



***Monday through Friday,
December 22nd, 23rd, or 24th***
**Imperial (Royal) Hours for
The Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord**

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Acknowledgements

The English text was compiled from various sources published for public use. These include *Learn to Chant* (<http://www.goarch.org/chapel/chant/>), by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The text was produced using Microsoft Word for Mac 2011 version 14.1.14, and the embedded font in the Greek/English texts is Times New Roman.

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Service of the Great (Imperial) Hours **Ἀκολουθία τῶν Μεγάλων Ὁρῶν**

Monday - Friday Morning

Δευτέρα - Παρασκευή Πρωῖ

Notes:

This entire Service is read (not sung or chanted), except for the Idiomela preceding the Readings which are chanted in the tone as indicated.

The Great, or Imperial Hours are not read on a Saturday or Sunday, but on the preceding Friday when the Feast of the Nativity falls on Sunday or Monday.

The First Hour

Ὁρα Πρώτη

Priest Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Ἱερεύς Εὐλογητὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, πάντοτε, νῦν, καὶ ἀεὶ, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

Priest Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Ἱερεύς Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός, δόξα σοι.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere present and Who fill all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us and cleanse us of all impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

Βασιλεῦ Οὐράνιε, Παράκλητε, τὸ Πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὁ πανταχοῦ παρῶν καὶ τὰ πάντα πληρῶν, ὁ θησαυρὸς τῶν ἀγαθῶν καὶ ζωῆς χορηγός, ἐλθέ καὶ σκήνωσον ἐν ἡμῖν καὶ καθάρισον ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης κηλίδος καὶ σῶσον, Ἀγαθὲ τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Trisagion Prayers

Τρισάγιον

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Παναγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε, ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα, συγχώρησον τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῖν. Ἅγιε, ἐπίσκεψαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord; hear my cry; Attend to the voice of my supplication, O my King and God; for I will pray to You, Lord.

In the morning You shall hear my voice.

In the morning I shall stand before You, and You shall look upon me; for You are not a God that wills iniquity.

He who works evil shall not dwell near You, nor shall transgressors abide before Your eyes.

You have hated all those who work iniquity; You shall destroy all those who speak a lie.

The Lord shall abhor a man that is bloody and deceitful.

But as for me I shall go into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; I shall worship toward Your holy temple in fear of You.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γεννηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Ἱερεύς Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Ἀμήν. Κύριε ἐλέησον. (ιβ')

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Ψαλμὸς Ε'

Τὰ ῥήματά μου ἐνώτισαι Κύριε, σύνες τῆς κραυγῆς μου, πρόσχες τῇ φωνῇ τῆς δεήσεώς μου ὁ βασιλεὺς μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου· ὅτι πρὸς σὲ προσεύξομαι Κύριε.

Τὸ πρωὶ εἰσακούσῃ τῆς φωνῆς μου.

Τὸ πρωὶ παραστήσομαί σοι καὶ ἐπόψομαι· ὅτι οὐχὶ Θεὸς θέλων ἀνομίαν σὺ εἶ.

Οὐ παροικήσει σοι πονηρευόμενος, οὐδὲ διαμενοῦσιν παράνομοι κατέναντι τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν σου.

Ἐμίσησας πάντας τοὺς ἐργαζομένους τὴν ἀνομίαν, ἀπολεῖς πάντας τοὺς λαλοῦντας τὸ ψεῦδος.

Ἄνδρα αἱμάτων καὶ δόλιον βδελύσσεται Κύριος.

Ἐγὼ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλήθει τοῦ ἐλέους σου εἰσελεύσομαι εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου προσκυνήσω πρὸς ναὸν ἁγίον σου ἐν φόβῳ σου.

O Lord, guide me in the way of Your righteousness; make my way straight before You because of my enemies.

For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain.

Their throat is an open sepulcher, they have spoken deceitfully with their tongues; judge them, O God.

Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; cast them out according to the multitude of their ungodliness; for they have embittered You, O Lord.

And let all those who hope in You be glad; they shall ever rejoice, and You shall dwell among them, and all who love Your name shall glory in You.

For You shall bless the righteous; O Lord, You have crowned us as with a shield of Your good pleasure.

Psalm 44

My heart has poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king; my tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

You are more comely in beauty than the sons of men; grace has been poured forth on Your lips, therefore God has blessed You to the ages.

Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, in Your comeliness and Your beauty.

And bend Your bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and Your right hand shall guide You wondrously.

Your arrows are sharp, O Mighty One, under You peoples shall fall sharp in the heart of the enemies of the king.

Your throne, O God, is to the ages of ages; the scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.

You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your fellows.

Κύριε ὁδήγησόν με ἐν τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ σου, ἕνεκα τῶν ἐχθρῶν μου κατεύθυνον ἐνώπιόν μου τὴν ὁδόν μου.

Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν τῷ στόματι αὐτῶν ἀλήθεια, ἡ καρδία αὐτῶν ματαία.

Τάφος ἀνεωγμένος ὁ λάρυγξ αὐτῶν ταῖς γλώσσαις αὐτῶν ἐδολιοῦσαν· κρῖνον αὐτοὺς ὁ Θεός.

Ἀποπεσάτωσαν ἀπὸ τῶν διαβουλιῶν αὐτῶν κατὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν ἀσεβειῶν αὐτῶν, ἔξωσον αὐτοὺς ὅτι παρεπύκρναν σε, Κύριε.

Καὶ εὐφρανθήσονται πάντες οἱ ἐλπίζοντες ἐπὶ σέ· εἰς αἰῶνα ἀγαλλιάσονται καὶ κατασκηνώσεις ἐν αὐτοῖς· καὶ καυχῆσονται ἐν σοὶ οἱ ἀγαπῶντες τὸ ὄνομά σου.

Ὅτι σὺ εὐλόγησες δίκαιον· Κύριε ὡς ὄπλω εὐδοκίας ἐστεφάνωσας ἡμᾶς.

Ψαλμὸς ΜΔ´ (44)

Ἐξηρεύξατο ἡ καρδία μου λόγον ἀγαθόν· λέγω ἐγὼ τὰ ἔργα μου τῷ Βασιλεῖ ἡ γλῶσσά μου κάλαμος γραμματέως ὀξύγραφου.

Ὡραῖος κάλλει παρὰ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῶν ἀνθρώπων· ἐξεχύθη ἡ χάρις ἐν χεῖρεσίν σου· διὰ τοῦτο εὐλόγησέ σε ὁ Θεός εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

Περίζωσαι τὴν ῥομφαίαν σου ἐπὶ τὸν μηρόν σου, Δυνατὲ.

Τῇ ὠραιότητί σου καὶ τῷ κάλλει σου· καὶ ἔντεινε, καὶ κατευοδοῦ καὶ βασίλευε ἕνεκεν ἀληθείας καὶ πραότητος καὶ δικαιοσύνης· καὶ ὁδηγήσει σε θαυμαστῶς ἡ δεξιὰ σου.

Τὰ βέλη σου ἠκονημένα, Δυνατὲ, λαοὶ ὑποκάτω σου πεσοῦνται ἐν καρδίᾳ τῶν ἐχθρῶν τοῦ βασιλέως.

Ὁ θρόνος σου, ὁ Θεός, εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος· ῥάβδος εὐθύτητος ἡ ῥάβδος τῆς βασιλείας σου.

Ἠγάπησας δικαιοσύνην καὶ ἐμίσησας ἀνομίαν· διὰ τοῦτο ἔχρισέ σε ὁ Θεός, ὁ Θεός σου ἔλαιον ἀγαλλιάσεως παρὰ τοὺς μετόχους σου.

Myrrh and stacte and cassia exhale from Your garments, from the ivory palaces, the daughters of kings have made You glad in Your honor.

At Your right hand stood the queen, arrayed in a vesture of inwoven gold, adorned in varied colors.

Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear; and forget your own people and your father's house; and the King shall greatly desire your beauty, for He Himself is your Lord, and you shall worship Him.

And the daughters of Tyre shall worship Him with gifts; the rich among the people shall entreat your countenance.

All the glory of the daughter of the King is within, she is arrayed with gold-fringed garments, adorned in varied colors.

The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto You.

They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King.

Instead of your fathers, sons are born to you; you shall make them princes over all the earth.

I shall commemorate your name in every generation and generation.

Therefore peoples shall give praise to you unto the ages, and to the ages of ages.

Psalm 45

Our God is a God of refuge and strength, a Helper in afflictions which mightily befall us.

Therefore we shall not fear when the earth is shaken, nor when the mountains are removed into the heart of the seas.

Their waters roared and were troubled, the mountains were troubled by His might.

The rushings of the river make the city of God glad; the Most High has hallowed His tabernacle.

Σμύρνα καὶ στακτὴ καὶ κασία ἀπὸ τῶν ἱματίων σου, ἀπὸ βάρεων ἐλεφαντίνων ἐξ ὧν εὐφρανάν σε θυγατέρες βασιλέων ἐν τῇ τιμῇ σου.

Παρέστη ἡ Βασίλισσα ἐκ δεξιῶν σου ἐν ἱματισμῷ διαχρύσῳ περιβεβλημένη, πεποικιλμένη.

Ἄκουσον Θύγατερ καὶ ἴδε, καὶ κλῖνον τὸ οὖς σου καὶ ἐπιλάθου τοῦ λαοῦ σου καὶ τοῦ οἴκου τοῦ πατρός σου· καὶ ἐπιθυμήσει ὁ Βασιλεὺς τοῦ κάλλους σου, ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐστὶ Κύριός σου καὶ προσκυνήσεις αὐτῷ.

Καὶ θυγάτηρ Τύρου ἐν δώροις· τὸ πρόσωπόν σου λιτανεύσουσιν οἱ πλούσιοι τοῦ λαοῦ.

Πᾶσα ἡ δόξα αὐτῆς τῆς θυγατρὸς βασιλέως ἔσωθεν ἐν κροσσωτοῖς χρυσοῖς, περιβεβλημένη, πεποικιλμένη.

Ἀπενεχθήσονται τῷ βασιλεῖ Παρθένοι ὀπίσω αὐτῆς αἱ πλησίον αὐτῆς ἀπενεχθήσονται σοι.

Ἀπενεχθήσονται ἐν εὐφροσύνῃ καὶ ἀγαλλιάσει· ἀχθήσονται εἰς ναὸν Βασιλέως.

Ἄντι τῶν πατέρων σου ἐγενήθησάν σοι οἱ υἱοὶ σου, καταστήσεις αὐτοὺς ἄρχοντας ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν.

Μνησθήσονται τοῦ ὀνόματός σου ἐν πάσῃ γενεᾷ καὶ γενεᾷ.

Διὰ τοῦτο λαοὶ ἐξομολογήσονται σοι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

Ψαλμὸς ΜΕ´ (45)

Ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν καταφυγὴ καὶ δύναμις, βοηθὸς ἐν θλίψεσιν ταῖς εὐρούσαις ἡμᾶς σφόδρα.

Διὰ τοῦτο οὐ φοβηθησόμεθα ἐν τῷ ταρασσεσθαι τὴν γῆν, καὶ μετατίθεσθαι ὄρη ἐν καρδίαις θαλασσῶν.

Ἦχησαν καὶ ἐταράχθησαν τὰ ὕδατα αὐτῶν, ἐταράχθησαν τὰ ὄρη ἐν τῇ κραταιότητι αὐτοῦ.

Τοῦ ποταμοῦ τὰ ὀρμήματα εὐφραίνουσιν τὴν Πόλιν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἡγίασε τὸ σκῆνωμα αὐτοῦ ὁ ὕψιστος.

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God is in the midst of her, she shall not be shaken; God shall help her right early in the morning.	Ὁ Θεὸς ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῆς οὐ σαλευθήσεται· βοηθήσει αὐτῇ ὁ Θεὸς τὸ πρὸς πρωὶ πρωΐ.
The nations were troubled, kingdoms tottered, the Most High gave forth His voice, the earth was shaken.	Ἐταράχθησαν ἔθνη, ἔκλιναν βασιλεῖαι, ἔδωκε φωνὴν αὐτοῦ, ἐσαλεύθη ἡ γῆ.
The Lord of hosts is with us, our Helper is the God of Jacob.	Κύριος τῶν δυνάμεων μεθ' ἡμῶν ἀντιλήπτωρ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεὸς Ἰακώβ.
Come and behold the works of God, what marvels He has wrought on the earth, making wars to cease unto the ends of the earth.	Δεῦτε καὶ ἴδετε τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἃ ἔθετο τέρατα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀνταναιρῶν πολέμους μέχρι τῶν περάτων τῆς γῆς.
He will crush the bow and will shatter the weapon, and He will utterly burn shields with fire.	Τόξον συντρίψει καὶ συνθλάσει ὄπλον, καὶ θυρεοὺς κατακαύσει ἐν πυρὶ.
Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.	Σχολάσατε καὶ γινώτε, ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ Θεός· ὑψωθήσομαι ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν ὑψωθήσομαι ἐν τῇ γῆ.
The Lord of hosts is with us, our Helper is the God of Jacob.	Κύριος τῶν δυνάμεων μεθ' ἡμῶν ἀντιλήπτωρ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεὸς Ἰακώβ.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.	Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.	Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Troparion of the Forefeast

December 22 or 23

*Tone 4
Joseph was amazed*

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

Prepare yourself, Bethlehem, • for Eden has been opened for all; • make ready, Ephratha, • because the Tree of Life • has blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; • her womb was shown to be a spiritual paradise • in which the divine fruit was planted; • eating of it, we shall

Τροπάριον Προεόρτιον

22 ἢ 23 Δεκέμβριος

*Ἦχος δ'
Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ*

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, • ἥνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ, • Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, • ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου • Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, • ἐδείχθη νοητός, • ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, • ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, • οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ

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live • and shall not die like Adam. • Christ is born, • in order to raise up • the image of God in man that had fallen of old.

τεθνηξόμεθα, • Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, • τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, • ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

December 24

24 Δεκέμβριος

Tone 4
Joseph was amazed

Ἦχος δ'
Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

It came to pass, that Mariam • was enrolled with the elder Joseph • in Bethlehem • since she was of the seed • of David; • carrying within her a seedless conception. • And the time drew near • for giving birth, • but there was no place to lodge; • yet the cave proved to be a delightful palace for the Queen. Christ is born, • to raise up the likeness • that had fallen of old.

Ἀπεγράφετο ποτέ, σὺν τῷ πρεσβύτῃ Ἰωσήφ, ὡς ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ, ἐν Βηθλεὲμ ἢ Μαριάμ, κυοφοροῦσα τὴν ἄσπορον κυφορίαν. Ἐπέστη δὲ καιρὸς ὁ τῆς Γεννήσεως, καὶ τόπος ἦν οὐδεὶς τῷ καταλύματι· ἀλλ' ὡς τερπνὸν παλάτιον τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῇ Βασιλίδι ἐδείκνυτο. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Theotokion

Θεοτοκίον

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

What shall we call you, O you who are full of grace? Heaven? for you have dawned forth the Sun of justice. Paradise? for you have blossomed forth the flower of immortality. Virgin? for you have remained incorrupt. Pure Mother? for you have held in your holy embrace the Son Who is God of all: entreat Him to save our souls.

Τὶ σε καλέσωμεν, ὃ Κεχαριτωμένη; Οὐρανόν, ὅτι ἀνέτειλας τὸν ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης· Παράδεισον, ὅτι ἐβλάστησας τὸ ἄνθος τῆς ἀφθαρσίας· Παρθένον, ὅτι ἔμεινας ἀφθορος· ἀγνήν Μητέρα, ὅτι ἔσχεσ σαῖς ἀγίαις ἀγκάλαις υἱόν, τὸν πάντων Θεόν. Αὐτὸν ἰκέτευε, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Idiomela

Ἰδιόμελα

**Composed by Sophronios,
Patriarch of Jerusalem**

**Ποίημα Σωφρονίου,
Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων**

The Reader chants the Idiomela, and the Deacon censures the faithful with the katzion.

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὰ παρόντα Ἰδιόμελα, καὶ ὁ Διάκονος θυμᾷ διὰ κατζίου τὸν λαόν.

Tone Plagal 4

Ἦχος πλ. δ'

Bethlehem, make ready, let the manger be beautifully adorned; cave, receive, for the Truth is come! The shadow has passed away, and God has appeared to men out of the Virgin, having been formed like us and deifying the flesh. Wherefore, Adam is renewed with Eve, crying out: Goodwill has appeared on earth to save our race.

Βηθλεὲμ ἐτοιμάζου· εὐτρεπιζέσθω ἡ φάτνη· τὸ Σπήλαιον δεχέσθω, ἢ ἀλήθεια ἦλθεν· ἡ σκιά παρέδραμε· καὶ Θεὸς ἀνθρώποις, ἐκ Παρθένου πεφανέρωται, μορφωθεὶς τὸ καθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ θεώσας τὸ πρόσλημμα. Διὸ Ἀδὰμ ἀνανεοῦται σὺν τῇ Εὐᾷ, κράζοντες· Ἐπὶ γῆς εὐδοκία ἐπεφάνη, σῶσαι τὸ γένος ἡμῶν.

(Repeat) Bethlehem, make ready, let the manger be beautifully adorned; cave, receive, for the Truth is come! The shadow has passed away, and God has appeared to men out of the Virgin, having been formed like us and deifying the flesh. Wherefore, Adam is renewed with Eve, crying out: Goodwill has appeared on earth to save our race.

Tone 3

God shall come out of Themon, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

Now is the prophecy fulfilled, which mystically said: “And You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not least among the princes,” although you only prepare a cave; for out of you shall come forth to Me in the flesh a Ruler of the nations, Christ God, of a virgin Maiden, Who shall shepherd His people, the new Israel. Let us all render homage to His greatness.

O Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was amazed.

(Repeat) Now is the prophecy fulfilled, which mystically said: “And You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not least among the princes,” although you only prepare a cave; for out of you shall come forth unto Me in the flesh a Ruler of the nations, Christ God, of a virgin Maiden, Who shall shepherd His people, the new Israel. Let us all render homage to His greatness.

Tone Plagal 4

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

Thus spoke Joseph to the Virgin: “Mary, what is this doing that I behold in you? I am perplexed and astonished, and my mind is horrified! Therefore, secretly and swiftly be gone from me. Mary, what is this doing that I see in you? Instead of honor, shame; instead of gladness, sorrow; instead of praise, you have brought me reproof. No longer shall I bear the reproach of men, for from the priests, out of

(Πάλιν) Βηθλεεμ ἐτοιμάζου· εὐτρεπιζέσθω ἡ φάτνη· τὸ Σπήλαιον δεχέσθω, ἡ ἀλήθεια ἦλθεν· ἡ σκιά παρέδραμε· καὶ Θεὸς ἀνθρώποις, ἐκ Παρθένου πεφανέρωται, μορφωθεὶς τὸ καθ’ ἡμᾶς, καὶ θεώσας τὸ πρόσλημμα. Διὸ Ἀδὰμ ἀνανεοῦται σὺν τῇ Εὐᾶ, κράζοντες· Ἐπὶ γῆς εὐδοκία ἐπεφάνη, σῶσαι τὸ γένος ἡμῶν.

Ἦχος γ’

Ὁ Θεὸς ἀπὸ Θαμῶν ἦξει καὶ ὁ ἅγιος ἐξ ὄρους κατασκίου δασέος.

Νῦν προφητικὴ πρόρρησις, πληρωθῆναι ἐπιέγεται, μυστικῶς ἢ φάσκουσα· Καὶ σὺ Βηθλεεμ γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ὑπάρχεις ἐλαχίστη ἐν τοῖς Ἡγεμόσι, προευτρεπίζουσα τὸ σπήλαιον· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ μοι ἐξελεύσεται, ἡγούμενος τῶν Ἐθνῶν διὰ σαρκός, ἐκ Παρθένου Κόρης Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὃς ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ, τὸν νέον Ἰσραὴλ. Δῶμεν αὐτῷ ἅπαντες μεγαλωσύνην.

Κύριε εἰσακήκοα τὴν ἀκοήν σου καὶ ἐφοβήθην· κατενόησα τὰ ἔργα σου.

(Πάλιν) Νῦν προφητικὴ πρόρρησις, πληρωθῆναι ἐπιέγεται, μυστικῶς ἢ φάσκουσα· Καὶ σὺ Βηθλεεμ γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ὑπάρχεις ἐλαχίστη ἐν τοῖς Ἡγεμόσι, προευτρεπίζουσα τὸ σπήλαιον· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ μοι ἐξελεύσεται, ἡγούμενος τῶν Ἐθνῶν διὰ σαρκός, ἐκ Παρθένου Κόρης Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὃς ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ, τὸν νέον Ἰσραὴλ. Δῶμεν αὐτῷ ἅπαντες μεγαλωσύνην.

Ἦχος πλ. δ’

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Τάδε λέγει Ἰωσήφ πρὸς τὴν Παρθένον· Μαρία, τί τὸ δρᾶμα τοῦτο, ὃ ἐν σοὶ τεθέαμαι; ἀπορῶ καὶ ἐξίσταμαι, καὶ τὸν νοῦν καταπλήττομαι! Λάθρα τοίνυν ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ, γενοῦ ἐν τάχει. Μαρία, τί τὸ δρᾶμα τοῦτο, ὃ ἐν σοὶ τεθέαμαι; ἀντὶ τιμῆς αἰσχύνην, ἀντ’ εὐφροσύνης, τὴν λύπην, ἀντὶ τοῦ ἐπαινεῖσθαι, τὸν ψόγον μοι προσήγαγες. Οὐκ ἔτι φέρω λοιπόν, τὸ ὄνειδος ἀνθρώπων· ὑπὸ γὰρ Ἱερέων

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the temple of the Lord, I have taken you as one who is blameless; and what does this appear to be?”

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

(Repeat) Thus spoke Joseph to the Virgin: “Mary, what is this doing that I behold in you? I am perplexed and astonished, and my mind is horrified! Therefore, secretly and swiftly be gone from me. Mary, what is this doing that I see in you? Instead of honor, shame; instead of gladness, sorrow; instead of praise, you have brought me reproof. No longer shall I bear the reproach of men, for from the priests, out of the temple of the Lord, I have taken you as one who is blameless; and what does this appear to be?”

Prokeimenon of the Prophecies

Tone 4

The Lord said to me: You are My Son, this day I have begotten You.

Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance.

Prophecy

Micah 5:2-4

The reading from the Prophet Micah.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Thus spoke the Lord: “And you, O Bethlehem, House of Ephrathah, though you are fewest in number among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler of Israel. His goings forth were from the beginning, even from everlasting.” Therefore He shall give them up until the appointed time for her to give birth, and then the remnant of their brothers will return to the sons of Israel. And He shall stand and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they will dwell in the glory of the name of the Lord their God, *for now they will be magnified unto the ends of the earth.*”

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

ἐκ τοῦ ναοῦ, ὡς ἄμεμπτον Κυρίου σὲ παρέλαβον· καὶ τί τὸ ὀρώμενον;

Καὶ νῦν καὶ αἰεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

(Πάλιν) Τάδε λέγει Ἰωσήφ πρὸς τὴν Παρθένον· Μαρία, τί τὸ δρᾶμα τοῦτο, ὃ ἐν σοὶ τεθέαμαι; ἀπορῶ καὶ ἐξίσταμαι, καὶ τὸν νοῦν καταπλήττομαι! Λάθρα τοίνυν ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ, γενοῦ ἐν τάχει. Μαρία, τί τὸ δρᾶμα τοῦτο, ὃ ἐν σοὶ τεθέαμαι; ἀντὶ τιμῆς αἰσχύνην, ἀντ’ εὐφροσύνης, τὴν λύπην, ἀντὶ τοῦ ἐπαινεῖσθαι, τὸν ψόγον μοι προσήγαγες. Οὐκ ἔτι φέρω λοιπόν, τὸ ὄνειδος ἀνθρώπων· ὑπὸ γὰρ Ἱερέων ἐκ τοῦ ναοῦ, ὡς ἄμεμπτον Κυρίου σὲ παρέλαβον· καὶ τί τὸ ὀρώμενον;

Προκείμενον τῆς Προφητείας

Ἦχος δ’

Κύριος εἶπε πρὸς με· Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε.

Αἴτησαι παρ’ ἐμοῦ καὶ δώσω σοὶ Ἔθνη τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Προφητεία

Μιχ. ε’ 1-3

Προφητείας Μιχαίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Τάδε λέγει Κύριος· «Καὶ σὺ Βηθλεὲμ οἴκος τοῦ Ἐφραθαῖ μὴ ὀλιγοστός εἶ ἐν χιλιάσιν Ἰουδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ μοι ἐξελεύσεται τοῦ εἶναι εἰς ἄρχοντα ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ αἱ ἐξοδοὶ αὐτοῦ ἀπ’ ἀρχῆς, ἐξ ἡμερῶν αἰῶνος. Διὰ τοῦτο δώσει αὐτοὺς ἕως καιροῦ τικτούσης, τέξεται· καὶ οἱ ἐπίλοιποι τῶν ἀδελφῶν αὐτοῦ ἐπιστρέψουσιν ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς Ἰσραὴλ. Καὶ στήσεται, καὶ ὄψεται, καὶ ποιμανεῖ τὸ ποίμνιον αὐτοῦ ἐν ἰσχύϊ Κύριος, καὶ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ ὀνόματος Κυρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ αὐτοῦ ὑπάρξουσιν· *διότι νῦν μεγαλυνθήσονται ἕως ἄκρων τῆς γῆς.*»

Ἀπόστολος

Ἐβρ. α’ 1-12

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

God, Who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed Heir of all things, through Whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You?" And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?" But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is to the ages of ages; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Πολυμερῶς καὶ πολυτρόπως πάλαι ὁ Θεὸς λαλήσας τοῖς πατράσιν ἐν τοῖς Προφήταις, ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν τούτων ἐλάλησεν ἡμῖν ἐν Υἱῷ· ὃν ἔθηκε κληρονόμον πάντων, δι' οὗ καὶ τοὺς αἰῶνας ἐποίησεν. Ὃς ὢν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης, καὶ χαρακτήρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ, φέρων τε τὰ πάντα τῷ ῥήματι τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, δι' ἑαυτοῦ καθαρισμόν ποιησάμενος τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν, ἐκάθισεν ἐν δεξιᾷ τῆς μεγαλωσύνης ἐν ὑψηλοῖς. Τοσοῦτω κρείττων γενόμενος τῶν ἀγγέλων, ὅσῳ διαφορότερον παρ' αὐτοὺς κεκληρονόμηκεν ὄνομα. Τίνι γὰρ εἶπε ποτε τῶν Ἀγγέλων· Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε; Καὶ πάλιν· Ἐγὼ ἔσομαι αὐτῷ εἰς πατέρα, καὶ αὐτὸς ἔσται μοι εἰς υἱόν; Ὅταν δὲ πάλιν εἰσαγάγῃ τὸν πρωτότοκον εἰς τὴν οἰκουμένην, λέγει· καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ. Καὶ πρὸς μὲν τοὺς Ἀγγέλους λέγει· Ὁ ποιῶν τοὺς ἀγγέλους αὐτοῦ πνεύματα, καὶ τοὺς λειτουργοὺς αὐτοῦ πυρὸς φλόγα. Πρὸς δὲ τὸν Υἱόν· Ὁ θρόνος σου, ὁ Θεός, εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος· ῥάβδος ἐυθύτητος ἢ ῥάβδος τῆς βασιλείας σου. Ἠγάπησας δικαιοσύνην, καὶ ἐμίσησας ἀνομίαν· διὰ τοῦτο ἔχρισέ σε ὁ Θεὸς ὁ Θεός σου, ἔλαιον ἀγαλλιάσεως παρὰ τοὺς μετόχους σου. Καί, Σὺ κατ' ἀρχάς, Κύριε, τὴν γῆν ἐθεμελίωσας, καὶ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰσιν οἱ οὐρανοί. Αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις· καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτιον παλαιωθήσονται, καὶ ὡσεὶ περιβόλαιον ἐλίξεις αὐτούς, καὶ ἀλλαγῆσονται· σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἶ, καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσι.

Εὐαγγέλιον

Ματθ. α' 18-25

Διάκ. Σοφία. Ὁρθοί, ἀκούσωμεν τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου.

Ἱερεύς Εἰρήνη πᾶσι.

Καὶ τῷ Πνεύματί σου.

Ἱερεύς Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Διάκ. Πρόσχωμεν.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Priest Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Ἐρεῦς Τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν· μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτούς, εὐρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς δίκαιος ὢν, καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐτήν. Ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος, ἰδοῦ, ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ’ ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ, λέγων· Ἰωσήφ, υἱὸς Δαβὶδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματος ἁγίου, τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· Ἴδού, ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὃ ἐστὶ μεθερμηνευόμενον· Μεθ’ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος Κυρίου, καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτήν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον· καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Psalm Verses

Στίχοι

After the Gospel, the Reader reads:

Μετὰ ταῦτα λέγει ὁ Ἀναγνώστης·

Direct my steps according to Your saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Τὰ διαβήματά μου κατεύθυνον κατὰ τὸ λόγιόν σου, καὶ μὴ κατακυριευσάτω μου πᾶσα ἀνομία.

Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Your commandments.

Λύτρωσαί με ἀπὸ συκοφαντίας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ φυλάξω τὰς ἐντολάς σου.

Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

Τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἐπίφανον ἐπὶ τὸν δοῦλόν σου, καὶ δίδαξόν με τὰ δικαιώματά σου.

Let my mouth be filled with praise, that all the day long I may hymn Your glory and Your majesty.

Πληρωθήτω τὸ στόμα μου αἰνεσεώς σου, Κύριε, ὅπως ὑμνήσω τὴν δόξαν σου, ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν τὴν μεγαλοπρέπειάν σου.

Trisagion Prayers

Τρισάγιον

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Παναγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε, ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα, συγχώρησον τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῖν. Ἅγιε, ἐπίσκεψαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Ἱερεύς* Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Amen. Ἀμήν.

Kontakion

Κοντάκιον

The Reader chants the Kontakion:

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὸ Κοντάκιον·

Tone 3

Ἦχος γ'

The virgin today • comes to the cave, • to give birth to the eternal Word • in an ineffable way. • Rejoice, O universe, • having heard of this event; • glorify with the Angels and the shepherds, • Him who willed to be seen • as a new child: • the God Who existed before the ages. Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, • τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, • ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, • ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. • Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη • ἀκουτισθεῖσα, • δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, • βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, • παιδίον νέον, • τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Prayer of the Hours

Εὐχή

Lord, have mercy. (40)

Κύριε ἐλέησον. (μ')

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Ὁ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ καὶ πάσῃ ὥρᾳ ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς προσκυνούμενος καὶ δοξαζόμενος Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ μακρόθυμος, ὁ πολυέλεος, ὁ πολυεύσπλαγχνος, ὁ τοὺς δικαίους ἀγαπῶν καὶ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς ἐλεῶν, ὁ πάντα καλῶν πρὸς σωτηρίαν διὰ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, αὐτός Κύριε, πρόσδεξαι καὶ ἡμῶν ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ τὰς ἐντεύξεις καὶ ἴθυνον τὴν ζωὴν ἡμῶν πρὸς τὰς ἐντολάς σου. Τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν ἁγιάσον, τὰ σώματα ἁγνίσον, τοὺς λογισμοὺς διόρθωσον, τὰς ἐννοίας κάθαρσον καὶ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης θλίψεως, κακῶν καὶ ὀδύνης. Τείχισον ἡμᾶς ἀγίοις σου Ἀγγέλοις, ἵνα τῇ παρεμβολῇ αὐτῶν φρουρούμενοι καὶ ὀδηγούμενοι καταστήσωμεν εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τῆς ἀπροσίτου σου δόξης, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

Τὴν Τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβείμ καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφείμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου εὐλόγησον, πάτερ.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us. May He make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us.

Ἱερεὺς Ὁ Θεὸς οἰκτειρήσαι ἡμᾶς, καὶ εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς, ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἐλεήσει ἡμᾶς.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

Prayer at the First Hour

Εὐχή

O Christ the true Light Who enlightens and sanctifies every man that comes into the world: let the light of Your countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may see the unapproachable Light; and guide our steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your most pure Mother and of all Your saints. Amen.

Χριστέ, τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, τὸ φωτίζον καὶ ἀγιάζον πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον, σημειωθήτω ἐφ' ἡμᾶς τὸ φῶς τοῦ προσώπου σου, ἵνα ἐν αὐτῷ ὀψώμεθα φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον· καὶ κατεύθυνον τὰ διαβήματα ἡμῶν πρὸς ἐργασίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν σου, πρεσβείαις τῆς παναχράντου σου Μητρὸς, καὶ πάντων σου τῶν ἁγίων. Ἀμήν.

The Third Hour

Ώρα Τρίτη

Come, let us worship and fall down before God, our King.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ God, our King.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Psalm 66

Ψαλμὸς ΞΣΤ΄

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may He make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us

Ὁ Θεὸς οἰκτιρήσαι ἡμᾶς καὶ εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς· ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἐλεήσαι ἡμᾶς.

May we know Your way upon the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Τοῦ γνῶναι ἐν τῇ γῆ τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἐν πᾶσιν ἔθνεσιν τὸ σωτήριόν σου.

Let the peoples give You praise, O God, let all the peoples praise You.

Ἐξομολογησάσθωσάν σοι λαοὶ, ὁ Θεὸς, ἐξομολογησάσθωσάν σοι λαοὶ πάντες.

Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for You shall judge peoples with uprightness, and You shall guide nations upon the earth.

Εὐφρανθήτωσαν καὶ ἀγαλλιάσθωσαν Ἔθνη ὅτι κρινεῖς λαοὺς ἐν εὐθύτητι καὶ Ἔθνη ἐν τῇ γῆ ὀδηγήσεις.

Let the peoples give You praise, O God, let all the peoples praise You, the earth has yielded her fruit.

Ἐξομολογησάσθωσάν σοι λαοὶ, ὁ Θεὸς, ἐξομολογησάσθωσάν σοι λαοὶ πάντες· γῆ ἔδωκεν τὸν καρπὸν αὐτῆς.

Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεὸς, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν· εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς, ὁ Θεὸς, καὶ φοβηθήτωσαν αὐτὸν πάντα τὰ πέρατα τῆς γῆς.

Psalm 86

Ψαλμὸς ΠΣΤ΄

His foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loves the gates of Sion more than the dwellings of Jacob.

Οἱ θεμέλιοι αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς ὄρεσιν τοῖς ἁγίοις· ἀγαπᾷ Κύριος τὰς πύλας Σιών ὑπὲρ πάντα τὰ σκηνώματα Ἰακώβ.

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.

Δεδοξασμένα ἐλαλήθη περὶ σοῦ ἡ Πόλις τοῦ Θεοῦ.

I will make mention of Raab and Babylon to those who know me; and behold, the foreigners and Tyre and the people of the Ethiopians, these were born there.

Μνησθήσομαι Ῥαὰβ καὶ Βαβυλῶνος τοῖς γινώσκουσί με· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀλλόφυλοι καὶ Τύρος καὶ λαὸς Αἰθιοπῶν οὗτοι ἐγενήθησαν ἐκεῖ.

A man will say: “Mother Sion;” and: “That man was born in her;” and: “The Most High Himself has founded her.”

Μήτηρ Σιών ἐρεῖ ἄνθρωπος· καὶ ἄνθρωπος ἐγενήθη ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ αὐτὸς ἐθεμελίωσεν αὐτὴν ὁ Ὑψιστος.

The Lord shall tell it in the writings of the peoples and the princes, even of those who were born in her.

Κύριος διηγήσεται ἐν γραφῇ λαῶν καὶ ἀρχόντων τούτων τῶν γεγεννημένων ἐν αὐτῇ.

How joyous are all those who have their habitation in You.

Ὡς εὐφραινομένων πάντων ἡ κατοικία ἐν σοὶ.

Psalm 50

Ψαλμός Ν΄

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my transgression. Ἐλέησόν με, ὁ Θεός, κατὰ τὸ μέγα ἔλεός σου καὶ κατὰ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν σου ἐξάλειψον τὸ ἀνόμημά μου.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Ἐπὶ πλεῖον πλύνόν με ἀπὸ τῆς ἀνομίας μου καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας μου καθάρισόν με.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Ὅτι τὴν ἀνομίαν μου ἐγὼ γινώσκω, καὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία μου ἐνώπιόν μου ἐστὶ διαπαντός.

Against You only have I sinned, and I have done evil in Your sight, that You may be justified in Your words, and be victorious when You are judged. Σοὶ μόνῳ ἥμαρτον καὶ τὸ πονηρὸν ἐνώπιόν σου ἐποίησα, ὅπως ἂν δικαιωθῆς ἐν τοῖς λόγοις σου, καὶ νικήσης ἐν τῷ κρίνεσθαί σε.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. Ἴδου γὰρ ἐν ἀνομίαις συνελήφθην, καὶ ἐν ἁμαρτίαις ἐκίσσησέ με ἡ μήτηρ μου.

For behold, You have loved the truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made manifest to me. Ἴδου γὰρ ἀλήθειαν ἠγάπησας, τὰ ἄδηλα καὶ τὰ κρύφια τῆς σοφίας σου ἐδήλωσάς μου.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Ραντιεῖς με ὑσσώπῳ, καὶ καθαρισθήσομαι, πλυνεῖς με, καὶ ὑπὲρ χιόνα λευκανθήσομαι.

Make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that are humbled shall rejoice. Ἀκουτιεῖς μοι ἀγαλλίασιν καὶ εὐφροσύνην, ἀγαλλιάσονται ὅστέα τεταπεινωμένα.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Ἀπόστρεψον τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν μου καὶ πάσας τὰς ἀνομίας μου ἐξάλειψον.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Καρδίαν καθαρὰν κτίσον ἐν ἐμοί, ὁ Θεός, καὶ πνεῦμα εὐθὲς ἐγκαίνισον ἐν τοῖς ἐγκάτοις μου.

Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Μὴ ἀπορρίψῃς με ἀπὸ τοῦ προσώπου σου καὶ τὸ πνεῦμά σου τὸ ἅγιον μὴ ἀντανέλης ἀπ' ἐμοῦ.

Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and establish me with Your governing Spirit. Ἀπόδος μοι τὴν ἀγαλλίασιν τοῦ σωτηρίου σου καὶ πνεύματι ἡγεμονικῷ στήριζόν με.

I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the impious shall turn back to You. Διδάξω ἀνόμους τὰς ὁδοὺς σου, καὶ ἀσεβεῖς ἐπὶ σὲ ἐπιστρέψουσι.

Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God, the God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. Ρῦσαί με ἐξ αἱμάτων, ὁ Θεὸς ὁ Θεὸς τῆς σωτηρίας μου· ἀγαλλιάσεται ἡ γλῶσσά μου τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου.

O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. Κύριε, τὰ χεῖλη μου ἀνοίξεις, καὶ τὸ στόμα μου ἀναγγελεῖ τὴν αἴνεσίν σου.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole-burnt offerings You shall not be pleased. Ὅτι εἰ ἠθέλησας θυσίαν, ἔδωκα ἂν· ὀλοκαυτώματα οὐκ εὐδοκήσεις.

Imperial (Royal) Hours for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not reject.	Θυσία τῷ Θεῷ πνεῦμα συντετριμμένον, καρδίαν συντετριμμένην καὶ τεταπεινωμένην ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἐξουδενώσει.
Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.	Αγάθυνον, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ εὐδοκίᾳ σου τὴν Σιών, καὶ οἰκοδομηθήτω τὰ τείχη Ἱερουσαλήμ.
Then You shall be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings.	Τότε εὐδοκήσεις θυσίαν δικαιοσύνης, ἀναφορὰν καὶ ὀλοκαυτώματα.
Then they shall offer young bulls upon Your altar.	Τότε ἀνοίσουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ θυσιαστήριόν σου μόσχους.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.	Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.	Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.	Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Troparion of the Forefeast

Τροπάριον Προεόρτιον

December 22 or 23

22 ἢ 23 Δεκέμβριος

*Tone 4
Joseph was amazed*

*Ἦχος δ΄
Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ*

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Prepare yourself, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened for all; • make ready, Ephratha, because the Tree of Life • has blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; • her womb was shown to be a spiritual paradise • in which the divine fruit was planted; • eating of it, we shall live and shall not die like Adam. • Christ is born, • to raise up the image of God • in man that had fallen of old.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, • ἤνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ, • Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, • ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου • Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, • ἐδείχθη νοητός, • ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, • ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, • οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα, • Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, • τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, • ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

December 24

24 Δεκέμβριος

*Tone 4
Joseph was amazed*

*Ἦχος δ΄
Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ*

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Imperial (Royal) Hours for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord

It came to pass, that Mariam • was enrolled with the elder Joseph • in Bethlehem • since she was of the seed • of David; • carrying within her a seedless conception. • And the time drew near • for giving birth, • but there was no place to lodge; • yet the cave proved to be a delightful palace for the Queen. Christ is born, • to raise up the likeness • that had fallen of old.

Ἀπεγράφετο ποτέ, σὺν τῷ πρεσβύτῃ Ἰωσήφ, ὡς ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ, ἐν Βηθλεὲμ ἡ Μαριάμ, κυοφοροῦσα τὴν ἄσπορον κυοφορίαν. Ἐπέστη δὲ καιρὸς ὁ τῆς Γεννήσεως, καὶ τόπος ἦν οὐδεὶς τῷ καταλύματι· ἀλλ' ὡς τερπνὸν παλάτιον τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῇ Βασιλίδι ἐδείκνυτο. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Theotokion

Θεοτοκίον

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Theotokos, you are the true vine that has blossomed forth the Fruit of life. We beseech you: intercede, Lady, together with the holy Apostles, that our souls find mercy.

Θεοτόκε, σὺ εἶ ἡ ἄμπελος ἡ ἀληθινή, ἡ βλαστήσασα τὸν καρπὸν τῆς ζωῆς. Σὲ ἱκετεύομεν, πρέσβευε, Δέσποινα, μετὰ τῶν Ἀποστόλων, καὶ πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων, ἐλεηθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Idiomela

Ἰδιόμελα

*By Sophronios,
Patriarch of Jerusalem*

*Ποίημα Σωφρονίου,
Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων*

The Reader chants the Idiomela, and the Deacon censures the faithful with the katzion.

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὰ παρόντα Ἰδιόμελα, καὶ ὁ Διάκονος θυμιᾷ διὰ κατζίου τὸν λαόν.

Tone Plagal 2

Ἦχος πλ. β'

This is our God, none other can be compared to Him; it is He Who was born of the Virgin and dwelt among men. Laid in a poor manger, the only-begotten Son appeared as mortal man, and the Lord of glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes. The star calls the Magi to His adoration. Let us also chant: Holy Trinity, save our souls.

Οὗτος ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐ λογισθήσεται ἕτερος πρὸς αὐτόν, ὁ τεχθεὶς ἐκ Παρθένου, καὶ τοῖς ἀνθρώποις συναναστραφεὶς. Φάτνη πενιχρᾷ Υἱὸς μονογενῆς, κείμενος ὁράται βροτός· καὶ σπαργάνοις πλέκεται, ὁ τῆς δόξης Κύριος, καὶ Μάγους ἀστήρ μηνύει, εἰς αὐτοῦ προσκύνησιν, καὶ ἡμεῖς μελωδοῦμεν· Τριάς Ἁγία, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

(Repeat) This is our God, none other can be compared to Him; it is He Who was born of the Virgin and dwelt among men. Laid in a poor manger, the only-begotten Son appeared as mortal man, and the Lord of glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes. The star calls the Magi to His adoration. Let us also chant: Holy Trinity, save our souls.

(Πάλιν) Οὗτος ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, οὐ λογισθήσεται ἕτερος πρὸς αὐτόν, ὁ τεχθεὶς ἐκ Παρθένου, καὶ τοῖς ἀνθρώποις συναναστραφεὶς. Φάτνη πενιχρᾷ Υἱὸς μονογενῆς, κείμενος ὁράται βροτός· καὶ σπαργάνοις πλέκεται, ὁ τῆς δόξης Κύριος, καὶ Μάγους ἀστήρ μηνύει, εἰς αὐτοῦ προσκύνησιν, καὶ ἡμεῖς μελωδοῦμεν· Τριάς Ἁγία, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Tone Plagal 4

Ἦχος πλ. δ'

God shall come out of Themon, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

Ὁ Θεὸς ἀπὸ Θαίμων ἤξει καὶ ὁ ἅγιος ἐξ ὄρους κατασκίου δασέος.

Before Your nativity, Lord, the noetic hosts were struck with wonder as they beheld Your mystery with trembling; for You Who adorned the heavens with stars were pleased to be born as a babe, and You Who holds all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Your hand are laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation Your compassion has been made known, O Christ, and Your great mercy: glory to You.

Tone Plagal 4

O Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was amazed.

(Repeat) Before Your nativity, Lord, the noetic hosts were struck with wonder as they beheld Your mystery with trembling; for You Who adorned the heavens with stars were pleased to be born as a babe, and You Who holds all the ends of the earth in the hollow of Your hand are laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation Your compassion has been made known, O Christ, and Your great mercy: glory to You.

Tone 3

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

Tell us, Joseph, how is it that you bring to Bethlehem, great with Child, the Maiden whom you have taken from the sanctuary? “I have searched the prophets,” said he, “and have received tidings from an angel, and I am persuaded that Mary shall ineffably give birth to God, Whom Magi from the East shall come to worship, doing homage with precious gifts.” Lord, Who was incarnate for our sake, glory to You.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

(Repeat) Tell us, Joseph, how is it that you bring to Bethlehem, great with Child, the Maiden whom you have taken from the sanctuary? “I have searched the prophets,” said he, “and have received tidings from an angel, and I am persuaded that Mary shall

Πρὸ τῆς Γεννήσεως τῆς σῆς, τρόμφ ὀρῶσαι τὸ μυστήριον Κύριε, αἱ νοεραὶ στρατιαὶ κατεπλήττοντο· ὡς γὰρ βρέφος νηπιάσαι ἠυδόκησας, ὁ τὸν πόλον κοσμήσας τοῖς ἀστράσι· καὶ φάτνη τῶν ἀλόγων ἀνακέκλισαι, ὁ δρακὶ συνέχων πάντα γῆς τὰ πέρατα· τοιαύτη γὰρ οἰκονομία, ἐγνώσθη σου ἡ εὐσπλαγχνία. Χριστέ, τὸ μέγα ἔλεος, δόξα σοι.

Ἦχος πλ. δ'

Κύριε εἰσακήκοα τὴν ἀκοήν σου καὶ ἐφοβήθην· κατενόησα τὰ ἔργα σου.

(Πάλιν) Πρὸ τῆς Γεννήσεως τῆς σῆς, τρόμφ ὀρῶσαι τὸ μυστήριον Κύριε, αἱ νοεραὶ στρατιαὶ κατεπλήττοντο· ὡς γὰρ βρέφος νηπιάσαι ἠυδόκησας, ὁ τὸν πόλον κοσμήσας τοῖς ἀστράσι· καὶ φάτνη τῶν ἀλόγων ἀνακέκλισαι, ὁ δρακὶ συνέχων πάντα γῆς τὰ πέρατα· τοιαύτη γὰρ οἰκονομία, ἐγνώσθη σου ἡ εὐσπλαγχνία. Χριστέ, τὸ μέγα ἔλεος, δόξα σοι.

Ἦχος γ'

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Ἰωσήφ, εἰπέ ἡμῖν, πῶς ἐκ τῶν ἀγίων ἦν παρέλαβες Κόρην, ἔγκυον φέρεις ἐν Βηθλεέμ; Ἐγὼ φησι, τοὺς Προφήτας ἐρευνήσας, καὶ χρηματισθεὶς ὑπὸ Ἀγγέλου, πέπεισμαι, ὅτι Θεὸν γεννήσει ἡ Μαρία ἀνερμηνεύτως· οὗ εἰς προσκύνησιν, Μάγοι ἐξ Ἀνατολῶν ἤξουσι, σὺν δώροις τιμίους λατρεύοντες. Ὁ σαρκωθείς δι' ἡμᾶς, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ αἰεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

(Πάλιν) Ἰωσήφ, εἰπέ ἡμῖν, πῶς ἐκ τῶν ἀγίων ἦν παρέλαβες Κόρην, ἔγκυον φέρεις ἐν Βηθλεέμ; Ἐγὼ φησι, τοὺς Προφήτας ἐρευνήσας, καὶ χρηματισθεὶς ὑπὸ Ἀγγέλου, πέπεισμαι, ὅτι Θεὸν γεννήσει ἡ Μαρία ἀνερμηνεύτως· οὗ εἰς προσκύνησιν, Μάγοι ἐξ

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ineffably give birth to God, Whom Magi from the East shall come to worship, doing homage with precious gifts.” Lord, Who was incarnate for our sake, glory to You.

Ἀνατολῶν ἤξουσι, σὺν δάροις τιμίαις λατρεύοντες. Ὁ σαρκωθείς δι’ ἡμᾶς, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Prokeimenon of the Prophecies

Tone 4

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Whose dominion is upon His shoulder.

Prophecy

Baruch 3:36 - 4:4

The reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved. Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation. O Israel, we are blessed, *for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.*

Epistle

Galatians 3:23-29

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,

Προκείμενον τῆς Προφητείας

Ἦχος δ΄

Ὅτι παιδίον ἐγεννήθη ἡμῖν, Υἱὸς καὶ ἐδόθη ἡμῖν.

Οὗ ἡ ἀρχὴ ἐγενήθη ἐπὶ τοῦ ὤμου αὐτοῦ.

Προφητεία

Βαρουχ γ΄36-38 & δ΄1-4

Προφητείας Ἱερεμίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Οὗτος ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν οὐ λογισθήσεται ἕτερος πρὸς αὐτὸν. Ἐξεῦρεν πᾶσαν ὁδὸν ἐπιστήμης καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὴν Ἰακώβ τῷ παιδί αὐτοῦ καὶ Ἰσραὴλ τῷ ἠγαπημένῳ ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ. Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ὤφθη καὶ τοῖς ἀνθρώποις συναναστράφη. Αὕτη ἡ βίβλος τῶν προσταγμάτων τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ ὁ νόμος ὁ ὑπάρχων εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα· πάντες οἱ κρατοῦντες αὐτήν, εἰς ζωὴν· οἱ δὲ καταλείποντες αὐτήν ἀποθανοῦνται. Ἐπιστρέφου Ἰακώβ καὶ ἐπιλαβοῦ αὐτῆς· διόδευσον πρὸς τὴν λάμπην κατέναντι τοῦ φωτὸς αὐτῆς. Μὴ δῶς ἐτέρῳ τὴν δόξαν σου καὶ τὰ συμφέροντά σοι ἔθνη ἀλλοτρίῳ. Μακάριοί ἐσμεν Ἰσραὴλ· ὅτι τὰ ἀρεστὰ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῖν γνωστὰ ἐστίν.

Ἀπόστολος

Γαλ. γ΄23-29

Πρὸς Γαλάτας ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Ἀδελφοί, πρὸ τοῦ ἐλθεῖν τὴν πίστιν, ὑπὸ νόμον ἐφρουρούμεθα συγκεκλεισμένοι εἰς τὴν μέλλουσαν πίστιν ἀποκαλυφθῆναι. Ὅστε ὁ νόμος παιδαγωγὸς ἡμῶν γέγονεν εἰς Χριστόν, ἵνα ἐκ πίστεως δικαιωθῶμεν. Ἐλθούσης δὲ τῆς Πίστεως, οὐκ ἔτι ὑπὸ παιδαγωγὸν ἐσμεν. Πάντες γὰρ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ ἐστε διὰ τῆς πίστεως ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ὅσοι γὰρ εἰς Χριστόν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστόν ἐνεδύσασθε. Οὐκ ἔνι Ἰουδαῖος οὐδὲ Ἕλλην· οὐκ ἔνι δοῦλος, οὐδὲ

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there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

ἐλεύθερος· οὐκ ἐν ἄρσεν καὶ θήλυ· πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἷς ἐστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Εἰ δὲ ὑμεῖς Χριστοῦ, ἄρα τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ σπέρμα ἐστέ, καὶ κατ' ἐπαγγελίαν κληρονόμοι.

Εὐαγγέλιον

Λουκ. β' 1-20

Διάκ. Σοφία. Ὁρθοί, ἀκούσωμεν τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου.

Ἱερεύς Εἰρήνη πᾶσι.

Καὶ τῷ Πνεύματί σου.

Ἱερεύς Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Πρόσχωμεν.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Ἱερεύς Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἐξῆλθε δόγμα παρὰ Καίσαρος Αὐγούστου, ἀπογράφεσθαι πᾶσαν τὴν οἰκουμένην. Αὕτη ἡ ἀπογραφή πρώτη ἐγένετο ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς Συρίας Κυρηνίου. Καὶ ἐπορεύοντο πάντες ἀπογράφεσθαι, ἕκαστος εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν. Ἀνέβη δὲ καὶ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, ἐκ πόλεως Ναζαρέθ, εἰς τὴν Ἰουδαίαν, εἰς πόλιν Δαβίδ, ἣτις καλεῖται Βηθλεὲμ, διὰ τὸ εἶναι αὐτὸν ἐξ οἴκου καὶ πατριᾶς Δαβίδ, ἀπογράψασθαι σὺν Μαριὰμ τῇ μεμνηστευμένη αὐτῷ γυναικί, οὔσῃ ἐγκύῳ. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ εἶναι αὐτοὺς ἐκεῖ, ἐπλήσθησαν αἱ ἡμέραι τοῦ τεκεῖν αὐτήν, καὶ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐσπαργάνωσεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέκλινεν αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ φάτνῃ, διότι οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τόπος ἐν τῷ καταλύματι.

Καὶ ποιμένες ἦσαν ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ τῇ αὐτῇ ἀγραυλοῦντες καὶ φυλάσσοντες φυλακὰς τῆς νυκτὸς ἐπὶ τὴν ποίμνην αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου ἐπέστη αὐτοῖς, καὶ δόξα Κυρίου περιέλαμψεν αὐτούς. Καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν. Καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ ἄγγελος· Μὴ φοβεῖσθε· ἰδοὺ γάρ, εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην, ἣτις ἔσται παντὶ τῷ λαῷ. Ὅτι ἐτέχθη ὑμῖν σήμερον Σωτὴρ, ὃς ἐστὶ Χριστὸς Κύριος, ἐν πόλει Δαβίδ. Καὶ τοῦτο ὑμῖν τὸ σημεῖον, εὐρήσετε βρέφος ἐσπαργανωμένον, κείμενον ἐν τῇ φάτνῃ.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Καὶ ἐξαίφνης ἐγένετο σὺν τῷ ἀγγέλῳ πλῆθος στρατιᾶς οὐρανόυ, αἰνοῦντων τὸν Θεόν, καὶ λεγόντων· Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία. Καὶ ἐγένετο ὡς ἀπῆλθον ἀπ' αὐτῶν εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν οἱ ἄγγελοι, καὶ οἱ ἄνθρωποι οἱ ποιμένες εἶπον πρὸς ἀλλήλους· Διέλθωμεν δὴ ἕως Βηθλεέμ, καὶ ἴδωμεν τὸ ρῆμα τοῦτο τὸ γεγονός, ὃ ὁ Κύριος ἐγνώρισεν ἡμῖν.

Καὶ ἦλθον σπεύσαντες, καὶ ἀνεῦρον, τὴν τε Μαριάμ καὶ τὸν Ἰωσήφ, καὶ τὸ βρέφος κείμενον ἐν τῇ φάτνῃ. Ἰδόντες δὲ διεγνώρισαν περὶ τοῦ ρήματος τοῦ λαληθέντος αὐτοῖς περὶ τοῦ παιδίου τούτου. Καὶ πάντες οἱ ἀκούσαντες ἐθαύμασαν περὶ τῶν λαληθέντων ὑπὸ τῶν Ποιμένων πρὸς αὐτούς, ἡ δὲ Μαριάμ πάντα συνετήρει τὰ ρήματα ταῦτα, συμβάλλουσα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς. Καὶ ἐπέστρεψαν οἱ ποιμένες, δοξάζοντες καὶ αἰνοῦντες τὸν Θεὸν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν οἷς ἤκουσαν καὶ εἶδον, καθὼς ἐλαλήθη πρὸς αὐτούς.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Psalm Verses

Στίχοι

After the Gospel, the Reader reads:

Μετὰ ταῦτα λέγει ὁ Ἀναγνώστης·

Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation shall prosper us along the way. Our God is the God of salvation.

Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς εὐλογητός, εὐλογητὸς Κύριος ἡμέραν καθ' ἡμέραν· κατευοδῶσαι ἡμῖν ὁ Θεὸς τῶν σωτηρίων ἡμῶν, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ Θεὸς τοῦ σφῶζειν.

Trisagion Prayers

Τρισάγιον

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Παναγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε, ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα, συγχώρησον τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῖν. Ἅγιε, ἐπίσκεψαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

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Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γεννηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Ἱερεὺς Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Ἀμήν.

Kontakion

The Reader chants the Kontakion:

Tone 3

The Virgin today comes to the cave, to give birth to the eternal Word in an ineffable way. Rejoice, O universe, having heard of this event; glorify with the angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be seen as a new Child: the God Who existed before the ages.

Prayer of the Hours

Lord, have mercy. (40)

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and

Κοντάκιον

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὸ Κοντάκιον·

Ἦχος γ'

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, • τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, • ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, • ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. • Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη • ἀκουτισθεῖσα, • δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, • βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, • παιδίον νέον, • τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Εὐχή

Κύριε ἐλέησον. (μ')

Ὁ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ καὶ πάσῃ ὥρᾳ ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς προσκυνούμενος καὶ δοξαζόμενος Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ μακρόθυμος, ὁ πολυέλεος, ὁ πολυεύσπλαγχνος, ὁ τοὺς δικαίους ἀγαπῶν καὶ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς ἐλεῶν, ὁ πάντα καλῶν πρὸς σωτηρίαν διὰ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, αὐτός Κύριε, πρόσδεξαι καὶ ἡμῶν ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ τὰς ἐντεύξεις καὶ ἴθυνον τὴν ζωὴν ἡμῶν πρὸς τὰς ἐντολάς σου. Τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν ἁγιάσον, τὰ σώματα ἁγνίσσον, τοὺς λογισμοὺς διόρθωσον, τὰς ἐννοίας κάθαρσον καὶ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης θλίψεως, κακῶν καὶ ὀδύνης. Τείχισον ἡμᾶς ἀγίοις σου Ἀγγέλοις, ἵνα τῇ παρεμβολῇ αὐτῶν

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guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us. May He make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us.

Amen.

Prayer of Saint Mardarios

O sovereign God, Father almighty; Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and Holy Spirit, one God-head, one Power: have mercy on me a sinner; and save me, Your unworthy servant, according to Your judgments; for blessed are You to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Sixth Hour

Come, let us worship and fall down before God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 71

O God, give Your judgment to the king, and Your righteousness to the son of the king.

That he may judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with judgment.

Let the mountains receive peace for the people, and let the hills receive righteousness.

φρουρούμενοι και ὀδηγούμενοι καταντήσωμεν εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως και εἰς τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τῆς ἀπροσίτου σου δόξης, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Δόξα Πατρὶ και Υἱῷ και Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, και νῦν και ἀεὶ και εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Τὴν Τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβεὶμ και ἐνδοξοτέραν ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφεὶμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

Ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου εὐλόγησον, πάτερ.

Ἱερεὺς Ὁ Θεὸς οἰκτειρήσαι ἡμᾶς, και εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς, ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, και ἐλεήσει ἡμᾶς.

Ἀμήν.

Εὐχὴ τοῦ Ἁγίου Μαρδάρου

Δέσποτα Θεέ, Πάτερ Παντοκράτορ, Κύριε, Υἱὲ μονογενές, Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, και Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα, μία Θεότης, μία Δύναμις, ἐλέησόν με τὸν ἁμαρτωλόν· και οἷς ἐπίστασαι κρίμασι, σῶσόν με τὸν ἀνάξιον δοῦλόν σου, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Ὡρα Ἑκτη

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν και προσπέσωμεν τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν και προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν και προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ και Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Ψαλμὸς ΟΑ´

Ὁ Θεὸς τὸ κρίμα σου τῷ βασιλεῖ δὸς και τὴν δικαιοσύνην σου τῷ υἱῷ τοῦ Βασιλέως.

Κρίνειν τὸν λαόν σου ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ και τοὺς πτωχοὺς σου ἐν κρίσει.

Ἀναλαβέτω τὰ ὄρη εἰρήνην τῷ λαῷ σου και οἱ βουνοὶ δικαιοσύνην.

Imperial (Royal) Hours for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord

He shall judge the beggars among the people, and shall save the sons of the poor, and shall humble the false accuser.	Κρινεῖ τοὺς πτωχοὺς τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ σώσει τοὺς υἱοὺς τῶν πενήτων καὶ ταπεινώσει συκοφάντην.
And He shall continue from generation to generation as long as the sun, and before the moon.	Καὶ συμπαραμενεῖ τῷ ἡλίῳ καὶ πρὸ τῆς σελήνης γενεᾶς γενεῶν.
He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like rain-drops that fall upon the earth.	Καταβήσεται ὡς ὑετὸς ἐπὶ πόκον καὶ ὡσεὶ σταγῶν ἢ στάζουσα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν.
In His days righteousness shall dawn forth an abundance of peace, until the moon is taken away.	Ἀνατελεῖ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις αὐτοῦ δικαιοσύνη καὶ πλῆθος εἰρήνης ἕως οὐ ἀνταναιρεθῆ ἡ σελήνη.
And He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the rivers even to the ends of the inhabited earth.	Καὶ κατακυριεύσει ἀπὸ θαλάσσης ἕως θαλάσσης καὶ ἀπὸ ποταμοῦ ἕως περάτων τῆς οἰκουμένης.
Before Him the Ethiopians shall fall down, and His enemies shall lick the dust.	Ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ προπεσοῦνται Αἰθίοπες καὶ οἱ ἐχθροὶ αὐτοῦ χοῦν λείξουσι.
The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall bring gifts, kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring presents.	Βασιλεῖς Θαρσεῖς καὶ νῆσοι δῶρα προσοίσουσι· Βασιλεῖς Ἀράβων καὶ Σαβᾶ δῶρα προσάξουσι.
And all the kings of the earth shall worship Him, all the nations shall serve Him.	Καὶ προσκυνήσουσιν αὐτῷ πάντες οἱ Βασιλεῖς τῆς γῆς, πάντα τὰ Ἔθνη δουλεύουσιν αὐτῷ.
For He has delivered the beggar from the oppressor, and the poor man for whom there was no helper.	Ἵτι ἐρρύσατο πτωχὸν ἐκ δυνάστου καὶ πένητα ᾧ οὐχ ὑπῆρχε βοηθός.
He shall spare the poor man and the pauper, and He shall save the souls of the poor.	Φείσεται πτωχοῦ καὶ πένητος καὶ ψυχὰς πενήτων σώσει.
He shall redeem their souls from usury and from injustices, and His name shall be precious before them.	Ἐκ τόκου καὶ ἐξ ἀδικίας λυτρώσεται τὰς ψυχὰς αὐτῶν καὶ ἔντιμον τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν.
And He shall live, and the gold of Arabia shall be given to Him, and they shall always make prayer concerning Him; they shall bless Him all the day long.	Καὶ ζήσεται, καὶ δοθήσεται αὐτῷ ἐκ τοῦ χρυσοῦ τῆς Ἀραβίας, καὶ προσεύξονται περὶ αὐτοῦ διὰ παντός· ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν εὐλογήσουσιν αὐτόν.
He shall be a support in the earth on the summits of the mountains; His fruit, shall be exalted more than Lebanon and those in the city shall flourish like the grass of the earth.	Ἔσται στήριγμα ἐν τῇ γῆ ἐπ' ἄκρων τῶν ὀρέων· ὑπεραρθήσεται ὑπὲρ τὸν Λίβανον ὁ καρπὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐξανθήσουσιν ἐκ πόλεως ὡσεὶ χόρτος τῆς γῆς.
His name shall be blessed to the ages, before the sun His name shall continue.	Ἔσται τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ εὐλογημένον εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας· πρὸ τοῦ ἡλίου διαμενεῖ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.
And in Him all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed; all the nations shall call Him blessed.	Καὶ ἐνευλογηθήσονται ἐν αὐτῷ πᾶσαι αἱ φυλαὶ τῆς γῆς· πάντα τὰ Ἔθνη μακαριοῦσιν αὐτόν.

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders. Εὐλογητὸς Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, ὁ ποιῶν θαυμάσια μόνος.

And blessed is the name of His glory to the ages, and to the ages of ages. Καὶ εὐλογημένον τὸ ὄνομα τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

And all the earth shall be filled with His glory. So be it; so be it. Καὶ πληρωθήσεται τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ. Γένοιτο, γένοιτο.

Psalm 131

Ψαλμὸς ΡΛΑ΄

Remember David, Lord, and all his meekness. Μνήσθητι Κύριε τοῦ Δαυὶδ καὶ πάσης τῆς πραότητος αὐτοῦ.

How he made an oath to the Lord, and vowed to the God of Jacob: Ὡς ὤμοσε τῷ Κυρίῳ ἠΐξαστο τῷ Θεῷ Ἰακώβ.

I shall not go into the dwelling of my house, I shall not ascend upon the bed of my couch, I shall not give sleep to my eyelids, nor rest to my temples, until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the God of Jacob. Εἰ εἰσελεύσομαι εἰς σκῆνωμα οἴκου μου, εἰ ἀναβήσομαι ἐπὶ κλίνης στρωμνῆς μου, εἰ δώσω ὕπνον τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς μου καὶ τοῖς βλεφάροις μου νυσταγμὸν, καὶ ἀνάπαυσιν τοῖς κροτάφοις μου, ἕως οὗ εὔρω τόπον τῷ Κυρίῳ, σκῆνωμα τῷ Θεῷ Ἰακώβ.

Behold, we have heard of it in Ephratha, we have found it in the plains of the wood. Ἴδου ἠκούσαμεν αὐτὴν ἐν Ἐφραθᾶ, εὔρομεν αὐτὴν ἐν τοῖς πεδίοις τοῦ δρυμοῦ.

Let us go forth into His tabernacles, let us worship at the place where His feet have stood. Εἰσελευσόμεθα εἰς τὰ σκηνώματα αὐτοῦ, προσκυνήσομεν εἰς τὸν τόπον οὗ ἔστησαν οἱ πόδες αὐτοῦ.

Arise, O Lord, to Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness. Ἀνάστηθι Κύριε εἰς τὴν ἀνάπαυσίν σου, σὺ εἶ καὶ ἡ Κιβωτὸς τοῦ ἁγιάσματός σου.

Your priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Your righteous shall rejoice. Οἱ ἱερεῖς σου ἐνδύσονται δικαιοσύνην καὶ οἱ ὄσιοί σου ἀγαλλιάσονται.

For the sake of David Your servant, do not turn Your face away from Your anointed one. Ἔνεκεν Δαυὶδ τοῦ δούλου σου, μὴ ἀποστρέψῃς τὸ πρόσωπον τοῦ Χριστοῦ σου.

The Lord has sworn in truth to David, and He will not annul it. Ὁμοσεν Κύριος τῷ Δαυὶδ ἀλήθειαν καὶ οὐ μὴ ἀθετήσῃ αὐτὴν.

I will set the fruit of your loins upon your throne. Ἐκ καρποῦ τῆς κοιλίας σου θήσομαι ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου σου.

If your sons keep My covenant and these testimonies which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit for ever on your throne. Ἐὰν φυλάξωνται οἱ υἱοὶ σου τὴν διαθήκην μου καὶ τὰ μαρτύριά μου ταῦτα ἃ διδάξω αὐτοὺς καὶ οἱ υἱοὶ αὐτῶν ἕως τοῦ αἰῶνος καθιοῦνται ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου σου.

For the Lord has elected Sion, He has chosen her to be a habitation for Himself. Ὅτι ἐξελέξατο Κύριος τὴν Σιών, ἠρετίσατο αὐτὴν εἰς κατοικίαν ἑαυτοῦ.

This is my rest to the ages of ages; here I will dwell, for I have chosen her. Αὕτη ἡ κατάπαυσις μου εἰς αἰῶνα αἰῶνος ὧδε κατοικήσω ὅτι ἠρετίσαμην αὐτὴν.

Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; I will satisfy her beggars with bread. Τὴν θύραν αὐτῆς εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω, τοὺς πτωχοὺς αὐτῆς χορτάσω ἄρτων.

I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall rejoice with rejoicing. Τοὺς ἱερεῖς αὐτῆς ἐνδύσω σωτηρίαν, καὶ οἱ ὄσιοι αὐτῆς ἀγαλλιάσει ἀγαλλιάσονται.

There I will make a horn to spring forth for David, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ. Ἐκεῖ ἐξανατελῶ κέρας τῷ Δαυΐδ, ἠτοίμασα λύχνον τῷ Χριστῷ μου.

I will clothe His enemies with shame, but My sanctification shall flourish upon Him. Τοὺς ἐχθροὺς αὐτοῦ ἐνδύσω αἰσχύνην ἐπὶ δὲ αὐτὸν ἐξανθήσει τὸ ἀγίασμά μου.

Psalm 90

Ψαλμός 90

He who dwells in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. Ὁ κατοικῶν ἐν βοήθειᾳ τοῦ Ὑψίστου ἐν σκέπη τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἀβλήσεται.

He shall say to the Lord: You are my Helper and my Refuge, He is my God, and I will hope in Him. Ἐρεῖ τῷ Κυρίῳ· Ἀντιλήπτωρ μου εἶ, καὶ καταφυγή μου ὁ Θεός μου, καὶ ἐλπῶ ἐπ' αὐτὸν.

For He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. Ὅτι αὐτὸς ῥύσεται με ἐκ παγίδος θηρευτῶν, καὶ ἀπὸ λόγου παραχώδους.

He will overshadow you with His shoulders, and you shall have hope under His wings. Ἐν τοῖς μεταφρένοις αὐτοῦ ἐπισκιάσει σοὶ καὶ ὑπὸ τὰς πτέρυγας αὐτοῦ ἐλπείς· ὄπλω κυκλώσει σε ἡ ἀλήθεια αὐτοῦ.

His truth will encompass You with a shield; you shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day. Οὐ φοβηθήσῃ ἀπὸ φόβου νυκτερινοῦ, ἀπὸ βέλους πετομένου ἡμέρας.

Nor of the thing that walks in darkness, nor of the mishap and demon of noonday. Ἀπὸ πράγματος ἐν σκότει διαπορευομένου, ἀπὸ συμπτώματος καὶ δαιμονίου μεσημβρινοῦ.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near to you. Πεσεῖται ἐκ τοῦ κλίτους σου χιλιάς καὶ μυριάς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου, πρὸς σὲ δὲ οὐκ ἐγγιεῖ.

You shall behold only with your eyes, and you shall see the reward of sinners. Πλὴν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς σου κατανοήσεις καὶ ἀνταπόδοσιν ἁμαρτωλῶν ὄψει.

For You, O Lord, are my Hope; You made the Most High your refuge. Ὅτι σὺ Κύριε ἡ ἐλπίς μου· τὸν Ὑψιστον ἔθου καταφυγὴν σου.

No evils shall come near you, and no scourge shall draw near to your dwelling. Οὐ προσελεύσεται πρὸς σὲ κακὰ καὶ μάστιξ οὐκ ἐγγιεῖ τῷ σκηνώματί σου.

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. Ὅτι τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ ἐντελεῖται περὶ σοῦ τοῦ διαφυλάξαι σε ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ὁδοῖς σου.

They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot at any time against a stone. Ἐπὶ χειρῶν ἀροῦσί σε μὴ ποτε προσκόψῃς πρὸς λίθον τὸν πόδα σου.

You shall tread upon the asp and basilisk, and you shall trample upon the lion and the dragon. Ἐπὶ ἀσπίδα καὶ βασιλίσκον ἐπιβήσῃ, καὶ καταπατήσεις λέοντα καὶ δράκοντα.

Imperial (Royal) Hours for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord

For he has set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he has known My name. Ὅτι ἐπ’ ἐμὲ ἤλπισεν καὶ ῥύσομαι αὐτὸν· σκεπάσω αὐτὸν ὅτι ἔγνω τὸ ὄνομά μου.

He shall cry to Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. Κεκραῖζεται πρὸς με, καὶ ἐπακούσομαι αὐτοῦ· μετ’ αὐτοῦ εἰμι ἐν θλίψει, ἐξελοῦμαι καὶ δοξάσω αὐτὸν.

I will satisfy him with length of days, and I will show him My salvation. Μακρότητα ἡμερῶν ἐμπλήσω αὐτὸν, καὶ δεῖξω αὐτῷ τὸ σωτήριόν μου.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God. Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God. Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God. Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα, Ἀλληλούϊα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Troparion of the Forefeast

Τροπάριον Προεόρτιον

December 22 or 23

22 ἢ 23 Δεκέμβριος

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ’

Joseph was amazed

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Prepare yourself, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened for all; • make ready, Ephratha, because the Tree of Life • has blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; • her womb was shown to be a spiritual paradise • in which the divine fruit was planted; • eating of it, we shall live and shall not die like Adam. • Christ is born, • to raise up the image of God • in man that had fallen of old. Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, • ἡνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ, • εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, • ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου • Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, • ἐδείχθη νοητός, • ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, • ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, • οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα, • Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, • τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, • ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

December 24

24 Δεκέμβριος

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ’

Joseph was amazed

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

It came to pass, that Mariam • was enrolled with the elder Joseph • in Bethlehem • since she was of the seed • of David; • carrying Μαριὰμ, κυοφοροῦσα τὴν ἄσπορον

Imperial (Royal) Hours for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord

within her a seedless conception. • And the time drew near • for giving birth, • but there was no place to lodge; • yet the cave proved to be a delightful palace for the Queen. Christ is born, • to raise up the likeness • that had fallen of old.

κυφορίαν. Ἐπέστη δὲ καιρὸς ὁ τῆς Γεννήσεως, καὶ τόπος ἦν οὐδεις τῷ καταλύματι· ἀλλ' ὡς τερπνὸν παλάτιον τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῇ Βασιλίδι ἐδείκνυτο. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Theotokion

Θεοτοκίον

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Seeing that we have no boldness on account of our many sins, beseech Him that was born of you, Virgin Theotokos; for the supplications of a Mother avail much to win the Master's favor. Do not disdain the prayers of sinners, all-pure one, for He Who deigned also to suffer for our sake is merciful and mighty to save.

Ὅτι οὐκ ἔχομεν παρρησίαν διὰ τὰ πολλὰ ἡμῶν ἁμαρτήματα, σὺ τὸν ἐκ σοῦ γεννηθέντα δυσώπησον, Θεοτόκε Παρθένε· πολλὰ γὰρ ἰσχύει δέησις Μητρὸς πρὸς εὐμένειαν Δεσπότη. Μὴ παρίδης ἁμαρτωλῶν ἰκεσίας ἢ πάνσεμνος, ὅτι ἐλεήμων ἐστὶ, καὶ σώζειν δυνάμενος, ὁ καὶ παθεῖν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν καταδεξάμενος.

Idiomela

Ἰδιόμελα

*By Sophronios,
Patriarch of Jerusalem*

*Ποίημα Σωφρονίου,
Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων*

The Reader chants the Idiomela, and the Deacon censures the faithful with the katzion.

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὰ παρόντα Ἰδιόμελα, καὶ ὁ Διάκονος θυμιᾷ διὰ κατζίου τὸν λαόν.

Tone 1

Ἦχος α'

Come, you faithful; being divinely led, let us behold the divine condescension from on high that is made manifest to us in Bethlehem. And having purified our minds, let us offer a virtuous life instead of myrrh, faithfully preparing ourselves for entry into the feast of the Nativity, crying out from the treasury of our souls: "Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, for Whose sake good will has appeared among men, delivering Adam from the ancestral curse, for He loves mankind."

Δεῦτε πιστοὶ ἐπαρθῶμεν ἐνθέως, καὶ κατιδῶμεν συγκατάβασιν θεϊκὴν ἄνωθεν, ἐν Βηθλεὲμ πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἐμφανῶς· καὶ νοῦν καθαρθέντες, τῷ βίῳ προσενέγκωμεν, ἀρετᾶς ἀντὶ μύρου, προευτρεπίζοντες πιστῶς, τῶν Γενεθλίων τὰς εισόδους, ἐπὶ τῶν ψυχικῶν θησαυρισμάτων, κράζοντες· Ἐν ὑψίστοις δόξα, Θεῷ τῷ ἐν Τριάδι, δι' οὗ ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία ἐπεφάνη, τὸν Ἀδὰμ ἐκλυτρώσασθαι, τῆς ἀρχεγόνου ἀρᾶς ὡς Φιλάνθρωπος.

(Repeat) Come, you faithful; being divinely led, let us behold the divine condescension from on high that is made manifest to us in Bethlehem. And having purified our minds, let us offer a virtuous life instead of myrrh, faithfully preparing ourselves for entry into the feast of the Nativity, crying out from the treasury of our souls: "Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, for Whose sake good will has appeared among men, delivering Adam from the ancestral curse, for He loves mankind."

(Πάλιν) Δεῦτε πιστοὶ ἐπαρθῶμεν ἐνθέως, καὶ κατιδῶμεν συγκατάβασιν θεϊκὴν ἄνωθεν, ἐν Βηθλεὲμ πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἐμφανῶς· καὶ νοῦν καθαρθέντες, τῷ βίῳ προσενέγκωμεν, ἀρετᾶς ἀντὶ μύρου, προευτρεπίζοντες πιστῶς, τῶν Γενεθλίων τὰς εισόδους, ἐπὶ τῶν ψυχικῶν θησαυρισμάτων, κράζοντες· Ἐν ὑψίστοις δόξα, Θεῷ τῷ ἐν Τριάδι, δι' οὗ ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία ἐπεφάνη, τὸν Ἀδὰμ ἐκλυτρώσασθαι, τῆς ἀρχεγόνου ἀρᾶς ὡς Φιλάνθρωπος.

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ'

God shall come out of Themon, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest. Ὁ Θεὸς ἀπὸ Θαμῶν ἤξει καὶ ὁ ἅγιος ἐξ ὄρους κατασκίου δασέος.

Hear, O heaven, and give ear, O earth! Let the foundations be shaken, let trembling lay hold upon the nethermost. For God and the Creator has clothed Himself with a fleshly form, and He Who with a mighty hand has fashioned the creation is beheld as a creation of the womb. O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past understanding! Ἄκουε οὐρανέ, καὶ ἐνωτίζου ἡ γῆ· σαλευθήτω τὰ θεμέλια, ἐπιλαβέτω τρόμος τὰ καταχθόνια· ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς τε καὶ Κτίστης, σαρκὸς εἰσέδου πλάσιν· καὶ ὁ κραταιᾶ κτίσας χειρὶ τὴν κτίσιν, σπλάγγχον ὁρᾶται πλάσματος. Ὡ βᾶθος πλούτου, καὶ σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως Θεοῦ! ὡς ἀνεξερεύνητα τὰ κρίματα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀνεξιχνίαστοι αἱ ὁδοὶ αὐτοῦ.

O Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was amazed. Κύριε εἰσακήκοα τὴν ἀκοήν σου καὶ ἐφοβήθην· κατενόησα τὰ ἔργα σου.

(Repeat) Hear, O heaven, and give ear, O earth! Let the foundations be shaken, let trembling lay hold upon the nethermost. For God and the Creator has clothed Himself with a fleshly form, and He Who with a mighty hand has fashioned the creation is beheld as a creation of the womb. O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past understanding! *(Πάλιν)* Ἄκουε οὐρανέ, καὶ ἐνωτίζου ἡ γῆ· σαλευθήτω τὰ θεμέλια, ἐπιλαβέτω τρόμος τὰ καταχθόνια· ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς τε καὶ Κτίστης, σαρκὸς εἰσέδου πλάσιν· καὶ ὁ κραταιᾶ κτίσας χειρὶ τὴν κτίσιν, σπλάγγχον ὁρᾶται πλάσματος. Ὡ βᾶθος πλούτου, καὶ σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως Θεοῦ! ὡς ἀνεξερεύνητα τὰ κρίματα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀνεξιχνίαστοι αἱ ὁδοὶ αὐτοῦ.

Tone Plagal 1

Ἦχος πλ. α'

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Come, you Christ-bearing people; let us behold a wonder that amazes and holds fast every mind. And piously singing, you faithful, let us worship. Today a maiden great with Child comes to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord; and choirs of angels go before her. And seeing this, Joseph the betrothed cried out: "What is this strange mystery in you, O Virgin? And how is it that you desire to give birth, O Bride that has not known a husband?" Δεῦτε χριστοφόροι λαοὶ κατίδωμεν, θαῦμα πᾶσαν ἔννοιαν, ἐκπλήττον καὶ συνέχον καὶ εὐσεβῶς προσκυνοῦντες, πίστει ἀνυμνήσωμεν. Σήμερον πρὸς Βηθλεέμ, ἐγκυμονοῦσα Κόρη παραγίνεται, τοῦ γεννηῆσαι τὸν Κύριον· χοροὶ δέ, Ἀγγέλων προτρέχουσι. Καὶ ταῦτα βλέπων ἐβόα, Ἰωσήφ ὁ Μνήστωρ· Τὶ τὸ ἐν σοὶ ξένον μυστήριον Παρθένε; καὶ πῶς μέλλεις λοχεῦσαι, ἢ ἀπειρόζυγος Δάμαλις;

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

(Repeat) Come, you Christ-bearing people; let us behold a wonder that amazes and holds fast *(Πάλιν)* Δεῦτε χριστοφόροι λαοὶ κατίδωμεν, θαῦμα πᾶσαν ἔννοιαν, ἐκπλήττον καὶ συνέχον

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every mind. And piously singing, you faithful, let us worship. Today a maiden great with Child comes to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord; and choirs of angels go before her. And seeing this, Joseph the betrothed cried out: “What is this strange mystery in you, O Virgin? And how is it that you desire to give birth, O Bride that has not known a husband?”

καὶ εὐσεβῶς προσκυνοῦντες, πίστει ἀνουμήσωμεν. Σήμερον πρὸς Βηθλεέμ, ἐγκυμονοῦσα Κόρη παραγίνεται, τοῦ γεννησαι τὸν Κύριον· χοροὶ δέ, Ἀγγέλων προτρέχουσι. Καὶ ταῦτα βλέπων ἔβόα, Ἰωσήφ ὁ Μνήστωρ· Τὶ τὸ ἐν σοὶ ξένον μυστήριον Παρθένε; καὶ πῶς μέλλεις λοχεῦσαι, ἢ ἀπειροζυγος Δάμαλις;

Prokeimenon of the Prophecies

Προκείμενον τῆς Προφητείας

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ'

From the womb before Lucifer have I begotten You.

Ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ Ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε.

The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right hand.

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου. Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου.

Prophecy

Προφητεία

Isaiah 7:10-16, 8:1-4, 8-10

Ἦσ. ζ' 10-16, & η' 1-4, 8-10

The reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Προφητείας Ἡσαΐου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel. Butter and honey He shall eat before He knows to prefer evil or choose the good, for before the Child knows good or evil, He refuses the evil to choose the good.”

Προσέθετο Κύριος λαλῆσαι τῷ Ἀχαζ λέγων· «Ἀίτησαι σεαυτῷ σημεῖον παρὰ Κυρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ σου εἰς βάθος ἢ εἰς ὕψος.» Καὶ εἶπεν Ἀχαζ· «Οὐ μὴ αἰτήσω οὐδ' οὐ μὴ πειράσω Κύριον.» Καὶ εἶπεν Ἡσαΐας· «Ἀκούσατε δὴ οἶκος Δαυὶδ· μὴ μικρὸν ὑμῖν ἀγῶνα παρέχειν ἀνθρώποις; καὶ πῶς Κυρίῳ παρέχετε ἀγῶνα; Διὰ τοῦτο δώσει Κύριος αὐτὸς ἡμῖν σημεῖον. Ἴδου ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ λήψεται καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ. Βούτυρον καὶ μέλι φάγεται πρὶν ἢ γνῶναι αὐτὸν ἢ προελέσθαι πονηρὰ, ἐκλέξεται τὸ ἀγαθόν. Διότι πρὶν ἢ γνῶναι τὸ παιδίον ἀγαθὸν ἢ κακὸν ἀπειθεῖ πονηρία τοῦ ἐκλέξασθαι τὸ ἀγαθόν.»

Moreover the Lord said to me, “Take for yourself a large new book, and write on it with a man’s pen concerning making a swift plunder of spoils, for it is near at hand. Then make witnesses for Me of faithful men: Uriah and Zechariah, the son of Berechiah.” Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son, and the Lord said to me, “Call his name ‘Quickly Despoil, Swiftly Plunder;’ for before the child shall know how to call for his

Καὶ εἶπεν Κύριος πρὸς με· «Λάβε σεαυτῷ τόμον καινόν μέγαν, καὶ γράψον εἰς αὐτὸν γραφίδι ἀνθρώπου. Τοῦ ὀξέως προνομήν ποιῆσαι σκύλων. Πάρεστι γάρ· Καὶ μάρτυράς μοι ποιήσον πιστοὺς ἀνθρώπους, τὸν Οὐρίαν τὸν ἱερέα, καὶ Ζαχαρίαν υἱὸν Βαραχίου· Καὶ προσῆλθον πρὸς τὴν προφήτιν καὶ ἐν γαστρὶ ἔλαβε, καὶ ἔτεκεν υἱόν· καὶ εἶπέ μοι Κύριος· Κάλεσον τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ. Ταχέως σκύλευσον, ὀξέως προνόμεισον. Διότι πρὶν ἢ γνῶναι τὸ

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father and mother, one shall take the power of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria in the presence of the king of Assyria.”

“God with us. Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated. Give ear, all you to the very ends of the earth. Be defeated although you are strong, for even if you should be strong again, you will be defeated again. Then too, whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it abroad; and whatever word you shall speak, it will not continue among you, *for the Lord God is with us.*”

Epistle

Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

You, O Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, ‘till I make Your enemies Your footstool?” Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

παιδίον καλεῖν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα λήψεται δύναμιν Δαμασκοῦ καὶ τὰ σκῦλα Σαμαρείας ἔναντι Βασιλέως Ἀσσυρίων.»

«Μεθ’ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Γνωτε Ἔθνη καὶ ἠττᾶσθε· ἐπακούσατε ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς· ἰσχυρότες ἠττᾶσθε. Ἐὰν γὰρ πάλιν ἰσχύσητε καὶ πάλιν ἠττηθήσεσθε. Καὶ ἦν ἂν βουλήν βουλευθήσεσθε διασκεδάσει Κύριος· καὶ λόγον ὄν ἐὰν λαλήσητε οὐ μὴ ἐμμεῖν ἔν ὑμῖν ὅτι μεθ’ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός.»

Ἀπόστολος

Ἐβρ. α’ 10-14 & β’ 1-3

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Κατ’ ἀρχὰς σύ, Κύριε, τὴν γῆν ἐθεμελίωσας, καὶ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰσιν οἱ οὐρανοί. Αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις· καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτιον παλαιωθήσονται, καὶ ὡσεὶ περιβόλαιον ἐλίξεις αὐτούς, καὶ ἀλλαγήσονται· σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἶ, καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσι. Πρὸς τίνα δὲ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἶρηκέ ποτε· Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; Οὐχὶ πάντες εἰσὶ λειτουργικὰ πνεύματα εἰς διακονίαν ἀποστελλόμενα διὰ τοὺς μέλλοντας κληρονομεῖν σωτηρίαν; Διὰ τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσι, μὴ ποτε παραρρῶμεν. Εἰ γὰρ ὁ δι’ Ἀγγέλων λαληθεὶς λόγος ἐγένετο βέβαιος, καὶ πᾶσα παράβασις καὶ παρακοὴ ἔλαβεν ἔνδικον μισθαποδοσίαν, πῶς ἡμεῖς ἐκφευξόμεθα τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες σωτηρίας; ἦτις, ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ Κυρίου, ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη.

Εὐαγγέλιον

Ματθ. β’ 1-12

Διάκ. Σοφία. Ὁρθοί, ἀκούσωμεν τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου.

Ἱερεύς Εἰρήνη πᾶσι.

Καὶ τῷ Πνεύματί σου.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the Magi, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, ‘till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Ἱερεύς Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Πρόσχωμεν.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Ἱερεύς Τοῦ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας, ἐν ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ Βασιλέως· Ἰδοῦ, μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, λέγοντες· Ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; Εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ.

Ἀκούσας δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ Βασιλεὺς ἐταράχθη, καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ’ αὐτοῦ. Καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ, ἐπυνθάνετο παρ’ αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται. Οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· Ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτω γὰρ γέγραπται διὰ τοῦ προφήτου. Καὶ σύ, Βηθλεὲμ γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν Ἰούδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν μου τὸν Ἰσραήλ.

Τότε Ἡρώδης, λάθρα καλέσας τοὺς μάγους, ἠκρίβωσε παρ’ αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος. Καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλεὲμ εἶπε· Πορευθέντες ἀκριβῶς ἐξετάσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου, ἐπὶ δὲ εὗρητε, ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως καγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ.

Οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ Βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν· καὶ ἰδοῦ, ὁ ἀστήρ, ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ, προῆγεν αὐτούς, ἕως ἐλθὼν ἔστη ἐπάνω οὗ ἦν τὸ παιδίον. Ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαρὰν μεγάλην σφόδρα. Καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν, εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν. Καὶ χρηματισθέντες κατ’ ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι πρὸς Ἡρώδη, δι’ ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἀνεχώρησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Psalm Verses

Στίχοι

After the Gospel, the Reader reads:

Μετὰ ταῦτα λέγει ὁ Ἀναγνώστης·

Let Your compassions quickly go before us, Lord, for we have become exceedingly poor. Help us, God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Your name; Lord deliver us and be gracious to our sins for Your name's sake.

Ταχὺ προκαταλαβέτωσαν ἡμᾶς οἱ οἰκτιρμοὶ σου, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐπτωχεύσαμεν σφόδρα· βοήθησον ἡμῖν, ὁ Θεός, ὁ Σωτὴρ ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τῆς δόξης τοῦ ὀνόματός σου. Κύριε, ρῦσαι ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

Trisagion Prayers

Τρισάγιον

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Παναγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε, ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα, συγχώρησον τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῖν. Ἅγιε, ἐπίσκεψαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ρῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Ἱερεὺς Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

Kontakion

Κοντάκιον

The Reader chants the Kontakion:

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὸ Κοντάκιον·

Tone 3

Ἦχος γ'

The Virgin today comes to the cave, to give birth to the eternal Word in an ineffable way. Rejoice, O universe, having heard of this event; glorify with the angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be seen as a new Child: the God Who existed before the ages.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, • τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, • ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, • ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. • Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη • ἀκουτισθεῖσα, • δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, • βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, • παιδίον νέον, • τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Prayer of the Hours

Εὐχή

Lord, have mercy. (40)

Κύριε ἐλέησον. (μ')

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Ὁ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ καὶ πάσῃ ὥρᾳ ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς προσκυνούμενος καὶ δοξαζόμενος Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ μακρόθυμος, ὁ πολυέλεος, ὁ πολυεὐσπλαγχνος, ὁ τοὺς δικαίους ἀγαπῶν καὶ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς ἐλεῶν, ὁ πάντα καλῶν πρὸς σωτηρίαν διὰ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, αὐτός Κύριε, πρόσδεξαι καὶ ἡμῶν ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ τὰς ἐντεύξεις καὶ ἴθνην τὴν ζωὴν ἡμῶν πρὸς τὰς ἐντολάς σου. Τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν ἀγίασον, τὰ σώματα ἁγνισον, τοὺς λογισμοὺς διόρθωσον, τὰς ἐννοίας κάθαρσον καὶ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης θλίψεως, κακῶν καὶ ὀδύνης. Τείχισον ἡμᾶς ἀγίοις σου Ἀγγέλοις, ἵνα τῇ παρεμβολῇ αὐτῶν φρουρούμενοι καὶ ὀδηγούμενοι καταστήσωμεν εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τῆς ἀπροσίτου σου δόξης, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

Τὴν Τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβείμ καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφεείμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου εὐλόγησον, πάτερ.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us.

Ἱερεὺς Ὁ Θεὸς οἰκτειρήσαι ἡμᾶς, καὶ εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς, ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἐλεήσαι ἡμᾶς.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

Prayer of Basil the Great

O God and Lord of hosts, O Maker of all creation, Who by the tender compassion of Your mercy which transcends comprehension, did send down Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and by His precious Cross did tear asunder the handwriting of our sins, and thereby did triumph over the principalities and powers of darkness: You Yourself, O Master Who loves mankind, accept also from us sinners these prayers of thanksgiving and entreaty, and deliver us from every destructive and dark transgression, and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, that seek to do us evil. Nail down our flesh with the fear of You, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but pierce our souls with longing for You, so that being guided by Your light as we behold You, the unapproachable and everlasting Light, we may send up increasing praise and thanksgiving to You: the unoriginate Father, with Your only-begotten Son, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Εὐχή τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου

Θεέ, καὶ Κύριε τῶν δυνάμεων καὶ πάσης κτίσεως Δημιουργέ, ὁ διὰ σπλάγχνα ἀνεϊκάστου ἐλέους σου τὸν μονογενῆ σου Υἱόν, τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καταπέμψας ἐπὶ σωτηρία τοῦ γένους ἡμῶν, καὶ διὰ τοῦ τιμίου αὐτοῦ Σταυροῦ τὸ χειρόγραφον τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν διαρρήξας, καὶ θριαμβεύσας ἐν αὐτῷ τὰς ἀρχὰς καὶ ἐξουσίας τοῦ σκότους. Αὐτὸς Δέσποτα φιλόανθρωπε, πρόσδεξαι καὶ ἡμῶν τῶν ἁμαρτωλῶν τὰς εὐχαριστηρίους ταύτας, καὶ ἱκετηρίους ἐντεύξεις· καὶ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ παντὸς ὀλεθρίου καὶ σκοτεινοῦ παραπτώματος, καὶ πάντων τῶν κακῶσαι ἡμᾶς ζητούντων ὀρατῶν καὶ ἀοράτων ἐχθρῶν. Καθήλωσον ἐκ τοῦ φόβου σου τὰς σάρκας ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ ἐκκλίνης τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν εἰς λόγους, ἢ εἰς λογισμοὺς πονηρίας· ἀλλὰ τῷ πόθῳ σου τρῶσον ἡμῶν τὰς ψυχὰς. Ἵνα διὰ παντὸς πρὸς σὲ ἀτενίζοντες, καὶ τῷ παρὰ σοῦ φωτὶ ὀδηγούμενοι, σὲ τὸ ἀπρόσιτον καὶ ἀίδιον κατοπεύοντες φῶς, ἀκατάπαυστόν σοι τὴν ἐξομολόγησιν, καὶ εὐχαριστίαν ἀναπέμπωμεν, τῷ ἀνάρχῳ Πατρί, σὺν τῷ μονογενεῖ σου Υἱῷ, καὶ τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ἀγαθῷ καὶ ζωοποιῷ σου Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

The Ninth Hour

Come, let us worship and fall down before God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ God, our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Psalm 109

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool of your feet.

The Lord shall send a scepter of power to You out of Sion, rule in the midst of Your enemies.

Dominion is with You in the day of Your power, in the splendor of Your saints.

Ὁρα Ἐνάτη

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ ἡμῶν Θεῷ.

Δεῦτε, προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν αὐτῷ Χριστῷ, τῷ βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Ψαλμὸς ΡΘ´

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου· Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου.

Ῥάβδον δυνάμεώς σου ἐξαποστελεῖ Κύριος ἐκ Σιών καὶ κατακυρίευσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἐχθρῶν σου.

Μετὰ σοῦ ἡ ἀρχὴ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ τῆς δυνάμεώς σου ἐν ταῖς λαμπρότησιν τῶν ἁγίων σου.

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From the womb before Lucifer have I begotten You. Ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ Ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε.

The Lord has sworn and will not repent: You are a priest unto the ages, according to the order of Melchisedek. Ὡμοσε Κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται· σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

The Lord at Your right hand has broken kings in the day of His wrath. Κύριος ἐκ δεξιῶν σου συνέθλασεν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὀργῆς αὐτοῦ Βασιλεῖς.

He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill them with dead bodies, He shall crush the heads of many on the earth. Κρινεῖ ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, πληρώσει πτώματα, συνθλάσει κεφαλὰς ἐπὶ γῆς πολλῶν.

He shall drink from the brook along the way; therein He shall lift up His head. Ἐκ χειμάρρου ἐν ὁδῷ πίεται· διὰ τοῦτο ὑψώσει κεφαλὴν.

Psalm 110

Ψαλμὸς ΡΙ΄

I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Ἐξομολογήσομαί σοι Κύριε ἐν ὅλῃ καρδίᾳ μου, ἐν βουλῇ εὐθέων καὶ συναγωγῇ.

Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all the things that He has willed. Μεγάλα τὰ ἔργα Κυρίου ἐξεζητημένα εἰς πάντα τὰ θελήματα αὐτοῦ.

Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abides to ages of ages. Ἐξομολόγησις καὶ μεγαλοπρέπεια τὸ ἔργον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἡ δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

He made a remembrance of His wondrous deeds; the Lord is merciful and compassionate; He has given food to those who fear Him. Μνεῖαν ἐποίησατο τῶν θαυμασίων αὐτοῦ· ἐλεήμων καὶ οἰκτίρμων ὁ Κύριος· τροφήν ἔδωκε τοῖς φοβουμένοις αὐτὸν.

He will be mindful to the ages of His covenant; He has declared the power of His works to His people, that He may give them the inheritance of the nations. Μνησθήσεται εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα διαθήκης αὐτοῦ· ἰσχὺν ἔργων αὐτοῦ ἀνήγγειλεν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ τοῦ δοῦναι αὐτοῖς κληρονομίαν Ἐθνῶν.

Truth and judgment are the works of His hands. Ἔργα χειρῶν αὐτοῦ ἀλήθεια καὶ κρίσις.

All His commandments are faithful, confirmed to ages of ages, made in truth and uprightness. Πισταὶ πᾶσαι αἱ ἐντολαὶ αὐτοῦ ἐστηριγμέναι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος πεπονημέναι ἐν ἀληθείᾳ καὶ εὐθύτητι.

He has sent redemption to His people, He has enjoined His covenant to the ages; holy and terrible is His name. Λύτρωσιν ἀπέστειλεν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ, ἐνετείλατο εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα διαθήκην αὐτοῦ· ἅγιον καὶ φοβερὸν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all those who foster this have a good understanding; His praise abides to ages of ages. Ἀρχὴ Σοφίας φόβος Κυρίου· σύνεσις δὲ, ἀγαθὴ πᾶσι τοῖς ποιούσιν αὐτήν· ἡ αἴνεσις αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τοῦ αἰῶνος.

Psalm 85

Ψαλμὸς ΠΕ΄

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy.

Κλῖνον Κύριε τὸ οὖς σου καὶ ἐπάκουσόν μου ὅτι πτωχὸς καὶ πένης εἰμι ἐγὼ.

Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Your servant, who hopes in You, my God.

Φύλαξον τὴν ψυχὴν μου ὅτι ὁσιὸς εἰμι· σῶσον τὸν δοῦλόν σου ὁ Θεὸς μου τὸν ἐλπίζοντα ἐπὶ σέ.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I will cry to You all the day long; make the soul of Your servant glad, for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Ἐλέησόν με Κύριε, ὅτι πρὸς σέ κεκράζομαι ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν· εὐφρανὸν τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ δούλου σου ὅτι πρὸς σέ Κύριε ἤρα τὴν ψυχὴν μου.

For You, O Lord, are good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy to all who call upon You.

Ὅτι σὺ, Κύριε, χρηστὸς καὶ ἐπιεικὴς καὶ πολυέλεος πᾶσι τοῖς ἐπικαλουμένοις σε.

Give ear to my prayer, O Lord, and attend to the voice of my supplication.

Ἐνώτισαι Κύριε τὴν προσευχὴν μου καὶ πρόσχες τῇ φωνῇ τῆς δεήσεώς μου.

I have cried to You in the day of my affliction, for You have heard me.

Ἐν ἡμέρᾳ θλίψεώς μου ἐκέκραξα πρὸς σέ, ὅτι ἐπήκουσάς μου.

There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like Your works.

Οὐκ ἔστιν ὁμοίός σοι ἐν θεοῖς, Κύριε, καὶ οὐκ ἔστι κατὰ τὰ ἔργα σου.

All the nations whom You have made shall come and shall worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ὅσα ἐποίησας ἤξουσιν καὶ προσκυνήσουσιν ἐνώπιόν σου, Κύριε, καὶ δοξάσουσι τὸ ὄνομά σου.

For You are great and work wonders; You alone are God.

Ὅτι μέγας εἶ σὺ καὶ ποιῶν θαυμάσια, σὺ εἶ Θεὸς μόνος.

Guide me, O Lord, in Your way, and I will walk in Your truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Your name.

Ὁδήγησόν με, Κύριε, ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ σου καὶ πορεύσομαι ἐν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ σου· εὐφρανθήτω ἡ καρδία μου τοῦ φοβεῖσθαι τὸ ὄνομά σου.

I will confess You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name to the ages.

Ἐξομολογήσομαί σοι, Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς μου, ἐν ὅλῃ καρδίᾳ μου καὶ δοξάσω τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

For Your mercy is great upon me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Hades.

Ὅτι τὸ ἔλεός σου μέγα ἐπ' ἐμέ, καὶ ἐρρύσω τὴν ψυχὴν μου ἐξ ᾄδου κατωτάτου.

Transgressors have risen up against me, O God, and the assembly of the mighty has sought after my soul, and they have not set You before them.

Ὁ Θεὸς, παράνομοι ἐπανέστησαν ἐπ' ἐμέ καὶ συναγωγὴ κραταιῶν ἐζήτησαν τὴν ψυχὴν μου καὶ οὐ προέθεντό σε ἐνώπιον αὐτῶν.

But You, O Lord my God, are compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true.

Καὶ σὺ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς μου, οἰκτίρμων καὶ ἐλεήμων, μακρόθυμος καὶ πολυέλεος καὶ ἀληθινός.

Look on me, and have mercy on me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your handmaiden.

Ἐπιβλεψὸν ἐπ' ἐμέ καὶ ἐλέησόν με· δὸς τὸ κράτος σου τῷ παιδί σου καὶ σῶσον τὸν υἱὸν τῆς παιδίσκης σου.

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Work in me a sign to good; and let those who hate me behold, and be put to shame, for You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Ποίησον μετ' ἑμοῦ σημεῖον εἰς ἀγαθὸν καὶ ιδέτωσαν οἱ μισοῦντές με καὶ αἰσχυνθήτωσαν· ὅτι σὺ Κύριε ἐβοήθησάς μοι καὶ παρεκάλεσάς με.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; glory to You, O God.

Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα, Ἀλληλουῖα. Δόξα σοι ὁ Θεός.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Troparion of the Forefeast

Τροπάριον Προεόρτιον

December 22 or 23

22 ἢ 23 Δεκέμβριος

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ'

Joseph was amazed

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Prepare yourself, Bethlehem, Eden has been opened for all; • make ready, Ephratha, because the Tree of Life • has blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; • her womb was shown to be a spiritual paradise • in which the divine fruit was planted; • eating of it, we shall live and shall not die like Adam. • Christ is born, • to raise up the image of God • in man that had fallen of old.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, • ἤνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ, • Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, • ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου· • Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, • ἐδείχθη νοητός, • ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, • ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, • οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδάμ τεθνηξόμεθα, • Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, • τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, • ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

December 24

24 Δεκέμβριος

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ'

Joseph was amazed

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

It came to pass, that Mariam • was enrolled with the elder Joseph • in Bethlehem • since she was of the seed • of David; • carrying within her a seedless conception. • And the time drew near • for giving birth, • but there was no place to lodge; • yet the cave proved to be a delightful palace for the Queen. Christ is

Ἀπεγράφετο ποτέ, σὺν τῷ πρεσβύτῃ Ἰωσήφ, ὡς ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ, ἐν Βηθλεέμ ἡ Μαριάμ, κυφοροῦσα τὴν ἄσπορον κυφορίαν. Ἐπέστη δὲ καιρὸς ὁ τῆς Γεννήσεως, καὶ τόπος ἦν οὐδεὶς τῷ καταλύματι· ἀλλ' ὡς τερπνὸν παλάτιον τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῇ Βασιλίδι ἐδείκνυτο. Χριστὸς

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born, • to raise up the likeness • that had fallen of old.

γενῶνται τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Theotokion

Θεοτοκίον

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

You were born of a Virgin and endured crucifixion, O good One; You crushed death by Your death, and being God brought forth the resurrection. Do not turn away from those whom You have created; instead reveal unto them Your love for mankind, and accept as an intercessor the Virgin Theotokos who gave You birth, and save, O our Savior, a desperate people.

Ὁ δι' ἡμᾶς γεννηθεὶς ἐκ Παρθένου, καὶ σταύρωσιν ὑπομείνας Ἀγαθέ, ὁ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον σκυλεύσας, καὶ ἔγερσιν δείξας ὡς Θεός, μὴ παρίδης οὕς ἔπλασας τῇ χειρὶ σου· δεῖξον τὴν φιλανθρωπίαν σου ἐλεῆμον· δέξαι τὴν τεκοῦσάν σε Θεοτόκον, πρεσβεύουσαν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν, καὶ σῶσον, Σωτὴρ ἡμῶν, λαὸν ἀπεγνωσμένον.

Idiomela

Ἰδιόμελα

*By Sophronios,
Patriarch of Jerusalem*

*Ποίημα Σωφρονίου,
Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων*

The Reader chants the Idiomela, and the Deacon censures the faithful with the katzion.

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὰ παρόντα Ἰδιόμελα, καὶ ὁ Διάκονος θυμῷ διὰ κατζίου τὸν λαόν.

Grave Tone

Ἦχος βαρὺς

Herod was struck with amazement, seeing the piety of the Magi, and overcome by wrath, he inquired concerning when the Child was born. Mothers were made childless, and at an untimely age infants were bitterly harvested, breasts grew dry, and sources of milk were stopped. Great was the calamity! Wherefore, you faithful, having piously come together, let us worship Christ's Nativity.

Ἐξεπλήττετο ὁ Ἡρώδης, ὁρῶν τῶν Μάγων τὴν εὐσέβειαν, καὶ τῷ θυμῷ νικώμενος, τοῦ ἔτους ἠκριβολόγει τὸ διάστημα. Μητέρες ἠτεκνοῦντο, καὶ ἡ ἄωρος ἡλικία τῶν βρεφῶν, πικρῶς κατεθερίζετο· μαζοὶ ἐξηραίνοντο, καὶ πόροι γάλακτος συνεστέλλοντο. Μέγα ἦν τὸ δεινόν! διὸ εὐσεβῶς πιστοὶ συνελθόντες, προσκυνήσωμεν τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὴν γέννησιν.

(Repeat) Herod was struck with amazement, seeing the piety of the Magi, and overcome by wrath, he inquired concerning when the Child was born. Mothers were made childless, and at an untimely age infants were bitterly harvested, breasts grew dry, and sources of milk were stopped. Great was the calamity! Wherefore, you faithful, having piously come together, let us worship Christ's Nativity.

(Πάλιν) Ἐξεπλήττετο ὁ Ἡρώδης, ὁρῶν τῶν Μάγων τὴν εὐσέβειαν, καὶ τῷ θυμῷ νικώμενος, τοῦ ἔτους ἠκριβολόγει τὸ διάστημα. Μητέρες ἠτεκνοῦντο, καὶ ἡ ἄωρος ἡλικία τῶν βρεφῶν, πικρῶς κατεθερίζετο· μαζοὶ ἐξηραίνοντο, καὶ πόροι γάλακτος συνεστέλλοντο. Μέγα ἦν τὸ δεινόν! διὸ εὐσεβῶς πιστοὶ συνελθόντες, προσκυνήσωμεν τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὴν γέννησιν.

Tone 2

Ἦχος β'

God shall come out of Themon, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

Ὁ Θεὸς ἀπὸ Θαμῶν ἤξει καὶ ὁ ἅγιος ἐξ ὄρους κατασκίου δασέος.

When Joseph had been wounded by sorrow, O Virgin, as he went to Bethlehem you cried out

Ὅτε Ἰωσήφ, Παρθένε, λύπη ἐτιτρώσκετο, πρὸς Βηθλεὲμ ἀπαίρων, ἐβόας πρὸς αὐτόν· Τί

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to him, “Why are you downcast and troubled seeing me great with child? Why are you wholly ignorant of the dread mystery that is in me. Now cast away every fear as you understand the strange marvel: for in my womb God now descends to earth through mercy, and has taken flesh. You will see when He is born, as He has been well pleased; and filled with joy you will worship Him as your Creator. Him the Angels praise unceasingly with the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

O Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was amazed.

(Repeat) When Joseph had been wounded by sorrow, O Virgin, as he went to Bethlehem you cried out to him, “Why are you downcast and troubled seeing me great with child? Why are you wholly ignorant of the dread mystery that is in me. Now cast away every fear as you understand the strange marvel: for in my womb God now descends to earth through mercy, and has taken flesh. You will see when He is born, as He has been well pleased; and filled with joy you will worship Him as your Creator. Him the Angels praise unceasingly with the Father and the Holy Spirit.”

Idiomelon

The Kanonarch sings the following Idiomelon in a melodious voice from the center of the solea, facing the Beautiful Gate.

Tone Plagal 2

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

Today is born of the Virgin, He Who holds the whole creation with His hand;

(Repeat) Today is born of the Virgin, He Who holds the whole creation with His hand;

(Repeat) Today is born of the Virgin, He Who holds the whole creation with His hand;

Wrapped in swaddling clothes as a mortal, is He Who in essence none can touch;

God lies in a manger, Who established the heavens of old at the beginning;

ὄρων με ἔγκυον, στυγνάζεις καὶ ταράσσεσαι, ἀγνοῶν ὅλως, τὸ ἐν ἐμοὶ φρικτὸν μυστήριον; Λοιπὸν ἀπόθου φόβον ἅπαντα, τὸ παράδοξον ἐννοῶν· Θεὸς κάτεισι γὰρ ἐπὶ γῆς δι’ ἔλεον, ἐν τῇ ἐμῇ μήτρᾳ νῦν, καὶ σάρκα προσελάβετο· ὄνπερ τικτόμενον, ὅψει ὡς ἠυδόκησε· καὶ τῆς χαρᾶς πλησθεῖς, προσκυνήσεις ὡς Κτίστην σου, ὃν Ἄγγελοι ὑμνοῦσιν ἀπαύστως, καὶ δοξάζουσι, σὺν Πατρὶ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Κύριε εἰσακήκοα τὴν ἀκοήν σου καὶ ἐφοβήθην· κατενόησα τὰ ἔργα σου.

(Πάλιν) Ὅτε Ἰωσήφ, Παρθένε, λύπη ἐτιτρώσκετο, πρὸς Βηθλεὲμ ἀπαίρων, ἐβόας πρὸς αὐτόν· Τί ὄρων με ἔγκυον, στυγνάζεις καὶ ταράσσεσαι, ἀγνοῶν ὅλως, τὸ ἐν ἐμοὶ φρικτὸν μυστήριον; Λοιπὸν ἀπόθου φόβον ἅπαντα, τὸ παράδοξον ἐννοῶν· Θεὸς κάτεισι γὰρ ἐπὶ γῆς δι’ ἔλεον, ἐν τῇ ἐμῇ μήτρᾳ νῦν, καὶ σάρκα προσελάβετο· ὄνπερ τικτόμενον, ὅψει ὡς ἠυδόκησε· καὶ τῆς χαρᾶς πλησθεῖς, προσκυνήσεις ὡς Κτίστην σου, ὃν Ἄγγελοι ὑμνοῦσιν ἀπαύστως, καὶ δοξάζουσι, σὺν Πατρὶ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι.

Ἰδιόμελον

Ὁ Κανονάρχης, στὰς ἐν τῷ μέσῳ τοῦ ναοῦ καὶ βλέπων πρὸς ἀνατολάς, ἀναγινώσκειται εὐλαβῶς τὸ Ἰδιόμελον·

Ἦχος πλ. β΄

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ αἰεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Σήμερον γεννᾶται ἐκ Παρθένου, ὁ δρακὶ τὴν πᾶσαν ἔχων κτίσιν.

(Πάλιν) Σήμερον γεννᾶται ἐκ Παρθένου, ὁ δρακὶ τὴν πᾶσαν ἔχων κτίσιν.

(Πάλιν) Σήμερον γεννᾶται ἐκ Παρθένου, ὁ δρακὶ τὴν πᾶσαν ἔχων κτίσιν.

Ῥάκει καθάπερ βροτὸς σπαργανοῦται, ὁ τῆ οὐσίᾳ ἀναφῆς.

Θεὸς ἐν φάτνῃ ἀνακλίνεται, ὁ στερεώσας τοὺς οὐρανοὺς πάλαι κατ’ ἀρχάς.

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He is nourished from the breast with milk, Ἐκ μαζῶν γάλα τρέφεται, ὁ ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ
Who rained manna in the wilderness upon the Μάννα ὀμβρίσας τῷ Λαῷ.
people;

He calls to Himself the Magi, He Who is the Μάγους προσκαλεῖται, ὁ Νυμφίος τῆς
Bridegroom of the Church, Ἐκκλησίας.

The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts. Δῶρα τούτων αἶρει, ὁ Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου.

We venerate Your Nativity, O Christ; Προσκυνοῦμέν σου τὴν Γένναν Χριστέ.

(Repeat) We venerate Your Nativity, O Christ; *(Πάλιν)* Προσκυνοῦμέν σου τὴν Γένναν
Χριστέ.

(Repeat) We venerate Your Nativity, O Christ; *(Πάλιν)* Προσκυνοῦμέν σου τὴν Γένναν
Χριστέ.

Show us also Your divine Theophany. Δεῖξον ἡμῖν καὶ τὰ θεῖά σου Θεοφάνεια.

Prokeimenon of the Prophecies

Προκείμενον τῆς Προφητείας

Tone 4

Ἦχος δ'

A man will say: "Mother Sion;" and: "That Μήτηρ Σιών ἐρεῖ ἄνθρωπος, καὶ ἄνθρωπος,
man was born in her." ἐγεννήθη ἐν αὐτῇ.

His foundations are in the holy mountains. Οἱ θεμέλιοι αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς ὄρεσι τοῖς ἁγίοις.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Ἦσ. η' 6-7

The reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Προφητείας Ἡσαΐου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. *The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.*

Παιδίον ἐγεννήθη ἡμῖν υἱὸς καὶ ἐδόθη ἡμῖν, οὗ ἡ ἀρχὴ ἐγενήθη ἐπὶ τοῦ ὤμου αὐτοῦ· καὶ καλεῖται τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Μεγάλης βουλήs Ἄγγελος, θαυμαστὸς σύμβουλος, Θεὸς ἰσχυρὸς, ἐξουσιαστήs, ἄρχων εἰρήνης, πατὴρ τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἄξω εἰρήνην ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας εἰρήνην καὶ ὑγείαν αὐτῷ. Μεγάλῃ ἡ ἀρχὴ αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς εἰρήνης αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔστιν ὄριον· ἐπὶ τὸν θρόνον Δαυὶδ καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν Βασιλείαν αὐτοῦ κατορθῶσαι αὐτήν, καὶ ἀντιλαβέσθαι αὐτῆς ἐν κρίματι καὶ δικαιοσύνη, ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν καὶ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. Ὁ ζήλος Κυρίου Σαβαὼθ ποιήσει ταῦτα.

Epistle

Ἀπόστολος

Hebrews 2:11-18

Ἐβρ. β' 11-18

The reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα.

Deacon Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Διάκ. Σοφία. Πρόσχωμεν.

Brethren, for both He Who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your ὄνομά σου τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου, ἐν μέσῳ

name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

Deacon Wisdom. Rise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest Peace be with all.

And with your spirit.

Priest The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Deacon Let us be attentive.

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem

ἐκκλησίας ὑμνήσω σε. Καὶ πάλιν· Ἐγὼ ἔσομαι πεποιθὼς ἐπ’ αὐτῷ. Καὶ πάλιν· Ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ καὶ τὰ παιδιά ἃ μοι ἔδωκεν ὁ Θεός· Ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ παιδιά κεκοινώνηκε σαρκὸς καὶ αἵματος, καὶ αὐτὸς παραπλησίως μετέσχε τῶν αὐτῶν· ἵνα διὰ τοῦ θανάτου καταργήσῃ τὸν τὸ κράτος ἔχοντα τοῦ θανάτου, τουτέστι τὸν διάβολον· καὶ ἀπαλλάξῃ τούτους, ὅσοι φόβῳ θανάτου διὰ παντὸς τοῦ ζῆν ἔνοχοι ἦσαν δουλείας. Οὐ γὰρ δήπου Ἀγγέλων ἐπιλαμβάνεται, ἀλλὰ σπέρματος Ἀβραὰμ ἐπιλαμβάνεται. Ὅθεν ὄφειλε κατὰ πάντα τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ὁμοιωθῆναι, ἵνα ἐλεήμων, γένηται καὶ πιστὸς ἀρχιερεὺς τὰ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, εἰς τὸ ἰλάσκεσθαι τὰς ἀμαρτίας τοῦ λαοῦ. Ἐν ᾧ γὰρ πέπονθεν αὐτὸς πειρασθεῖς, δύναται τοῖς πειραζομένοις βοηθῆσαι.

Εὐαγγέλιον

Ματθ. β' 13-23

Διάκ. Σοφία. Ὁρθοί, ἀκούσωμεν τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου.

Ἱερεύς Εἰρήνη πᾶσι.

Καὶ τῷ Πνεύματί σου.

Ἱερεύς Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

Διάκ. Πρόσχωμεν.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Ἱερεύς Αναχωρησάντων τῶν Μάγων, ἰδοὺ, Ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ’ ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ, λέγων· Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ, καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον, τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου, λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου.

Τότε Ἡρώδης, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνεῖλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεεμ

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and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὀρίοις αὐτῆς, ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. Τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἰερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου, λέγοντος· Φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾷ ἠκούσθη, θρήνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμος πολὺς, Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶ.

Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου, ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ, λέγων· Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ, καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. Ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν, χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέθ, ὅπως πληρωθῆ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

Psalm Verses

Στίχοι

After the Gospel, the Reader reads:

Μετὰ ταῦτα λέγει ὁ Ἀναγνώστης·

For the sake of Your holy name, do not deliver us up utterly, neither disannul Your covenant, and do not cause Your mercy to depart from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and for the sake of Isaac Your servant, and and for the sake of Israel Your holy one.

Μὴ δὴ παραδώης ἡμᾶς εἰς τέλος, διὰ τὸ ὄνομά σου τὸ Ἅγιον· καὶ μὴ διασκεδάσης τὴν διαθήκην σου, καὶ μὴ ἀποστήσης τὸ ἔλεός σου ἀφ' ἡμῶν, διὰ Ἀβραάμ τὸν ἠγαπημένον ὑπὸ σοῦ, καὶ διὰ Ἰσαὰκ τὸν δοῦλόν σου καὶ Ἰσραὴλ τὸν Ἅγιόν σου.

Trisagion Prayers

Τρισάγιον

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

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All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Παναγία Τριάς, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε, ἰλάσθητι ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα, συγχώρησον τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῖν. Ἄγιε, ἐπίσκεψαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

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

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

Priest For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Ἱερεύς Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

Kontakion

Κοντάκιον

The Reader chants the Kontakion:

Εἶτα ψάλλομεν τὸ Κοντάκιον·

Tone 3

Ἦχος γ'

The Virgin today comes to the cave, to give birth to the eternal Word in an ineffable way. Rejoice, O universe, having heard of this event; glorify with the angels and the shepherds, Him Who willed to be seen as a new Child: the God Who existed before the ages.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, • τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, • ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, • ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. • Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη • ἀκουτισθεῖσα, • δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, • βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, • παιδίον νέον, • τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Prayer of the Hours

Εὐχή

Lord, have mercy. (40)

Κύριε ἐλέησον. (μ')

O You Who at all times and at every hour are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth, O Christ God; Who are long suffering and generous in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to those hardened in sin; Who call all people to salvation through the promise of good things to come: receive, O Lord, our

Ὁ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ καὶ πάσῃ ὥρᾳ ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς προσκυνούμενος καὶ δοξαζόμενος Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ μακρόθυμος, ὁ πολυέλεος, ὁ πολυεύσπλαγχνος, ὁ τοὺς δικαίους ἀγαπῶν καὶ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς ἐλεῶν, ὁ πάντας καλῶν πρὸς σωτηρίαν διὰ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, αὐτός Κύριε, πρόσδεξαι καὶ ἡμῶν ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ταύτῃ τὰς ἐντεύξεις καὶ

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supplications at this time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set our minds aright; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath and distress. Surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith, and the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, the one who incorruptibly gave birth to God the Word, truly the Theotokos, we magnify you.

In the name of the Lord, father, bless.

Priest May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, and be merciful unto us.

Amen.

Prayer of Basil the Great

O Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who are long-suffering in the face of our transgressions, and Who has brought us even to this present hour, wherein You hung upon the life-giving tree, and did make a way into paradise for the wise thief, and by death did destroy death: be gracious to us sinners and Your unworthy servants; for we have sinned and committed iniquity, and are not worthy to lift up our eyes and behold the height of heaven, for we have abandoned the way of Your righteousness, and have walked in the desires of our hearts. But we beseech Your boundless goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercy and save us for Your holy name's sake; for our days are consumed in vanity. Rescue us from the hand of the adversary, and forgive us our sins, and mortify our carnal mind; that, putting

ἴθυνον τὴν ζωὴν ἡμῶν πρὸς τὰς ἐντολάς σου. Τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν ἁγιάσον, τὰ σώματα ἄγνισον, τοὺς λογισμοὺς διόρθωσον, τὰς ἐννοίας κάθαρσον καὶ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης θλίψεως, κακῶν καὶ ὀδύνης. Τείχισον ἡμᾶς ἁγίοις σου Ἀγγέλοις, ἵνα τῇ παρεμβολῇ αὐτῶν φρουρούμενοι καὶ ὀδηγούμενοι καταστήσωμεν εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τῆς ἀπροσίτου σου δόξης, ὅτι εὐλογητὸς εἶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Τὴν Τιμιωτέραν τῶν Χερουβεὶμ καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν ἀσυγκρίτως τῶν Σεραφεὶμ, τὴν ἀδιαφθόρως Θεὸν Λόγον τεκοῦσαν, τὴν ὄντως Θεοτόκον, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

Ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου εὐλόγησον, πάτερ.

Ἱερεὺς Ὁ Θεὸς οἰκτειρήσαι ἡμᾶς, καὶ εὐλογήσαι ἡμᾶς, ἐπιφάναι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἐλεήσει ἡμᾶς.

Ἀμήν.

Εὐχὴ τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου

Δέσποτα Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ μακροθυμήσας ἐπὶ τοῖς ἡμῶν πλημμελήμασι, καὶ ἄχρι τῆς παρούσης ὥρας ἀγαγὼν ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἧ ἐπὶ τοῦ ζωοποιοῦ ξύλου κοεμάμενος, τῷ εὐγνώμονι ληστῇ τὴν εἰς τὸν Παράδεισον ὁδοποίησας εἴσοδον, καὶ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον ὤλεσας, ἰλάσθητι ἡμῖν τοῖς ταπεινοῖς, καὶ ἀμαρτωλοῖς καὶ ἀναξίοις δούλοις σου. Ἠμάρτομεν γὰρ καὶ ἠνομήσαμεν, καὶ οὐκ ἐσμὲν ἄξιοι ἄραι τὰ ὄμματα ἡμῶν, καὶ βλέψαι εἰς τὸ ὕψος τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, διότι κατελίπομεν τὴν ὁδὸν τῆς δικαιοσύνης σου καὶ ἐπορεύθημεν ἐν τοῖς θελήμασι τῶν καρδιῶν ἡμῶν. Ἄλλ' ἰκετεύομεν τὴν σὴν ἀνεύκαστον ἀγαθότητα· Φεῖσαι ἡμῶν, Κύριε κατὰ τὸ πλῆθος τοῦ ἐλέους σου, καὶ σῶσον ἡμᾶς διὰ τὸ ὄνομά σου τὸ Ἅγιον, ὅτι ἐξέλιπον ἐν ματαιότητι αἱ ἡμέραι ἡμῶν. Ἐξελοῦ ἡμᾶς τῆς τοῦ ἀντικειμένου χειρός, καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ

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aside the old man, we may be clad with the new, and live for You, O our Master and Benefactor; and that thus by following in Your commandments, we may attain to rest everlasting, wherein is the dwelling-place of all those who rejoice. For You are indeed the true Joy and Gladness of those who love You, Christ our God, and to You we send up glory, with Your unoriginate Father, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dismissal

Priest Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Holy father, bless.

Priest May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-praiseworthy Apostles; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; (*of the patron saint*); ...

December 22: ... of the Holy Great Martyr Anastasia the healer against poisons, and the Holy Martyrs Chrysogonos and Theodotis, whom we commemorate; whom we commemorate; ...

December 23: ... of the Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete, of our Venerable Father Paul, Archbishop of Neocaesarea, one of the 318 Holy Fathers at Nicaea, of our Holy and God-bearing Father Nahum the Wonder Worker, Illuminator and Preacher of Bulgaria; whom we commemorate; ...

December 24: ... of the Venerable Martyr Evgenia and those with her, whom we commemorate; ...

ἀμαρτήματα, καὶ νέκρωσον τὸ σαρκικὸν ἡμῶν φρόνημα· ἵνα τὸν παλαιὸν ἀποθέμενοι ἄνθρωπον, τὸν νέον ἐνδυσώμεθα, καὶ σοὶ ζήσωμεν τῷ ἡμετέρῳ Δεσπότη καὶ κηδεμόνι. Καὶ οὕτω τοῖς σοῖς ἀκολουθοῦντες προστάγμασιν, εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον ἀνάπαυσιν καταστήσωμεν, ἔνθα πάντων ἐστὶ τῶν εὐφραينوμένων ἡ κατοικία. Σὺ γὰρ εἶ ἡ ὄντως ἀληθινὴ εὐφροσύνη καὶ ἀγαλλίασις τῶν ἀγαπόντων σε, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν· καὶ σοὶ τὴν δόξαν ἀναπέμπομεν, σὺν τῷ ἀνάρχῳ σου Πατρὶ, καὶ τῷ Παναγίῳ, καὶ ἀγαθῷ, καὶ ζωοποιῷ σου Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Ἀπόλυσις

Ἱερεύς Δόξα σοὶ ὁ Θεὸς, δόξα σοί.

Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

Πάτερ ἅγιε, εὐλόγησον.

Ἱερεύς Χριστὸς ὁ ἀληθινὸς Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς παναχράντου καὶ παναμώμου ἁγίας αὐτοῦ Μητρός· τῶν ἁγίων, ἐνδόξων καὶ πανευφήμων Ἀποστόλων· τῶν ὁσίων καὶ θεοφόρων Πατέρων ἡμῶν, (*τοῦ ἁγίου τοῦ Ναοῦ*)· τ

22η Δεκεμβρίου· ... τῆς Ἁγίας Μεγαλομάρτυρος Ἀναστασίας τῆς Φαρμακολυτρίας καὶ τῶν Ἁγίων Μαρτύρων Χρυσογόνου καὶ Θεοδότῃς, οὓς καὶ τὴν μνήμην ἐπιτελοῦμεν, ...

23η Δεκεμβρίου· ... τῶν Ἁγίων Δέκα Μαρτύρων τῶν ἐν Κρήτῃ· τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Παύλου, Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Νεοκαισαρείας, ἑνὸς τῶν τριακοσίων δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ Ἁγίων Πατέρων τῶν ἐν Νικαίᾳ· τοῦ Ἁγίου καὶ Θεοφόρου Πατρός ἡμῶν Ναοῦ τοῦ θαυματουργοῦ, φωτιστοῦ καὶ ἱεροκέρυκος Βουλγαρίας· οὓς καὶ τὴν μνήμην ἐπιτελοῦμεν, ...

24η Δεκεμβρίου· ... τῆς Ἁγίας Ὁσιομάρτυρος Εὐγενίας καὶ τῶν σὺν αὐτῇ, οὓς καὶ τὴν μνήμην ἐπιτελοῦμεν, ...

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... and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

... καὶ πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων, ἐλεῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι ἡμᾶς, ὡς ἀγαθὸς καὶ φιλόανθρωπος.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God have mercy on us and save us.

Δι' εὐχῶν τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων ἡμῶν, Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἐλέησον καὶ σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

Amen.

Ἀμήν.

When the Feast of the Nativity, December 25th, falls on Tuesday through Saturday, following the Great, or Imperial, Hours the Vespertine Divine Liturgy begins immediately.

When the Feast of the Nativity, December 25th, falls on a Sunday or a Monday, the Great, or Imperial, Hours are read on Friday, and there is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on that day.