

29th Sunday after Pentecost (December 30/January 12)
 Sunday after the Nativity of Our Lord
 Commemoration of the Holy Righteous Ones:
 Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

VESPERS: Tone 4

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. **Ever** hailing Thy life-giving Cross, O **Christ** our Lord,/ we glorify Thy Resurrection on the **third** day,/ for **Thou** Who art all **powerful**/ hast thereby restored the corrupt **nature** of man/ and hast re-opened for us the upward path to **heaven**,// for Thou only art good and **lovest** mankind.
2. **Being** of Thine own Will nailed to the **wood** of the Cross,/ Thou hast abolished the penalty of disobedience **committed** through the tree/ and by **descending** into hell Thou hast broken, as Almighty, the **bonds** of death./ Therefore we worship Thy Resurrection from the dead,/ and, **rejoicing**, we cry:// Glory to Thee, O **almighty** Lord.
3. **Thou** hast broken in pieces the gates of **hell**, O Lord,/ and put an end by Thy death to the **dominion** of death,/ and **Thou** hast set **mankind** free/ by bestowing incorruption **upon** the world// together with life and Thy great **mercy**.

Stichera of the Feast (Tone 2)

4. Come, let us **rejoice** in the Lord,/ telling of this present **mystery**:/ The middle wall of partition hath been **demolished**,/ the fiery **sword** is removed,/ the cherub withdraweth from the **gate** of life,/ and I partake of the food of **paradise**,/ from whence I was driven away because of **disobedience**;/ for the immutable Image of the Father, the Image of His **eternity**,/ doth assume the guise of a **servant**,/ issuing forth from the Mother who knew not **wedlock**,/ without undergoing change, yet He remained what He was before, our **true** God;/ and He hath received what He was not, becoming man in His **love** for mankind./ To Him let us **cry** aloud:// O God Who wast born of the Virgin, have **mercy** on us!
5. When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy **Virgin**,/ all things were **enlightened**;/ for **when** the shepherds piped, the magi offered homage and the **angels** sang,/ Herod was troubled, for God **appeared** in the flesh,// the Saviour **of** our souls.
6. Thy kingdom, O Christ God, is a kingdom of all the **ages**,/ and thy dominion is for all **generations**./ O Christ **God** Who wast incarnate by the Holy **Spirit**/ and became man through the Ever-virgin **Mary**,/ Thou hast shone forth Thine advent **upon** us as light./ O Light from Light, Effulgence of the **Father**,/ Thou hast illumined all **creation**./ Every creature that hath breath **praiseth** Thee,/ the Image of the glory of the **Father**./ O Thou Who art and ever **shall** be,/ O God Who hast shone forth from the **Virgin**:// Have mercy **upon** us!

7. What shall we offer **thee**, O Christ,/ in that Thou hast appeared on earth as a **man** for our sake?/ For every **creature** fashioned by Thee offereth Thee thanksgiving:/ the angels, hymnody; the **heavens**, a star;/ the magi, gifts; the shepherds, their **wonder**;/ the earth, a cave; the wilderness, a **manger**;/ and we, the Virgin **Mother**:// O God Who hast existed from before time, have mercy **upon** us!

Stichera for the Saints (Tone 1)

8. **Let** us all praise King David, the **ancestor** of God,/ for from him sprang forth the rod of the **Virgin**,/ and from **her** blossomed the Flower, **even** Christ,/ Who hath called forth Adam and Eve from **corruption**,// in that He is full of loving**kindness**.
9. In old **age** Joseph the **betrothed**/ beheld the things foretold by the prophets **clearly** fulfilled,/ having **received** a strange **betrothal**/ and a revelation from angels that cry, **Glory** to God,// Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes **in** the cave.
10. **Let** us all praise the **brother** of God,/ for he is a holy **hierarch**/ that shone **forth** nobly also in **martyrdom**,/ through whose prayers do Thou save all that sing to Thee, O **Jesus**, our God,// Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes **in** the cave.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Let us celebrate the memory of the pious **David** and James,/ king and prophet, apostle and first **bishop**;/ and, delivered from deception by their **teachings**,/ let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the **Virgin**// and became incarnate to **save** our souls.

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 4)

David, the **prophet**, fore**father** of God/ through Thee gave voice **beforehand** in psalms/ **concerning** the great things **done** for Thee:/ Upon Thy right hand doth **stand** the Queen./ For God Who was pleased without father to be made **man** of thee,/ has shown thee forth as Mother of life and **mediator**,/ that He might restore His image corrupted by the **passions**;/ and that when He had found the stray sheep caught in the **mountains**,/ He might lay it upon His shoulder and bring it to His **Father**,/ and by His own wish that Christ in Whom is great and bountiful **mercy**/ might gather it to the **heavenly** hosts// and save the world, O Theotokos.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
 C. O Joyful Light...
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)
 P. Augmented Litany
 R. Vouchsafe...
 P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya: (Tone 1) **Use music for this verse**

Let heaven and earth today prophetically exult,/ let angels and men spiritually rejoice:/ for God hath revealed Himself in the flesh/ unto those

who were in darkness and sat in the shadow,/ and hath been born of a Virgin./ The cavern and the manger have received Him:/ Shepherds proclaim the marvel,/ and Magi from the orient bring gifts unto Bethlehem/ and we also with lips unworthy/ do bring praise unto Him in angelic wise:/ Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace./ For the hope of the nations is come,// and having come hath saved us from bondage to the enemy.

Heaven and earth are united today, for **Christ** is born./ Today has God come upon earth, and man gone up to **he-a-ven**./ Today for man's sake is seen in the flesh He Who by nature is **invisible**./ Therefore let us also give glory and cry **aloud to Him**:/ **Glory** to God in the highest, and on **earth peace**// which Thy coming hast bestowed upon us, O Saviour: **Glory to Thee**.

"**Glory** to God in the **Highest**,"/ I hear in Bethlehem from the **a-n-gels**./ **Glory** to Him Whose good pleasure it was that there be **peace** on **earth**./ The Virgin is now more spacious than the **he-a-vens**./ **Light** has shone upon those in **darkness**/ and has exulted the lowly who sing like the **a-n-gels**:// **Glory** to God in the **hi-gh-est**.

Beholding Him that was in God's image and likeness fallen through the transgression,/ Jesus bowed the heavens **and came down**/ **and** without change He took up His dwelling in a **Virgin womb**/ that thereby He might fashion corrupt Adam anew, who **cried to Him**// "Glory to Thine Epiphany, O my Deliverer **and my God**."

G/B... (Tone 5)

The Magi, Kings of **Persia**/ knew with assurance that Thou, the heavenly King wast **born** on earth/ led by the light of a star, they came to **Bethlehem**/ and offered their **chosen** gifts/ gold, frankincense and myrrh./ Falling before Thee they **worshipped** Thee// for they saw Thee Who art timeless lying as a **babe** in the cave.

P. *Litya prayers in back of the Church*

C. Lord, have mercy. 12x 12x 12x 3x 3x

APOSTICHA: (Tone 4)

1. **Ascending** upon the **Cross**, O Lord,/ Thou hast abolished for us the **ancestral** curse,/ and **descending** into hell, having set free those in bonds from all **eternity**,/ Thou hast bestowed on mankind **incorruption** and **life**./ We therefore praise and **glorify**// Thy redeeming Resurrection upon the **third** day.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious apparel.

2. **Hung** upon the wood,/ Thou Who alone art mighty, hast shaken the whole creation:/ While **laid** in the tomb, Thou hast raised up those **dwelling** therein,/ and hast bestowed life and **incorruption** on **mankind**;/ therefore, we praise and **glorify**// Thy redeeming Resurrection on the **third** day.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it cannot be moved.

3. The lawless **people** who gave Thee, O Christ, to **Pilate**,/ condemned Thee to be **crucified**,/ and **showed** themselves thankless towards their **Benefactor**./ But it was Thy good pleasure to suffer **burial**,/ and of Thine own Will hast Thou **risen** again/ as God on the **third** day,/ and hast bestowed on us life without end and Thy great **mercy**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, forever.

4. The **women** who sought Thee came in tears to Thy tomb and when they **found** Thee not,/ they lamented and **imploring** said:/ "O **Saviour** of ours and **Lord** of all,/ how comes it that Thou hast been **stolen** away?/ And what place can hold Thy life-bearing **Body**?"/ An angel then stood before them **and** replied:/ "Weep not, but proclaim the good tidings that the Lord is **risen**,// and grants us joy because He alone is **compassionate**."

Glory... (Tone 6)

Thy birthgiving hath become the **memorial** of priests,/ the dominion and gladness of kings, O **Lover** of mankind,/ and, rejoicing therein, we say,/ Our Father, which art in **heaven**,// hallowed **be** Thy name!

Both... (Tone 6)

Today is the invisible Nature joined to man through the **Virgin**./ Today is the infinite Essence wrapped in swaddling clothes in **Bethlehem**./ Today by a star doth God lead the Magi to **worship**,/ foretelling His three-day burial, **as** it were,/ in their gifts of gold, **frankincense**, and myrrh./ To Him let us sing: O Christ God, Who didst become incarnate of the **Virgin**,// save **Thou** our souls!

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Troparion of the Feast (Tone 4) (see music) x2

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason in the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee!

Troparion for the Saints (Tone 2)

O Joseph, proclaim thou the glad tidings/ to David, the ancestor of God,/ for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth;/ with the shepherds did thou give glory;/ with the Magi didst thou worship;/ by an angel wast thou instructed./ Entreat Christ God,// that He save our souls!

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3

Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 4

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia
 C. God is the Lord... (Tone 4)

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 4) x2

When the women disciples of the Lord/ learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;/ They cast away the ancestral curse/ and elatedly told the apostles:/ Death is overthrown!/ Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Glory... Troparion for the Saints (Tone 2)

O Joseph, proclaim thou the glad tidings/ to David, the ancestor of God,/ for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth;/ with the shepherds did thou give glory;/ with the Magi didst thou worship;/ by an angel wast thou instructed./ Entreat Christ God, // that He save our souls!

Both... Troparion of the Feast (Tone 4) (see music)

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason in the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee!

Lord Have Mercy 3x
 Glory...

R. Now...
 R. Kathisma II
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Gazing upon the entrance to the tomb, and unable to endure the angel of flame, the myrrhbearing women marveled, trembling, and said: "Hath He been stolen away Who hath opened paradise to the thief? Or hath He risen Who even before His suffering proclaimed His resurrection? Truly, Christ hath risen, granting life and resurrection unto those in hades!"

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

In Thy voluntary counsel Thou didst endure the Cross, O Saviour, and in a new tomb mortal men laid Thee Who by Thy word didst create the ends of the earth. Wherefore, the alien one was bound, death taken grievously captive; and all those in hades cried out to Thy life-bearing resurrection; Christ hath arisen, remaining the Bestower of life forever.

G/B... The mystery hidden from all ages and unknown to the angels was made manifest to those on earth through Thee, O Theotokos: God took flesh in a union without confusion and for our sakes willingly accepted the Cross; and thereby He raised the first formed man and saved our souls from death.

R. Kathisma III
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Thou didst arise from the tomb as One Immortal, O Saviour, and by Thy power didst raise Thy world up with Thyself, O Christ our God; in might Thou didst crush the dominion of death, O Merciful One, and hast shown forth the resurrection unto all. Wherefore, we glorify Thee, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Having descended from the heights of heaven and approached the stone where the Stone of life had lain, Gabriel, arrayed in white, cried out to those who wept: "Cease your cries of lamentation, O ye who have mercy now with you! Be of good cheer, for He Whom ye seek, weeping, hath truly arisen! Wherefore, cry out to the apostles that the Lord hath risen! And receiving this joy, worship the Risen One! Be ye of good cheer, that Eve also may rejoice!"

G/B... All the choirs of the apostles marveled at the dread mystery of thy birthgiving, O pure one: how He Who holdeth all things in one hand is held in thine arms as a man, how the Pre-eternal One receiveth the beginning, how He Who in His ineffable goodness nurtureth every creature is fed with milk. And praising thee, they glorify thee as the true Mother of God.

R. Psalm 118

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Running on before, the myrrhbearing women proclaimed Thine all-glorious arising to the apostles, O Christ: how, as God, Thou didst arise, granting great mercy to the world.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

From my youth have the many passions warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Saviour.

O ye who hate Sion, ye shall be put to shame by the Lord; for ye shall be withered up like grass by the fire.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit is every soul given life, exalted by purity, and made radiant by the unity of the Trinity in a sacred and mystical manner.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

From the depths of my soul have I cried out to Thee, O Lord. Let Thy divine ears be attentive unto me.

Everyone who hath set his hope on the Lord is higher than all who sorrow.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit do streams of grace flow, watering all creation, unto its enlivening.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

Let my heart be lifted up unto Thee, O Word, and let none of the delights of the world beguile me, unto my weakening.

We who have love for our mothers must needs be yet more ardent in our love for the Lord.

G/B... From the Holy Spirit is the richness of divine vision, sight and wisdom; for in Him doth the Word reveal all the precepts of the Father.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 4)

Arise, O Lord, help us/ and redeem us for Thy Name's sake.

V. O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #7

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Having traversed the depths of the Red Sea with dryshod feet,/ Israel of old/ vanquished the might of Amalek/ in the wilderness// by Moses' arms stretched out in the form of the Cross.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou wast lifted up upon the Tree of the Cross, setting aright our fall, O Master, and healing the destruction wrought by the tree, in that Thou art good and almighty.

Thou wast in the tomb bodily and in hades with Thy soul, as God; Thou wast in paradise with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, O Christ, Thou Infinite One Who fillest all things.

Theotokion

At the will of the Father, through the divine Spirit thou didst conceive the Son of God without seed and gavest birth unto Him in the flesh. He Who was begotten of the Father without mother came forth from thee without father for our sake.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The people were shaken, the nations were troubled, and mighty kingdoms bowed down out of fear of thine Offspring, O pure one. For my King came: He cast down the tyrant and hath delivered the world from corruption.

Christ, Who dwelleth in the highest and descended unto mortal man, sanctified thee as His dwelling-place, and showed thee forth as unshaken. For thou, having borne the Creator, hast remained a treasury of virginity after childbirth.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

That which, though fashioned in the image of God, is become wholly corrupt through transgression, having fallen away from the higher divine life, hath the wise Creator restored, for He is glorified.

The Creator, seeing man, whom He had fashioned with His own hands, perishing, descendeth, bowing down the heavens; and, truly incarnate, He taketh upon Himself all man's essence through the pure and divine Virgin, for He is glorified.

Christ God, being the wisdom, Word, Power, Effulgence and Son of the Father, hiding Himself as much from the hosts of heaven as from those on earth, hath restored us, becoming man, for He is glorified.

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Thy sacred womb, which was depicted by the bush which burned without being consumed, manifestly bore the Word and mingled God with a human image, loosing the wretched womb of Eve from the bitter curse of old. Let us glorify Him, O ye mortals!

To the magi the star manifestly showed Thee forth, the Word, Who hast existed before the sun and camest to bring an end to sin, and Who in Thy mercy wast wrapped in swaddling bands in the wretched cave. And, rejoicing, they beheld the Lord Himself, a man.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

As many as celebrate the natal festivities of Him Who became incarnate for our sake, let us hymn with joy James, the brother of God, and David, the forefather of God.

The choirs of angels stood before Joseph in Bethlehem, saying: Glory to God in the highest! With them let us hymn Him Whose good pleasure it was to become incarnate.

Glory... O David, thou forefather of God, calling the righteous James, with harps hymn thou the Lord, Who is incarnate of the root of Jesse.

Both... To Thee shall I sing, O Lord my God, for Thou wast born of the holy Virgin Mother and hast shown her to be the hope of our souls.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./
 Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./
 And praise Him with joy, ye people; // For He hath glorified Himself.

Canticle Three

Irmos: Thy Church rejoiceth in Thee, O Christ,/ crying aloud://
 Thou art my strength, O Lord, my refuge and my consolation!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Tree of life, the true noetic Vine, hanging upon the Cross, poured
 forth incorruption upon all.

As One great and awesome, as the One Who cast down the arrogance of
 hades, and as God incorrupt, Thou hast arisen in the flesh.

Theotokion

Thou alone, who in manner transcending nature art the mediatrix of
 good things for those on earth, becamest the Mother of God; wherefore, we
 offer thee "Rejoice!"

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The essence of men is purified, having been united through thee with
 the unbearable divine Fire, O all-pure Virgin, baked into Bread which was
 hid within thee, and Who preserved thee unharmed.

Who is this who is truly close to God? For, having surpassed all the
 ranks of the angels, she alone shineth forth as the Mother of the Almighty
 in the beauty of virginity.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Adam who, though fashioned of dust, partook of higher inspiration,
 yet was led to stumble into corruption through a woman's deceit, seeing
 Christ born of a woman, crieth out: O Lord Who for my sake hast become
 like me, holy art Thou!

O Lord Christ, Who, mingling with clay, didst make Thyself
 conformable thereto, imparting Thy divine essence by participating in vile
 flesh, becoming earthly, yet remaining God, and Who hast lifted up our
 horn: Holy art Thou!

O Bethlehem, thou king of the princes of Judah, be glad! For Christ
 Who shepherdeth Israel, seated on the shoulders of the cherubim, hath
 manifestly come forth from thee, and, having lifted up our horn, hath
 established His reign over all.

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Having been vouchsafed to behold the all-rich Offspring of the all-pure Bride, which passeth understanding, the chorus of pipers bowed down in awe-filled homage; and the ranks of incorporeal beings hymn Christ the King, Who became incarnate without seed.

In His loving-kindness, He Who reigneth over the heights of heaven becometh like us through the unwedded Maiden; the Word Who before was immaterial later took upon Himself the matter of the flesh, that He might draw to Himself the first created man, who had fallen.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

With the angels let us all hymn Christ God, Who, without seed, hath been born in the flesh of the Virgin, crying aloud: Glory to God in the highest!

O ye faithful, with David and James let us honour with hymns, as is meet, the most jubilant feast of Him that emptied Himself for our sake.

Glory... Like a bridegroom from a bridal chamber will the Lord come forth from His Mother's womb! Thus said David, whom, with James, let us now hymn.

Both... Let us honour Mary, the Theotokos unwedded, for the Sun of righteousness hath shone forth upon us for her sake.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

To the Son Who was begotten of the Father/ without change before all ages,/ and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin,/ to Christ our God let us cry aloud:// Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 3) (see music)

Today the Virgin giveth birth unto the Transcendent One,/ and the earth doth offer a cave to Him that is unapproachable./ Angels and shepherds give glory,/ and the Magi journey with the star./ For unto us a Child is born,// the pre-eternal God.

R. Ikos

Bethlehem hath opened Eden! We have found joy in a secret place: come, and let us receive the things of paradise within the cave. There the unwatered Root hath blossomed, bearing forgiveness as its fruit. There an unfailing Wellspring hath been found, whence of old David longed to drink. There the Virgin hath given birth to the Babe, quenching the thirst of Adam and David straightway. Wherefore, let us hasten to this place where now is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God!

R. Sessional hymns

Right fittingly let us hymn the righteous Joseph, the betrothed of the Virgin, with James and David; for, having trod the righteous path, they have attained unto the mansions of heaven, and joining chorus with the angels as is meet, they beg remission of sins for us.

Glory... The Virgin hath given birth to the Creator of all things, and the magi come to worship Him in the flesh. Men and angels render glory; the cave and the manger offer gifts, lauding Him Who hath been newly born as a babe, the pre-eternal God!

Both... The choir of prophets doth divinely celebrate the wonder which took place within thee, O Virgin; for thou didst give birth to God incarnate upon earth. Wherefore, angels and shepherds chant, and the magi and Joseph sing of the wonders to David, the forefather of God.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Beholding Thee lifted up upon the Cross,/ O Sun of Righteousness,/ the Church stood rooted in place,/ crying out as is meet:// Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In the suffering of Thine all-pure flesh in which Thou hadst willingly clothed Thyself, Thou didst ascend the Cross, healing my passions; wherefore, we cry out to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Death, having tasted Thy sinless and life-creating body, O Master, died as was meet; and we cry out to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth without knowing wedlock, O Virgin, and even after giving birth thou remainest a virgin still; wherefore, with steadfast faith we cry aloud to thee, "Rejoice, O Mistress!"

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Virgin received the Immaterial One into material participation in matter, when He became a babe through her; wherefore, He alone is known in two essences: as incarnate God and transcendent man.

He Who made His abode within thee and was born of thee without seed remained God the Word and preserved thee as virgin during thy birthgiving and virgin after birthgiving, in that He is the Master and Maker of all creation.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

From the tribe of Judah Thou hast shone forth, O Christ, the expectation of the nations, Whom Jacob foretold of old, and hast come to

overthrow the power of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria, transforming falsehood into godly faith. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Shining forth, a Star out of Jacob, O Master, Thou hast filled with joy the wise watchers of the stars, the followers of the words of Balaam, the soothsayer of old; and Thou hast manifestly received the firstfruits of the nations who have entered in to worship Thee. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou hast descended on the womb of the Virgin like rain upon the fleece, O Christ, and like drops of rain falling upon the earth. Ethiopia and Tharsis, the islands of Arabia and Saba, and they who rule all the land of the Medes, have fallen down before Thee, O Saviour. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Receiving flesh from the Virgin of His own will, the Most High hath issued forth, equal to men, to purge away the venom of the serpent's head, leading all from the sunless gates of hades to life-bearing light, in that He is God.

The nations who of old were overwhelmed by corruption, having escaped the greatest enemy, lift up their hands with hymns of praise, honouring the one Christ as Benefactor, Who hath come to us in His mercy.

Having grown forth from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, thou didst transcend the laws of human nature, giving birth to the pre-eternal Word of the Father, in that He Himself was well pleased to pass through thy sealed womb in His strange abasement.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

With the Magi let us worship Him that hath been born; and with the angels and Joseph let us join chorus, crying aloud in godly manner: Glory to Christ God in the highest!

Christ, Who reigneth over all kings and Who hath been born in the flesh of the seed of David, hath accepted James, His chosen brother, as it was His good pleasure so to do.

Glory... The Lord God, Who appeared in the flesh through the Virgin, hath glorified your memorials together, O James, chosen of the apostles, and David most blessed, ye holy ones.

Both... Rejoice, O Theotokos unwedded, thou who dost surpass the ranks of the cherubim, having given birth in the flesh unto God Who is borne upon thine arm.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The rod of the root of Jesse/ and the flower thereof Christ,/ from a Virgin Thou didst bud forth, / from the mount covered/ with dense and shadow,/ Thou didst come incarnate,/ of a Maid who knew not man, Immaterial One and God,// glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: Thou hast come, O my Lord, as a light into the world:/ a holy light// turning from the darkness of ignorance those who hymn Thee with faith.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy mercy Thou didst descend to earth, O Lord; and, lifted up upon the Tree, Thou didst raise up fallen human nature.

Thou, O Christ, hast taken away the condemnation of my transgressions; and Thou, O Compassionate One, hast destroyed the pangs of death by Thy divine resurrection.

Theotokion

Thee do we wield as an invincible sword against the enemy, O Bride of God, for we have acquired thee as our confirmation and hope of salvation.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Son of God, making His abode within thee, made thee for us a house of glory, the holy mountain of God, His bride, bridal-chamber and temple of sanctity, a paradise of everlasting delight, O pure one.

The womb of the Virgin confounded the understanding of the tyrants; for her Babe sustained the soul-destroying sting of the serpent, cast down the proud apostate, and subdued him beneath the feet of the faithful.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Submitting to be recorded among Thy servants at the command of Caesar, Thou hast freed us slaves from the enemy and sin, O Christ; and having abased Thyself for us, Thou hast made our clay divine through Thy union and sharing therein.

Behold, the Virgin hath conceived in her womb, as was foretold of old, and hath given birth to God made man, yet remaineth virgin. O sinners who for her sake have been reconciled with God, let us faithful hymn her as the true Theotokos.

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

By His coming in the flesh the Master hath again cut down the cruel enmity directed against us, that He might destroy the soul-destroying

ruler, uniting the world with the immaterial beings, making the Begetter accessible to creation.

The people who of old were benighted have finally seen the light of the radiance of the Most High; and the Son bringeth the nations to the Father as an inheritance, bestowing ineffable grace where sin once flourished exceedingly.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Glory to Thee! Glory to Thee, O God incarnate, Whose good pleasure it was to take flesh of the pure Virgin! did Joseph cry aloud.

Glory to Thee! Glory to Thee, O Jesus, Son of God, Who wast born of the Virgin and hast rendered the memory of David and James illustrious!

Glory... Jesus, the Son of God, Whom the prophet David, by divine inspiration, called Rain upon the fleece, hath James preached.

Both... Unable to keep silent, creation doth offer thee the angel's salutation, O Virgin: Rejoice, O pure Mother of Jesus, the Son of God!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Canticle Six

Irmos: I will sacrifice to Thee/ with a voice of praise, O Lord,/ the Church crieth unto Thee,/ cleansed of the blood of demons// by the blood which, for mercy's sake, flowed from Thy side.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Girded about with power, Thou didst ascend the Cross, and as God didst wrestle with the tyrant. And Thou didst cast him down from the heights and with invincible power didst raise up Adam.

Radiant and comely, Thou didst arise from the tomb, O Christ, and didst drive away all the enemies by Thy divine power; and as God Thou hast filled all with gladness.

Theotokion

O wonder newest of all wonders! For when the Virgin, without knowing man conceived in her womb, Him Who sustaineth all things, He was not confined.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Of old the serpent beguiled and slew me through my first mother Eve; but now, O pure one, He Who fashioned me hath through thee called me back from corruption.

The Abyss of compassion ineffably showed thee to be His chosen abyss of miracles, O Maiden; for from thee hath Christ the pearl shone forth through the lightning-flashes of His divinity.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)
Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Christ our God, Whom the Father begat before the morning star, is come forth, incarnate, from the womb. He Who ruleth over the all-pure powers lieth in a manger of dumb beasts and is wrapped in swaddling-bands; and he looseth the knotted bonds of transgressions.

A young Child, a Son, is born of the clay of Adam and given to the faithful: He is the Father and Prince of the age to come, and is called the Angel of great Counsel. He is the mighty God Who exerciseth dominion over all creation.

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

God the Word, Who from the beginning was with God, intending to preserve the nature which He Himself shareth with us, now strengtheneth it, which from of old was weak, by another fellowship with it, straightway showing it to be free from the passions.

He Who dwelleth in light, and, contrary to His dignity, hath now been well pleased to dwell in a manger, cometh forth for our sake from the loins of Abraham for us who have benightedly fallen into the darkness of transgressions, that, for the salvation of men, He might raise up His children who have fallen low.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Awe-struck, the heavenly hosts stood before the cave and, unable to keep silent, hymned Thy most pure nativity, chanting: Glory in the highest to the newborn God!

Upon Thy throne hast Thou sat, as Thou didst swear unto the prophet David, O Master, Who camest forth from the fruit of his loins; and unto James didst Thou commit the throne of the Church, O Christ.

Glory... David the king is shown to be a wondrous prophet and forefather of the incarnation of God; and James, the disciple of Jesus, is shown forth as the first bishop.

Both... We beseech thee, O Virgin Theotokos: In behalf of thy servants entreat thou Him that was incarnate of thee, for we know thee to be our sole intercessor.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

From its belly, the sea monster/ cast forth Jonah as an infant,/ as it had received him./ And when the Word dwelt in the Virgin,/ and was made flesh He came forth preserving her undefiled./ In that He Himself did suffer no corruption,// her who gave Him birth did He preserve unharmed.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Saints (Tone 3-melody per the Kontakion of the Feast)

Today the divine David is filled with gladness,/ and Joseph doth offer praise with James./ They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ;/ and they laud Him that hath ineffably been born on earth, and cry aloud:// O Compassionate One, save them that honour Thee!

R. Ikos

The Incorporeal One is, through the ineffable Counsel, born in the flesh; He Who is uncontainable is now contained in a body and doth preserve both essences immutably; He Who is without beginning and Who alone is beyond time doth take on a beginning; an Infant of surpassing perfection is beheld; He Who beareth all things is borne in arms. Wherefore, as God, He doth crown through His birth those who are honoured by their kinship with Him, and, glorifying them with faith, we cry out unceasingly: O Compassionate One, save those who honour Thee!

R. Reading from the Prologue or Synaxarion

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The children of Abraham in the Persian furnace,/ afire with love of piety more than with the flame, cried out:// Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Mankind, washed in the divine blood of Christ, hath been recalled to incorruption, and in thanksgiving it chanteth: Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory, O Lord!

Thy tomb, the wellspring of our resurrection, hath been shown to be more splendid than any royal chamber, O Christ, for it bore the Life and is truly more beautiful than paradise.

Theotokion

Rejoice, divine and sanctified dwelling of the Most High! For through thee, O Theotokos, hath joy been given unto those who cry: Blessed art thou among women, O most immaculate Mistress!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The fire of love for the Virgin which is within my heart moveth me to hymnody, so that I cry out to the Mother and Virgin: O blessed one, the Lord of hosts is with thee.

Thou wast shown to transcend creation, in that thou gavest birth to the Creator and Lord; wherefore, O Theotokos, I cry out to thee: O blessed one, the Lord of hosts is with thee.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)
Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The piping shepherds received an awesome vision of light; for the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and an angel cried out: Sing ye, for Christ, the blessed God of your fathers, is born!

Suddenly, at the voice of the angel, the armies of heaven cried out: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will among men! Christ hath shone forth: the blessed God of your fathers!"

"What words are these?" said the shepherds; "Let us go and see what hath taken place, the blessed Christ!" And hastening to Bethlehem, they bowed down in worship with the Theotokos, chanting: "O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!"

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The furnace which had been raised to a sevenfold heat savagely burneth the minions, but spareth the youths who were wholly consumed with the fear of God; and the flame crowned them when the Lord freely granted them dew for their piety's sake.

O Christ our Helper, using Thine ineffable incarnation as a bulwark of defense, having taken on form, Thou hast put to shame the adversary of men, bearing the richness of Thy deification, in hope of which we had fallen from the heights down into the darkness of the uttermost depths.

Omnipotently Thou hast cast down sin, which is exalted in evil without restraint and is incited to a vile frenzy by the perversion of the world; and those whom it formerly attracted Thou savest from its snares today, having become incarnate of Thine own will, O Benefactor.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Amazed beyond words by the birthgiving of Mary, the Theotokos, the angelic choirs cried out to Joseph: Glory in the highest, and on earth peace!

David, the leader of the bride, and James, who was the chamberlain of the divine Church, did say: O God, Who hast become incarnate for our sake, blessed art Thou!

Glory... O thou who wast a king among prophets and a prophet among kings, chant thou with the divinely wise James and lift thy voice in song for us: O Christ, Who wast incarnate for our sake, blessed art Thou!

Both... Prefigured in the unconsumed bush and in the bedewed furnace, O Mother most pure, thou didst bear without seed God incarnate, O ever blessed one.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Stretching forth his hands,/ Daniel shut the lions' mouths in the pit;/ and the young lovers of piety, girded about with virtue,/ quenched the power of the fire, crying out:// Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Stretching forth Thy hands, Thou didst gather in all the nations, O Master, and didst reveal the one Church which hymneth Thee, unto those in heaven and on earth, who sing together: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

The angel clad in white, resplendent in the unapproachable light of the resurrection, appeared to the women, crying: "Why seek ye the Living in the tomb as one dead? Truly Christ hath arisen!" And unto Him do we cry: All ye works, hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Theotokion

Alone among all generations, O all-pure Virgin, thou hast been shown to be the Mother of God; and thou wast the habitation of the Divinity, O most immaculate one, who wast not consumed by the fire of the unapproachable Light. Wherefore, we all bless thee, O Mary, Bride of God.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

In a shadow Abraham beheld the mystery which is in thee, the Theotokos; for he received thine incorporeal Son, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works! Hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

The prefiguration of thy virginity saved those who were equal in number to the Trinity; for in their virginal bodies they trampled down the flame, O Virgin, crying: Bless the Lord, hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The daughter of Babylon carrieth off the captive children of David from Sion to herself; but now she sendeth her own children, the magi bearing gifts, to the God-pleasing daughter of David, who prayeth. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

The harps refused to play their sad songs, for the children of Sion would not sing in a strange land; but Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, destroyeth all the falsehood of Babylon and her musical instruments. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Babylon received the plunder of the kingdom of Sion and its captive riches; but Christ draweth its treasures to His Sion, guiding the star-watching kings by a star. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Having escaped the destruction resulting from man's being deceived into becoming divine, like the youths all creation with trembling unceasingly hymneth the Word Who hath abased Himself, and with fear it offereth meager praise, in that it is corrupt, even though it hath endured such with wisdom.

Thou comest, O Restoration of the nations, to bring lost human nature back from the hills of the wilderness to the pasture rife with flowers, that Thou mightest put down the violent power of the slayer of men, having, in Thy forethought, become God as well as man.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Christ incarnate, Whom the hosts of heaven have glorified, doth Joseph the betrothed unceasingly hymn, chanting: All ye works of the Lord, hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Christ incarnate, Whom David the forefather of God foretold, James preached to the people, crying out: All ye works of the Lord, hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Christ, Who was born of the Virgin and Who hath exalted the sacred memory of David and James, in that they are His friends, do ye hymn, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt supremely for all ages!

Both... Christ the King, to Whom Mary the Theotokos hath given birth for us, remaining a pure Virgin even after her birthgiving, hymn, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt supremely for all ages!

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

Wonder of a supernatural type,/ the dew-shedding fiery furnace did show forth an image/ for its flames scorched not the holy children whom it had received,/ just as the fire scorched not the Virgin,/ when it entered into her womb./ Thus, singing praise let us sing on high:/ Let all creation bless the Lord,// and extol Him unto all ages.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: Christ, the Chief Cornerstone uncut by human hands,/ Who united the two disparate natures,/ was cut from thee, the unquarried mountain, O Virgin./ Wherefore, in gladness// we magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst wholly receive all of me into union with Thee without confusion, O my God, through Thy suffering which Thou didst endure bodily on the Cross imparting salvation wholly unto me, for the sake of Thy great compassion.

Beholding Thy tomb open and the God-bearing grave-clothes emptied by Thy resurrection, with the angels Thy women disciples said: Truly the Lord hath risen!

Triadicon

Worshipping the Oneness of the divine Essence, the Trinity of Hypostases, and honouring rightly that which is in unconfused Hypostases, equal in power and one as to adoration, let us magnify It, all ye faithful.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

We behold thee as a lily, arrayed in a robe dyed by the divine Spirit, O all-pure one, resplendent amid thorns and filling with sweet fragrance those who sincerely magnify thee.

The Incorrupt One, receiving corrupt human nature from thy womb, O most immaculate one, showed it to be incorrupt within Himself, in His loving-kindness; wherefore, we magnify thee as the Theotokos.

(If Dec 27 & 29, use the following from Canon I)

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The magi beheld the excellent course of the strange star which was newly appeared, illumining the heavens and marking the birth of Christ the King in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

The star revealed the newborn infant King to the magi who said: "Where is He, for we have come to worship Him?" But Herod who fought against God, enraged, was troubled, seeking to slay the Christ.

Herod inquired concerning the time of the star, following whose course the magi worshipped Christ with gifts in Bethlehem; but, guided thereby to their homeland, they left the cruel murderer of the infants behind in mockery.

(If Dec 28 & 30, use the following from Canon II)
 Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

O pure Mother, having beheld the indistinct images and dim shadows of the Word Who hath newly appeared through the gates that were closed, but mindful now of His true radiance, we bless thy womb as is meet.

Having attained their desire and been vouchsafed to see the advent of God, the people who delight in Christ are now consoled by regeneration; for thou bestowest life-bearing grace to pay homage to glory, O pure Virgin.

Holy Kinsmen of the Lord, pray to God for us!

With trembling doth all creation minister unto Him that hath been born of the Virgin: the heavens with a star; the earth with a manger; the mountain with a cave; the Magi with gifts; the shepherds with wonder; and the angels with the hymn, Glory to God in the highest!

Of old was David chosen king from amongst the shepherds; and from the royal tribe of Judah art thou, O James. Thou art shown to be a shepherd of the flock of the Incarnate One, the Lamb, the Son of God Most High.

Glory... Be glad now, O Bethlehem, having become the city of the new David! O Sion, thou citadel of the Churches, exult now, taking up the common celebration of the King of all and His favored ones.

Both... The assemblies of angels glorify thee, O Theotokos, and the human race doth unceasingly honour thee with hymns, for by thy divine birthgiving hast thou united the earthly to the heavenly. Wherefore, we do thee honour.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A **strange** and most wonderful mystery do I **see**; the cave is **heaven**; the **Virgin** the throne of the **cherubim**; the manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can **contain**, is laid.// Him do we praise and **magnify**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion (John 20:1-10)

Mary having said that they had taken the Lord away, Simon Peter and the other friend of Christ whom He loved, ran to the tomb and they both found

the grave clothes lying alone therein and the napkin that had been about his head not with them but apart. They therefore kept silence again until they saw Christ.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Saints

Let us hymn David, the forefather of God, and divine Joseph, the betrothed of the Theotokos, with James, the glorious brother of God, for, with the angels, the Magi and the shepherds, they ministered in godly manner at the divine nativity of Christ in the city of Bethlehem, chanting a hymn unto Him as God and Master.

Both... Exapostilarion of the Feast

From on high our Saviour, the Dayspring of the East, hath visited us, and we who are in darkness and the shadow have truly found Him; for the Lord hath been born of the Virgin.

C. Lauds: Tone 4 Stichera

Let every breath **praise** the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
 Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
 Praise Him, all ye His hosts.
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
 The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
 Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. We **glorify** Thy Resurrection,/ O all-powerful Lord,/ Who hast **suffered** the **Cross** and death// and art **risen** from the dead.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. By Thy **Cross** hast Thou set us free from the **ancient** curse/ and by Thy death hast Thou laid low the **devil**/ who **tormented** our **nature**,/ while all things have been filled with joy by Thy Resurrection;/ therefore, we **cry** unto Thee:// Glory be unto Thee, O Lord **risen** from the dead.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. By Thy **Cross** instruct us in Thy truth, O Christ our **Saviour**,/ and deliver us from the wiles of the **adversary**;/ O **Thou**, Who art **risen** from the dead,/ raise us up, **fallen** through sin./ By the prayers of Thy saints stretch out to us Thine **arm**, O Lord, // Who **lovest** mankind.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. Thou hast **taken** upon Thyself **death** in the flesh/ and hast mediated that we might be **immortal**/ and **Thou** hast **dwelt** in the tomb/ that we might be **free** from hell,/ and suffering as man, Thou hast **risen** as God,/ having raised us **with** Thyself./ Therefore, we cry **unto** Thee:/ Glory be unto Thee, O Lord, **Giver** of life,// Who alone **lovest** mankind.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

Stichera for the Feast (Tone 4)

5. Be **glad**, O ye righteous! Rejoice, O **heavens**!/ Leap up, ye mountains, for **Christ** hath been born!/ The **Virgin** sitteth, holding the incarnate Word of God in her bosom, like unto the **Cherubim**./ Shepherds marvel at Him Who **hath** been born;/ the Magi offer gifts to the Master; and the angels say, **chanting**:// O unapproachable Lord, glory **be** to Thee!

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. O Virgin Theotokos who gavest birth to the **Saviour**,/ thou hast abolished the ancient **curse** of Eve;/ for thou **becamest** the Mother of Him in Whom the Father is **well** pleased,/ bearing the incarnate Word of

God in thy **bosom**./ This mystery is not subject to **testing**,/ but with faith alone we all **glorify** it,/ crying out with thee and **saying**::// O ineffable Lord, glory **be** to Thee!

V. From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hast sworn and will not repent.

7. **Come**, let us hymn the Mother of the **Saviour**,/ who even after giving birth wast still shown to be a **Virgin**./ **Rejoice**, O animate city of **God** the King,/ wherein Christ, making His abode, hath wrought **salvation**!/
We chant with Gabriel and offer up glory with the Magi, **saying**::// O Theotokos, entreat Him Who became incarnate of thee, that **we** be saved!

V. The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand.

8. The **Father** was well pleased; the Word **became** flesh;/ the Virgin gave birth to God **incarnate**;/ the **star** proclaimeth Him; the Magi offer Him worship; the shepherds **marvel**,// and creation **rejoiceth**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

Blood and fire and clouds of smoke are the **wonders**/ which Joel **foresaw** on earth./ The blood is the Incarnation; the fire is the **Godhead**;/ the clouds of smoke are the Holy **Spirit**,/ Who descended upon the Virgin and hath made the world **fragrant**./ Great is the mystery of Thine **Incarnation**!// O Lord, glory **be** to Thee!

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

P. The Great Doxology

R. Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies

Dismissal

G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 7)

Behold it is dark and very early in the **morning**./ And **what** art thou doing on the tomb, thy mind full of darkness, O **Mary**?/ **Why** dost thou ask where Jesus **has** been laid?/ **See** how the disciples running forward with the grave-clothes and the **napkin**/ have **positively** proved the **Resurrection**/ and have **remembered** that which had been written concerning this in the **Scriptures**./ And **we**, believing with them and through them sing Thy **praises**,// O Chri-ist, **Giver** of life.

R. Hours
 Tropar: Resurrection; Feast & Kinsmen alternating
 Kontak: Feast & Kinsmen alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Resurrection

Tropar Nativity

Tropar Saints

Glory... Kontak Saints

Both... Kontak Nativity

Prokimenon for Tone 4

How magnified are thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly.

Prokimenon for the Saints: (Tone 4)

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle(s): Gal 1:11-19 & Eph 6:10-17

Alleluia for Tone 4

V. Bend thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness

V. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.

Alleluia for the Saints (Tone 4)

V. Remember, O Lord, David in all his meekness.

Gospel(s): Matt 2:13-23 & Luke 18:18-27

Instead of "It is Truly Meet..." sing 9th Ode

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous...