

Service for use at home on Sunday 26 December 2021 The second day of the Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

The 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir/ If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.

Before the Service

If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle, and incense, if available, should be lit before the Service begins.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

*In place of the GREAT LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)*

FIRST ANTIPHON

Choir: 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 ...***

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them. ***Through the prayers ...***

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

Through the prayers ...

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!

*In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

SECOND ANTIPHON

Choir: 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.

*In place of the LITTLE LITANY, the choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

THIRD ANTIPHON

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

Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4

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

Choir: O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARIA & KONTAKIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4

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!

Troparion of the Righteous Ones in Tone 2

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;
thou didst worship with the Magi,
and didst receive the news from the Angel.//
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

Kontakion of the Righteous Ones in Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy;

Joseph and James offer praise.

The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.

They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, //

and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honour Thee!”

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

Kontakion of the Nativity in Tone 3

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!

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Second Tone.

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Choir: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Reader: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Choir: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

Reader: And in the Fourth Tone.

Reader: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Choir: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

EPISTLE

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

Ye Brethren: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. [Galatians 1:11-19]

Ye Brethren: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [Ephesians 6:10-17]

ALLELUIA

Reader: May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: O Lord, Save the King, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel. The Gospel may be read by the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent – according to the situation.

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Reader: When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene." [Matthew 2:13-23]

At that time: A ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for

a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." [Luke 18:18-27]

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Instead of the AUGMENTED LITANY, the Choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

PRAYER TO THE LORD OF HOSTS

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

Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. *(Reverence)*

Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

(Reverence)

Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.

(Reverence)

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir sings to Thee, and cries: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

The choir of holy Angels and Archangels, with all the Powers of heaven, sing Thy praises and do cry: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

THE CREED (SYMBOL OF FAITH)

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 only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was

buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, 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 acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Reader: O God, remit, pardon and forgive our sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, whether by words or deeds, whether in knowledge or ignorance, whether by day or night, whether in mind or thought; forgive us all these, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

All-holy Trinity, Mighty one in essence, Kingdom undivided, origin of all good things, be graciously inclined also to me, a sinner. Establish me; give understanding to my heart, and purge away all my vileness. Enlighten my mind, that I may glorify, sing praises, and adore Thee, and say:

Choir: One is Holy,/ One is Lord,/ Jesus Christ,/ to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Choir: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. (x 3)

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

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life, and covets many days, that he may enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He kept all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked; and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

THE ZADOSTOYNIK

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.

THE DISMISSAL

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Who for our sake wast born in a cave and lay in a manger, and art risen again for our salvation; through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

All kiss the Gospel Book (or New Testament, or Bible) and the Cross placed on the table. When all have done so, the reader or choir sings slowly:

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