

30th Sunday after Pentecost (December 21/January 3)

Forefeast of the Nativity
Sunday of the Holy Fathers

VESPERS: Tone 5

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried... (Tone 5)

1. Thou hast **shamed** the devil with Thy precious **Cross**, O Christ,/ and hast blunted the sting of sin by Thy Resurre**ction**./ Thou hast saved us from the **gates** of death.// Thou, O only-begotten Son, we **glorify** Thee.
2. He Who granted mankind the Resurre**ction**/ was led like a lamb to the **slaughter**;/ the princes of hell trembled **before** Him,/ the gates of tears were **lifted** up:./ for Christ the King of glory **entered** in,/ declaring to those in **bonds**: "Go forth"// and to those in darkness: "**Show** yourselves."
3. **What** a mighty **wonder**;/ in His **love** for mankind,/ the Maker of things invisible suffered in the flesh and He Who was imm**ortal** rose./ Come and worship Him, ye kindreds of the **nations**;/ let us, delivered indeed from beguilement by His **compassion**,// learn to sing the praises of the only **God** in three **Persons**.
4. We **offer** up to Thee our evening **worship**,/ O uncreated light, who art to all **eternity**./ For through the flesh as **in** a glass,/ Thou hast shone upon the world, descending even **unto** hell,/ setting free those in **darkness** there/ and showing forth to the nations the light of the Resurre**ction**:// Glory unto Thee, O **Lord**, Giver of light.

Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 6)

5. The never-setting Sun doth come to shine forth from the **Virgin's** womb/ and to enlighten **all** the world./ Let us make haste to meet Him with pure **eyes** and deeds;/ and let us now make ready in **spirit**/ to receive Him Who cometh into His own through a **strange** birth,/ as He hath been well **pleased** to do,/ that, as He is **compassionate**,/ He might lead us up who have estranged ourselves from the life of **Eden**,// may be born in **Bethlehem**.
6. God the Word, Who is upborne upon the shoulders of the **cherubim**,/ having united Himself hypostatically **to** the flesh,/ hath made His abode within the womb of the all-immaculate one/ and **become** a man;/ and He hath come to earth to be born of the tribe of **Judah**./ The holy cave is **beautifully** adorned,/ like a most magnificent palace, for the **King** of all;/ and the manger, wherein the Virgin Mary layeth the Infinite **One** as a babe,/ is like a **fiery** throne,// and serveth for the renewal of creation.
7. In a manger of dumb beasts doth the Virgin **lay** Thee,/ O unoriginate **Word** of God,/ Who, in manner which passeth **understanding**,/ hast

received a **beginning**./ For Thou comest to put an end to that foolishness which I assumed through the malice of the **serpent**,/ and to be wrapped in **swaddling** clothes,/ that Thou mightest rend asunder the rags and chains of my **transgressions**,/ O Thou Who alone art good and **lovest** mankind./ Wherefore, I glorify Thee and I hymn and most joyfully worship Thine **advent** in the flesh,// whereby I have been **set** free.

Stichera for the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

8. Unto the **ends** of the earth/ hath the memory of the forefathers been **manifest**/ as truly filled with light and shining with **rays** of grace;/ for Christ, the radiant Sun, shining from **afar** on high,/ doth lead forth an assembly of stars which **shineth** with Him,/ and in the midst of Bethlehem a nativity is shown to be that of **God** and man./ Therefore, piously **clapping** our hands,// with faith let us all join chorus to utter pre-festive praise unto His **nativity**.
9. **Rejoicing** today,/ Adam is adorned with the glory of divine **communion**,/ as the foundation and confirmation of the wise fore**fathers**;/ and with him Abel doth **leap** for joy/ and Enoch is glad, and Seth danceth together with **Noah**;/ the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the **patriarchs**,/ and from on high Melchizedek doth behold a birth wherein a father **had** no part./ Wherefore, celebrating the divine memory of the fore**fathers** of Christ,// we beseech Him, that our **souls** be saved.
10. With gladness hath the assembly of the divinely wise children in the furnace **shone** forth,/ and it proclaimeth the nativity of **Christ** on earth;/ for the Lord, descending like a **precious** dew,/ doth preserve unconsumed her that **gaveth** Him birth,/ doth keep her undefiled and doth enrich her with **divine** gifts./ Wherefore, the God-pleasing Daniel rejoiceth in **gladness**,/ for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the **mountain**,// and with boldness doth he now pray in **behalf** of our souls.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Daniel, the man of **divine** desires,/ seeing Thee, the Stone uncut by **human** hands,/ O Lord, prophetically called Thee a babe **born** without seed,/ the Word incarnate of the Virgin, the **immaculate** God,// the **Saviour** of our souls.

Both now & ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 6)

Splendidly adorn thyself, **O** cave,/ for the ewe-lamb cometh who doth bear **Christ** in her womb!/ O manger, receive thou Him Who by a word doth release us mortals from irrational **activity**!/ Ye piping shepherds, bear witness to the awesome **wonder**!/ Ye magi from Persia, bring forth gold, **frankincense** and myrrh,/ for the Lord hath appeared from the Virgin **Mary**./ And the Mother, regarding Him as befitteth a **handmaid**,/ worshipped Him and cried out in greeting unto Him Who was **laid** in her arms:/ How wast Thou sown **within** me?/ How didst Thou spring **forth** in me,// O my Deliverer and God?

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
C. O Joyful Light...

- P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom!

Readings for the Fathers

- R. The reading is from the book of Genesis (14:14-20)

Abram, having heard that Lot, his nephew, had been taken captive, numbered his own home-born servants, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued after them to Dan. And he came upon them by night, he and his servants; and he smote them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is on the left of Damascus. And he recovered all the cavalry of Sodom, and he recovered Lot, his nephew, and all his possessions, and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from the slaughter of Chedorla-omer, and the kings with him, to the valley of Shaveh (this was the plain of the kings). And Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought forth loaves and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed Abram, and said: "Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Who made heaven and earth; and blessed be the Most High God Who delivered thine enemies into thy power."

- R. The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, God hath delivered the land before you. Go in and inherit the land, which He promised to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spake to you at that time, saying: I shall not be able by myself to bear you. The Lord your God hath multiplied you; and, behold, ye are today as the stars of heaven in multitude. The Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousandfold more than you are, and bless you as He hath said to you. How shall I alone be able to bear your labor, and your burden, and your gainsayings? Take to yourselves wise men for your tribes, and I will set your leaders over you. And ye answered me, and said: 'The thing which thou hast told us is good to do.' So I took of you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fties, and rulers of tens, and officers to your judges. And I charged your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother, and the stranger who is with him. Thou shalt not have respect to persons in judgment, thou shalt judge small and great equally; thou shalt not shrink from before the person of a man, for the judgment is God's."

- R. The reading is from the book of Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord thy God, the earth and all things that are therein. Only the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and He chose out their seed after them, even you, beyond all nations, as at this day. Therefore, ye shall circumcise the hardness of your heart, and ye shall not harden your neck. For the Lord your God, He is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, and strong, and terrible God, Who doth not accept persons, nor will He by any means accept a bribe, executing judgment for the stranger and orphan and widow. And as He loveth the stranger, to give him food and raiment, so shall ye love the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt cleave unto Him, and shalt swear by His name. He is thy boast, and He is thy God, Who hath wrought in the midst of thee these great and glorious things, which thine eyes have seen."

- P. Augmented Litany
 R. Vouchsafe...
 P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya from service of December 21st Aposticha (Tone 1)

Seeing the Creator held in thine arms, O most **pure** one,/ thou didst exclaim: "O my sweet Child, how is it that I behold Thee **as** a babe,/ **and** am now unable to understand Thine unapproachable **condescension**?/ I hymn Thy might and worship Thy loving-**kindness**,// for which cause Thou hast come to **save** the world!"

O **Mother** who knewest not **wedlock**,/ He Who is invisible hath appeared, **incarnate** of thee,/ **born** in a cave, and seen of the divine ranks of **heaven**;/ for He hath come to deliver man from the deception of the **serpent**./ Be not **amazed** at thy birthgiving which transcendeth **nature**,// O most **immaculate** one!

"I **behold** Thee, the all-perfect Babe, lying in the **manger**,/ and I cannot fathom the ineffable depths of this **mystery**!/ **How** have I remained incorrupt after **giving** birth,/ transcending the laws of **nature**?/ What **manner** of praise shall I **offer** Thee?// How shall I glorify Thee?" the Virgin **Maiden** exclaimed.

(Tone 1) of the Fathers

The **prophets** of great renown, splendid in the rays of divine **eloquence**,/ are ever blessed, and, putting forth the sayings of the **Spirit** as fruit,/ they **preached** to all the ineffable nativity of **Christ** God;/ and having lived most **wondrously**,// they ended their lives in **accordance** with the law.

Glory... of the Fathers (Tone 3)

Come, ye lovers of the **feasts** of the Church,/ and with **psalms** let us praise the assembly of the **forefathers**:/ **Adam**, the forefather **of** us all,/ **Enoch**, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac and **Jacob**;/ **and**, after the Law, Moses and Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and **David**,/ **and**, with them, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the twelve **prophets**,/ **together** with Elijah, Elisha and **all** the rest,/ Zechariah and the **Forerunner**:// who all preached Christ, the Life and **Resurrection** of our race.

Both now and ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 3)

Adorn thyself splendidly, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been **opened**!/ Make **ready**, O Ephratha, for Adam is restored, and E-eve **with** him;/ **for** the curse is annulled, the salvation of the world hath **blossomed** forth,/ **and** the souls of the **righteous** are adorned./ And **bearing** hymnody as a gift of offering **instead** of myrrh,/ they **receive** salvation of soul and **incorruption**./ For, **lo!** He Who lieth in the manger doth **command** before,/ **that** a spiritual hymn be chanted by those who cry out **unceasingly**:// O Lord, **glory** be to Thee!

- P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 5)

1. We **lift** up our **voices** in song/ to magnify Thee, O **Saviour**,/ Christ incarnate yet never parted from **heaven**,/ for **Thou** Lord Who **lovest** mankind,/ hast suffered the Cross and death for the **sake** of our kind/ and casting down the **gates** of hell,// Thou hast risen on the third day and thereby **saved** our souls.

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

2. O **Giver** of Life,/ Thy pierced side poured streams of **remission**,/ life and salvation **upon** us all./ By taking upon Thyself **death** in the flesh,/ Thou hast granted us **immortality**,/ and taking up Thy **abode** in the tomb,/ Thou hast set us **all** free,/ and as God Thou hast raised us up with Thee in **glory**./ Therefore, we **cry** aloud:// Glory unto Thee, O **Lord**, Who lovest mankind.

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

3. O **Thou** Wh-o **lovest** mankind/ strange are Thy crucifixion and Thy **descent** into hell./ For after despoiling it, and raising up with Thyself as God in **glory**,/ those who were in times of old held **captive** there,/ Thou hast opened Paradise and vouchsafed that it let man **enter**./ Cleanse us, **therefore**, from sin,/ who glorify Thy Resurrection on the **third** day/ and vouchsafe that we too may dwell in **Eden**::// For Thou alone art **merciful**.

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

4. O **Thou**, Who for our sakes hast accepted suffering **in** the flesh/ and hast risen on the third day **from** the dead,/ heal the passions **of** our flesh/ and raise us from our grievous iniquities and **save** us:// For Thou **alo-ne** **lovest** mankind.

Glory... (Tone 2)

Rejoice, ye honourable **prophets**/ who dedicated yourselves well to the **Law** of the Lord,/ and by **faith** revealed yourselves as unshaken and unbreakable **pillars** of Christ;/ and, having passed on to **heaven**,// ye beseech Him to grant peace to the world and to **save** our souls.

Both... (Tone 2)

Behold, the hour of our salvation **draweth** nigh!/ Make ready, O cave, for the Virgin approacheth to **give** birth!/ **Rejoice** and be glad, O Bethlehem, land of **Judah**,/ for from thee shall our **Lord** shine forth!/ Harken, ye mountains and hills, and ye surrounding lands of **Judea**,/ for Christ cometh to save man whom He **created**,// in that He is the Lover of **mankind**!

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2) x1

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet

Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 5

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 5) x2

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit/ Born for our salvation from the Virgin,/ for He willed to be lifted upon the Cross in the flesh/ to endure death and to raise the dead/ by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Both... Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Make ready, O Bethlehem!/ Open unto all, O **E**den!/ Adorn thyself, O **E**phratha!/ For the Tree of life hath blossomed forth from the Virgin **in** the cave./ Her womb is shown to be a noetic **paradise**,/ wherein lieth a divine **garden**,/ eating from whence we live, not dying like **Adam**./ Christ is born// to raise up His image which before was **fallen**.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...

R. Kathisma II

P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

We praise the Cross of the Lord, we honour His holy burial with hymns, and we greatly glorify His resurrection, for as God with Himself He raised the dead up from the graves, having captured the dominion of death and the might of the devil; and He shone light upon those in hades.

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

Declared to be dead, O Lord Who didst slay death, Thou wast laid in a tomb, O Thou Who emptied the graves. Above, soldiers kept guard over Thy sepulcher, while below Thou didst raise up the dead from ages past. O almighty and unapproachable Lord, glory be to Thee!

G/B... Rejoice! Thou impassable gateway of the Lord; Rejoice! Thou wall and protection of those who take refuge in Thee; Rejoice! Thou haven untroubled by storms; Rejoice! Thou who hast not known wedlock and who hast borne Thy Son and Maker and God in the flesh. Fail not in thy intercession on behalf of those who sing the praises of and worship thy Son.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

O Lord, after Thy resurrection on the third day and the worship of the apostles, Peter cried out to Thee: "The women showed courage, but I was afraid. The thief uttered theology, but I denied Thee. And dost Thou now call upon me to be Thine apostle still? Or wilt Thou show me again to be a fisher of the deep? Yet do Thou accept me, who repent, O God, and save me!"

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

O Lord, the iniquitous nailed Thee in the midst of condemned criminals, and pierced Thy side with a spear, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept burial, Who broke down the gates of hades, and didst rise again on the third day. The women hastened to behold Thee, and announced Thine arising to the apostles. O supremely exalted Saviour, Whom the angels hymn, O blessed Lord, glory be to Thee!

G/B... O Theotokos, unwedded Bride, who hast transformed the grief of Eve into joy, we, the faithful, hymn and bow down before thee, for thou hast led us out of the ancient curse. And now, pray thou unceasingly, O most hymned and all-holy one, that we be saved.

R. Psalm 118
C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

The myrrh-bearing women, their minds dazzled by the sight of the angel and their souls enlightened by Thy divine Resurrection, preached the good tidings to the Apostles: "O spread among the nations the news of the Resurrection of the Lord, He, Who works wonders and grants us His great mercy."

R. Sessional Hymns to the Fathers (Tone 8)

With hymns let us all praise Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the meek David, Joshua, and the twelve patriarchs, together with the three youths that quenched the fiery flame with the power of the Spirit. And let us cry out to them: Rejoice, ye that bravely denounced the deception of the mad king! Pray ye to Christ, that He grant remission of offenses unto them that celebrate your holy memory with love.

G/B... From the bosom of the Father didst Thou come down, and in Thine ineffable condescension didst Thou take upon Thyself poverty like unto ours, in manner surpassing nature, O Thou Who lovest mankind. It was Thy good pleasure to make Thine abode in a cave, O Lord, and like as a babe art

Thou suckled at Thy Mother's breast, Who art Creator and Lord. Wherefore, the magi, guided by the star, bring gifts unto Thee and cry out: Glory in the highest to God, Who cometh to earth to be born as a man!

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

When I am filled with sorrow, I sing unto Thee like David, O my Saviour: Deliver my soul from a lying tongue.

Blessed is the life of those in the wilderness, who soar aloft on wings of love divine.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit are sustained all things, visible and invisible; for, Himself possessed of dominion, He is truly One of the Trinity.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Ascend into the mountain, O my soul and go thither from whence cometh our help.

Let Thy right hand, which toucheth me, O Christ, preserve me from all deception.

G/B... Theologizing concerning the Holy Spirit, let us say: Thou art God, Life, Love, Light and understanding! Thou art Goodness and Thou reignest forever!

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

Full of great Joy, I send up supplications for those who have said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

Awesome things are wrought in the house of David; for there is found the fire which burneth up every shameful thought.

G/B... To the Holy Spirit, by Whom every living thing is made animate, is due the dignity of the Bestower of life, as to the Father and the Word.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 5)

Arise, O Lord, my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; for Thou shalt be King forever.

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

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #8

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 (Per rubrics for Dec 20-23)

Irmos: Bringing battles to naught with His upraised arm, / Christ hath overthrown horse and rider / in the Red Sea, / and hath saved Israel, // who chanteth a hymn of victory.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The thorny assembly of the Jews, devoid of maternal love for Thee, their Benefactor, O Christ, crowned Thee with thorns, Who lifted the thorny sentence of our first father.

Bending down, O Bestower of life, Thou raised me up who had fallen into the pit; and having endured my fetid corruption without partaking thereof, O Christ, Thou hast made me fragrant with the myrrh of the divine Essence.

Theotokion

The curse hath been annulled; grief hath ceased! For she who is blessed and full of grace hath shone joy forth upon the faithful, causing Christ to blossom forth as a blessing upon all the ends of the earth.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The Virgin now cometh to Bethlehem to give birth to Christ, Who becometh a babe in the flesh, to Christ, Who of His own will hath beggared Himself; to Christ, Who becometh visible. Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leap up, ye mountains and hills! Join chorus, ye divinely eloquent prophets! Ye people and nations, clap your hands! Our salvation and Enlightenment, Who is born in the city of Bethlehem, hath nearly come.

Theotokion

Without change is God known as man through the Virgin who hath not known wedlock; He Who is rich becometh poor, enriching those who, through malice, have been reduced to poverty. Let us all hymn Him with praises, for He hath been glorified.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Today the assembly of the divine fathers doth radiantly celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and most glorious grace doth prefigure it, for Abraham and the children of the Law are an image thereof.

Of old the sacred Abraham received One of the three Persons of the Godhead, and now the Word of the Father, Who is equally enthroned with Him, doth, through the divine Spirit, come to the children, He Who is gloriously praised.

The children that cast down godlessness in the furnace are in number and faith images of the divine Trinity, and they have revealed to the world the hidden mysteries of God.

Glory... Abraham delivered from the hands of the unrighteous, and the divine youths and Daniel the prophet were once saved from the flame of the furnace and from the den of wild beasts. Wherefore, we now celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ.

Both... O joyous and unwedded Mother, incorrupt Virgin, we bless thee, for thou didst blossom forth from the generation of Abraham and the tribe of David, and gavest birth unto Christ, Who of old was foretold by the prophets.

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: O Christ Who by Thy command fixed the earth upon naught/ and
 suspended its weight unsupported;/ establish Thou Thy Church/
 upon the immovable rock of Thy commandments, // O Thou Who
 alone art good and lovest mankind.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

They who sucked honey from a rock when Thou didst work a miracle in the
 desert, O Christ, gave Thee gall to eat; the ungrateful children of Israel
 gave Thee vinegar in return for manna, repaying thus Thy benefactions.

They who of old were covered by the cloud of light placed Christ, our
 Life, in the tomb; yet He hath arisen through His own power and from on high
 hath given to all the faithful the effulgence of the Spirit, which
 mystically overshadoweth them.

Theotokion

Thou, O Mother of God, gavest birth without knowing union, and without
 the pangs of motherhood, unto Him Who shone forth from the incorrupt Father;
 wherefore, in Orthodox manner we proclaim thee the Theotokos, for thou
 gavest birth unto the incarnate Word.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

He Who in manner past understanding was born of the Father before the
 ages, hath become incarnate of the Virgin in latter times, as He Himself
 knew, desiring to restore humanity, which had become corrupt through the
 counsel of the evil serpent.

The unoriginate Son of God, Who is enthroned with the Father and the
 Spirit in the highest, beholding human nature which had been humbled, doth
 accept a beginning and desireth to be born in the flesh as man.

Theotokion

She who is more holy than the angels and all creation doth now give
 birth without seed to the Angel of Great Counsel in the flesh, for the
 restoration of all who unceasingly chant unto Him: Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Faithfully preserving the glory of the image and likeness of God, with
 the fire of the Spirit the children, as champions, extinguished the fire of
 the golden image, chanting: We know but one Lord!

The captive children, clothed with the wisdom and power of the Spirit,
 put to shame the wise men of Babylon and boldly cried out: None is holy
 save Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind!

Glory... The law doth rejoice and joineth chorus with the children and the prophets and doth exult today before the divine advent of the Lord. And Abraham doth rejoice, for from his seed hath the incarnate Lord appeared.

Both... A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthgiving hath transpired in manner beyond recounting, O Theotokos, for the Word of God, Who is God and was proclaimed by the prophets, hath shown Himself to be a mystery beyond nature.

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. Ypakoe of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

An **Angel** bedewed the children in the **furnace**,/ and hath now put an end to the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women, **saying**:/ Why bring ye myrrh? Whom seek ye **in** the tomb?/ Christ God is **risen**,// for He is the life and salvation of the **human** race!

Canticle Four

Irmos: Perceiving Thy divine condescension prophetically, O Christ,/ Habakkuk cried out to Thee with trembling:/ Thou art come for the salvation of Thy people,// to save thine anointed ones!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Good One, with a tree Thou didst sweeten the bitter waters of Marah, prefiguring Thine all-precious Cross, which doeth away with the taste of sin.

O my Saviour, Thou didst receive a Cross in exchange for the tree of knowledge and gall for sweet food, and thou didst pour forth Thy divine blood for the corruption of death.

Theotokion

Without physical joining thou didst incorruptibly conceive within thy womb, and gavest birth without pain; and having given birth unto God in the flesh, thou wast preserved a virgin even after birthgiving.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

Thou hast given rise unto a staff from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, putting forth the unfading Blossom of the Creator of all, Who, as God, doth with flowers adorn all the earth, which crieth aloud to Him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

O Word of God, Thou hast come to edify me, who have been despoiled through evil food and dragged down in mind and made like unto dumb beasts;

and, becoming a babe, Thou didst lie down in a manger of dumb beasts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion

O Jesus, Habbakuk foresaw Thee incarnate of the Virgin, the mountain overshadowed, breaking down the mountains and hills of evil, and giving over to utter destruction the arrogance of the evil one and the uprisings of the demons.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the firstfruits of the fathers, for from their seed hath Christ shone forth incarnate of the Virgin, in that He is almighty.

Indicating the coming events of the descent of Christ unto all, Daniel clearly showed forth lions as sheep, for, as a prophet of God, he foresaw the future.

Glory... Not attracted by the poison of sin, O children, ye were delivered from the flame; for, being of wisdom more pure than gold, ye were not melted in the furnace of deception.

Both... O honoured and all-pure one, thine Offspring, Who surpasseth nature, is proclaimed aloud to be the expectation of the nations and the salvation of the world. And today the multitude of the fathers doth hymn Him.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A rod from the root of Jesse/ and blossom therefrom, O Christ,/ Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin;/ from the mountain overshadowed and densely wooded hast Thou come,/ incarnate of her who knew not man,/ O Thou praised and immaterial God.// Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Canticle Five

Irmos: O Thou Who art clothed in light as with a garment:/ I rise at dawn unto Thee, and to Thee do I cry:/ Enlighten Thou my gloom-enshrouded soul, O Christ,// in that Thou alone art compassionate!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Of His own will the Lord of glory hangeth ignominiously upon the Tree in inglorious form, ineffably taking thought of divine glory for me.

Having tasted of the corruption of death in the flesh without suffering corruption, O Christ, Thou didst clothe me in incorruption, having shone forth from the tomb on the third day.

Theotokion

Having seedlessly given birth for us to Christ, our righteousness and deliverance, O Theotokos, thou didst rid the nature of our first father of the curse.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

As the most perfect Son of God, the Master by nature, in Thy loving-kindness wast well pleased to be called the Son of man and reckoned among slaves, O most Compassionate One. Wherefore, willingly begging Thyself, Thou comest to be born in a cave, O All-good One.

O Christ our King, Who art uncontainable by nature, how can a little cave receive Thee? How can a manger hold Thee, Who comest in the flesh to Thine own for our sake, from a Mother who knew not wedlock, that Thou mightest save those who have been estranged from Thee, O Lord?

Theotokion

The Shepherd's ewe-lamb hath come to give birth. Make ready, O holy cave! Make haste, ye shepherds, to see the newborn Shepherd and Lamb! Ye magi, prepare yourselves with gifts to worship Him as King in the flesh.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour today the divine Daniel, of the race of Abraham, the firstfruit of the fathers, as a leader of the Law and of grace; for, as a prophet of God, he foretold the advent of Christ from the Virgin and goeth forth to meet His divine nativity.

Clearly prefiguring through the Angel's descent the coming of the Lord unto us, the children of Abraham extinguished the furnace; and, rendering the flame dewy with their faith, they consumed the splendor of the golden image therein.

Glory... Through the Spirit, Daniel closed the mouths of the wild beasts in the pit; and, through grace, the children of Abraham quenched the strength of the fire. And, saved from corruption, they proclaim Christ Who is born of the Virgin, entreating Him as the Deliverer of our salvation.

Both... Revealing through the divine Spirit Thy painless assumption of our nature, and keeping vigil in the Law of grace, O Lord, Isaiah cried out: From the race of Abraham and the tribe of Judah doth a Virgin come, giving birth in the flesh without seed.

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: O Christ Master,/ still Thou the sea of the passions/ which rageth with a soul-destroying tempest,/ and lead me up from corruption,// in that Thou art compassionate.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The progenitor of our race stumbled headlong into corruption, having tasted of the forbidden food, O Christ our Master; but he hath been led up to life, through Thy suffering.

Thou, O our Life, didst go down into hades, and having become corruption for the corrupter, O Christ our Master, Thou didst pour forth resurrection through corruption.

Theotokion

The Virgin gave birth, and having given birth hath remained pure. The Virgin Mother hath truly borne in her arms Him Who holdeth all things.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

O Mistress, as a new heaven thou dost come, that Christ, the Sun of glory, might shine forth in the flesh from thy womb, as through a cloud, in the cave; for, in His boundless loving-kindness, He desireth splendidly to illumine all who are of this earth with rays of His own light.

Thou didst perceive our infirmity and misery, O compassionate Christ, and didst not disdain us; but, without leaving the Father, Thou didst abase Thyself and make Thine abode in the womb of her who knew not wedlock, who now cometh forth to give birth unto Thee, without pain, in the cave.

Theotokion

Ye mountains and hills, fields and vales, people and generations, nations and every creature: exult, filled with divine gladness, for the deliverance of all, the Word of God, the Timeless One, Who in His loving-kindness hath come under time, doth come with haste.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Hospitable was the nature and exalted was the faith of Abraham the forefather. Wherefore, receiving in image the divine mystery, he rejoiced, and, running before Christ, he now maketh merry.

The faith of the youths now holdeth creation subject by the gift of the Creator, for the all-devouring and shameless fire stood in awe of them that honour Jesus Christ, the Creator of fire.

Glory... Daniel the prophet, once closing the mouths of the lions in the pit, showed in godly manner that through the coming of Christ the savagery of the world is in harmony with divine peace.

Both... O Mary, Mother who knewest not man, from a virgin womb didst thou give birth unto Christ, Whom the prophets beheld in the Spirit; and the fathers who begot Him now join chorus before His nativity.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The sea monster spat forth Jonah/ as it had received him, like a babe from the womb;/ while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh,/ came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt./ For being Himself not subject to decay,// He preserved His Mother free from harm.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the prefestal period (Tone 1)

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha! For, lo! She who beareth the Lamb and great Shepherd in her womb/ doth make haste to give birth./ Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad, // with the shepherds hymning the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Ikos of the Fathers of the prefestal period

Beholding the splendid radiance of thy birthgiving, O Virgin, the God-loving Abraham, the ever-memorable Isaac, Jacob and all the divinely assembled choir of saints rejoice, and, with joyous utterances, they lead creation forth to meet thee; for thou art shown to be the mediatrix of joy for all, having conceived in thy womb Him Who once was seen in Babylon, Who preserved unconsumed the youths that had been cast unjustly into the furnace, and Who showed thee forth in manner past all comprehension. Wherefore, the young maidens chant unto Him Who is borne in thine arms, hymning thee as the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Reading from the Prologue or Synaxarion

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The supremely exalted Lord of our fathers/ quenched the flame and bedewed the children,/ who sang together:// Blessed art Thou, O God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Clad in flesh like bait on a hook, by Thy divine power thou didst draw the serpent down, leading up those who cry: Blessed art Thou, O God!

The Infinite One, Who brought the immense structure of the earth into being, in the flesh is covered in the tomb. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Theotokion

O most immaculate one, thou gavest birth to the incarnate God, one Hypostasis in two natures, unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

The divine vine whereon the incorrupt Cluster did ripen, draweth nigh, coming to give birth unto Him Who poureth forth the wine of gladness and watereth us who cry out to Him: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The divine phial which beareth within herself the fragrant Myrrh cometh to pour It out in the cave of Bethlehem, filling with mystic fragrance those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion

The tongs which Isaiah the prophet beheld of old cometh, holding in her womb Christ, the divine Ember, which burneth up all the fuel of sin and enlighteneth the souls of the faithful.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O father Abraham, founder of thy race, having begotten Christ in the flesh, thou art clearly revealed by the Spirit as the father of nations, unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

The hymn of the inspired ones hath put to shame them that utter soulless noises, for the youths, bodily trampling down unharmed the furnace which burned with fire, chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Of old, the prophet Daniel, gazing with spiritual vision, revealed the second coming of Christ, and he foretelleth the dreadful things which shall come to pass therein, crying out: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Both... O strange wonder, known among the prophets and revealed of old to the fathers: a pure Virgin is come, wishing to give birth unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

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: The children, forming a universal chorus in the furnace,/ chanted to Thee, the Creator of all:/ Hymn the Lord, all ye works,// and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst pray concerning Thy voluntary and saving passion as though it were a cup which Thou didst not desire; for Thou bearest two wills, according to each of Thy two natures, O Christ, forever.

At Thine all-accomplishing descent, O Christ, hades, mocked, spewed forth all whom it had lured by deceit into death from of old, and they exalt Thee supremely for all ages.

Theotokion

All of us, the works of the Lord, bless and supremely exalt thee for all ages, as her who, in manner past understanding, gave birth to the Lord as God and man at the word of the archangel, and doth remain a virgin.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

In gladness let us cry out with the angels: Glory to God in the highest! The Saviour is born! The Master cometh, to Whom the star doth point! The magi hasten to behold Him, a Babe in a manger! Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Among slaves wast Thou enrolled of Thine own will, O Master, subjecting Thyself to the law of Caesar, that Thou mightest free mankind from slavery to the evil one, O most merciful God. Wherefore, rejoicing, we chant: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Theotokion

O Word Who art without beginning, I bear Thee as a newborn Babe, although I have in no wise known man", said the Virgin, marveling. "Whom on earth can I call Thy father? I know not. Wherefore, with all I chant to Thee: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!"

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Prefiguring Thy sacrifice, O Christ, Abraham, obedient to Thee, O Master, went forth with faith, wishing to sacrifice on the mountain the son whom he had begotten; but he returned with him, rejoicing and glorifying and exalting above all Thee, the Deliverer of the world.

When Thou didst clothe Thyself in ever-blazing flame as in a divine robe, O Christ, thou didst utterly extinguish the fire for the three holy children, and by Thy descent the dew hath cried out unto them that chant: Ye priests hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

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

The prophet Daniel is given to the lions as an unjust trial, but, through the precept of abstinence, in his piety he had the wild beasts as fellow fasters in the depths of the pit. Through his prayers and those of Abraham and the children, save them that hymn Thee in the world, O Christ!

Both... The voices of the prophets faithfully proclaimed Him as Jesus Immanuel, Who cometh in human form, God and man; and the Virgin Mary, without having known man, giveth birth in the city of Bethlehem unto a Son, the co-unoriginate Word, through the Holy Spirit.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The furnace moist with dew/ was the image and figure of a wonder past nature./ For it burnt not the Children whom it had received,/ even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended./ Therefore in praise let us sing:// Let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: Rejoice, O Isaiah!// The Virgin hath conceived in her womb/ and borne a Son, Immanuel,/ both God and man./ Orient is His name;// and magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst take up fallen man, O Christ, through the Virgin's womb uniting Thyself wholly unto him without partaking of the least sin; and by Thine all-pure sufferings Thou didst free him wholly from corruption.

By the divinely flowing blood poured forth from Thine all-pure and life-creating side, O Christ our Master, the sacrifices of the idols were brought to an end, and the whole earth offereth Thee the sacrifice of praise.

Theotokion

It is not the incorporeal God nor a simple man whom the pure and undefiled Maiden brought forth, but a perfect Man and the truly perfect God. Him do we magnify with the Father and the Spirit.

Glory to Thee, Our God, glory to Thee!

O mysteries strange, awesome and most glorious: the Lord of glory hath come to earth and, having beggared Himself, He hath entered a cave in the flesh, seeking to restore Adam and to deliver Eve from her pangs.

By Thy swaddling clothes Thou dost loose the bonds of our sinful falls; by Thy great poverty Thou dost enrich us all, O Compassionate One; and having been laid in a manger of dumb beasts Thou dost release men from irrational malice, O all-unoriginate Word of God.

Theotokion

The preaching of the prophets hath reached the ends of the earth, for they foretold Him Who was to come in the fullness of time; and He came and appeared incarnate of the pure Virgin. Let us receive Him with a pure mind!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Celebrating the feast of the fathers that were before the law, let us honour Christ, Who, in godly manner, is begotten of them in the flesh; for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, through faith, are proclaimers of the Spirit and grace, are shown to be the foundation of the prophets and the law.

God, Who by the fire in the bush showed to Moses the godly mystery in manner past understanding, having descended into the fire for the children, showed the flame of the furnace to be dew through the fire of the Essence of His divinity.

Glory... The all-holy children, assembling with Abraham, and Daniel, the wondrous prophet of God, Isaac and Jacob, with Moses and Aaron, faithfully join chorus before the nativity of Christ, praying unceasingly that we be saved.

Both... All of creation doth rejoice in thy birthgiving, O Virgin, for Bethlehem hath opened Eden unto us. And, lo! delighting in the Tree of Life, we all earnestly cry out in faith: Thou hast fulfilled our prayers, O Mistress!

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 Eight (John 20:11-18)

Seeing two angels inside the tomb, Mary was struck with wonder and not knowing Christ, she asked Him supposing Him to be the gardener: 'Where O Lord, hast thou laid the body of my Jesus?' And recognizing by His call that He was the Saviour Himself, she heard: 'Touch me not; tell the brethren I go to my Father.'

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Fathers

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the elect of the patriarchs, the fathers before the Law, have shone forth like beacons, for all the prophets and the righteous shone forth from them like radiant lamps. With rays of honourable prophecy have they illumined all creation; and they earnestly pray to God in behalf of the world.

Both... Theotokion of the Fathers

Wondrous hath this been! The unblemished ewe-lamb, the granddaughter of Adam and David, giveth birth unto the Lamb, the all-unoriginate Word, in the latter days, as is meet. The forefeast of her ineffable birthgiving doth the multitude of the fathers celebrate fittingly.

C. Lauds: Tone 5 Stichera

Let every bre-ath **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. After the tomb was sealed by the evildoers,/ Thou, Lord, didst proceed from it,/ just as Thou didst come forth from the **Virgin**./ Thy bodiless angels had no knowledge of the manner of Thine **Incarnation**:/ Neither were the watch who guarded Thee aware of the moment of Thy **Resurrection**./ For both the one and the other were concealed from those who **questioned** these things,/ but were made manifest as miracles to those who acclaimed with faith the **Mystery**./ Grant us, who praise it, **joy** and great **mercy**.

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

2. After **breaking** the **eternal** chains/ and bursting the bonds **asunder**,/ Thou didst rise, O **Lord**, from the tomb,/ leaving Thy grave clothes behind Thee as **witness**/ to Thy having been truly buried for **three** days;/ and Thou, Who wast in the cave with a guard watching **over** Thee/ didst go forward into **Galilee**./ Great is Thy mercy, O incomprehensible **Saviour**:// Have **mercy** upon us.

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

3. The **women**, O Lord, hastened **to** the tomb,/ so as to see Thee, O Christ, Who **suffered** for us,/ and when they reached it they found an angel seated **upon** the stone,/ who cried out to them, as they started **back** with dread:/ The Lord is risen, tell the **disciples**// that He is risen from the dead, **saving** our souls.

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

4. As **Thou** didst go forth from the **sealed** tomb,/ so didst Thou, O Lord, enter when the **doors** were closed/ and stand in the midst of Thy **disciples**/ showing them the marks of Thy **Passion**, O long-suffering **Saviour**./ Born of the seed of David, having **endured** the stripes,/ Thou

as Son of God hast set the **world** free./ Great is Thy mercy, O ineffable Lord:// Have **mercy** upon us.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 5)

5/6. **Lift** up thy voice, O **Zion**,/ thou truly divine **city**,/ and **proclaim** the divine memory of the **fathers**,/ honouring **Abraham**, Isaac and the ever-memorable **Jacob**;/ for, lo! we all magnify Judah and Levi, the great **Moses**/ **and** the wondrous Aaron, and we honour David, Joshua and **Samuel**./ And **weaving** divine hymns into **godly** praise/ on the forefeast of Christ's **nativity**,/ we **ask** that we receive **grace** from Him,// and that He grant the **world** great mercy.

V. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!

7. O-o **Elijah**,/ who once rode upon a divine **chariot** of fire,/ come thou **forth**, and thou, O divinely wise **Elisha**;/ and **joining** with Ezekiel and **Hosea**, rejoice!/ O ye honoured and divinely inspired twelve **prophets**,/ join **chorus**, and all ye **righteous**,/ **chant** in hymns unto the **nativity** of Christ;/ ye most blessed youths that quenched the flame of the furnace with the dew of the **Spirit**,/ entreat **Christ** in **our** behalf,// that He send down upon our **souls** great mercy.

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

8. The **Virgin Theotokos**,/ she who through the ages hath been **preached** on earth/ by the **prophets** in their **utterances**,/ **she** whom the wise patriarchs and the assemblies of the **righteous** proclaim,/ with whom the comeliness of women joineth **chorus**:/ **Sarah**, Rebecca, Rachel and **Hannah**,/ **together** with the glorious Miriam, the sister of **Moses**./ With them all the ends of the **world** rejoice/ and all creation rendereth **honour**,/ for the Creator and God of all cometh to be **born** in the flesh// and to **grant** us great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **compilation** of the **teachings** of the Law/ doth reveal the divine birth of **Christ** in the flesh/ as being from them that, **before** the Law,/ proclaimed the glad tidings of grace to them that lived **beyond** the Law./ Wherefore, in that this birth is the means of deliverance from **corruption**,/ for the sake of the resurrection they declared to the souls held fast in **Hades**:// 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 **captiv**e,/ **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.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

C. G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 8)

The **tears** of Mary are not warmly **shed** in vain./ For behold, she was held worthy of the angels' **teaching**/ and vouchsafed the sight of Thee, **Thyself**, O Christ./ But again her thoughts were earthly thoughts as those of a weak **woman**./ Therefore she was dismissed and told not to **touch** Thee, O Christ./ But she was also sent as herald to the **disciples**,/ and she affirmed to them the good tidings proclaiming the Ascension to the portion of the **Father**./ With her do Thou also make us worthy of Thy manifestation, O **Master** and Lord.

R. 1st & 6th Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Fathers
Kontak: Fathers

R. 3rd & 9th Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Forefeast
Kontak: Forefeast(see below)

Kontakion of the Forefeast (Tone 2)

Beholding Him Who holdeth the whole world in His hands/ wrapped in swaddling-bands in Bethlehem,/ let us offer up hymns of the forefeast to her who gave birth to Him; for she rejoiceth maternally, // holding the Son of God at her bosom.

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia
Tropar Resurrection
Tropar Fathers
Tropar Forefeast
Glory... Kontak Fathers
Both... Kontak Forefeast

Prokimenon for the Fathers (Tone 4)
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Epistle(s): Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Alleluia for the Fathers (Tone 4)

Gospel(s): Matt 1:1-25
Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord...