

GREAT COMPLINE
NATIVITY/THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Choir: O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest 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.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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 thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: 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 ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

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.

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

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! Thou hast given me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. O men, how long shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. Be angry, but sin not; commune with your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, O LORD!" Thou hast put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for thou alone, O LORD, makest me dwell in safety.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

PSALM 90

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near

your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Reader: God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

Choir: God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

Reader: Hear this, all you ends of the earth!

Choir: For God is with us. (*repeated after each verse*)

Reader: Submit yourselves, you mighty ones!

Even if your strength returns, you shall be overthrown once more. If you take counsel together, the Lord will scatter you.

If you speak a word, it will never stand, even among yourselves.

We do not fear your threats, nor are we troubled. For the Lord our God is holy, and him will we fear.

If I trust in Him, He will be my sanctification. I will wait for Him; He will save me.

Behold, I and the children God has given me.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, on them has light shined.

For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon

His shoulder. And of His peace, there shall be no end.

And His name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel. Wonderful, Counselor.

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, 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, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us!

Choir: God is with us, understand, O nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

Reader: Now that the day is over, I glorify You O Master, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without sin. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

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

Now that the day is over, I glorify You, O Master, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without giving offense. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

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

Now that the day is over, I praise You, O Holy One, And I pray that I may pass the evening and the night without temptation. Grant this, O Savior, and save me.

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-ending songs. The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless voices. All the hosts of Angels honor You with the thrice-holy hymn. For You, O Father, are from all eternity, with Your co-eternal Son, and with the Spirit of life, Who is equal to You; You have revealed the unity of the Trinity.

O most-holy Virgin and Mother of God, and you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, all you choirs of prophets and martyrs, who enjoy eternal life, fervently pray for us all, who are in fearful distress, that we may be delivered from the deceit of the Evil One, so that we may sing the song of the Angels: Holy, holy, holy, Thrice-holy Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

The Creed

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 the heavens, 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 arose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and 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.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto the 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 thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

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 trespasses, as we forgive these who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: 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.

Choir: Amen.

TROPARION OF THE FEAST

<i>Nativity Tone 4</i>	<i>Theophany Tone 1</i>
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<p>Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to thee!</p>	<p>When thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest: for the voice of the Father bore witness to thee, and called thee his beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to thee.</p>
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Reader: Lord have mercy. *(Forty Times)*

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

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

Reader: Amen.

And this prayer of Basil the Great:

O Lord, Lord, Who deliverest us from every arrow that flieth by day, deliver us also from everything that walketh in darkness. Receive the lifting up of our hands as an evening sacrifice. Vouchsafe us also to pass without reproach the course of night untempted of evil things, and redeem us from every disturbance and dread that cometh to us from the devil. Grant unto our souls contrition and unto our thoughts care concerning the trial of Thy fearful and righteous judgment. Nail our flesh to the fear of Thee, and mortify our earthly members, that, even in the quietness of sleep, we may be illumined by the contemplation of Thy

judgments. Withdraw from us every unseemly fantasy and injurious desire. Raise us up at the time of prayer confirmed in the faith and progressing in thy commandments, through the favor and grace of Thine only begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 50

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 Zion, 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.

The Prayer of Manasses, King of Judea:

O Lord Almighty, Thou God of our fathers, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and of their righteousseed; Who hast made Heaven and earth with all the array thereof; Who hast bound the sea by the word of Thy command; Who hast shut up the deep and sealed it by Thy fearful and glorious Name; Whom all things fear, yea and before Whose power they tremble; for the majesty of Thy glory cannot be borne and the anger of Thy threatening toward sinners is intolerable; and yet Thy merciful promise is immeasurable and unsearchable; for Thou art the Lord most high, of great compassion, long-suffering, abundant in mercy, and repentest of the evils against me. Thou, O Lord, according to Thy great goodness, hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against Thee; and of Thine infinite mercies hast appointed repentance unto sinners, that they may be saved. Thou, therefore, O Lord of hosts, hast not appointed repentance to the just, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, who have not sinned against Thee; but Thou hast appointed repentance unto me, who am a sinner; for 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 look unto 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 by reason of my sins, neither have I any respite; for I have provoked Thy wrath and done that which is evil before Thee; I did not Thy will, neither kept I Thy commandments; I have set up abominations and multiplied detestable things.

Now, therefore, I bow the knee of my heart, beseeching Thee for grace, I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities; but I humbly beseech Thee, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me forever, by reserving my evils for me; neither condemn me to the lower parts of the earth; for Thou, O Lord, art the God of them that repent; and in me wilt Thou show all Thy goodness; for Thou wilt save me that am unworthy, according to Thy Great Mercy. I will praise Thee henceforth all the days of my life; for all the hosts of Heaven doth sing Thy praise, and Thine is the glory unto ages of ages.

Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto the ages

of ages. Amen.

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

Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

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

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: 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.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION

<i>Nativity Tone 3</i>	<i>Theophany Tone 4</i>
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 a little child.	Today thou hast appeared to the universe, and thy light, O Lord, has shone on us who with understanding praise thee; thou hast come and revealed thyself, O unapproachable Light.

Reader: Lord have mercy. (*Forty Times*)

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

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

Reader: Amen.

O Master God, the Father Almighty, O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and 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.

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.

The Lesser Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards 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 the Holy Spirit; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who 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 alone art holy, Thou alone art Lord, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to Thee and praise Thy Name for ever and ever. Lord, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Lord, I have fled unto Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. For with Thee is the fountain of life, and in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto those who know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou,

O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LITIA

Nativity	Theophany
<p><i>Choir:</i> Let heaven and earth rejoice prophetically! Let angels and mankind celebrate spiritually! For God has appeared in the flesh from the virgin to those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death. The shepherds proclaim the miracle; the wise men bring gifts from the east. We offer unworthily the angelic song: glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace! The expectation of the nations has come// to save us from the works of the enemy.</p>	<p><i>Choir:</i> He Who covers Himself with light as with a garment for our sake saw fit to become like us. Today He covers Himself with the streams of the Jordan. He has no need of their cleansing, but He secures new birth for us. O the wonder! Without fire He re-forges, Without breaking He re-forms. He saves those enlightened in Him:// Christ God, the Savior of our souls.</p>

Priest: O God, save thy people,...

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest: Again we pray for our Metropolitan Tikhon...

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest: Again we pray for this country...

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Priest: Again we pray that he will keep this city...

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

Priest: Again we pray that the Lord our God will hearken...

Choir: Lord, have mercy (thrice)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Master, great in mercy....

Choir: Amen.

APOSTIKA

Nativity Tone 2	Theophany Tone 2
<p><i>Choir:</i> A great and marvelous wonder has come to pass this day: a Virgin bears a child, and her womb suffers no corruption. The Word is made flesh, yet does not cease to dwell with the Father. Angels and shepherds give glory, and with them we cry aloud:// glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> <i>The Lord said unto my Lord: sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.</i></p> <p>Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of all; Eden offers a cave; 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.</p>	<p><i>Choir:</i> John saw Thee coming to him in the Jordan, O Christ God, and he said: “Thou hast no uncleanness, O Lord, why dost Thou come to Thy servant? In whose Name will I baptize Thee? In the Name of the Father? But in Thyself Thou bearest the Father. In the Name of the Son? But Thou Thyself art the Son incarnate. In the Name of the Holy Spirit? But by Thy breath Thou canst give the Spirit to the faithful.”// O God Who hast shone forth, have mercy on us!</p> <p><i>Reader:</i> <i>The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.</i></p> <p>The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid. For the Cherubim cannot lift up their eyes</p>

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten you.

When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah, magi coming from the east worshiped God made Man. And eagerly opening their treasures, they offered to Him precious gifts: refined gold, as to the King of the ages, and frankincense, as to the God of all; myrrh they offered to the Immortal, as to One three days dead. Come all nations, and let us worship Him// who was born to save our souls.

Glory...

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and celebrate, all who love Zion! 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 mother of the Creator. O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! The sinful vessel that brought death upon all flesh has become the first fruits of salvation through the Theotokos for all the world. For from her the all-perfect God is born as a child, and by His birth He sets the seal on her virginity. Through His swaddling clothes He looses the bands of sin. And through becoming a child

to Thy glory, and the Seraphim cannot gaze at Thee; but they stand by Thee in fear: the Cherubim bear Thee up, and the Seraphim glorify Thy might. With them, O merciful Lord, we proclaim Thy praise and say://

“O God Who hast shone forth, have mercy on us!”

What ailed thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? O Jordan, that thou didst turn back?

Today the Maker of heaven and earth comes to the Jordan in human flesh. He Who is sinless asks to be baptized, that He may cleanse the world from the error of the Enemy. The Master of all is baptized by a servant; through water He gives cleansing to the human race. Let us cry aloud to Him://

“O God Who hast shone forth, glory to Thee!”

Glory...Now and ever... Amen.

When the Son Who was born of a Virgin asked to be baptized in the Jordan, the Shining Lamp, born of a barren woman, cried to Him in fear and joy://“Sanctify me, O Master, by Thy divine Epiphany!”

He heals Eve's pangs in travail. Therefore let all creation sing and dance for joy, // for Christ has come to restore it and to save our souls!

now and ever...

You have come to dwell in a cave, O Christ our God, and the manger received You; shepherds and magi worshiped You. Then the preaching of the prophets was fulfilled, and the angelic powers marveled, crying aloud and saying: // glory to your condescension, only Lover of mankind!

Choir: Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the 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 thy Name's sake. Lord have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the 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 our

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: 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.

Choir: Amen.

THE TROPARION

Nativity (Tone 4)	Theophany (Tone 1)
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it those who worshiped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to thee! <i>(3 times)</i>	When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee. <i>(3 times)</i>

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God...

Choir: Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord from henceforth and for evermore. *(Thrice)*

Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you...

Choir: Amen.

MATINS

Reader: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. *(thrice)*

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. *(twice)*

PSALM 3

O Lord, how many are my foes. Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord. Deliver me, O my God. For Thou dost smite all my enemies on the cheek, Thou dost break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the Lord; Thy blessing be upon Thy people.

And again:

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows have sunk into me, and Thy hand has come down on me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me. My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness, I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. Lord, all my longing is known to Thee, my sighing is not hidden from Thee. My heart throbs, my strength fails me; and the light of my eyes – it also has gone from me. My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my kinsmen stand afar off. Those who seek my life lay their snares, those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and meditate treachery all the day long. But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth. Yea, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes. But for Thee, O Lord, do I wait; it is Thou, O Lord my God, Who wilt answer. For I pray, “Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips.” For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin. Those who are my foes without cause are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good. Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God,

be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

And again:

Do not forsake me, O Lord. O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, Thou art my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon Thee in the sanctuary, beholding Thy power and glory. Because Thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise Thee. So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on Thy Name. My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises Thee with joyful lips, when I think of Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me. But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword, they shall be prey for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall glory; for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

And again:

I meditate on Thee in the watches of the night; for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand up-holds 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 Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

PSALM 87

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the Pit; I am a man who has no strength, like one forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom Thou dost remember no more, for they are cut off from Thy hand. Thou hast put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with all Thy waves. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me; Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eyes grow dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon Thee, O Lord; I spread out my hands to Thee. Dost Thou work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise Thee? Is Thy steadfast love declared in the grave, or Thy faithfulness in Abaddon? Are Thy wonders known in the darkness, or Thy saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry to Thee; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee. O Lord, why dost Thou cast me off? Why dost Thou hide Thy face from me? Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer Thy terrors; I am helpless. Thy wrath has swept over me; Thy dread assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in upon me together. Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

And again:

O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thine ear to my cry.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from the Pit, Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

And again:

In all places of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications. In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for no man living is righteous before Thee. For the enemy has pursued me; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old, I meditate on all that Thou hast done; I muse on what Thy hands have wrought. I stretch out my hands to Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like a parched land. Make haste to answer me, O Lord. My spirit fails. Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear in the morning of Thy steadfast love, for in Thee I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies. I have fled to Thee for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In Thy righteousness bring me out of trouble. And in Thy steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am Thy servant.

And again:

In Thy faithfulness answer me, in Thy righteousness. Enter not into judgment with Thy servant. *(twice)*

Let Thy good spirit lead me on a level path.

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 Thee, O God. *(thrice)*

Priest/Choir: GREAT LITANY

Priest/Choir: In the forth tone: ***God is the Lord...***

TROPARION

Nativity (Tone 4)	Theophany (Tone 1)
<p><i>Choir:</i> Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! 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 Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!</p>	<p><i>Choir:</i> When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.</p>

Choir: POLYELEION: “Praise ye the Name of the Lord...”

Priest/Choir: THE MAGNIFICATION

Priest/Choir: LITTLE LITANY

Choir: “***From My Youth...***”

Priest/Choir: GOSPEL READING

Choir: POST-GOSPEL STICHERA

Priest: PRAYER OF INTERSESSION (*Exclamation*)

Choir/Reader: Page # 26 [Canon of the Nativity](#)

Page # 35 [Canon of the Theophany](#)

Priest/Choir: LITTLE LITANY

EXAPOSTEILARION

Nativity	Theophany
<i>Reader:</i> Our Savior, 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.	<i>Reader:</i> The Savior, Who is Grace and Truth, shone forth in the streams of the Jordan, and enlightened those who slept in darkness and shadow; for He has come and revealed Himself, the Light unapproachable.

Choir/Reader:

THE PRAISES

Nativity (Tone 4)	Theophany (Tone 1)
<i>Choir:</i> Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!// To Thee, O God, is due a song! Praise Him, all you Angels of His! Praise Him, all His hosts!// To Thee, O God, is due a song! <i>Reader:</i>	<i>Choir:</i> Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!// To Thee, O God, is due a song! Praise Him, all you Angels of His! Praise Him, all His hosts!// To Thee, O God, is due a song! <i>Reader:</i> <i>Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in</i>

*Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise
Him according to His exceeding greatness!*

Make glad, O you righteous! Greatly
rejoice, O heavens!

Dance for joy, O mountains, for Christ is
born! The Virgin has become like the
cherubic throne.

She carries at her bosom God the Word,
made flesh. Shepherds glorify the newborn
Child.

Wise Men offer the Master gifts.

Angels praise Him and sing://

O Lord, past understanding, glory to Thee!

*Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise
Him with lute and harp!*

It was the good pleasure of the Father: the
Word is made flesh. The Virgin gives birth
to God made man. A star announces the
glad tidings. Shepherds are amazed, and
Wise Men worship,//
and creation is filled with mighty joy.

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise
Him with strings and pipe!*

Thou hast borne the Savior, O Virgin
Theotokos. Thou hast overthrown Eve's
ancient curse. Thou didst become the

His mighty firmament!

Light of light, Christ our God, the God
Who shone forth, has shone in the world.//
O people, let us worship Him!

*Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise
Him according to His exceeding greatness!*

*Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him
with lute and harp!*

O Christ, our Master, How will we Thy
servants worthily honor Thee?//
For we have all been renewed in the waters.

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise
Him with strings and pipe!*

By being baptized in the Jordan, O our
Savior, Thou didst sanctify the waters;
by letting a servant lay his hand on Thee,
Thou hast healed the passions of the world.
Great is the mystery of Thy divine plan.//
O Lord Who lovest mankind, glory to Thee!

*Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise
Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let
everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

The true Light has shone forth granting

mother of the Son of God. The Father is well-pleased in Him. Thou dost carry at thy bosom God, the Word, made flesh. We cannot fathom this mystery. We can only believe, and give glory with thee://

O Lord, beyond all explanation, glory to Thee!

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Come, let us sing to the mother of the Savior, who after childbearing remained a virgin: “Hail, O spiritual city of God the King! Christ came to dwell in thee. He has accomplished salvation.” With Gabriel, let us sing her praise, and with the shepherds, let us glorify her, crying out://

“O Theotokos, pray to Him Who took flesh from thee to save us!”

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

When it was time for Thy coming on earth, the first imperial taxation was held, but Thou also didst take a census, O Lord, recording the names of all men who believed in Thy birth.

Thou didst use the decree of Caesar for

enlightenment to all. Though He is beyond all purity, Christ is baptized with us. He sanctifies the water, and it becomes a cleansing for our souls. What is seen is earthly, but what is known is above the heavens. Through washing comes salvation, and through water comes the Spirit. By descending into the water we ascend to God.//

Thy works are wonderful, O Lord: glory to Thee!

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

O Savior Who dost clothe Thyself with light as with a garment, Thou didst clothe Thyself in the waters of the Jordan; Thou Who hast measured the heavens with a span, didst bow Thy head to the Forerunner//

to turn the world back from error and to save our souls.

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

Choir: Tone 2

Today Christ has come to be baptized in the Jordan. Today John touches the head of the Master. The powers of heaven were shaken

Thine own end: to make manifest Thy
timeless and eternal Kingdom.
Therefore we pay Thee our taxes, not with
golden coins, but with the riches of
Orthodox theology, //
O God and Savior of our souls.

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

Choir: Tone 2

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in
Bethlehem. Today He Who knows no
beginning, begins.
Today the Word is made flesh.
The powers of heaven greatly rejoice.
The earth makes merry with men.
The Wise Men offer gifts; the shepherds
announce the wonder,
and without ceasing we cry aloud:
“Glory to God in the highest, //
peace on earth, good will to men!”

at the sight of the marvelous mystery. The
sea looked and fled; the Jordan saw it and
turned back; and we who have been
enlightened cry aloud: //
“Glory to God Who appeared, and was seen
on earth, and enlightened the world!”

Priest: Glory to Thee who hast shown us the light

Choir: THE GREAT DOXOLOGY: “*Glory to God in the Highest...*”

Priest/Choir: THE AUGMENTED LITANY, THE LITANY OF FERVENT
SUPPLICATION, the Prayer of Inclination, and the **Great Dismissal**.

CANON OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Tone 1

Ode 1

Heirmos: Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven, go to meet Him!

**Christ is on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord, all the earth,
and praise Him in gladness, O people, for He has been glorified!**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Man was made in the image of God, but he sinned, and lost immortality. He fell from the divine and better life, enslaved completely by corruption. Now the wise Creator fashions him again, for He has been glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The Creator shaped man with His own hands, but when He saw us perishing eternally, He bowed the heavens and came down to earth, and clothed Himself completely in our nature, truly incarnate from a pure and holy Virgin, for He has been glorified.

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

Wisdom, and Word, and Power, Christ our God is the Father's Son, His Radiance. He was made man, a mystery concealed from every spirit above or on the earth. He has won us for Himself, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3

Heirmos: To the Son, begotten of the Father, before all ages, and incarnate of the Virgin without seed in these latter days to Christ our God, let us cry out:

“Thou hast raised up our horn. Holy art Thou, O Lord!”

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Adam was made from dust, yet he shared God's life-giving breath. He was deceived by woman and fell, but from the dead, he saw Christ born of woman. He shouted: "For my sake Thou hast become like me. Holy art Thou, O Lord!"

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Thou hast assumed a body of lowly clay, O Christ. By sharing our humble flesh, Thou hast made our race partakers of divinity. By becoming mortal man yet remaining God, Thou hast raised us from death to life. Holy art Thou, O Lord!

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

Make merry, O Bethlehem! Thou art the king of Judah's princes. Christ, the Shepherd of Israel, Who rides on the shoulders of the Cherubim, has come forth from thee for all to see. He has raised us from death to life, and reigns over all.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times) Glory... Now... Amen!

Tone 8 Kathisma Hymn

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad!

The Lamb of God has been born on earth, granting redemption to the world. The Word, Who rests in the bosom of the Father, has come forth without seed from the Virgin. The Wise Men were struck with amazement, seeing Him born as an infant in Bethlehem.//
Let all creation glorify Him!

Ode 4

Heirmos: Stem and flower of the root of Jesse, Thou hast blossomed from the Virgin, O Christ. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest, Thou art come, made flesh from her than knew no man. O God, not formed from matter glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Thou art the Expectation of the nations, O Christ, foretold by Jacob in days of old. Thou hast sprung from Judah's tribe, to plunder the might of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, replacing error with faith acceptable to God. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Thou hast filled the stargazers with joy, O Lord. They knew the hidden meaning of the Prophet Balaam's words. Thou hast made the star of Jacob to rise. As the first fruits of the Gentiles it led them unto Thee. Thou didst openly receive their precious gifts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

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

Thou didst descend into the Virgin's womb, O Christ, like rain upon the fleece and raindrops watering the earth. All earth's rulers fall down before Thee: Ethiopia and the islands of Arabia, the kings of Tarshish, of Sheba, and the Medes. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode 5

Heirmos: O God of Peace, Father of Mercies, Thou hast sent Thine Angel of Great Counsel to grant us peace. We are guided to the light of the knowledge of God, and keeping watch by night, we glorify Thee, O Lover of Man.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Thou wast registered as Caesar's subject, O Christ, in obedience to his decree. We were slaves of sin, and subject to the hateful enemy; by Thy poverty Thou hast set us free. Thou wast united to our nature in every way. Though we were formed from dust, by this communion we are made divine.

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

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

Behold, the Virgin, as foretold of old, has conceived and given birth to God made man! She remains a virgin still. Through her we are reconciled to God. Let us sinners faithfully sing her praise! She is truly Theotokos!

Ode 6

***Heirmos:* The sea monster cast forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb. And when the Word came to dwell in the Virgin and was made flesh, He came forth preserving her uncorrupt, for as He Himself was not subject to decay, He kept His mother free from harm.**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Christ our God has come in the flesh. The Father begot Him from the womb before the Morning Star. He rules the heavenly hosts, yet now He lies in a manger of dumb beasts. He Who looses the tangled knots of sin now is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

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

A Son is born and given to the faithful, a newborn Child of Adam's race, yet He is Father and Ruler of the world to come. He is called the Angel of Great Counsel. He is the mighty God, Who rules all creation by His might.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times) Glory... and Now... Amen!

Tone 3 Kontakion

***Choir:* 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.**

Ikos

Reader: Bethlehem has opened Eden. Come, let us see! We have found joy in a secret place.
Come, let us seize Paradise hidden in the cave!
There the unwatered Root has appeared, blossoming with forgiveness.
There is found the undug Well, from which David longed to drink of old.
There the Virgin has borne a child, quenching Adam's and David's thirst.
Let us hurry to this place, where the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Ode 7

Heirmos: **The children, brought up together in godliness, scorned the impious decree of the tyrant. They were not afraid of the threat of fire, but standing in the midst of the flames, they sang: "Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!"**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The shepherds, abiding in the fields, were terrified by a dazzling sight. Around them shone the glory of the Lord. An Angel shouted to them: "Sing praises! The Messiah is born!" Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

After the Angel spoke, the hosts of heaven suddenly cried out:
"Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, good will to men!
Christ has shone forth." Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

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

"What news is this?" asked the shepherds. "Has God's Messiah truly come? Let us go to Bethlehem!" They saw Thee there, and worshipped Thee. With Thy mother, they sang; "Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!"

Ode 8

Heirmos: The furnace, moist with dew, was an image prefiguring a wonder beyond nature, for it did not burn the children whom it had received, nor did the Fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb when it entered it. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The daughter of Babylon drove David's children from Zion with sword and spear. Now she sends her sons, the Wise Men, bearing gifts, to worship in David's city, where God has come to dwell. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Grief had silenced the harps. Zion's children would not sing in a foreign land. But now Christ has shone forth in Bethlehem, destroying the din of Babylon's idolatries. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

*Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Babylon plundered Zion, and captured all her royal wealth. But now, with a guiding star, Christ lures her treasure-laden Wise Men back to Zion. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

Ode 9

Megalynaria and Heirmos:

**Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable 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.**

Magnify, O my soul, God, born in the flesh from the Virgin!

The Wise Men saw a new, uncharted star, following an unexpected course. Its brightness surpassed every star in heaven. It foretold the Messiah's birth: Christ, the King, born on earth in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

Magnify, O my soul, the King born in the cave!

(Repeat: "The Wise Men saw a new...")

Magnify, O my soul, God, worshipped by the Wise Men!

"Where is the newborn Infant-King? We have seen His star," the Wise Men said. "We have come to worship Him." Godless Herod trembled with fury. In his raging madness he lotted to kill Christ.

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who revealed Himself to the Wise Men by a star!

(Repeat: "Where is the newborn Infant-King?...")

Magnify, O my soul, the pure Virgin who gave birth to Christ the King!

Herod inquired when the star appeared that had led the Wise Men to Bethlehem, but after they worshipped Christ with gifts, that same star led them back to their own land, confounding their pursuer, that godless murderer of children. Wise Men and shepherds came to worship Christ, born in the city of Bethlehem.

Choir: Katavasia:

**Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable 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 CANON
FOR FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

Ode 1

***Heirmos:* The Lord uncovered the floor of the deep and on the dry ground drew His people out. But His enemies He covered in the deep. The Lord did this, the Lord mighty in battle; for He has been glorified.**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The Lord refashions broken Adam in the streams of the Jordan.
And He smashes the heads of dragons lurking there. The Lord does this, the King of the ages; for He has been glorified.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The Lord clothed material flesh with the immaterial fire of divinity.
Now He wraps Himself in the flowing waters of the Jordan.
The Lord does this, the Lord born in the flesh from the Virgin;

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

He Who cleanses the filth of people is Himself cleansed for their sakes in the Jordan.
By His own will He became like them while remaining what He was. The Lord enlightens those in darkness; for He has been glorified.

Ode 3

***Heirmos:* The Lord gives strength to our kings; He exalts the horn of His Anointed. Now He is born of a Virgin and comes to be baptized. Therefore, let us the faithful cry: “No one is holy as our God, and no one is righteous but Thou, O Lord.”**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Rejoice today, O Church of Christ! Once thou wast barren and childless, but now

children have been born to thee through water and the Spirit. They raise their cry in faith: “No one is holy as our God, and no one is righteous but Thou, O Lord.”

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

With a loud voice the Forerunner cries in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of Christ; make straight the paths of our God; and raise thy cry in faith: ‘No one is holy as our God, and no one is righteous but Thou, O Lord.’”

Lord, have mercy! (3times) Glory...now and ever...Amen!

Tone 5 Hypakoe

When Thou didst enlighten all things by Thine Epiphany, the salty sea of unbelief withdrew in fear and the Jordan turned back against its flow, carrying us up to the heights of heaven. By the heights of Thy divine commandments, through the prayers of the Theotokos, // preserve us, O Christ our God, and have mercy on us!

Ode 4

***Heirmos:* He whom Thou didst call “The voice of one crying in the wilderness” heard Thy voice, O Lord, when Thou didst thunder upon many waters bearing witness to Thy Son. Filled completely with the Spirit Who had come, he cried: “Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and the Power of God.”**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

“How can the Sun be cleansed,” the preacher cried aloud, “since it is by nature bright? How can I wash Thee in the waters, Thou, the Radiance of the glory, the express Image of the eternal Father? And how can I who am but grass touch the fire of Thy divinity? For Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and the Power of God.”

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

“When Moses came upon Thee he displayed the God-inspired reverence that he felt; realizing that it was Thou Who spoke from the Bush he immediately turned away his gaze. How then can I look openly upon Thee? How can I lay my hand on Thee? For Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and the Power of God.”

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

“Endowed with a rational soul and honored with the power of reason, I yet respect the things which have no soul. For if I baptize Thee, they will be my accusers: the mountain that smoked with fire, the sea that fled on either side, and this very Jordan that turned back. For Thou art Christ, the Wisdom and the Power of God.”

Ode 5

***Heirmos:* Jesus, the Source of life, came to free from condemnation Adam the first-formed man. As God He needs no cleansing, yet for the fallen He is cleansed in the Jordan. In it He brings an end to hostility and grants peace beyond all comprehension.**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

When a multitude had gathered to be baptized by John, he stood in their midst and raised his voice: “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee the wrath to come? Bear worthy fruit for Christ; for He has now come, granting peace!”

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

After standing in the midst of men as one of them, the Creator now takes hold of human hearts like a thresher; His winnowing fork is in His hand; in His wisdom he clears the whole world, His threshing floor, separating wheat from chaff. The chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire; to the wheat He grants eternal life.

Ode 6

***Heirmos:* The Voice of the Word, the Lamp of the Light, the Forerunner of the Sun, the Morning Star, cries to all peoples in the wilderness: “Repent now and be cleansed; for behold, Christ comes to deliver the world from decay!”**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Christ, Who was begotten without change from God the Father, is without corruption made flesh from the Virgin. As the Forerunner teaches, it is impossible to loose the thong of His sandals, the bond between the Word and us. He delivers those born on earth from falsehood.

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

In the fire of the Last Day Christ baptizes the disobedient, those who do not know Him as God. But by grace through the water He renews in the Spirit those who acknowledge His divinity. He delivers them from their faults.

Lord, have mercy. (3times) Glory...now and ever...Amen!

Tone 4 Kontakion

***Choir:* Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.”**

Oikos

***Reader:* On Galilee of the Gentiles, as the Prophet said, on the land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, Christ, the great Light, has shone. A bright Dawn has appeared to those who sat in darkness, shining like lightning from Bethlehem. The Lord born of Mary, the Sun of righteousness, sheds His rays on the whole universe. Come then, naked children of Adam, let us clothe ourselves in Him, that we might be warmed. A covering for the naked, light for**

those in darkness,

Oikos ending: **Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O unapproachable Light.**

Ode 7

Heirmos: **By the descent of an Angel of God and by the whistling wind of dew, the holy Youths walked in the fiery furnace free from harm. Refreshed with dew in the flames, in thanksgiving they sang: “Blessed art Thou and highly exalted, O Lord God of our fathers!”**

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Trembling and amazed as if in heaven, the angelic powers stood by the Jordan. They watched the great descent of God; how the One Who upholds the waters above the heavens stood in the waters in bodily form; He is the God of our fathers.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The wonder of the baptism of God was prefigured by the cloud and the sea through which the people passed. In them the people were once baptized into Moses the lawgiver. The sea was a type of the water and the cloud a type of the Spirit. Perfected by water and the Spirit we cry out: “Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!”

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

Since we have all received perfection in God, let us the faithful speak of God without ceasing; and with the Angels let us glorify Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For it is the Trinity, in Persons of one essence yet one God, to Whom we sing: “Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!”

Ode 8

Heirmos: **When the furnace in Babylon poured forth dew, it foreshadowed a marvelous mystery: the Jordan accepted the Immaterial Fire into its streams and encompassed the Creator when He was baptized in the flesh. Him the peoples bless**

and highly exalt forever.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

“Put away all fear,” said the Redeemer to the Forerunner. “Obey Me and come to Me, for I am good by nature! Yield to My command and baptize Me Who has descended, Whom the peoples bless and highly exalt forever!”

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

The Baptist heard what the Master said, and, trembling, he stretched out his hand. But when he touched the head of his Maker, he cried aloud to the One being baptized: “Sanctify me, for Thou art my God, Whom the peoples bless and highly exalt forever!”

Let us bless Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Lord, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!

The Trinity was made known in the Jordan, for the Father, supremely divine, loudly proclaimed: “He Who is here baptized is My beloved Son.” And the Spirit was present with His equal in Godhead, Whom the peoples bless and highly exalt forever.

Ode 9

Megalynaria and Heirmos:

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos; even angels are overcome with awe praising thee. But since thou art good, accept our faith; for thou knowest our love inspired by God! Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

Magnify, O my soul, Him Who comes to be baptized in the Jordan!

O David, come in spirit and sing to those who are to be enlightened: “Draw near to God in faith and be enlightened!”

The poor man, fallen Adam, cried, and the Lord heard him.”

The Lord came to the streams of the Jordan, and in these streams restored the broken man.

Magnify, O my soul, Him Who receives baptism by the Forerunner!

(Repeat: “O David, come in spirit...”)

Magnify, O my soul, Him Who was attested by the voice of the Father!

“Wash yourselves,” says Isaiah, “make yourselves clean! Put away the evil of your doings from before the Lord! Everyone who thirsts, come to the living water!” For Christ will sprinkle those who run to Him in faith with the water that gives renewal. He baptizes them with the Spirit unto life that grows not old.

Magnify, O my soul, One of the Trinity Who bent His neck and received baptism!

(Repeat: “Wash yourselves, says Isaiah...”)

Magnify, O my soul, the power of the undivided Godhead in Three Persons!

O King without beginning, having washed mortal nature in unpolluted streams, thus putting the arrogant power of darkness to shame, Thou dost anoint and dost perfect it in the communion of the Spirit and dost lead it into endless life.

Magnify, O my soul, her that has delivered us from the curse!

(Repeat: “O King without beginning...”)

Choir: *Katavasia:*

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

**No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;
even angels are overcome with awe praising thee.**

**But since thou art good, accept our faith;
for thou knowest our love inspired by God!**

Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.