

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

TONE 2

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary  
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

"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!*

**Tone 2**      *(for the Resurrection)*

Come, let us worship the Word of God

begotten of the Father before all ages,

and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!

Having endured the Cross,

He was buried as He Himself desired.//

And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

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

Christ our Savior

nailed to the Cross the bond against us,

He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//

We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

With the Archangels

let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!

He is our Savior, our Redeemer.

He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//

to judge the world which He made.

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

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

The Angel proclaimed You,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty."  
We worship You, O only immortal One.//  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

**Tone 6**      *Idiomela*      *(for the Feast, 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.*

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*     *(for the Feast, 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**      *(for the Feast, by Patriarch Sergius)*

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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** *(Feast)*

**Genesis 28:10-17**

**Ezekiel 43:2-44:4**

**Proverbs 9:1-11**

**Litya**

**Tone 1**      *Idiomela*      *(for the Feast, 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 virgins!  
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**      *(for the Feast, 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 2**      *(for the Resurrection)*

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Your creation. //  
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

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

By the Tree You destroyed the curse of the Tree, O Savior.  
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.  
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection.//  
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

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

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Your side with a spear.  
The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,  
asked that Your tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Your compassion,  
You accepted the tomb  
and rose on the third day!//  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,  
descending into hell as the Mighty One  
to save those who awaited Your coming,  
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day//  
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

*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, 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.//  
Worshipping Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 2      Troparion    *(Resurrection)***

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

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

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

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.

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

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You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
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**Tone 2      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

**Tone 4      Kontakion    *(Feast)***

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 6      Prokeimenon    *(Sunday Before)***

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

*V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon    *(Song of the Theotokos)***

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



### **Epistle**

(215) Galatians 6:11-18 (*Sunday Before*)

(141) 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

*The above two readings are read as one, then:*

(240) Philippians 2:5-11 (*Feast*)

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)*

*V. For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)*

### **Tone 8**

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

### **Gospel**

(9) John 3:13-17 (*Sunday Before*)

(77) Matthew 18:23-35

*The above two readings are read as one, then:*

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

*(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.//

For this all the earthly nations unceasingly magnify you.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)

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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*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*