

*The Nativity, according to the Flesh, of Our Lord, God & Saviour Jesus Christ*  
*The Order Of Great Compline*

*Royal Doors are closed as is curtain. Lampada is up. Only candles and votive lights are on. Priest stands before altar. Litya table is ready and in proper position in the Church. The icon of the Nativity is placed on left side of the Church. The Priest begins the service, receives the censer and begins a full censuring.*

P. Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

R. Amen. Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good gifts, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, And save our souls, O Good One,

O Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

G/B... O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

G/B... 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 us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

P. 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 unto the ages of ages.

R. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12x)

G/B...

O Come let us worship God our King.

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

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

*(By now the Priest should be censuring outside the altar)*

PSALM 4

When I called upon Thee, o God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me; In mine affliction Thou hast enlarged me. Have compassion

on me and hear my prayer. O ye sons of men, how long will ye be slow of heart? Why do ye love vanity, and seek after falsehood?. Know also that the Lord hath made wondrous His holy one. The Lord will hearken unto me when I cry unto Him. Be angry, and sin not; feel compunction upon your beds for what ye say in your hearts. Sacrifice a sacrifice of righteousness, and hope in the Lord. Many say: Who will show unto us good things? The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us; Thou hast given gladness to my heart. From the fruit of their wheat, wine and oil are they multiplied. In peace in the same place I shall lay me down and sleep. For Thou, O Lord, alone hast made me to dwell in hope.

PSALM 6

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O Lord, how long? Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.

PSALM 12

How long, O Lord, wilt Thou utterly forget me? How long wilt Thou turn Thy face away from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul with grievings in my heart by day and by night? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? Look upon me, hear me, O Lord my God; enlighten mine eyes, lest at any time I sleep unto death. Lest at any time mine enemy say: I have prevailed against him. They that afflict me will rejoice if I am shaken; but as for me, I have hoped in Thy mercy. My heart will rejoice in Thy salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, Who is my benefactor, and I will chant unto the name of the Lord Most High.

G/B...

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Glory... 3x

Lord have mercy... 3x

G/B...

*After completing the full censuring the Priest remains in the altar, in front of the Holy Table throughout Great Compline.*

PSALM 24

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress

without cause. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins. Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

PSALM 30

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the Lord. I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed. I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me. I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake. Let me not be ashamed, O Lord; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against

the righteous. Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the Lord: for he hath shewed me his marvelous kindness in a strong city. For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

PSALM 90

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; no evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

G/B...

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Glory... 3x

Lord have mercy... 3x

G/B...

*Then chant slowly with a loud voice:*

R. God is with us, understand, O ye nations, and submit yourselves: For God is with us.

C. God is with us, understand, O ye nations, and submit yourselves: For God is with us.

*The reader reads the following verses continuously while the choir chants softly "For God is with us" in the background:*

R. Hearken ye unto the ends of the earth. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

O ye powerful, submit yourselves. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

For if ye again strengthen yourselves, ye shall again be vanquished.  
FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And whatsoever counsel ye shall take, the Lord shall bring it to naught. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And the word, whatsoever ye speak, shall not remain with you. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And of your fear we shall be neither afraid nor in dread. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

But the Lord our God, Him will we hallow, and He shall be fear unto us. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And if I be trusting in Him, He shall be unto me sanctification. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And I will be hoping in Him, and shall be saved by Him. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Behold, I and the children which God hath given me. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Ye that dwell in the region and shadow of death, a light shall shine upon you. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Whose government is upon His shoulder. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And of His peace there is no end. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

And His name shall be called Angel of great counsel. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Wonderful Counselor. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Mighty God, Ruler, Prince of Peace. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Father of the age to come. FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Glory... FOR GOD IS WITH US.

Both now and ever... FOR GOD IS WITH US.

*(In a LOUD voice as in a pronouncement)*

R. God is with us, understand, O ye nations, and submit yourselves: For God is with us.

C. God is with us, understand, O ye nations, and submit yourselves: For God is with us.

C. The day being past, I give Thee thanks, O Lord; the evening, I pray, together with the night without a sin grant me, O Saviour, and save me.

Glory... The day being past, I glorify Thee, O Master; the evening, I pray, together with the night without peril grant me, O Saviour, and save me.

Now... The day being past, I glorify Thee, O Master; the evening, I pray, together with the night without peril grant me, O Saviour, and save me.

The bodiless nature of the Cherubim/ with unceasing hymns glorify Thee./ The six-winged beings, the Seraphim/ with never-ceasing voices supremely exalt Thee./ And all the ranks of the Angels/ praise Thee with thrice-holy hymns./ For before all art Thou the Existing Father/ and Thou hast Thy Co-originate Son;/ and bearing the co-honourable Spirit of life,/ Thou dost manifest the Indivisible Trinity./ O Most Holy Virgin Mother of God,/ and ye eyewitnesses of the Word and servants,/ all the choirs both of Prophets and Martyrs,/ as those that have attained unto life immortal,/ supplicate earnestly for us all,/ for we all are in distress;/ that, being delivered from the delusion of the evil one,/ we may cry out the angelic hymn:/ Holy, Holy, Holy, Thrice-holy Lord,// have mercy and save us. Amen.

R. *(And immediately in a lower voice:)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light: true God of true God; begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, come down from the Heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into the Heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

*(The following can be either sung or read)*

P/C. O Most Holy Lady Theotokos, intercede for us sinners.

O all ye Heavenly Hosts of the holy Angels and Archangels, Intercede for us sinners.

O holy John, Prophet and Forerunner and Baptist of our Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for us sinners.

O holy glorious Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs, and all the Saints, intercede for us sinners.

O our holy and Godbearing fathers, pastors and ecumenical teachers, intercede for us sinners.

O our holy and Godbearing fathers Anthony and Theodosius, and all the holy fathers of the Caves, intercede for us sinners.

O our holy and God-bearing father and wonderworker Herman, intercede for us sinners.

O Invincible and incomprehensible and divine power of the precious and life-giving Cross, forsake not us sinners.

O God, cleanse us sinners.

O God, cleanse us sinners, and have mercy on us.

*(Priest puts on phelonion)*

R. O Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

G/B... O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

G/B... 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 us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

P. 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 unto the ages of ages.

*(Lights on; Curtain pulled. R/D open.)*

C. Amen. Troparion of the Feast: (Tone 4) (see music)

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shown forth upon the world the light of wisdom,/ for in it those that worshipped the stars,/ were taught by a star/ to adore Thee the Sun of righteousness/ and to know Thee from highest, the Orient:// O Lord, glory to Thee.

*(Close Royal Doors and curtain; turn off lights; take off phelonion)*

R. Lord, have mercy. (40x)

G/B... More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, father (master), bless.

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

R. Amen. O Lord, O Lord, Who hast delivered us from every arrow that flieth by day, deliver us from everything that walketh in darkness. Receive as an evening sacrifice the lifting up of our hands. Vouchsafe us also to pass through the course of the night without blemish, untempted by evil. And deliver us from every anxiety and fear that come to us from the devil. Grant unto our souls compunction, and unto our thoughts solicitude concerning the trial at Thy dread and righteous Judgment. Nail down our flesh with the fear of Thee, and mortify our earthly members that in the quietness of sleep we may be enlightened by the vision of Thy Judgments. Take from us every unseemly dread and pernicious carnal desire. Raise us up at the hour of prayer fortified in faith and advancing in thy commandments, through the benevolence and goodness of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thy most holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*And Immediately:*

O Come let us worship God our King.

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

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



Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

PSALM 101

O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come unto Thee. Turn not Thy face away from me; in the day when I am afflicted, incline Thine ear unto me. In the day when I call upon Thee, quickly hearken unto me. For my days are vanished like smoke, and my bones consumed like wood for the burning. I am smitten like grass, and withered is my heart, for I forgot to eat my bread. By reason of the voice of my groaning, my bone hath cleaved unto my flesh. I am become like a pelican of the wilderness, I am like an owl in a ruined house. I have watched, and am like a sparrow that sitteth alone upon the house-top. The whole day long mine enemies reproached me, and they that praised me made an oath against me. For before the face of Thy wrath and Thine anger I ate ashes like bread, and my drink I mingled with weeping; for after uplifting me, Thou hast dashed me down. My days like a shadow have declined, and I like grass am withered. But Thou, O Lord, forever abidest, and Thy remembrance is unto generation and generation. Thou shalt rise up and have pity upon Sion, for it is time to have compassion on her, yea, the time is come. For Thy servants have taken pleasure in her stones, and they shall feel pity for her dust. And the heathen shall fear Thy name, O Lord, and all the kings of the earth Thy glory. For the Lord shall build up Sion, and He shall be seen in His glory. He hath regarded the prayer of the humble, and hath not despised their supplication. Let this be written for another generation, and the

people that is being created shall praise the Lord. For He hath looked out from His holy height, the Lord from heaven hath looked upon the earth, to hear the groaning of them that be in fetters, to loose the sons of the slain, to declare in Sion the name of the Lord, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kings to serve the Lord. He answered Him in the way of His strength: The fewness of my days declare unto me. Take me not away at the half of my days; in generations and generations are Thy years. In the beginning, O Lord, Thou didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou abidest; and all like a garment shall grow old, and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them, and they shall be changed but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail. The sons of Thy servants shall have their dwelling, and their seed for ever shall be guided aright.

The Prayer of Manasses, King of Judea.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, of Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob, and of their righteous seed; Who hast made heaven and the earth with all their majesty; Who hast bound the sea by the word of Thy commandment; Who hast closed the abyss, and sealed it by Thy terrible and glorious name; of Whom all things are afraid and tremble from the presence of Thy might; for no one can endure the majesty of Thy glory, and unbearable is the wrath of Thy threatening toward sinners, but immeasurable and unsearchable is the mercifulness of Thy promise; for Thou art the Lord Most High compassionate, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and repentest of the evils of men: Thou, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy goodness, hast promised penitence and forgiveness to them that have sinned against Thee, and in the multitude of Thy compassions hast decreed repentance for the salvation of sinners. Thou, therefore, O Lord God of Hosts, hast not appointed repentance for the righteous, for Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, who have not sinned against Thee, but hast laid repentance upon me a sinner, for I have sinned more than the number of the sands of the sea. Mine iniquities are multiplied, O Lord, mine iniquities are multiplied, and I am not worthy to look upon and to see the height of heaven for the multitude of mine iniquities. I am bowed down with many iron bands so that I cannot lift up my head, and there is no release for me, because I have provoked Thine anger, and done evil before Thee, neither having done Thy will, nor having kept Thy commandments; and now I bow the knees of my heart, beseeching of Thee clemency. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I know mine iniquities; but imploring I pray Thee: Loose me, O Lord, loose me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Neither in enmity forever keep mine evils, neither condemn me to the nethermost parts of the earth. For Thou, O God, art the God of them that repent, and upon me Thou wilt show all Thy goodness; for Thou shalt save me who am unworthy, according to the plenitude of Thy mercy, and I will praise Thee continually throughout the days of my life: for all the heavenly hosts hymneth Thee, and Thine is the glory unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*(Priest at altar; puts on phelonion)*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

G/B... O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

G/B... 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 us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

P. 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 unto the ages of ages.

*(Lights on, curtain pulled; Royal Doors open)*

C. Amen. Kontakion of the Feast: (Tone 3)

The Virgin today brings forth the Supersubstantial One,/ and the earth offers a cavern to the Unapproachable;/ Angels with the shepherds sing praises,/ and the Magi journey with the star:// since for our sake is born a young infant, the Pre-eternal God..

*(Lights off; phelonion off; Royal Doors and curtain closed)*

R. Lord have mercy (40x)

G/B... More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thee who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, father bless.

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

R. Amen. O Sovereign God, the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Thou O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power: have mercy on me a sinner, and by the judgments which Thou knowest, save me, Thine unworthy servant; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Come let us worship God our King.

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

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

PSALM 69

R. O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done! Well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee all that seek after Thee, O God, and let them that love Thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me; lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

*(Servers prepare for Litya)*

R. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Every night will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name for ever, yea, for ever and ever.

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou

art my God. For in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

(Begin Litya: R/Ds stay closed; curtain closed too; Central icon is on left side; Servers bring out censer and two candlestands)

C. Litya: (Tone 1) **Use music for this verse**

Let heaven and earth today prophetically exult,/ let angels and men spiritually rejoice:/ for God hath revealed Himself in the flesh/ unto those who were in darkness and sat in the shadow,/ and hath been born of a Virgin./ The cavern and the manger have received Him:/ Shepherds proclaim the marvel,/ and Magi from the orient bring gifts unto Bethlehem/ and we also with lips unworthy/ do bring praise unto Him in angelic wise:/ Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace./ For the hope of the nations is come,// and having come hath saved us from bondage to the enemy.

Heaven and earth are united today, for **Christ** is born./ Today has God come upon earth, and man gone up to **he-a-ven**./ **Today** for man's sake is seen in the flesh He Who by nature is **invisible**./ Therefore let us also give glory and cry **aloud to Him**:/ **Glory** to God in the highest, and on **earth peace**// which Thy coming hast bestowed upon us, O Saviour: **Glory to Thee**.

"**Glory** to God in the **Highest**,"/ I hear in Bethlehem from the **a-n-gels**./ **Glory** to Him Whose good pleasure it was that there be **peace** on **earth**./ The Virgin is now more spacious than the **he-a-vens**./ **Light** has shone upon those in **darkness**/ and has exulted the lowly who sing like the **a-n-gels**:// **Glory** to God in the **hi-gh-est**.

Beholding Him that was in God's image and likeness fallen through the **transgression**,/ Jesus bowed the heavens **and came down**/ **and** without change He took up His dwelling in a **Virgin womb**/ that thereby He might fashion corrupt Adam anew, who **cried to Him**// "Glory to Thine Epiphany, O my Deliverer **and my God**."

Glory... (Tone 5)

The Magi, Kings of **Persia**/ knew with assurance that Thou, the heavenly King wast **born** on earth/ led by the light of a star, they came to

**Bethlehem**/ and offered their **chosen** gifts/ gold, frankincense and myrrh./  
Falling before Thee they **worshipped** Thee// for they saw Thee Who art  
timeless lying as a **babe** in the cave.

Both... (Tone 6) **Use music for this verse**

All the angels in heaven exult,/ and people rejoice today;/ all  
creation leaps for joy/ because of the One born in Bethlehem, the Lord  
Saviour./ For every idolatrous error has ceased// and Christ reigns  
forever.

P. *Litya prayers in back of the Church*

C. Lord, have mercy. 12x 12x 12x 3x 3x

*(Clergy and servers move to the center of the Church in front of the Litya  
table. The two candles are placed behind this table)*

C. Aposticha (Tone 2) **Use music for this verse**

A great and marvelous wonder has come to pass this day./ A Virgin  
gives birth and her womb suffers no corruption./ The Word is made flesh  
yet is not separated from the Father./ Angels with the shepherds give  
glory,/ and we with them cry out aloud:// Glory to God in the highest and  
on earth peace.

V. The Lord said unto my Lord: Set Thou at My right hand, until I  
make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

(Tone 3)

**Today** the Virgin gives birth to the **Maker** of all,/ **Eden** offers a cave  
and a star **discloses** Christ/ the **Sun** to those in **darkness**./ **Magi**  
enlightened by Faith **worship** with gifts./ **Shepherds** behold the wonder and  
angels sing praises **saying**:// Glory to **God** in the **highest**.

V. From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee.

**When** the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of **Judah**/ **Magi** coming from  
the East worshipped **God** made man./ **And** eagerly opening their treasures,  
they offered to Him **precious** gifts,/ **refined** gold, as to the King of ages  
and frankincense, as to the **God** of all,/ and **myrrh** they offered to the  
immortal, as to One **three** days dead./ **Come**, all ye nations, and let us  
**worship** Him// Who was born to **save** our souls.

Glory... (Tone 4)

Make **glad**, O Jerusalem,/ and all ye who love Zion, **keep** feast./  
**Today** the ancient bond of the condemnation of **Adam** is loosed/ Paradise is  
**opened** to us/ the serpent is **laid** low/ of old he deceived the woman in  
**paradise**/ but now he sees a woman become the Mother of the Creator./ O  
the depth of the riches of the wisdom and the **knowledge** of God!/ The  
sinful vessel that brought death **upon** all flesh/ has through the  
Birthgiver of God become the first fruits of salvation for the **whole**  
world./ For God the all-perfect is born as a **Babe** of her/ and by his

birth He sets the seal upon her **virginity**/ through His swaddling clothes  
 He loosens the **bonds** of sin/ and through becoming a child He heals Eve's  
**pangs** of travail./ Therefore let all creation sing and **dance** for joy,//  
 for Christ has come to restore it and to **save** our souls.

Both now and ever... (Tone 4; see music)

Thou hast come to dwell in a cave, O Christ God,/ and the manger  
 received Thee;/ Shepherds and Magi worshipped Thee./ Then was the  
 preaching of the prophets fulfilled,/ and the angelic powers marveled,  
 crying aloud and saying:/ Glory to Thy condescension,// O Thou Who alone  
 lovest mankind.

C. Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace... (Simeon's prayer)

R. Trisagion  
 Lord's Prayer

*(Lights on; Royal doors and curtain remain closed; censer carried to  
 clergy; censuring around Litya table begins...)*

C. Troparion of the Feast: (Tone 4) (see music) 3x

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shown forth upon the world the  
 light of wisdom,/ for in it those that worshipped the stars,/ were taught  
 by a star/ to adore Thee the Sun of righteousness/ and to know Thee from  
 highest, the Orient:// O Lord, glory to Thee.

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name...

P. The blessing of the Lord be upon you...

THE END OF GREAT COMPLINE

*(Opens curtain, start Matins:)*

### Matins

R. Regular beginning.

P. Great Ectenia

P/C. God is the Lord... (Tone 4)

Troparion of the Feast: (Tone 4) (see music) 2x

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shown forth upon the world the  
 light of wisdom,/ for in it those that worshipped the stars,/ were taught  
 by a star/ to adore Thee the Sun of righteousness/ and to know Thee from  
 highest, the Orient:// O Lord, glory to Thee.

G/B... Troparion of the Feast: (Tone 4) (see music)

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shown forth upon the world the  
 light of wisdom,/ for in it those that worshipped the stars,/ were taught  
 by a star/ to adore Thee the Sun of righteousness/ and to know Thee from  
 highest, the Orient:// O Lord, glory to Thee.

Lord have mercy            3x  
 Glory...

R.    Kathisma  
 P.    Small Ectenia

R.    Sessional Hymn of the Feast

For our sake Thou wast laid in a manger of dumb beasts, O long-suffering Saviour, having become a babe of Thine own will; and the shepherds limned Thee with the angels, crying aloud: "Glory and praise to Christ our God, Who hath been born on earth and deified the nature of mortals!"

G/B... *Repeat the above*

R.    Kathisma  
 P.    Small Ectenia

R.    Sessional Hymn of the Feast

O Theotokos, thou didst bear in thy womb, in the flesh, the one and unconfused Godhead of the Trinity, the pre-eternal and unapproachable One, Who is equally everlasting with the invisible Father. Thy grace hath shone forth in the world, O most hymned one. Wherefore, we cry out unceasingly: Rejoice, O pure Virgin Mother!

G/B... *Repeat the above*

C.    Polyeleos (*Royal doors open*)

C.    Megalynarion

We magnify Thee,/ we magnify Thee,/ O Life Giver Christ,/ Who was born in the flesh for us this day/ from her who knew not wedlock,/ the all-pure Virgin Mary.

V.    Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth. (Ps. 65:2)

We magnify Thee,/ we magnify Thee,/ O Life Giver Christ,/ Who was born in the flesh for us this day/ from her who knew not wedlock,/ the all-pure Virgin Mary.

V.    Our God is in heaven and on earth; all things soever He hath willed, He hath done. (Ps 113:11)

We magnify Thee,/ we magnify Thee,/ O Life Giver Christ,/ Who was born in the flesh for us this day/ from her who knew not wedlock,/ the all-pure Virgin Mary.

G/B...

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God (3x; 3<sup>rd</sup> time by clergy or choir)



We magnify Thee,/ we magnify Thee,/ O Life Giver Christ,/ Who was born in the flesh for us this day/ from her who knew not wedlock,/ the all-pure Virgin Mary.

P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymn of the Feast

Come, ye faithful, let us behold where Christ was born, and let us follow whither the star goeth with the Magi, the kings of the East. There the angels unceasingly hymn Him, and the shepherds play a fitting song on the pipes, singing: Glory in the highest to Him Who hath been born of the Virgin Theotokos in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea!

G/B... *Repeat the above*

C. From my youth... (First antiphon Hymn of Degrees Tone 4)

P/D. Prokimenon (Tone 4)

Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee,/ the Lord sweareth and will not repent.

V. The Lord said to my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet (Ps 109: 1)

Let every breath praise the Lord...

P. Gospel: Matthew (1:18-25)

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... (Tone 2)

All things are filled with joy today: // Christ is born of the Virgin.

Both now... (Tone 2)

All things are filled with joy today: // Christ is born of the Virgin.

Have mercy upon me... (Tone 6)

Glory to God in the highest, and on **earth** peace!// Today Bethlehem receiveth Him Who is ever seated with the **Father**.// Today the angels glorify as God the Babe Who **was** born./ Glory to God in the **highest**,// and on earth peace, good will **among** men!

P. Save, O God...

Anointing

Canticle One (Tone 1)

(Irmos) Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./ Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./ And praise Him with joy, ye people;// For He hath glorified Himself.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

That which, though fashioned in the image of God, is become wholly corrupt through transgression, having fallen away from the higher divine life, hath the wise Creator restored, for He is glorified.

The Creator, seeing man, whom He had fashioned with His own hands, perishing, descendeth, bowing down the heavens; and, truly incarnate, He taketh upon Himself all man's essence through the pure and divine Virgin, for He is glorified.

Christ God, being the wisdom, Word, Power, Effulgence and Son of the Father, hiding Himself as much from the hosts of heaven as from those on earth, hath restored us, becoming man, for He is glorified.

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Of old, the Master, working a wonder,/ saved the people of Israel,/ making the waves of the sea into dry land;// and, born of His own will of the Virgin,/ He setteth before us a path whereby we may travel to heaven.// Him do we glorify as equal in essence to the Father and to men.

Glory... Thy sacred womb, which was depicted by the bush which burned without being consumed, manifestly bore the Word and mingled God with a human image, loosing the wretched womb of Eve from the bitter curse of old. Let us glorify Him, O ye mortals!

Both... To the magi the star manifestly showed Thee forth, the Word, Who hast existed before the sun and camest to bring an end to sin, and Who in Thy mercy wast wrapped in swaddling bands in the wretched cave. And, rejoicing, they beheld the Lord Himself, a man.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat Both Irmoi

Canticle Three (Tone 1)

(Irmos) To the Son/ Who before all time was born immortal of the Father,/ and in these latter days of a Virgin is become incarnate without seed,/ to Christ God let us cry aloud:/ Thou Who hast raised our horn, // holy art Thou, O Lord.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Adam who, though fashioned of dust, partook of higher inspiration, yet was led to stumble into corruption through a woman's deceit, seeing

Christ born of a woman, crieth out: O Lord Who for my sake hast become like me, holy art Thou!

O Lord Christ, Who, mingling with clay, didst make Thyself conformable thereto, imparting Thy divine essence by participating in vile flesh, becoming earthly, yet remaining God, and Who hast lifted up our horn: Holy art Thou!

O Bethlehem, thou king of the princes of Judah, be glad! For Christ Who shepherdeth Israel, seated on the shoulders of the cherubim, hath manifestly come forth from thee, and, having lifted up our horn, hath established His reign over all.

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Look down upon the hymns of Thy servants, O Benefactor; / casting down the vaunted pride of the enemy. / O Thou Who wast all things, / raise up far above sin those who hymn Thee, / established immovably upon the foundation of the Faith, // O Good One.

Glory... Having been vouchsafed to behold the all-rich Offspring of the all-pure Bride, which passeth understanding, the chorus of pipers bowed down in awe-filled homage; and the ranks of incorporeal beings hymn Christ the King, Who became incarnate without seed.

Both... In His loving-kindness, He Who reigneth over the heights of heaven becometh like us through the unwedded Maiden; the Word Who before was immaterial later took upon Himself the matter of the flesh, that He might draw to Himself the firstcreated man, who had fallen.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi

P. Small Ectenia

C. Ypakoe (Tone 8)

**Calling** the Magi **by** a star, / heaven brought the first fruits of the Gentiles **unto** Thee, / a Babe lying in the **manger**: / and they were amazed to see neither **scepter** nor throne / but only utter **poverty**. / For what is meaner than a cave, what is humbler than **swaddling** clothes? / Yet therein shone forth the wealth of Thy **divinity**: // Glory to **Thee**, O Lord.

Canticle Four (Tone 1)

(Irmos) A rod from the root of Jesse / and blossom therefrom, O Christ, / Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin; / from the mountain overshadowed and densely wooded hast Thou come, / incarnate of her who knew not man, / O Thou praised and immaterial God. // Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

From the tribe of Judah Thou hast shone forth, O Christ, the expectation of the nations, Whom Jacob foretold of old, and hast come to overthrow the power of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria, transforming falsehood into godly faith. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Shining forth, a Star out of Jacob, O Master, Thou hast filled with joy the wise watchers of the stars, the followers of the words of Balaam, the soothsayer of old; and Thou hast manifestly received the first-fruits of the nations who have entered in to worship Thee. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou hast descended on the womb of the Virgin like rain upon the fleece, O Christ, and like drops of rain falling upon the earth. Ethiopia and Tharsis, the islands of Arabia and Saba, and they who rule all the land of the Medes, have fallen down before Thee, O Saviour. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Hymning of old the restoration of the human race,/ the Prophet Habbakuk, ineffably vouchsafed to behold an image,/ proclaimed prophetically:/ A little Babe is come forth from the mountain of the Virgin,// unto the restoration of men, O Word!

Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee!

Receiving flesh from the Virgin of His own will, the Most High hath issued forth, equal to men, to purge away the venom of the serpent's head, leading all from the sunless gates of hades to life-bearing light, in that He is God.

Glory... The nations who of old were overwhelmed by corruption, having escaped the greatest enemy, lift up their hands with hymns of praise, honoring the one Christ as Benefactor, Who hath come to us in His mercy.

Both... Having grown forth from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, thou didst transcend the laws of human nature, giving birth to the pre-eternal Word of the Father, in that He Himself was well pleased to pass through thy sealed womb in His strange abasement.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi

Canticle Five (Tone 1)

(Irmos) God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Submitting to be recorded among Thy servants at the command of Caesar, Thou hast freed us slaves from the enemy and sin, O Christ; and having abased Thyself for us, Thou hast made our clay divine through Thy union and sharing therein.

Behold, the Virgin hath conceived in her womb, as was foretold of old, and hath given birth to God made man, yet remaineth virgin. O sinners who for her sake have been reconciled with God, let us faithful hymn her as the true Theotokos.

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Out of the gloomy night of the works of deception,/ come Thou, O Christ,/ unto us who now keep vigil in hymnody addressed to Thee as our Benefactor,/ Who granteth us an easy path//, traveling whereon we may attain unto glory.

Glory... By His coming in the flesh the Master hath again cut down the cruel enmity directed against us, that He might destroy the soul-destroying ruler, uniting the world with the immaterial beings, making the Begetter accessible to creation.

Both... The people who of old were benighted have finally seen the light of the radiance of the Most High; and the Son bringeth the nations to the Father as an inheritance, bestowing ineffable grace where sin once flourished exceedingly.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi

Canticle Six (Tone 1)

(Irmos) From its belly, the sea monster/ cast forth Jonah as an infant,/ as it had received him./ And when the Word dwelt in the Virgin,/ and was made flesh He came forth preserving her undefiled./ In that He Himself did suffer no corruption,// her who gave Him birth did He preserve unharmed.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Christ our God, Whom the Father begat before the morning star, is come forth, incarnate, from the womb. He Who ruleth over the all-pure powers lieth in a manger of dumb beasts and is wrapped in swaddling-bands; and he looseth the knotted bonds of transgressions.

A young Child, a Son, is born of the clay of Adam and given to the faithful: He is the Father and Prince of the age to come, and is called the Angel of great Counsel. He is the mighty God Who exerciseth dominion over all creation.

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Engulfed in the uttermost depths of the sea, Jonah prayed:/ Come Thou and still the tempest!/ And I, beset by the dark of the tormentor, cry aloud unto Christ:// O Destroyer of evils, haste Thou quickly unto my slothfulness!

Glory... God the Word, Who from the beginning was with God, intending to preserve the nature which He Himself shareth with us, now strengtheneth it, which from of old was weak, by another fellowship with it, straightway showing it to be free from the passions.

Both... He Who dwelleth in light, and, contrary to His dignity, hath now been well pleased to dwell in a manger, cometh forth for our sake from the loins of Abraham for us who have benightedly fallen into the darkness of transgressions, that, for the salvation of men, He might raise up His children who have fallen low.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Feast: (Tone 3)

The Virgin today brings forth the Supersubstantial One,/ and the earth offers a cavern to the Unapproachable;/ Angels with the shepherds sing praises,/ and the Magi journey with the star:// since for our sake is born a young infant, the Pre-eternal God.

R. Ikos of the Feast

Bethlehem hath opened Eden! We have found joy in a secret place: come, and let us receive the things of paradise within the cave. There the unwatered Root hath blossomed, bearing forgiveness as its fruit. There an unfailing Wellspring hath been found, whence of old David longed to drink. There the Virgin hath given birth to the Babe, quenching the thirst of Adam and David straightway. Wherefore, let us hasten to this place where now is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God!

Canticle Seven (Tone 1)

(Irmos) The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The piping shepherds received an awesome vision of light; for the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and an angel cried out: Sing ye, for Christ, the blessed God of your fathers, is born!

Suddenly, at the voice of the angel, the armies of heaven cried out: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men! Christ hath shone forth: the blessed God of your fathers!"

"What words are these?" said the shepherds; "Let us go and see what hath taken place, the blessed Christ!" And hastening to Bethlehem, they bowed down in worship with the Theotokos, chanting: "O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!"

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

Captivated by the love of the King of all,/ the youths despised the godless threats of the tyrant raging uncontrollably;/ and when the great fire submitted to them,/ they said to the Master:// Blessed art Thou forever!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The furnace which had been raised to a sevenfold heat savagely burneth the minions, but spareth the youths who were wholly consumed with the fear of God; and the flame crowned them when the Lord freely granted them dew for their piety's sake.

Glory... O Christ our Helper, using Thine ineffable incarnation as a bulwark of defense, having taken on form, Thou hast put to shame the adversary of men, bearing the richness of Thy deification, in hope of which we had fallen from the heights down into the darkness of the uttermost depths.

Both... Omnipotently Thou hast cast down sin, which is exalted in evil without restraint and is incited to a vile frenzy by the perversion of the world; and those whom it formerly attracted Thou savest from its snares today, having become incarnate of Thine own will, O Benefactor.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi

Canticle Eight (Tone 1)

(Irmos) Wonder of a supernatural type,/ the dew-shedding fiery furnace did show forth an image/ for its flames scorched not the holy children whom it had received,/ just as the fire scorched not the Virgin,/ when it entered into her womb./ Thus, singing praise let us sing on high:/ Let all creation bless the Lord,// and extol Him unto all ages.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The daughter of Babylon carrieth off the captive children of David from Sion to herself; but now she sendeth her own children, the magi bearing gifts, to the God-pleasing daughter of David, who prayeth.

Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

The harps refused to play their sad songs, for the children of Sion would not sing in a strange land; but Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, destroyeth all the falsehood of Babylon and her musical instruments. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Babylon received the plunder of the kingdom of Sion and its captive riches; but Christ draweth its treasures to His Sion, guiding the star-watching kings by a star. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Canon II Irmos (Tone 1)

The children of the Old Covenant who were not consumed by the fire/ prefigure the unburnt womb of the Maiden/ which, though sealed, giveth birth in manner transcending nature./ And grace, working both of these as a single wonder, // doth move the people to hymnody.

Let us bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Having escaped the destruction resulting from man's being deceived into becoming divine, like the youths all creation with trembling unceasingly hymneth the Word Who hath abased Himself, and with fear it offereth meager praise, in that it is corrupt, even though it hath endured such with wisdom.

Both... Thou comest, O Restoration of the nations, to bring lost human nature back from the hills of the wilderness to the pasture rife with flowers, that Thou mightest put down the violent power of the slayer of men, having, in Thy forethought, become God as well as man.

R. We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1) Repeat the Irmos.

**No Magnificat**

*(Priest closes royal doors when he returns to the altar after the anointing. He comes out to do canticle nine if necessary)*

*(The following verse, 'Magnify, O my soul...' is done by deacon or priest, censing in front of the icon of the feast)*

Canticle Nine (Tone 1)

Magnify, O my soul, the all-pure Virgin Theotokos, who is more honourable and more glorious than the armies on high!



(Irmos) A strange and most glorious mystery do I see:/ the cave is heaven;/ the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim;/ the manger, the place wherein lay Christ God, Whom naught can contain,// Whom praising, we magnify.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, God Who was born in the flesh of the Virgin.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, the King Who was born in the cave.

The magi beheld the excellent course of the strange star which was newly appeared, illumining the heavens and marking the birth of Christ the King in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, God Who is worshipped by the magi.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, Him Who was proclaimed to the magi by the star.

The star revealed the newborn infant King to the magi who said: "Where is He, for we have come to worship Him?" But Herod who fought against God, enraged, was troubled, seeking to slay the Christ.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, the only pure Virgin Theotokos, who gave birth to Christ the King.

Refrain: The magi and shepherds have come to worship Christ Who hath been born in the city of Bethlehem.

Herod inquired concerning the time of the star, following whose course the magi worshipped Christ with gifts in Bethlehem; but, guided thereby to their homeland, they left the cruel murderer of the infants behind in mockery.

Canon II

Refrain: Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Master within the cave.

Irmos (Tone 1)

Better would it be for us to keep silence in fear,/ for it is without peril;/ and it is difficult, O Virgin,/ to weave complex hymns harmoniously with love.// But grant us, O Mother, the strength to fulfill our intent.

Refrain: Today the Master is born as a babe of the Virgin Mother.

Irmos (Tone 1)

Better would it be for us to keep silence in fear,/ for it is without peril;/ and it is difficult, O Virgin,/ to weave complex hymns harmoniously with love.// But grant us, O Mother, the strength to fulfill our intent.

Refrain: Today the shepherds see the Saviour wrapped in swaddling-bands and lying in a manger.

Refrain: Today the Master, Who is intangible, is wrapped in rags as a babe.

Refrain: Today all creation rejoiceth and is glad, for Christ is born of the Virgin Maiden.

O pure Mother, having beheld the indistinct images and dim shadows of the Word Who hath newly appeared through the gates that were closed, but mindful now of His true radiance, we bless thy womb as is meet.

Refrain: The heavenly hosts proclaim to the world the Saviour, Lord and Master Who hath been born.

Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible Godhead in three Hypostases!

Magnify, O my soul, her who hath delivered us from the curse.

Having attained their desire and been vouchsafed to see the advent of God, the people who delight in Christ are now consoled by regeneration; for thou bestowest life-bearing grace to pay homage to glory, O pure Virgin.

C. Katavasia: (Tone 1) Repeat both Irmoi with refrains

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God... *(This is **not** sung if the service falls on a Saturday evening)*

R. Exapostilarion

Our Saviour, the Dayspring from the east, has visited us from on high, and we who were in darkness and shadow have found the truth: for the Lord is born of the Virgin. (3x)

C. Lauds: Tone 4 Stichera

Let every breath **praise** the Lord/  
Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/  
**Praise** Him in the **highest**/  
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/  
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://  
Praise Him, all ye His hosts.  
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,  
Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,  
The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,  
The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,  
Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

1. Make **glad**, o ye righteous; greatly rejoice, O ye **heavens**;/ ye mountains, dance for joy. **Christ** is born;/ and **like** the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne, carrying at her bosom God the **Word** made flesh./ Shepherds glorify the **new-born** Child,/ Magi offer the **Master** gifts.// Angels sing praises, saying: 'O Lord past understanding, **glory** to Thee.'

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

2. **It** was the good pleasure of the **Father**:/ the Word became flesh, and the Virgin bore **God** made man./ A **star** spreads abroad the **tidings**:/ the Magi **worship**,/ the shepherds **stand** amazed,// and the creation is filled with **mighty** joy.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

3. **O** Theotokos Virgin who hast borne the **Saviour**,/ thou hast overthrown the ancient **curse** of Eve./ For **thou** hast become the Mother of Him in Whom the Father was **well** pleased,/ and hast carried at thy bosom God the **incarnate** Word./ We cannot fathom this mystery: but by faith alone we all glorify it, crying with thee and **saying**:// O Lord past all interpretation, **glory** to Thee.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

4. O **come**, let us sing the praises of the Mother of the **Saviour**,/ who after bearing child still remained **Virgin**./ **Rejoice**, thou Living City of God the King, in which **Christ** has dwelt,/ bringing to pass our **salvation**./ With Gabriel we sing thy praises; with the shepherds we glorify thee, **crying**::// O Theotokos, intercede for our salvation with Him Who took **flesh** from thee.

Glory... (Tone 6)

When it was time for Thy coming **upon** earth,/ the first taxation of the **world** was held;/ and then Thou madest ready to enroll the names of all who **believed** in Thy birth./ For this cause Caesar published **such** a decree,/ since Thy timeless and eternal Kingdom was newly made **manifest**./ Therefore as we pay our earthly tribute **money**,/ at the same time we offer Thee the wealth of our **Orthodox** faith,// O God and **Saviour** of our souls.

Both... (Tone 2) (*Royal doors open as usual*)

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in **Bethlehem**./ Today He Who knows no beginning now begins to be, and the Word is **made** flesh./ The **powers** of heaven greatly rejoice, and the earth with mankind **makes** glad./ The Magi offer gifts, the shepherds proclaim the **marvel**,/ and we cry aloud without **ceasing**::// Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will **among** men.

C. Great Doxology

C. Troparion of the Feast: (Tone 4) (see music)

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shown forth upon the world the light of wisdom,/ for in it those that worshipped the stars,/ were taught by a star/ to adore Thee the Sun of righteousness/ and to know Thee from highest, the Orient>::// O Lord, glory to Thee.

P. Litanies

P. Dismissal

R. First Hour

Tropar: Feast

Kontak: Feast