

Hymns and Readings for the Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

FIRST ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

[Music on website]

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

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

both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

THIRD ANTIPHON

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand."

Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,

dawned upon the world the light of knowledge!

For, by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star

to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness,

and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

Reader: "Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!"

Choir: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...

Reader: The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty sceptre; rule in the midst of Thy foes.

Choir: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...

Reader: Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendour of Thy holy ones!

Choir: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...

ENTRANCE HYMN

Reader: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Choir: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

TROPARION & KONTAKION

Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4

[Music on website]

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,
dawned upon the world the light of knowledge!
For, by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star
to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Kontakion of the Nativity in Tone 3

[Music on website]

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star,//
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

INSTEAD OF THE TRISAGION

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! (x 3)

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

Have put on Christ. Alleluia!

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

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone.

Reader: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

Choir: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

Reader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

Choir: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

Reader: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee;

Choir: let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Ye 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 you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ. [Galatians 4:4-7]

ALLELUIA

Reader: And with thy spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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 Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; 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, till 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. [Matthew 2:1-12]

ZADOSTOYNIK

[[Music on website](#)]

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honourable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.
I behold a strange, most glorious mystery!
Heaven—the cave;
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay:
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!