

### There was Great Rejoicing

There was great rejoicing / on this Christmas morning,  
O'er the manger, softly glowing / The bright star was shining

Christ was born in glory / Of the Virgin Mary  
Let us humbly, like the shepherds / Kneel in adoration Angels softly singing /

Glory, Praise proclaiming;  
From the heavens, to the manger / Praising the Saviour

### The First Noël

The first Noël the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherd in the fields as they lay;  
In fields where thy lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
No-ël, No-ël, No-ël, No-ël, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a Star Shining in the East, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.  
No-ël, No-ël, No-ël, No-ël,  
Born is the King of Israel.

### Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright:  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



**The angels therefore exult at the birth of the Lord:  
they sing "Glory to God in the high heaven" they announce  
"Peace on earth for men on whom his favour rests".**

**For they behold the heavenly Jerusalem being constructed from  
out of all the peoples of earth. How greatly ought mere men rejoice  
at this mysterious undertaking of divine love,  
when the angels on high thrill so much at it!**

*-- Saint Leo the Great*

## The Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ



### Divine Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil

*Served on the Paramon of the Nativity, December 24, 2012*



### The Matins and Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

*Served on the Feast, December 25, 2012*

Saint George Orthodox Church, Norwood, MA



# Saint George

Orthodox Christian Church

Most Rev. Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate  
*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese*

Right Rev. Bishop JOHN  
*Diocese of Worcester & New England*

Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, *Pastor*  
*Rev Deacon Damaskinos Issa*

مرحبا بكم

*Welocme. It is a great pleasure to have visitors  
and friends with us at Saint George to celebrate the Feast.  
If you would like to know more about our parish,  
or the Orthodox Faith, please don't hesitate to ask.*

*Communion: Those Orthodox Christians who have  
confessed their sins, who and have prepared themselves by fasting,  
and who have been present from the start of the service are invited  
to approach the chalice. Everyone may partake of the holy bread.*



*Our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP  
His Grace Bishop JOHN  
Father Joseph & the Kimmett family  
Kh Afefee & the Abraham family  
Father Michael & the Abdelahad family  
Father Jim & the Katinas family  
Father Joseph & the Purpura family  
Deacon Damaskinos & the Issa family  
Deacon James & the Foreso family  
would like to thank everyone for their  
kind greetings and prayers.*

***We wish all of you a glorious feast and pray for  
God's every blessing during the coming year.***

**25 December**

**2012**



**Nativity  
of our  
Lord God  
and Saviour  
Jesus Christ**

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## Donors to Saint George for the Feast of the Nativity

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and George Abraham*

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## Services of the Nativity

*The Royal Hours of Christmas and Typika are served in the morning of December 24th. If Christmas falls on a Sunday or Monday, the Royal Hours are served on the Friday morning preceding the Feast.*

*The Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is served in conjunction with the Royal Hours, or in the evening of December 24th. If Christmas falls on a Sunday or Monday, the Vesperal Liturgy is not served.*

*The Matins and Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom for the Feast are served late on the evening of December 24th or the morning of the 25th. If Christmas falls on a Sunday or Monday, Matins and the Liturgy of Saint Basil are served together late on the 24th.*

## Divine Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil

Blessed is the Kingdom . . .

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Psalm 103

Psalms 140-141: "Lord, I have cried . . ." (*Tone 2*) with *six stichera*

Glory . . . Both now . . .

When Augustus became supreme ruler of earth, the multiplicity of rule among men ceased. And when thou becamest human from the spotless one, the worship of many heathen gods also ceased. Then the cities came under one worldly rule; and the nations believed in one divine supremacy. The nations were enrolled by an order of Caesar; but we believers were enrolled in the name of thy Divinity, O our incarnate God. Wherefore, great are thy mercies, glory to thee.

Little Entrance and chanting of "O Gladsome Light. . ."

## The Old Testament Lessons and Troparia

*Deacon: Wisdom.*

*Reader: The Reading is from Genesis (1:1-13)*

*Deacon: Let us attend*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God said "Let there be light" and there was light. And God saw that the light was good and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters" And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be Gathered together into one place, and let dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called the Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding from seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

*Troparion (Tone 6)*

Disguised, O Savior, thou wast born in a cave; but heaven proclaimed thee to all, taking for its mouth a star.

*and the refrain, which follows each verse:*

And it offered thee the Magi worshipping thee in faith. Wherefore, with them, have mercy upon us.

*Verse 1:* Whose foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

*Verse 2:* Glorious things are said of thee, O City of God. I will be mindful of Rahab and Babylon knowing me.

*Verse 3:* Behold strange nations, and Tyre and Ethiopia.

*Verse 4:* Those were born there. And of the mother Zion it shall be said, this man and that man is born in her, and the highest himself hath founded her.

*Verse 5:* The Lord shall tell in his writing of peoples and of princes of them that have been in her, the dwelling in thee is as it were of all rejoicing.

Glory . . . Both now . . .  
Disguised, O Savior, thou wast born in a cave; but heaven proclaimed thee to all, taking for its mouth a star, And it offered thee the Magi worshipping thee in faith. Wherefore, with them, have mercy upon us.

*Deacon: Wisdom.*

*Reader: The Reading is from Isaiah (9:6-7)*

*Deacon: Let us attend*

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting, Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Troparion (Tone 6)*

Thou hast shone forth from the Virgin, O Christ, supersensual Sun of justice. And a star pointed to thee, thou uncontainable One, who wast contained in a cave.

*and the refrain, which follows each verse:*

And the Magi were led to thy worship. Wherefore, with them, we magnify thee, O thou Giver of life. Glory to thee.

*Verse 1:* The Lord hath reigned, he is clothed with beauty. The Lord is clothed with strength, and hath girded himself.

*Verse 2:* For he hath established the world, which shall not be moved. Thy throne is prepared from of old.

*Verse 3:* The floods have lifted up, O Lord; the floods have lifted up their voice. The floods have lifted up their waves, with the noise of many waters.

*Verse 4:* Wonderful are the surges of the sea. Wonderful is the Lord on high. Thy testimonies are become exceedingly credible.

*Verse 5:* Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Glory . . . Both now . . .

Thou hast shone forth from the Virgin, O Christ, supersensual Sun of justice. And a star pointed to thee, thou uncontainable One, who wast contained in a cave. And the Magi were led to thy worship. Wherefore, with them, we magnify thee, O thou Giver of life. Glory to thee.

*Deacon: Wisdom.*

*Reader: The Reading is from Isaiah (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10)*

*Deacon: Let us attend*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then. O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Then the Lord said to me, Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, "Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz," and have it attested for me by reliable witnesses, the priest Uriah and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, Name him Maher-shala-hash-baz; for before the child know how to call "My father" or "My mother," the wealth of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria. Band together, you peoples, and be dismayed; listen, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed! Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

Let us pray to the Lord. "For holy art Thou, O our God . . ."

The Trisagion Hymn

**Prokeimenon and Epistle**

The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. (*twice*)

Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance. "The Lord said unto Me . . ."

The Reading is from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (1:1-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited more excellent than theirs. For to which, of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you?" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?" And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?" Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

### **Alleluia and Gospel**

*Alleluia.* The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet. *Alleluia.* A scepter of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Zion. *Alleluia.* From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. *Alleluia.*

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (2:1-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to, whom he was engaged and who was ex-

pecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*At this time, the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual (see page 132 ff in the red Service Book)*

*Megalynarion of Saint Basil:*

In thee rejoiceth all creation, O thou who art full of grace: the hierarchy of the angels, and all mankind, O consecrated temple and paradise endowed with speech; glory of virginity, of whom God, Who is our God before the ages, was incarnate and became a little child. For He made thy womb a throne, and thy belly did He make more spacious than the heavens. In thee doth all creation rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, and it glorifieth thee.

*Koinonikon* "Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him the highest..."

*After Communion:* "We have seen the true light . . ."



## Matins for the Nativity

Blessed is our God.

The Troparia and Theotokion, followed by the six Orthros Psalms

The Litany of Peace

“God is the Lord...” with verses (*Tone 4*)

and the Troparion of the Nativity (*Tone 4, thrice*)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come O Lord, glory to thee.

Little Litany and Exclamation

First & Second Kathismata of the Nativity (*Tone 4*)

Come, ye believers, let us see where Christ was born. Let us follow the star whither it goeth with the Magi, kings of the east; for there angels praise him ceaselessly, and shepherds raise their voices in a worthy song of praise, saying, Glory in the highest to the One horn today in a cave from the virgin Theotokos in Bethlehem of Judaea.

Glory . . . Both now . . . “Come, ye believers . . . “

Why wonderest thou, O Mary; and why art thou astonished in thy inner self? And she respondeth, saying, Because I have given birth in time to a Son unbound by time; nor do I comprehend the manner of conception of him that is born. I have known no man; how then give I birth to a son? For who hath yet seen a birth without seed? But since God willeth, the order of nature is overcome, as it hath been written, Christ hath been born of the Virgin in Bethlehem of Judaea.

Glory . . . Both now . . . “Why wonderest thou, O Mary . . . “

The Great Polyeleos (*Psalms 134 & 135, selected verses below*)

*\*End each verse with “Alleluia.”\**

1: Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord.

2: Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

3: Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto His Name; for it is pleasant.

4: For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto Himself, and Israel for His peculiar treasure.

5: For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

8: Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast.

9: Who sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his servants.

10: Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings.

11: Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

12: And gave their land for a heritage, a heritage unto Israel his people.

13: Thy Name, O Lord, endureth forever; and Thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations.

1: O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

2: O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endureth forever.

3: O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth forever.

4: To Him Who alone doeth great wonders: for His mercy endureth forever.

5: To Him that by wisdom made the heavens: for His mercy endureth forever.

6: To Him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for His mercy endureth forever.

7: To Him that made great lights: for His mercy endureth forever.

8: The sun to rule by day: for His mercy endureth forever.

9: The moon and stars to rule by night: for His mercy endureth forever.

Third Kathismata

He that all containeth not, how was he contained in the womb? And he that is in the bosom of the Father, how shall he be carried in the arms of his Mother? Verily, all this hath been fulfilled as he himself knew and willed and was pleased to do; for he that is not carnal hath become incarnate by his own choice; and he that is, hath turned for our sakes to that which he was not, sharing our creation, yet inseparable from his essence, Verily, Christ hath been born with two Natures, desiring to perfect the heavenly world.

Glory . . . Both now . . . “He that containeth not . . . “

Little Litany and Exclamation

Anabathmoi (*Tone 4*)

From my youth up, many passions have warred against me. But do thou help and save me, O my Savior. (*twice*)

Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (*twice*)

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

Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the triune unity in mystic holiness.

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

Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating life.

Prokeimenon (*Tone 4*)

From the womb before the morning star I begot thee. The Lord hath sworn, and he shall not repent. (*twice*)

Stichos: Said the Lord to my Lord.

From the womb before the morning star I begot thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and he shall not repent.

**The Matins Gospel**, *chanted from the Royal Doors (Matthew 1:18-25)*

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Psalm 50 and the following troparia

Glory . . .

Today all creatures shall be filled with joy; for Christ hath been born of the Virgin.

Both now . . . "Today all creatures . . ."

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace. Today doth Bethlehem receive him who sitteth with the Father forever. Today the angels glorify, as worthy of God, the babe that is born, shouting, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth be peace, and goodwill among men.

The Intercession

The kontakion, oikos, and synaxarion of the Feast are read:

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

Bethlehem hath opened Eden: come, and let us see. We have found joy in secret: come, and let us take possession of the paradise that is within the cave. There, the unwatered Root hath appeared, from which forgiveness flowereth forth: there is found the undug Well, whence David longed to drink of old. There, the Virgin hath borne a Babe, and made the thirst of Adam and David to cease straightway. Therefore, let us hasten to this place where now is born a young Child, God before the ages.

Today in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. God Himself is born of Mary in Bethlehem of Judea, the city of David. The creation had never seen a greater wonder. A cave became the dwelling of the King of the universe. On this same day, we commemorate the adoration of the Magi. Prostrating before the newborn Jesus, these princes of the nations prefigure the adoration of the Gentiles. Also on this day, we commemorate the shepherds who saw the Lord. Leaving their flocks behind, the shepherds come with haste to contemplate Christ, the Good Shepherd. Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when a foreigner named Herod, who sought to kill the infant Messiah, was reigning.

After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind. To Him be glory, honor and worship, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Katabasia for the Nativity (*Tone 1*)  
(*Numbered Series by Cosmos / Unnumbered Series by John of Damascus*)

*Right Choir 1:* Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ hath come from the Heavens, receive Him. Christ is on earth, elevate Him. Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; and ye nations, praise Him with joy; for He hath been glorified.

*Left Choir:* The Lord performed a miracle and saved the people when of old He turned the moist waves of the sea into dry land. And having been born now of a Virgin by His own choice, He hath trodden for us the way to Heaven, being equal to the Father and to men in essence; therefore, do we glorify Him.

*Right Choir 3:* Let us cry unto the Son, born of the Father before the ages without transubstantiation, Christ God who hath been incarnate in these last days of the Virgin, without seed, shouting, "O thou who hath elevated our state, thou art holy, O Lord."

*Left Choir:* Incline, O glorious Benefactor, to the praise of thy servants, abolishing the boasting of the proud adversary. And help us who sing to thee to overcome sin, and confirm us on the unshakable foundation of faith.

*Left Choir 4:* O praised Christ, a stem hath come out of Jesse, and from it hast sprouted a Flower from a dense and shadowed mountain, O immaterial God, coming incarnate from the Virgin that hath not known man. Glory, therefore, to thy might, O Lord.

*Right Choir:* The Prophet Habakkuk of old foretold in song the re-creation of mankind; for he was worthy to behold that sign in an ineffable manner; for the Word did come forth as a new babe from the mountain of the Virgin, for the re-creation of the nations.

*Right Choir 5:* Since thou art the God of peace and the Father of mercies, O Lover of mankind, thou didst send to us the great Messenger of thy mind, granting us thy peace. Therefore, have we been led aright to the light of divine knowledge, glorifying thee as we come out of darkness.

*Left Choir:* Grant forgiveness, O Christ, to us who have been in the darkness of our deeds of error since the night, who eagerly praise thee, since thou art our Benefactor; that thou mayest hasten to us and prepare for us a good way, wherein if we walk we shall find glory and honour.

*Right Choir 6:* The sea-monster did disgorge Jonah from its belly, as it received him safely like a foetus. As for the Word, when He dwelt in the Virgin, taking from her a body, He was born, preserving her without corruption and without transubstantiation, preserving His Mother without harm.

*Left Choir:* Verily, Jonah when he was in the depth of the sea, begged to ascend to thee and to be rescued from the tempest. But as for me, having been pierced by the arrows of the tyrant, in thee I seek refuge, O evil-destroying Christ, hasten thou to me and deliver me hastily from my negligence.

*Right Choir 7:* The youths having grown together in true worship, despising the command of the infidel, were not dismayed by the threat of fire; but were singing as they stood in the midst of the flames, "Blessed art thou, God of our Fathers."

*Left Choir:* The youths having clung steadfastly to the love of the King of all, ridiculed the prating and blasphemy of the blaspheming usurper. And being filled with wrath, he delivered them to the terrible fire which did not harm them. Wherefore, they lifted their voices to the Master, saying, "Blessed art thou unto all ages."

*Left Choir 8:* Verily, the dewy furnace did shadow the sign of the supernatural wonder; for it burned not the youths whom it received, as the fire of divinity also burned not the womb of the Virgin in which it dwelt. Wherefore, let us offer praise with song, saying, "Let all creation praise the Lord, exalting Him evermore, to the end of ages."

*Right Choir:* The youths who were cast of old into the fire and remained unburned, were a sign of the womb of the Maiden who gave birth supernaturally while yet sealed. These two matters grace hath accomplished through one miracle, arousing the nations to praise.

*Instead of "More honorable..." the 9th Ode of the Nativity, Both Canons)*

*Ninth Ode of the First Canon (Tone 1)*

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the Heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a Heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

Magnify, O my soul, the God born in flesh from the Virgin.

When the Magi saw a new and strange star appearing suddenly, moving in a wonderful way, and transcending the stars of Heaven in brightness, they were guided by it to Christ, the King born in a cave. The Magi said, "Where is the child King, the new born, whose star hath appeared? For we have verily come to worship Him." And Herod, the contender against God, trembled, and began to roar in folly to kill Christ.

Magnify, O my soul, the God worshipped by the Magi.

Herod ascertained from the Magi about the time of the star by whose guidance they were led to Bethlehem to worship with presents Christ who guided them, and so they returned to their country, disregarding Herod, the evil murderer of babes, mocking them.

#### *Ninth Ode of the Other Canon*

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Lord inside the cave.

Verily, it is easier for us to endure silence since there is no dread danger therefrom for us. But because of our strong desire, O Virgin, and Mother of sameness, to indite well-balanced songs of praise, this becometh indeed onerous to us. Wherefore, grant us power to equal our natural inclination.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible and three-personed Godhead.

O pure one, Mother of the Word that appeareth newly from thee, O closed door, verily, as we behold the dark shadowy symbols pass away, we glorify the light of the truth and bless thy womb as is meet.

Both now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Glorify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.  
Thy Christ-pleasing people, O Virgin, having deserved to be granted its desire by the coming of God, doth seek now with tears thy help to worship the glory of His enlivening appearance wherein is the renewal of birth; for it is thou who dost distribute grace, O pure one.

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the Heavenly hosts.

"I behold a strange and wonderful mystery . . . :  
Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Lord inside the cave.  
"Verily, it is easier for us to endure silence . . ."

#### Little Litany and Exclamation

##### *Exapostilarion (Tone 3; thrice to melody of "Bridal Chamber")*

Our Savior hath visited us from on high, from the east of easts.  
Wherefore, we who are in darkness and shadows have found the truth; for the Lord hath been born of the Virgin.

##### *Praises (Tone 4 with four stichera)*

*Verse 4:* Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.  
Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.  
Rejoice, O righteous ones, and ye heavens be glad. Sing with joy, ye mountains, for the Nativity of Christ. The Virgin sitteth like the cherubim, holding in her bosom God the incarnate Word; the shepherds do glorify him who was born. The Magi offer presents to the Lord, and the angels give praise, saying, O Lord, hidden from comprehension, glory to thee.

*Verse 3:* Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp.  
The Father hath been pleased and satisfied; the Word hath become flesh; and the Virgin hath given birth to incarnate God. The star declaimeth, the Magi worship, the shepherds wonder, and creation rejoiceth.

*Verse 2:* Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs.  
O virgin Theotokos, O thou who hast given birth to the Savior, thou hast revoked the ancient curse of Eve; for thou hast become a Mother according to the pleasure of God, carrying in thy bosom God the incarnate Word. Verily, the mystery is inscrutable; but we all glorify it with faith only, crying with thee and saying, O incomprehensible Lord, glory to thee.

*Verse 1:* Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Come, let us praise the Mother of the Savior, who appeared a Virgin even after birthgiving, crying, Rejoice, O living city of God the King, in whom Christ having dwelt worked salvation. Wherefore, we with Gabriel do praise, and with the shepherds do glorify thee, crying, O Theotokos, intercede with him incarnate of thee to save us.

*(Tone 6)* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. When it was time for thy presence on earth, the first enrollment of the world took place. Then it was that thou didst decide to enroll the names of men who believe in thy Nativity. Yea, that commandment did issue forth from Caesar, since the everlastingness of thine eternal kingdom hath been renewed. Wherefore, we offer what is better than moneyed tax, namely Orthodox theological sayings; to thee, O God, Savior of our souls.

*(Tone 2)* Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Today Christ is born in Bethlehem of the virgin. Today the Beginningless doth begin, and the Word becometh incarnate. The powers of heaven rejoice and earth is glad with mankind. The Magi do offer presents, and the shepherds with wonder declaim. As for us, we shout ceaselessly, crying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men.

Great Doxology *(Tone 6)* and the Troparion of the Nativity



## Divine Liturgy for the Nativity

### *First Antiphon*

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders. “Through the intercessions of the Theotokos...”

In the council of the upright and in the congregation: great are the works of the Lord. “Through the intercessions of the Theotokos...”

Sought out in all the things that He hath willed. “Through the ...”

Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. “Through the intercessions ...”

Glory...& Both now... “Through the intercessions ...”

### *Second Antiphon*

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

His seed shall be mighty upon the earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Save us, O Son of God . . .”

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. “Save us, O Son of God . . .”

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. “Save us, O Son of God . . .”

Glory...& Both now... “O only begotten Son...”

### *Third Antiphon: Troparion of the Feast and verses (Tone 4)*

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet.

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest thou didst come O Lord, glory to thee.

A scepter of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Zion. “Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...”

With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints. “Thy Nativity, O Christ our God...”

### *Entrance Hymn*

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*After the Little Entrance*

The troparion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ our God..."

*Kondakion of the Nativity in Tone 3*

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence. The earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify, and Magi journey with a star; for a new Child hath been born for our sakes, the pre-eternal God.

*At the place of the Trisagion:*

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.  
Alleluia.

### **Prokeimenon and Epistle**

Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; let them chant unto Thy Name, O Most High.  
Shout with jubilation unto the Lord, all the earth; chant ye unto His Name, give glory in praise of Him.

The Reading is from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir through Christ.

### **Alleluia and Gospel**

Alleluia. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands. Alleluia. Day unto day poureth forth speech, and night unto night proclaimeth knowledge. Alleluia.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men 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 assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They

told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

*Megalynarion (tone 1)*

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

*Communion Hymn*

The Lord hath sent redemption unto His people. Alleluia.  
He hath enjoined His covenant forever; holy and terrible is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all they that foster this have a good understanding. His praise abideth unto ages of ages.

*At the place of "We have seen the true Light...", the Troparion, one time.*



**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

**Христос родился!**

**المسيح ولد! فمجدوه!**

**Χριστός Γεννᾶται! Δοξάσατε!**

**Hristos s-a Nascut si FELIZ NAVIDAD  
Anul Nou Fericit**