

ROYAL HOURS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

FIRST HOUR

P: Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

All: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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

-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

-Lord, have mercy! (*twelve times*)

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

Come, let us worship God our King, and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before
Him! (*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ our King and our God and bow down
before Him! (*metany*)

Psalm 5

Listen to my words, O Lord,
attend to my complaint;

-Be attentive to the voice of my appeal
O my King and my God!
For to You will I pray, O Lord.

-At dawn, You shall listen to my voice;
at dawn I will stand at Your service and look up.

-For You are not a God pleased with iniquity
neither shall the evil-doer dwell with You;

-Nor shall transgressors stand before Your sight:
You loathe all those who work iniquity.

-You will destroy all those who speak lies:
The Lord abhors all men of blood and deceit.

-But I, in the abundance of Your love,
will have access to Your dwelling place:

-Before Your holy temple I will worship
in the fear of You.

-O Lord, be my guide in Your justice;
because of my foes, clear my path before You.

-Indeed, in their mouth there is no truth,
their heart: is vain;

- Their throat is but a gaping tomb,
their words deceive.
- Judge them, O God,
let them founder in their evil plots.
- Because of their many crimes, cast them out,
for they have risen against You, the Lord.
- And all those who trust in You shall rejoice:
they shall feast forevermore,
- And You shall dwell among them
and all who love Your name shall be glad,
- For You bless the just man, O Lord:
You have covered us as with a shield of grace.


Psalm 44

Qy heart has uttered a good word,
I declare my works to the King,
-my tongue is the pen of a swift writer.

- You are handsomer than the sons of men:
grace has poured forth from our lips.
For this cause, God has blessed You for ever.
- Gird your sword at your side, Mighty One,
in your splendor and beauty.
- String your bow, go forth, reign
for the sake of truth, meekness and righteousness:
and your right hand shall lead You wonderfully.
- Your arrows are sharpened, Mighty One -
nations shall fall under You -
they are in hearts of the King's enemies.
- Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever;
the scepter of your kingdom
is a scepter of righteousness.
- You loved justice and hated iniquity,
therefore God, your God, anointed you
with the oil of joy above your companions.

- Myrrh and stacte and cassia scent your garments,
from ivory chambers:
with them, the daughters of kings
have gladdened you for your honor.
- At your right stood the Queen,
clothed in an embroidered mantle of gold.
- Listen, daughter, and behold and lend your ear,
and forget your people and your father's house
- For the King has desired your beauty,
He indeed is your Lord.
- And the daughters of Tyre shall worship Him with gifts;
the rich among the people shall seek your favor.
- All this glory is for the daughter introduced to the King,
clothed in embroidered garments of gold.
- The virgins in her train shall be brought to the King
her companions shall be brought to You.
- They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing,
they shall be led to the temple of the King.
- Succeeding to your fathers, sons will be born to you:
these you shall make leaders over all the earth.
- They shall remember your name from age to age:
therefore shall the nations sing out to You
to all eternity and for ever and ever.

Psalm 45

od is our refuge and our strength,
a help in the afflictions that weigh us down.
-And so, we shall not fear when the earth heaves up,
and the mountains are hurled to the depths of the seas.

- Their waters have roared and grown turbulent,
the mountains were shaken by his might.
- The rushing of the river delights God's city.
The Most High has sanctified His tabernacle.

-God in her midst shall not be disturbed:

God shall cover her with His presence.

-The nations were shaken, the kingdoms tottered;
at the sound of His voice, the earth quaked.

-The Lord of Hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our helper.

-Come and see the works of the Lord,
the wonders he has given as omens to the earth.

-Ending wars to the limits of the earth,
He will crush the bow, shatter weapons,
destroy the shields with fire.

-Be still, and know I am God:
I will be exalted among the nations.

-I will be exalted on the earth.
The Lord of Hosts is with us,
the God of Jacob is our helper.

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

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TROPARION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 4*)

At that time, since Mary was of the house of David, she registered with
the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem. She was with Child, having
conceived virginally. Her time was come and they could find no room in
the inn, but the cave seemed a joyful palace to the Queen. Christ is born
to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

What shall we call you, O Woman full of grace? A heaven, for you have given rise to the Sun of Justice? A paradise, for you have brought forth the Flower of Immortality? A Virgin, for you have remained undefiled? A Mother, a pure mother, holding in her holy arms a Son who is the God of all! Intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls!

STICHERA (*Tone 8*)

Make ready, O Bethlehem! Let the manger be prepared! Let the cave show its welcome. The Truth has come and the shadow has passed away! Born of a Virgin, God has appeared to men, formed as we are and making godlike the garment of our nature which He has put on. Therefore Adam is renewed with Eve, and they call out: “Your good pleasure has appeared on earth to save our race!” (*2 times*)

- v. God comes from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

(*Tone 3*)

Now the prophecy is about to be fulfilled. It mystically said: “And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, who are preparing a cave: you are by no means the least among the princes of Judah, since from you shall come forth for Me in the flesh a Ruler, Christ our God, born of a Virgin. And He is to shepherd His people, the new Israel!” Let us all glorify Him!

- v. O Lord, I have heard Your renown and feared, O Lord, Your work.

(*Tone 3*)

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- v. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



(Tone 8)

Joseph spoke to the Virgin in this way: “What is this that I see happening in you, O Mary? I fail to understand and I am amazed! My mind is struck with dismay. Leave my sight, therefore, in secret with all speed! What is this which I see in you, O Mary? Instead of honor, you have brought me shame! Instead of gladness, sorrow! Instead of praise, rebuke! No longer can I bear the reproach of men. I was married to you by the priests in the Temple as one blameless before the Lord. And what is this that I now see?”

v. Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

(Tone 8)

Joseph spoke to the Virgin in this way: “What is this that I see happening in you, O Mary? I fail to understand and I am amazed! My mind is struck with dismay. Leave my sight, therefore, in secret with all speed! What is this which I see in you, O Mary? Instead of honor, you have brought me shame! Instead of gladness, sorrow! Instead of praise, rebuke! No longer can I bear the reproach of men. I was married to you by the priests in the Temple as one blameless before the Lord. And what is this that I now see?”

PROKIMENON *(Tone 4)*

The Lord said to Me: “You are My Son; today I have begotten You!”

v. “Ask Me, and I shall give You nations as Your lot and the ends of the earth as Your domain!”

Reading: Micah (5:2-3)

Thus says the Lord: But you, Bethlehem, house of Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And the Lord shall stand firm and shepherd His flock with power, and they shall dwell in the glory of the name of the LORD, their God; for now His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.

Reading: Hebrews (1:1-12)

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, whom He made heir of all things and through whom He created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of His being, and who sustains all things by His mighty word.

When he had accomplished purification from sins, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: “You are My Son; this day I have begotten You”? Or again: “I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to Me”?

And again, when He leads the first-born into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” Of the angels He says: “He makes His angels winds and His ministers a fiery flame”; but of the Son: “Your throne, O God, stands forever and ever; and a righteous scepter is the scepter of Your kingdom. You loved justice and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your companions”; and: “At the beginning, O Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”

P: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace ✠ be to all!

All: And to your spirit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Evangelist.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Matthew (1:18-25)

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to

take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, * and he named him Jesus.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Let my way be straight according to Your word, and let no sin overcome me. Save me from the guile of men, and I will keep Your commandments. Let Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord, and let me sing Your glory, and all the day long, Your magnificence.

All: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins!
Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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

-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 3*)

To-day the Vir - gin is on her way to the cave where she
 will give birth to the E-ter - nal Word of God in an
 in-ef-fa-ble man - ner. Re - joice there-fore,
 O U - ni-verse when you hear this news, and
 glo-ri-fy with the an-gels and the shep - herds,
 Him who shall ap-pear as a new Child be-ing God from
 all e-ter - ni - ty.



Lord, have mercy! (*40 times*)

P: O You who at all times and every hour are worshipped and glorified, both in heaven and on earth, Christ God, long-suffering, generous in mercy and rich in compassion, loving to the just and merciful to the sinner: O You who call all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come: deign, O Lord, at this very hour to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts. Deliver us from any affliction, wrath, danger and need. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may reach the oneness of the Faith and the knowledge of Your unutterable glory, O You who are blessed for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain, bore God the Word, you are truly Theotokos. We magnify you.

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

P: O Christ, true Light who enlighten and sanctify everyone in the world: mark us with the light of Your countenance that we may see the unapproachable radiance. Let our life be straight along the way of Your commandments, through the prayers of Your Mother all-pure and of all Your saints.

All: Amen.

If another Hour follows immediately, go to “Come, let us worship...” at its beginning. Otherwise, the Hour concludes as follows:

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

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

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His Mother all-pure and of the glorious Apostles worthy of all praise and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind.

All: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.



ROYAL HOURS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

THIRD HOUR

P: Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

All: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.


-Lord, have mercy! (*twelve times*)
-Glory be to the Father ✕ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
-now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King, and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before
Him! (*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ our King and our God and bow down
before Him! (*metany*)

Psalm 66

 God, be merciful to us, and bless us,
and may Your face shine upon us,
-So that Your way may be known on earth,
and Your salvation among all nations.

-O Lord, let the peoples give thanks to You:
may all the peoples give thanks to You!

-Let the nations rejoice and exult,
for You judge the peoples with equity,
and shall guide the nations of the earth.

-Let se peoples give thanks to You, O God,
let all the peoples give thanks to you.

-The earth has yielded its fruit.
May God, our God, bless us,
and let all the ends of the earth revere Him.



Psalm 86

His foundations are on the holy mountain.
-The Lord loves the gates of Sion
above all the tabernacles of Jacob.
-Glorious things have been spoken of you,
O city of God!

-I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon
to those who know Me.
-Behold also the Philistines of Tyre,
and the Ethiopian people who were born there.
-A man will say, “Sion is my mother,”
a man who was born of her,
-And the Highest One Himself
is the one who founded her.
-The Lord shall tell this
through the writings of the people,
-And of those princes who were born in her.
Living in you is like a joy for all.

Psalm 50

God, have mercy on me
in the greatness of Your love;
-In the abundance of Your tender mercies
wipe out my offense.
-Wash me thoroughly from malice
and cleanse me from sin,
-For I am well aware of my malice
and my sin is before me always.
-It is You alone I have offended,
I have done what is evil in Your sight,
-Wherefore You are just in Your deeds
and triumphant in Your judgment.

- Behold, I was born in iniquities
and in sins my mother conceived me.
- But You are the Lover of Truth:
You have shown me the depths and secrets of Your wisdom.
- Wash me with hyssop and I shall be pure,
cleansing me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- Let me hear sounds of joy and feasting:
the bones that were afflicted shall rejoice.
- Turn Your face away from my offenses
and wipe off all my sins.
- A spotless heart create in me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit in my breast.
- Cast me not afar from Your face,
take not Your blessed Spirit out of me.
- Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and let Your guiding Spirit dwell in me.
- I will teach Your ways to the sinners
and the wicked shall return to You.
- Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God, my saving God,
and my tongue will joyfully sing Your justice.
- O Lord, You shall open my lips
and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- Had You desired sacrifice, I would have offered it,
but You will not be satisfied with whole-burnt offerings.
- Sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit:
a crushed and humbled heart God will not spurn.
- In Your kindness, O Lord, be bountiful to Sion;
may the walls of Jerusalem be restored.
- Then will You delight in just oblation,
in sacrifice and whole-burnt offerings.
- Then shall they offer calves upon Your altar.

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

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TROPARION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 4*)

At that time, since Mary was of the house of David, she registered with the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem. She was with Child, having conceived virginally. Her time was come and they could find no room in the inn, but the cave seemed a joyful palace to the Queen. Christ is born to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

-Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Mother of God, you are the true vine laden with the Fruit of Life: wherefore we implore you, O Lady, to intercede together with the apostles and all the saints that we may obtain mercy for our souls!

STICHERA (*Tone 7*)

This is our God! There is no other to be compared to Him! Born of a Virgin, He is coming to dwell among men. Laid in a poor manger, the Only-begotten Son appears as a mortal man, and the Lord of Glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes. A star guides the Magi to come and worship Him; and we sing: “O Holy Trinity, save our souls!” (*Two times*)

v. God comes from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

(*Tone 8*)

Before Your birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with awe on this mystery and were filled with wonder. For You who adorned the vault of heaven with stars have decided to be born as a Child. You who hold the whole earth in the palm of Your hand, will be laid in the manger of dumb beasts. By this plan of salvation, Your compassion has been made known, O Christ, and Your great mercy! Glory to You!

v. O Lord, I have heard Your renown and feared, O Lord, Your work.

(Tone 8)

Before Your birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with awe on this mystery and were filled with wonder. For You who adorned the vault of heaven with stars have decided to be born as a Child. You who hold the whole earth in the palm of Your hand, will be laid in the manger of dumb beasts. By this plan of salvation, Your compassion has been made known, O Christ, and Your great mercy! Glory to You!

v. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

(Tone 3)

Joseph, how can you bring to Bethlehem, pregnant with child, the Maiden whom you married in the sanctuary? “I have searched the prophets and have been warned by an Angel. I am convinced that Mary will give birth to God in a way surpassing all understanding. Magi shall come from the East to worship Him with precious gifts!” O Lord, who are taking flesh for our sake, glory to You!

v. Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

(Tone 3)

Joseph, how can you bring to Bethlehem, pregnant with child, the Maiden whom you married in the sanctuary? “I have searched the prophets and have been warned by an Angel. I am convinced that Mary will give birth to God in a way surpassing all understanding. Magi shall come from the East to worship Him with precious gifts!” O Lord, who are taking flesh for our sake, glory to You!

PROKIMENON *(Tone 4)*

For a Child is born to us; a Son is given to us!

v. Upon His shoulder dominion rests!



Reading: Baruch (3:36-4:4)

Such is our God; no other is to be compared to Him. He has traced out all the way of understanding, and has given her to Jacob, His servant, to Israel, His beloved son. Then He has appeared on earth, and moved among men. This is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever. All who cling to Him will live, but those will die who forsake Him.

Turn, O Jacob, and receive Him: walk by His light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race. Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

Epistle: Galatians (3:23-4:5)

Before faith came, we were held in custody under law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed. Consequently, the law was our disciplinarian for Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a disciplinarian. For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

P: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace ✠ be to all!

All: And to your spirit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Evangelist.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!



Luke (2:1-20)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

Blessed is the Lord our God! Blessed is the Lord day by day! May the God of our salvation smooth our path. Our God is the God of salvation.

All: Holy ✕ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins!
Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal
our infirmities for Your name's sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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

-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy
Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages
of ages.

All: Amen.



ROYAL HOURS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST – THIRD HOUR

KONTAKION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 3*)

To-day the Vir - gin is on her way to the cave where she
will give birth to the E-ter - nal Word of God in an
in-ef-fa-ble man - ner. Re - joice there-fore,
O U - ni-verse when you hear this news, and
glo-ri-fy with the an-gels and the shep - herds,
Him who shall ap-pear as a new Child be-ing God from
all e-ter - ni - ty.

Lord, have mercy! (*40 times*)

P: O You who at all times and every hour are worshipped and glorified, both in heaven and on earth, Christ God, long-suffering, generous in mercy and rich in compassion, loving to the just and

merciful to the sinner: O You who call all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come: deign, O Lord, at this very hour to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts. Deliver us from any affliction, wrath, danger and need. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may reach the oneness of the Faith and the knowledge of Your unutterable glory, O You who are blessed for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain, bore God the Word, you are truly Theotokos. We magnify you.

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

P: O Master, God: Almighty Father, Only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit – One God and one Might: have mercy on us sinners and save us, Your unworthy servants, according to the ways of Your wisdom, for You are blessed for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

If another Hour follows immediately, go to “Come, let us worship...” at its beginning. Otherwise, the Hour concludes as follows:

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

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

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Mother all-pure and of the glorious Apostles worthy of all praise and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind.

All: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.



**ROYAL HOURS OF
THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
SIXTH HOUR**

P: Blessed ✕ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

All: Holy ✕ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins!
Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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

-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

-Lord, have mercy! (*twelve times*)


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

Come, let us worship God our King, and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ our King and our God and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Psalm 71

 God, give Your sense of justice to the King
and Your righteousness to the king's Son,
-That they may judge Your people with equity
and Your needy ones with fair judgment.

-Let the very mountains and the hills
be clothed in peace for Your people.

-In justice, He judges the needy of the people,
and safeguards the children of the poor.

-And He will bring down the oppressor,
outlasting the sun and the moon forever.

-He shall come down as rain upon a fleece,
and as drops falling down upon the earth.

-In His days, justice shall arise,
and peace abound till the moon be no more.

-And He shall have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth.

-The Ethiopians shall fall down before Him,
and His enemies shall lick the dust.

-The kings of Tharsis and the isles shall offer gifts,
the kings of the Arabs and Saba shall bring offerings.

-And all the kings shall bow down before Him,
and all the nations serve Him,

-For He has freed the poor from the tyrant,
and the needy, for whom there was no help.

- He will pity the poor and the needy,
and deliver the lives of the distressed.
- He will protect them from usury and injustice,
and their name shall be precious to Him.

- And He shall live,
and receive of the gold of Arabia,
- And all shall pray to Him without cease,
and sing His praise the whole day long.

- May there be a settlement on earth
to the very top of the mountains:
- May its fruit exceed that of Lebanon,
and the citizens flourish like grass of the earth.

- Let His name be blessed forever,
let His name last longer than the sun,
- And all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed in Him:
all nations shall call Him blessed.

- Blessed is the Lord God of Israel
who alone works wonders,
- And blessed is His glorious name forever,
and all the earth shall be filled with his glory.
Amen! Amen!

Psalm 131



Lord, remember David
and all his forbearance,

- How he swore to the Lord,
and made a vow to the God of Jacob:

- “I will not enter the tent, my abode,
nor get up on the couch of my repose;
- I will give no sleep to my eyes,
nor to my eyelids any slumber,
nor to my temples any rest,

- “Until I find a place for the Lord,
a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.”
- Behold, I have heard of it in Ephrata:
we found it in forest clearings.
- Let us enter into His tabernacles,
let us worship where His feet once stood.
- Arise, O Lord, and go up to Your rest,
You and the ark of Your holiness.
- May Your priests be clothed in righteousness,
and Your faithful ones rejoice.
- For the sake of David Your servant,
turn not away the face of Your Anointed One.
- The Lord swore to David a promise
which He will not retract:
- “One of your own flesh
I will place on your throne.
- “If your sons will keep My covenant
and the revelations I will offer them,
-Their sons also shall be seated
upon your throne for evermore.”
- For the Lord has elected Sion,
He has chosen it for His dwelling:
- “This is My home for ever and ever;
here I will dwell because I have chosen it.
- “I will bless abundantly her provisions;
I will feed her poor with bread;
- I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and the faithful shall exult with joy
- “There will I raise the pride of David;
I have readied a lamp for My Anointed One.
- I will clothe His enemies with shame,
but on Him My crown shall shine.”

Psalm 90

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
abides in the shadow of God of heaven

-He will say to the Lord: “My wall, my refuge,
my God in whom I will trust!”

-He it is who will save you from the hunter’s snare,
and from the deadly pestilence.

-With His pinions, He will overshadow you
and beneath His wings you shall rest secure.

-As a shield, His truth shall cover you:
you shall not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

-Nor the thing that lurks about in darkness,
nor the pestilence or demon of the noon.

-Though a thousand may be falling at your side,
and ten thousand at your right,
no harm will come to you.

-But you with your eyes shall observe,
and see the retribution of the wicked.

-Because you have said: “O Lord, You are my hope!”
and You have taken the Most High as your refuge,

-No evil shall come close to you,
nor shall any scourge approach your dwelling.

- For He will command the Angels
to watch over all your ways.

-In their hands they shall carry you
lest you stumble with your foot against a stone.

- Upon the asp and the viper you shall tread;
the lion and the dragon you shall trample.

-Because he trusted Me, I will save him;
I will protect him, for he knew My Name;

-He will call on Me, and I will answer him,
I am with him at the time of distress;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
-With length of days I will feed him,
and my salvation I will let him see.

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

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)
-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)
-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)
-Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TROPARION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 4*)

At that time, since Mary was of the house of David, she registered with the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem. She was with Child, having conceived virginally. Her time was come and they could find no room in the inn, but the cave seemed a joyful palace to the Queen. Christ is born to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

-Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since we have no one in whom to confide because of our many sins, O Virgin Mother of God, intercede for us with the One who was born of you, for a mother's prayer is a powerful means for obtaining the Master's favor. O you who are most worthy of veneration, do not turn away from the pleading of us sinners, for the One who willed to suffer in the flesh for our sake, is full of mercy, and His power is sufficient to save us.

STICHERA (*Tone 1*)

Come, O faithful! Inspired by God, let us go to see the divine mercy that is revealed in Bethlehem. Let us cleanse our minds and offer virtues in our lives instead of myrrh. Let us prepare with faith to enter the feast of the Nativity, storing up treasure in our souls as we cry aloud: "Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, whose good will is now being revealed to men! In His love for mankind, He will set Adam free from the ancient curse!" (*Two times*)

- v. God comes from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

(Tone 4)

Hear, O heavens! Give ear, O earth! Let the foundations be shaken and let trembling lay hold of the whole world. For our God and Creator is clothing Himself in our flesh. The One who fashioned the whole creation with His strong arm will be seen in the womb of a woman whom He formed. How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable His judgments, how unsearchable His ways!

- v. O Lord, I have heard Your renown and feared, O Lord, Your work!

(Tone 4)

Hear, O heavens! Give ear, O earth! Let the foundations be shaken and let trembling lay hold of the whole world. For our God and Creator is clothing Himself in our flesh. The One who fashioned the whole creation with His strong arm will be seen in the womb of a woman whom He formed. How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable His judgments, how unsearchable His ways!

- v. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

(Tone 5)

Come, O people who belong to Christ! Let us behold the wonders that strike and hold fast every mind with awe! Let us sing praises with faith in reverent worship. Today a Maiden, pregnant with Child, comes to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord. The choirs of Angels go before her. Seeing these things, Joseph, her betrothed, cried out: “What is this strange mystery in you, O Virgin? How shall you bring forth a Child, a Calf upon whom a yoke has never been laid?”

- v. Now and always and forever and ever. Amen.



(Tone 5)

Come, O people who belong to Christ! Let us behold the wonders that strike and hold fast every mind with awe! Let us sing praises with faith in reverent worship. Today a Maiden, pregnant with Child, comes to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord. The choirs of Angels go before her. Seeing these things, Joseph, her betrothed, cried out: “What is this strange mystery in you, O Virgin? How shall you bring forth a Child, you who are a Ewe without bridegroom?”

PROKIMENON *(Tone 4)*

“Before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten You!” The Lord has sworn, and He will not repent!

v. “Ask Me, and I shall give You nations as Your lot and the ends of the earth as Your domain!”

Reading: Isaiah (7:10-16, 8:1-4, 8:10)

The LORD spoke to Ahaz: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!” Then Isaiah said: “Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall be living on curds and honey by the time he learns to reject the bad and choose the good. For before the child learns to reject the bad and choose the good, you perversely refuse to choose the good.

The LORD said to me: Take a large cylinder-seal, and inscribe on it in ordinary letters: “Hasten to plunder the spoils.” And I took reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah, son of Jeberechiah. Then I went to the prophetess and she conceived and bore a son. The LORD said to me: Name him “Spoil quickly and plunder speedily”, for before the child knows how to call his father or mother by name, the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be carried off by the king of Assyria.

God is with us! Know, O peoples, and submit to Him, for God is with us! Give ear, all you distant lands! Arm, but be crushed! Arm, but be crushed! Form a plan, and it shall be thwarted; make a resolve, and it shall not be carried out, for “God is with us!”

Epistle: *Hebrews (1:10-2-3)*

“At the beginning, O Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.”

But to which of the angels has God ever said: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, so that we may not be carried away. For if the word announced through angels proved firm, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Announced originally through the Lord, it was confirmed for us by those who had heard.

P: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace ✠ be to all!

All: And to your spirit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Evangelist.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Matthew (2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star * at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd My people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me

word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Let Your bounties, O Lord, come down upon us in haste, for our need has become great indeed. Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of Your name. Save us, O Master, and forgive us our sins for the sake of Your name.

-Let Your bounties, O Lord, come down upon us in haste, for our need has become great indeed. Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of Your name. Save us, O Master, and forgive us our sins for the sake of Your name.

All: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father ✠ and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

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-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 3*)

To-day the Vir-gin is on her way to the cave where she
 will give birth to the E-ter-nal Word of God in an
 in-ef-fa-ble man-ner. Re-joice there-fore,
 O U-ni-verse when you hear this news, and
 glo-ri-fy with the an-gels and the shep-herds,
 Him who shall ap-pear as a new Child be-ing God from
 all e-ter-ni-ty.

Lord, have mercy! (*40 times*)

P: O You who at all times and every hour are worshipped and glorified, both in heaven and on earth, Christ God, long-suffering, generous in mercy and rich in compassion, loving to the just and merciful to the sinner: O You who call all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come: deign, O Lord, at this very hour to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts. Deliver us from any affliction, wrath, danger and need. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may reach the oneness of the Faith and the knowledge of Your unutterable glory, O You who are blessed for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain, bore God the Word, you are truly Theotokos. We magnify you.

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

P: O God, Lord of Powers and Maker of the whole creation, O You who in Your compassion beyond understanding deigned to send down Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race. Who through His Cross cancelled the debt of our sins and overcame the powers and masters of darkness, O Lord and Lover of Mankind: accept from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and petition, and preserve us against any deadly fall in the darkness and against every enemy seen or unseen who may be seeking our harm. Pierce our bodies with the fear of You, so that looking on You at all times and guided by the light that shines from

You, we may behold Your unapproachable eternal light and unceasingly address to You, Eternal Father, and to Your Only-begotten Son and to Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit our thanksgiving and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

If another Hour follows immediately, go to “Come, let us worship...” at its beginning. Otherwise, the Hour concludes as follows:

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

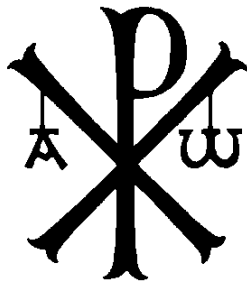
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His Mother all-pure and of the glorious Apostles worthy of all praise and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind.

All: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.



ROYAL HOURS OF THE NÄTIVITY OF CHRIST

NINTH HOUR

P: Blessed ✠ is our God at all times, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

All: Holy ✠ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

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Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

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-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

-Lord, have mercy! (*twelve times*)

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

Come, let us worship God our King, and bow down before Him!
(*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ God, our King, and bow down before
Him! (*metany*)

Come, let us worship Christ our King and our God and bow down
before Him! (*metany*)

Psalm 109

The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right
until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

-The Lord shall send You a scepter of power out of Sion:
reign in the midst of Your enemies.

-Yours will be the rule on the day of Your power,
in the splendor of Your holy ones.

-Before the morning star, like the dew,
I have begotten You.

-The Lord has sworn, and will not repent:

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedech.”

-The Lord at Your right hand has dashed kings to pieces
on the day of His anger.

-He shall judge the nations and multiply corpses,
He shall crush the heads of many on earth.

-On the way, He shall drink from the brook,
therefore He shall lift up His head.



Psalm 110

Q Lord, I will praise You with all my heart
in the council of the just and in the congregation.

- Great are the works of the Lord
conforming to His will in every way.

- Thanksgiving and honor are due to His works,
and His justice endures for ever and ever.
- He has wrought His marvels to be remembered.
The Lord is merciful and gracious.

- He gave food to those who feared Him;
He will remember His covenant forever.
- He declared to His people the power of His works
by giving them the Gentiles' inheritance.

- The works of His hands are truth and judgment;
all His commands are trustworthy,
- Established for ever and ever,
founded on truth and righteousness.

- He sent redemption to His people;
He commanded His covenant to stand forever:
Holy and awesome is His name.
- Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:
discernment comes to all who follow it.
His praise endures for ever and ever.



Psalm 85

Lend Your ear, O Lord, and listen to me,
for I am distressed and in need.

-Guard my soul for I am pure:

O my God, save Your servant whose hope is in You!

-Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I will cry out to You all the day.

-Comfort the soul of Your servant,
for I have lifted up my soul to You.

-You are generous and gentle, O Lord,
full of loving kindness for those who pray to You.

-O Lord, listen to my prayer,
be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

-On the day of my affliction,
I called out to You and You heard me.

-Of all the gods, there is not one like You,
nor is there any work to match what You do.

- All the nations which You made come up and worship You,
and give glory to Your name, O Lord.

-For You are great, and a Wonderworker:
You are the only God.

-Lead me along Your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in Your truth.
Let my heart rejoice for having feared Your Name.

-I will confess You with all my heart, O Lord my God,
and I will give glory to Your Name forever.

-For great is Your kindness to me, O Lord:
and You have saved my soul
from the depth of Hades.

-Wicked men have risen up against me, O God,
and a band of strong men have sought my life,
and they did not keep You in mind.

-But You, O Lord my God, are compassionate and kind,
slow to anger and full of tenderness and truth.

-Look upon me and have mercy on me:
give Your strength to Your servant
and save the son of Your handmaid.

-Give me a token of Your favor
and those who hate me shall behold and cringe.

-For You, O Lord, have helped me
and comforted me.

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

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (*Reverence*)

-Lord, have mercy. (*Three times*)

-Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TROPARION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 4*)

At that time, since Mary was of the house of David, she registered with the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem. She was with Child, having conceived virginally. Her time was come and they could find no room in the inn, but the cave seemed a joyful palace to the Queen. Christ is born to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

-Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Good One, You were born of the Virgin and suffered crucifixion for us. You destroyed death by Your death, and as God You made manifest the Resurrection. Turn not away from those You have made by Your hands. O Merciful One, show Your love to men and accept as our intercessor the Mother of God who gave birth to You. O our Savior, save a desperate people.

STICHERA (*Tone 7*)

Herod was struck with amazement when he saw the piety of the Magi. Then, overcome by wrath, he asked them where the Child was to be born. Mothers lost their infants, and their babies were harvested by an untimely death. Breasts grew dry and sources of milk were stopped. Great was this calamity! Therefore, O faithful, let us come together in holiness to worship the Nativity! (*Two times*)

v. God comes from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

(*Tone 2*)

O Virgin, when Joseph went up to Bethlehem distressed by sorrow, you said to him: “Why are you so downcast and troubled at seeing me pregnant? Why do you not know the mystery which has taken place in me? Cast every fear aside and understand this strange marvel: in my womb, God is coming down to earth for the sake of mercy, / and He has taken flesh in me! You shall see Him when He is born! Filled with joy, you shall worship Him as your Creator! The angels ceaselessly praise Him in song, and they glorify Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit!”

v. O Lord, I have heard Your renown and feared, O Lord, Your work!

(*Tone 2*)

O Virgin, when Joseph went up to Bethlehem distressed by sorrow, you said to him: “Why are you so downcast and troubled at seeing me pregnant? Why do you not know the mystery which has taken place in me? Cast every fear aside and understand this strange marvel: in my womb, God is coming down to earth for the sake of mercy, and He has taken flesh in me! You shall see Him when He is born! Filled with joy, you shall worship Him as your Creator! The angels ceaselessly praise Him in song, and they glorify Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit!”

v. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.



(The following is sung solemnly by a cantor in the middle of the church)

(Tone 6)

~Today, He who holds the whole creation in the hollow of His hand is born of the Virgin!

~Today, He who holds the whole creation in the hollow of His hand is born of the Virgin!

~Today, He who holds the whole creation in the hollow of His hand is born of the Virgin!

~He whose Essence none can approach will be wrapped in swaddling cloths as a mortal. God, who established the heavens at the beginning of time will lie in a manger. He who rained down manna on His people in the desert will be nourished by milk from His Mother's breast! The Bridegroom of the Church, who called the Magi, will accept their gifts as the Son of the Virgin.

~We bow down and worship Your Nativity, O Christ! *(metany)*

~We bow down and worship Your Nativity, O Christ! *(metany)*

~We bow down and worship Your Nativity, O Christ! *(metany)*

Show us also Your Theophany!

PROKIMENON *(Tone 4)*

A man will say, "Sion is my mother," a man who was born of her.

v. The Lord loves the city which He has founded on the holy mountain.

Reading: Isaiah (9:6-7)

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Messenger of the Great Counsel, Mighty One, Father of the age to come, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,

from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which He confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Epistle: Hebrews (2:11-18)

Brethren: He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, He is not ashamed to call them “brothers,” saying: “I will proclaim Your name to My brothers, in the midst of the assembly I will praise You”; and again: “I will put My trust in Him”; and again: “Behold, I and the children God has given Me.” Now since the children share in blood and flesh, He likewise shared in them, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely, He did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, He had to become like His brothers in every way, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because He Himself was tested through what he suffered, He is able to help those who are being tested.

P: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace ✠ be to all!

All: And to your spirit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Evangelist.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

Matthew (2:13-23)

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.”

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother

and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

All: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

For the sake of Your holy name, do not abandon us forever. Do not forget Your covenant. For the sake of Abraham, the trustful one, Isaac Your servant and Israel Your holy one, do not take Your mercies from us.

All: Holy ✕ God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us! (*Three times*)

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

-All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, forgive us our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, look upon us and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

-Lord, have mercy! (*Three times*)

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

-Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

P: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE PARAMONY (*Tone 3*)

To-day the Vir - gin is on her way to the cave where she
 will give birth to the E-ter - nal Word of God in an
 in-ef-fa-ble man - ner. Re - joice there-fore,
 O U - ni-verse when you hear this news, and
 glo-ri-fy with the an-gels and the shep - herds,
 Him who shall ap-pear as a new Child be-ing God from
 all e-ter - ni - ty.



Lord, have mercy! (*40 times*)

P: O You who at all times and every hour are worshipped and glorified, both in heaven and on earth, Christ God, long-suffering, generous in mercy and rich in compassion, loving to the just and merciful to the sinner: O You who call all people to repentance through the promise of blessings to come: deign, O Lord, at this very hour to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the way of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts. Deliver us from any affliction, wrath, danger and need. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may reach the oneness of the Faith and the knowledge of Your unutterable glory, O You who are blessed for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain, bore God the Word, you are truly Theotokos. We magnify you.

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may He cause His countenance to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

P: O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, who patiently endured our sins and led us to this hour at which You were hung upon the life-giving wood; who opened a way to paradise for the penitent thief and crushed death by Your death: forgive us the trespasses that we Your servants have committed, unworthy sinners that we are. We have sinned indeed and transgressed Your law. We are unworthy even to lift up our eyes to heaven, for we have abandoned the path of Your holiness and pursued the desires of our hearts. But now we implore Your immense goodness. Spare us, O Lord, in the multitude of Your mercies. Save us for the sake of Your most holy name. Our

days were spent in vanity. Wrest us from the hands of our enemy and forgive us our sins. Subdue in us the cravings of our flesh, so that, after putting off the old man, we may put on the new and live for You, our Lord and Benefactor. And that, obeying Your commandments, we may reach eternal repose in the place where all the blessed abide. For You are truly joy and delight to those who love You, Christ our God! We send up glory to You, and to Your eternal Father, and to Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen.

If another Hour follows immediately, go to “Come, let us worship...” at its beginning. Otherwise, the Hour concludes as follows:

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

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

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His Mother all-pure and of the glorious Apostles worthy of all praise and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is the Gracious One and the Lover of Mankind.

All: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.



