing in it, we say:  
“Our Father, in heaven,//  
hallowed be Your Name, O Lover of man!”

*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!”

*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 5**      **Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Tone 2**      **Troparion**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
you have seen a Virgin great with child;  
and you gave glory with the shepherds;  
you worshipped with the Magi,  
and received the news from the Angel.//  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

**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!

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

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**Tone 3**      **Kontakion** *(Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,//  
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"

**Tone 3**      **Kontakion** *(Feast)*

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!



**Tone 8      Prokeimenon      (Feast)**

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)*

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon      (Righteous Ones)**

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

**Epistle**

(200) Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)

**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)*

**Tone 4**

*V. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)*

**Gospel**

(4) Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)

*(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.

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)  
The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (Ps. 110:8a)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!