

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ



Great Compline and Matins

Celebrated on the Eve of the Feast

Adapted for use by
Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church
Rochester NY

GREAT COMPLINE

Priest:

Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages!

Reader:

Amen. Glory to You, our God! Glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

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

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

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 evil.

Priest:

For Yours 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 ages of ages.

Reader:

Amen.

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

Come, let us worship God, our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 4

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood? But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the Lord will hear when I call to Him. Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?” O Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased. I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But You, O Lord — how long? Return, O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for the sake of Your mercy! For in death there is no remembrance of You, and in the grave who will give You thanks? I am weary with my groaning. All through the night I flood my bed with weeping; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes away because of grief and it grows old because of all my enemies. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity! For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication. The Lord will receive my prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled. Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O Lord my God! Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy will say, “I have prevailed against him”; lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am shaken. But I have trusted in Your mercy. My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt lovingly with me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3 times)

Priest:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Choir:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

For God is with us! *(the choir repeats this verse as the priest continues . . .)*

Priest:

Hear this, even to the uttermost ends of the earth/ Submit yourselves, all you who are mighty/ If you again arise in your might, again you will be overthrown/ If any plot together, the Lord will destroy them/ And the word which you shall speak shall not abide in you/ For we do not fear your terror, neither are we troubled/ But we will ascribe holiness to the Lord our God, and Him alone we will fear/ And if I put my trust in Him, He will be my sanctification/ Therefore, I will set my hope on Him, and through Him will I be saved/ Behold – I will be saved along with the children whom God has given me/ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light/ and the light has shined on those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death/ For unto us a son is born, unto us a child is given/ And the government shall be upon his shoulder/ And there shall be no end to His peace/ And His name shall be called the great Council of the Angels: Wonderful! Counselor! The Mighty God! The Everlasting Father! The Prince of Peace! The Father of the world to come!/ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit/ now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Choir:

God is with us! Understand all nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Reader:

The day is past. I thank You, O Lord. I entreat You, grant that I will not fall into sin this evening -- and save me, O Savior.

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

The day is past. I sing praises to You, O Master. I entreat You, that throughout this evening and night I may remain faithful and be delivered from deceit -- and save me, O Savior.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The day is past. I sing hymns to You, O Holy One. I entreat You, that this evening and night I will be delivered from all temptation -- and save me, O Savior.

Choir:

With unceasing songs the Angelic Powers of the Cherubim glorify You! The six-winged Seraphim exceedingly extol You with never-ending voices. The Host of Angels praise You with the song: "Holy! Holy! Holy!" For You are the Father before all ages, and You have with You Your Son who is from all eternity; You also have with You the Spirit of Life, equal in divinity and honor. You have revealed to us the Trinity without division or confusion. O most holy Virgin – Theotokos and the Mother of our God – along with all of you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, with the company of the Prophets and the Martyrs, who have attained life eternal: Pray zealously for us, for we are in dire need. Through your prayers and intercessions for us, we will be delivered from the trickery of the Evil One, and we will sing the Angelic song: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Thrice-Holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."

All:

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 came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the HOLY SPIRIT, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is

worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Priest:

All-holy Sovereign Lady – Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary – pray for us sinners.

Choir:

O all-holy Sovereign Lady – Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary – pray for us sinners.

Priest:

All you heavenly Host of Angels and Archangels, pray for us sinners.

Choir:

All you heavenly Host of Angels and Archangels, pray for us sinners.

Priest:

Holy John – Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ – pray for us sinners.

Choir:

Holy John – Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ – pray for us sinners.

Priest:

Holy and glorious Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, and all Saints, pray for us sinners.

Choir:

Holy and glorious Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, and all Saints, pray for us sinners.

Priest:

Our reverend and God-loving Fathers, Pastors, and Ecumenical Teachers, pray for us sinners.

Choir:

Our reverend and God-loving Fathers, Pastors, and Ecumenical Teachers, pray for us sinners.

Priest:

Invincible, ineffable, and divine power of the honorable and life-giving Cross, do not forsake us sinners.

Choir:

Invincible, ineffable, and divine power of the honorable and life-giving Cross, do not forsake us sinners.

Priest:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

Choir:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

Priest:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

Choir:

O God, cleanse us sinners.

Priest:

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

Choir:

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

Reader:

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

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

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

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 evil.

Priest:

For Yours 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 ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

TROPARION OF THE FEAST

Reader:

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

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you!

In the name of the Lord, Father bless!

Priest:

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers and Mothers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

Reader:

Amen.

Psalm 51

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only,

have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight — that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and into sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward being, and in the hidden part of me You will make me to know wisdom. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, so that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God -- the God of my salvation -- and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then they shall offer fitting sacrifices on Your altar.

Priest:

The Prayer of Manasseh, King of Judah

O Lord, Almighty God of our fathers -- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob -- and of their righteous seed; who hast made heaven and earth, with all the adornment thereof; who hast bound the sea by the word of Your commandment; who hast shut up the deep, and sealed it by Your awesome and glorious name; whom all men fear, and tremble before Your power; for the majesty of Your glory cannot be comprehended, and Your angry threatening toward sinners is overwhelming: but Your merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable; for thou art the most high Lord, of great compassion, longsuffering, very merciful, and You turn the evils of men toward repentance. You, O Lord, according to thy great goodness have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You: and by Your infinite mercies You have appointed repentance unto sinners, that they may be saved. You therefore, O Lord and the God of the just, have not appointed repentance for the just -- to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, who have not sinned against You; but You have appointed repentance unto me, for I am a sinner. My sins are more in number than the sands of the sea. My transgressions, O Lord, are multiplied: my transgressions are multiplied, and I am not worthy to behold and see the height of heaven because of the multitude of my iniquities. I am bowed down

with so many iron chains that I cannot life up my head. And, I have no right to complain, neither do I have any excuse; for I have provoked Your wrath, and done evil before You. I did not do Your will, neither did I you're your commandments. I have set up abominations, and have multiplied my offences. Now, therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, asking You for grace. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my iniquities! Wherefore, I humbly beg You to forgive me; O Lord, forgive me, and do not destroy me with my iniquities. Do not be angry with me forever; neither condemn me to the lower parts of the earth. For You are the God of those who repent; and in me thou wilt show forth all of Your great goodness -- for You will save me, even though I am unworthy, because of Your great mercy. Therefore I will praise You forever, all the days of my life. For all the powers of the heavens praise You, and Yours is the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Choir:

Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE FEAST

Reader:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people!

We hymn You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; You who takes away the sins of the world.

Receive our prayer, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord -- O Jesus Christ -- to the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Every day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light shall we see light.

O continue Your mercy unto them that know You.

* * * * *

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir:

STIKHERA OF THE LITIYA

Priest:

O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with mercy and bounties, exalt the faith of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Your rich mercies.

Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos, birth-giver of God, and ever-virgin **Mary**; by the power and might of the precious and life-creating Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers, angels and archangels, of heaven; through the prayers of the glorious and honorable

Prophet, the Fore-runner and Baptizer of our Lord, **John**, in whose honor and memory this temple has been consecrated; of the holy glorious and ever-praised Apostles; of the Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles, **Mary Magdalene**.

Through the prayers of our fathers among the saints, hierarchs and ecumenical teachers: **Basil** the Great, **Gregory** the Theologian, and **John** Chrysostom; through the prayers of **Athanasius** and **Cyril** of Alexandria; **Nicholas** the Wonder-worker of Myra in Lycia; **Ignatius** of Antioch; **Polycarp** of Smyrna; **Irenaeus** of Lyons; **Cyprian** of Carthage; **Ambrose** of Milan; **Gregory** Dialogos of Rome; **Augustine** of Canterbury; **Theodore** of Tarsus; **Gregory** the Enlightener of Armenia; **Patrick** the Enlightener of Ireland; **Naum** and **Clement** of Ochrid, the Enlighteners of Bulgaria; **Sava** the Enlightener of Serbia; **Nicholas** the Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Japan; **Innocent** the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America; **Tikhon**, the Confessor of the Faith, Bishop of San Francisco, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America; **Nicholai** of Zicha and South Canaan, Pennsylvania; **John** the blessed of Shanghai and San Francisco; **Raphael** the Wonderworking Bishop of Brooklyn.

Through the prayers of the Equals to the Apostles and teachers of the Slavs, **Cyril** and **Methodius**; of our fathers among the saints, the Wonder-workers of Russia: **Peter**, **Alexis**, **Jonah** and **Philip**.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers and pastors: **Alexis** of Wilkes-Barre the Confessor and defender of Orthodoxy in America; **Jacob** the Enlightener of the native peoples of Alaska; of the missionary priests to North America, **John** and **Alexander**, martyred under the persecution of the Bolsheviks.

Through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and rightly victorious martyrs; the holy Apostle and Archdeacon, the first-martyr **Stephen**; of the holy and great Martyrs: **Demetrius** of Thessalonica; **George** the Victorious; **Theodore** the General; **Alban**, the First Martyr of Britain; the New-Martyr **Gorazd** of Prague; the New Martyred Priest and Equal to the Apostles **Cosmos** of Aitolia; the first Martyr among women and Equal to the Apostles, **Thekla**; of the Great Women martyrs: **Barbara**, **Catherine** of Alexandria, **Irene** of Thessalonica, and **Marina** of Antioch; of the Virgin-Martyrs of Rome: **Anastasia**, **Tatiana**, **Paraskeva**, **Xenia**, **Agnes**, **Lucy**, **Susanna**, and **Eugenia**; of the first martyr of our land, the priest **Juvenaly**; of the martyred youth **Peter** the Aleut of Alaska.

Through the prayers of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers: **Anthony** the Great of Egypt; **Sabbas** the Sanctified; **Benedict** of Nursia; **Colomban** of Iona; **Theodore** of Studion; **Anthony** and **Theodosius** and the other

Wonderworkers of the Monastery Caves in Kiev; **Sergius** of Radonezh; **John** of Rila; **Seraphim** of Sarov; **Macarius** of Corinth; **Nectarios** of Aigina; **Nicodemus** of Mount Athos; **Sergius** and **Herman** of Valaam Monastery; **Ambrose**, the Elder of Optina; **Silouan** of Mount Athos; **Euthemius** of Trnovo; and **Herman**, the Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska and All America ... Through the prayers of our venerable and God-bearing Mothers: **Pelagia** the Penitent; **Theodosia** of Tyre; **Anastasia**; and **Mary** of Egypt.

Through the prayers of the holy and righteous ancestors of God and parents of the Virgin Mary, **Joachim** and **Anna**; and through the prayers of all Your saints – we pray to You, O most merciful Lord – hear us sinners who entreat You, and have mercy on us!

Choir:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest:

Furthermore we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan _____, for the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, for the priests, deacons, monastics, and all of our brethren in Christ. For every Christian soul that is afflicted and in need of God's mercy and assistance. For the protection and good-estate of this Holy House and for all those who enter here. For the peace and tranquility of the whole world. For the salvation as assistance of our brethren who diligently and in faithfulness to God serve here and all those who support this parish. For those who are absent from us and those who are traveling. For the healing and comfort of those who are in sickness, suffering, or affliction. For the repose and blessed memory of all our devout fathers, mothers, and brethren who have departed this life before us and lie asleep in the Lord. For the deliverance of captives. For those who minister and have ministered in this Holy House, let us say:

Choir:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest:

Furthermore we pray for those in civil authority, those who serve in the government of our land and the men and women in our armed forces. That the Lord our God will preserve this city and this Holy House from all harm, disaster and destruction. And that our good God, who loves mankind, will be easily entreated and will favorably attend to our prayers and supplications; that He will turn away from any wrath stirred up against us, and deliver us from all His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us!

Choir:

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest:

Again we pray that the Lord God will attend unto our voice of supplication, and show mercy on us!

Choir:

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

Priest:

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth; and show mercy, show mercy – O Master – upon us sinners. For You are a merciful God and the lover of mankind, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

Priest:

Peace be unto all!

Choir:

And to your spirit!

Priest:

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir:

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:

O most-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God! Make our prayer acceptable. Grant us the remission of our transgressions. Protect us and drive away from us every foe and adversary. Make our life peaceful, O Lord, and have mercy also upon Your world. And, save our souls, for You are gracious and the lover of mankind.

Choir:

Amen.

APOSTIKHA

PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON

Reader and All:

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us! (3 times)

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

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

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

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

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 evil.

Priest:

For Yours 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 ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

TROPARION OF THE FEAST (3 times)

Priest:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir:

Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them fed the five thousand: Do You, the same Lord, bless these loaves, wheat, wine and oil. Sanctify all the faithful who shall partake of them. For You bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory: with Your Father who has no beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore! (3 times)

Priest:

The blessing of the Lord be upon you through His grace and love for mankind, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

MATINS

Choir:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people!
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people!
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among all people!
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise!
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise!

Reader:

Psalm 3

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.

Psalm 38

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before You and my

sighing is not hidden from You. My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Those also who seek my life lay snares for me. Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. For in You, O Lord, I hope. You will hear me, O Lord my God. For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me. Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong. Those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good. Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, do not be far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord -- my salvation!

Psalm 63

O God, You are my God. Early will I seek You. My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live: I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed I meditate on You throughout the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You, and Your right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword, and they shall be a portion for the jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God! Everyone who swears by Him shall exult in glory, but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to You, O God! (3 times)

Priest and Choir:

The Great Litany

Priest:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Choir:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest:

All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!

Choir:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest:

I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord!

Choir:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Priest:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!

Choir:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Choir:

TROPARION OF THE FEAST (3 times)

PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD

Priest:

We magnify! We magnify You! O life-giver Christ! Who for our sake now is born in the flesh, of the Virgin Mary – unwedded and most pure!

Choir:

The Magnification (repeated with verses)

Priest and Choir:

The Little Litany

For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Choir:

FROM MY YOUTH

Priest:

The prokeimenon is in the fourth tone: Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee; the Lord has sworn and will not change His mind!

Choir:

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee; the Lord has sworn and will not change His mind!

Priest:

The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

Choir:

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee; the Lord has sworn and will not change His mind!

Priest:

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee!

Choir:

The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind!

Priest:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir:

Lord, have mercy.

Priest:

For You are Holy, O our God, and You rest in the saints. To You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

Priest:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Choir:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Priest:

Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Choir:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Priest:

Let everything that has breath!

Choir:

Praise the Lord!

Priest:

And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!

Choir:

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

Priest:

Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Choir:

And to your spirit!

Priest:

The readings are from the Holy Gospels according to Saint Luke and Saint Matthew.

Choir:

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Priest:

Let us attend!

Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was that, while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Let us attend!

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Choir:

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Choir:

POST-GOSPEL STIKHERA

Priest:

Through the mercy, compassion, and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed – O Father – together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

THE CANON OF THE FEAST (Odes 1-8)

NOTE: Before the 9th Ode, the **priest** comes before the icon of the Theotokos and proclaims:

The Theotokos, and the Mother of the Light, let us honor and magnify in song!

CANON ODE 9

Priest and Choir:

The Little Litany

For all the Powers of heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Choir:

THE EXAPOSTILARION (“HYMN OF LIGHT”) OF THE FEAST

THE PRAISES

Priest:

Glory to You, who has shown us the Light!

Choir:

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

TROPARION OF THE FEAST

Priest and Choir:

The Litany of Supplication (“Morning Litany”)

Lord, have mercy. // Grant it, O Lord.

Amen.

Priest:

Peace be unto all!

Choir:

And to your spirit!

Priest:

Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir:

To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:

O Holy Lord -- You dwell in the highest; You regard the humble of heart; and You look upon all of the creation with Your all seeing eye. To You we now bow our heads and submissively offer our souls, and we entreat You: Stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place, and bless us all. Forgive us if we have sinned, voluntarily or involuntarily, for You are a good God and the Lover of Mankind; You grant us Your earthly and heavenly good things. For it is Yours to show mercy upon us and to save us, O our God, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir:

Amen.

Priest and Choir:

THE GREAT DISMISSAL

Christ is born!

Glorify Him!