

VESPERS SUNG ON SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER 2020

✠ “LORD I CALL...”

Tone 3

[Music on website]

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice.//

Hear me, O Lord.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Tone 3 (For the Resurrection)

[Music on website]

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,

death's dominion has been shattered;

the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of man, being saved by faith,//

always offers Thee a song.

The righteous await me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.//

All creation, praising Thee, always offers Thee a song.

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//
for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6 (For the Forefeast)

[Music on website]

The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,

enlightening all things under heaven.

Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;

let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spirit!

Let us beseech Him in His compassion,

that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,

He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in Eden,//

into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

For Thy name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy Word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the cherubim,
goes to dwell in a womb without blemish.

The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;

He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Judah.

A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;

the throne of fire is replaced by a manger,

where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,

for He comes to restore the first-created man,//

as He is well-pleased so to do.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

O Word of God without beginning,

the Virgin lays Thee in a manger of dumb beasts.

Thou didst choose to begin Thy life in the flesh

in a manner beyond understanding.

Thou hast come to loose me from the fetters of evil

with which the envious serpent bound me.

[O Lover of mankind]

O Lover of mankind, Thou art wrapped in swaddling clothes,
tearing to pieces the bonds of my countless sins.
Therefore I joyfully praise and worship Thy holy birth, //
for Thou didst come to set me free.

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption,
and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Tone 6 (For the Forefathers of Christ) [Music on website]

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends
of the world,
truly filling it with light
and making known the dawning of grace.
For Christ shone forth from afar, brighter than the sun,
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth, //
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam rejoices today,
as he is the foundation and support of the wise Ancestors.
With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;
Seth dances, and Noah with him;
the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;
Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers
of Christ, //
we pray for the salvation of our souls.

For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

The three Youths, wise in God,
who shone with joy in the furnace,
proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;
For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,
He preserved from the flame her who gave birth,
He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with divine gifts.
Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,
for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Mountain, //
he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

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

Tone 6 (For the Forefathers of Christ) [Music on website]

Daniel, the man of desires, beheld Thee, O Lord,
the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.
Thus, he foretold that Thou wouldst take flesh without seed,
O Word of God, born of the Virgin, //
the changeless God and Saviour of our souls!

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

Tone 6 (For the Forefeast)

O cave, make ready,
for the Ewe Lamb comes,
bearing Christ in her womb!
O manger, receive Him Who by a word has released the dwellers of earth
from lawlessness!
You shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder,
And ye magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh, and frankincense,
for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother!
And she, bending over Him as a handmaiden,
worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, saying to Him:
“How wast Thou sown as seed in me?
How hast Thou grown within me, //
O my Deliverer and my God?”

✠ READINGS

The reading is from the book of Genesis [14:14-20]

Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands.”

The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy [1:8-11, 15-17]

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them. So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.' So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall judge the small and the great; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgment is God's.'

The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy [10:14-21]

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.

✠ **APOSTICHA**

Tone 3 [Music on website]

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

v. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
to deliver race of men from death.
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God//
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

Tone 2 (For the Forefathers of Christ) [Music on website]

Rejoice, O honoured Prophets,
who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,
and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!
Ye became indeed the mediators of Christ's new covenant.
Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven,//
intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

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

Tone 2 (For the Forefeast)

The time of our salvation draws near.
Prepare, O cave!
The Virgin draws near to bear the Christ.
Rejoice, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
for our Lord has come from thee!
All you lands, know the coming of Christ,
Who comes as the Lover of mankind,
to save mankind whom He has made!

✠ TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 3

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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

Troparion of Sunday before the Nativity in Tone 2

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in

the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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

Troparion of the Forefeast in Tone 4

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Make ready, O Bethlehem,

Eden hath been opened unto all.

Prepare, O Ephratha,

for the Tree of Life hath blossomed in the cave from the Virgin.

For her womb proved to be a spiritual paradise,

wherfrom there came the Divine Plant,

whereof eating we shall live and not die like Adam.

Christ is born//

to raise the image that fell of old.