Great (Royal) Hours of the Nativity (Christmas) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

- *If the Great (Royal) Hours of the Nativity are instructed to be celebrated on December 22 or December 23, then read the Apolytikion of the Forefeast; but if on December 24, then read the Apolytikion of the Paramon (Eve). Music for the idiomela in **Byzantine** and **Western** notation.*

THE FIRST GREAT (ROYAL) HOUR OF THE NATIVITY

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

Choir: Amen.

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

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

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

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

PSALM 5

Reader: Unto my words, give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto Thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before Thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them

that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of Thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee. For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulcher, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered Thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in Thee that love Thy Name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

PSALM 44

Reader: My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king; my tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe. Comely art Thou in beauty more than the sons of men; grace hath been poured forth on Thy lips, wherefore God hath blessed Thee forever. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. And bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and Thy right hand shall guide Thee wondrously. Thine arrows are sharp, O Mighty One, (under Thee shall peoples fall) sharp in the heart of the enemies of the king. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Wherefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows. Myrrh and stacte and cassia exhale from Thy garments, from the ivory palaces, whereby they have made Thee glad, they the daughters of kings in Thine honor. At Thy right hand stood the queen, arrayed in a vesture of inwoven gold, adorned in varied colors. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear; and forget thine own people and thy father's house. And the King shall greatly desire thy beauty, for He Himself is thy Lord, and thou shalt worship Him. And Him shall the daughters of Tyre worship with gifts; the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. All the glory of the daughter of the King is within, with gold-fringed garments is she arrayed, adorned in varied colors. The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King. In the stead of thy fathers, sons are born to thee; thou shalt make them princes over all the earth. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation. Therefore, shall peoples give praise unto thee forever, and unto the ages of ages.

PSALM 45

Reader: Our God is refuge and strength, a helper in afflictions which mightily befall us. Therefore, shall we not fear when the earth be shaken, nor when the mountains be removed into the heart of the seas. Their waters roared and were troubled; the mountains were troubled by His might. The rushings of the river make glad the city of God; the Most High hath hallowed His tabernacle. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be shaken; God shall help her right early in the morning. The nations were troubled, kingdoms tottered, the Most High gave forth His voice, and the earth was shaken. The Lord of hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob. Come and behold the works of God, what marvels He hath wrought on the earth, making wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. He will crush the bow and will shatter the weapon, and shields will He utterly burn with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

- *Now **read plainly** the apolytikion of the day and the theotokion listed below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARAMON (EVE)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

THEOTOKION FOR THE FIRST HOUR

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

What shall we call thee, O full of grace? Shall we call thee heaven because thou didst give rise to the Son of righteousness? Or, shall we call thee paradise because thou didst bring forth the Flower of incorruption? Or, a Virgin because thou didst remain without defilement? Or a pure Mother because thou didst carry in thy holy arms as a son the God of all? Therefore, plead with Him that He may save our souls.

- *The idiomela are chanted sticharically (slowly).*

THE IDIOMELA OF THE FIRST HOUR

In Tone Eight

Make ready, O Bethlehem; let the manger be prepared, let the cave show its welcome. The Truth is come, the shadow is passed away; God hath appeared from a Virgin unto men, formed as we are, and deifying that which He hath assumed. Wherefore, Adam is renewed with Eve, as they cry out: Thy good will hath appeared on earth to save our race.

In Tone Three

Verse. *God cometh from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest. O Lord, I have heard of the report of Thee and was afraid; I considered Thy works and was amazed.*

Now the prophecy doth press forward to fulfillment, which mystically saith: And thou, Bethlehem in the land of Judah, who preparest the cave, art not the least among the princes; for out of thee shall come unto Me in the flesh a Ruler of the nations, even Christ our God, from a Virgin Maiden; He shall shepherd His people, the new Israel. Let us all render majesty unto Him.

In Tone Eight

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

Thus saith Joseph to the Virgin: O Mary, what is this spectacle that I behold in thee? I am at a loss and sore amazed, and my mind is stricken with dismay; wherefore depart from my sight straightway. O Mary, what is this spectacle that I behold in thee? In the stead of honour, thou hast brought me

shame; in the stead of gladness, sorrow; in the stead of praise, condemnation. No longer, therefore, shall I bear the reproach of men; for I received thee from the priests of the temple as one blameless before the Lord. And what is this that I now behold?

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Lord hath said to Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the gentiles for Thine inheritance.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Micah. (5:2-4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: These things the Lord doth say: And thou, O Bethlehem Ephratha, who art little to be among the clans of Judah, from thee shall come forth for Me One Who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, He shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of His brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:1-12)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: God, Who at sundry times and in diverse manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the ages; Who being the effulgence of His glory, and the express image of His hypostasis, upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the Angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the Angels did He say at any time: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again: I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son? And again, when He bringeth in the First-born into the world, He saith: And let all the Angels of God worship Him. And of the Angels He saith: Who maketh His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son He saith: Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore, God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows. And: Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou abidest; and all like a garment shall grow old, and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:18-25)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary for thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His name Jesus.

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

Reader: My steps do thou direct according to Thy saying, and so let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may hymn Thy glory and Thy majesty all the day long.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Reader: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Reader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance upon us and be merciful unto us.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O Christ, the true Light, which illumineth and sanctifieth every man who cometh into the world: Let the light of Thy countenance be signed upon us, that in it we may behold the light unapproachable. Guide our footsteps aright, to the keeping of Thy commandments, through the intercessions of Thine all-immaculate Mother and of all Thy saints.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;

- **On Monday, say**: by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;
- **On Tuesday, say**: at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
- **On Wednesday and Friday, say**: by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross;
- **On Thursday, say**: at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;

at the supplication *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE THIRD GREAT (ROYAL) HOUR OF THE NATIVITY

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

Choir: Amen.

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

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

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

Reader: Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

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

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

PSALM 66

Reader: God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us. That we may know upon the earth Thy way, among all the nations Thy salvation. Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee. Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for Thou shalt judge peoples with uprightness; and nations shalt Thou guide upon the earth. Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee; the earth hath yielded her fruit. Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

PSALM 86

Reader: His foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. I will make mention of

Raab and Babylon to them that know me. And lo, the foreigners and Tyre and the people of the Ethiopians, these were born there. A man will say: Mother Zion; and: That man was born in her; and: The Most High Himself hath founded her. The Lord shall tell it in the writ of the peoples and the princes, even these that were born in her. How joyous are all they that have their habitation in Thee.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

- *Now **read plainly** the apolytikion of the day and the theotokion listed below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARAMON (EVE)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

THEOTOKION FOR THE THIRD HOUR

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Thou art the true vine, O Theotokos, bearing the Fruit of life. Thee do we implore. Wherefore, O Lady, intercede thou together with the Apostles and with all the saints for the salvation of our souls.

- *The Priest does the Great Censing around the entire church using the katzion (hand censer), but if none, the regular censer. The idiomela are chanted sticharically (slowly).*

THE IDIOMELA OF THE THIRD HOUR

In Tone Six

This is our God; and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison of Him, even He that is born of a Virgin, and dwelleth among men. Laid in a poor manger, the Only-begotten Son is manifest as a mortal, and the Lord of Glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes. A star revealeth Him to the Magi, that they might worship Him; and we sing: O Holy Trinity, save our souls.

In Tone Eight

Verse. *God cometh from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest. O Lord, I have heard of the report of Thee and was afraid; I considered Thy works and was amazed.*
Before Thy birth, O Lord, as the noetic hosts looked with trembling on the mystery, they were struck with awe: for Thou Who hast adorned the vault of heaven with stars, wast well pleased to be born as a little babe; and Thou wast laid in a manger of dumb beasts, Who holdest all the uttermost parts of the earth in Thy hand. For by such a dispensation hath Thy compassion been made known. O Christ, our great mercy, glory be to Thee.

In Tone Three

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Tell us, O Joseph, how is it thou bringest to Bethlehem, great with child, her whom thou hast received from the temple as a virgin? I have searched the Prophets, saith he, and have been instructed by an Angel, and I am persuaded that Mary shall give birth to God in a manner past interpretation. In homage unto Him, Magi shall come from the East, worshipping Him with precious gifts. O Thou Who wast incarnate for our sakes, Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: For a child is born to us, and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulders.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah (Baruch 3:36-4:4).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: This is our God, and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison of Him. He hath found out all the way of knowledge, and hath given it unto Jacob His child, and to Israel His beloved. Afterward, He was seen upon earth, and lived among men. This is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endureth forever; all they that keep it shall come to life, but such as leave it shall die. Turn thee, O Jacob, and take hold of it; walk in the presence of the light thereof, that thou mayest be illuminated. Give not thy glory to another, nor the things that are profitable unto thee to a

strange nation. O Israel, blessed are we: for the things that are pleasing to God are made known to us.

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-29)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. For as many of ye as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye art all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye art Christ's, then ye art Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:1-20)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her First-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men!" When the angels went away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Reader: Blessed is the Lord God; blessed is the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation shall prosper us along the way. Our God is the God of salvation.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Reader: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Reader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance upon us and be merciful unto us.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O Master God, Almighty Father, O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and O Holy Spirit, one Godhead and one Power: Have mercy on me the sinner; and by the judgments which Thou hast established, save me, Thine unworthy servant; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;

- **On Monday, say**: by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;
- **On Tuesday, say**: at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
- **On Wednesday and Friday, say**: by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross;
- **On Thursday, say**: at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;

at the supplication *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

THE SIXTH GREAT (ROYAL) HOUR OF THE NATIVITY

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

Choir: Amen.

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

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
	Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
Priest:	For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Reader:	Amen.
	Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)
	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

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

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

PSALM 71

Reader: O God, give Thy judgment to the king, and Thy righteousness to the son of the king, that he may judge Thy people with righteousness, and Thy poor with judgment. Let the mountains receive peace for the people, and let the hills receive righteousness. He shall judge the beggars among the people, and shall save the sons of the poor, and shall humble the false accuser. And He shall continue as long as the sun, and before the moon from generation to generation. He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like rain-drops that fall upon the earth. In His days shall righteousness dawn forth an abundance of peace, until the moon be taken away. And He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the rivers even unto the ends of the inhabited earth. Before Him shall the Ethiopians fall down, and His enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall bring gifts, kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring presents. And all the kings of the earth shall worship Him, all the nations shall serve Him, for He hath delivered the beggar from the oppressor, and the poor man for whom there was no helper. He shall spare the poor man and the pauper, and the souls of the poor shall He save. From usury and from injustices shall He redeem their souls, and precious shall be His name before them. And He shall live, and there shall be given unto Him of the gold of Arabia, and they shall make prayer concerning Him always; all the day long shall they bless Him. He shall be a support in the earth on the summits of the mountains; exalted more than Lebanon shall be His fruit, and they of the city shall flourish like the grass of the earth. His Name shall be blessed unto the ages, before the sun doth His Name continue. And in Him shall be blessed all the tribes of the earth, all the nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders. And blessed is the Name of His glory forever, and unto the ages of ages. And all the earth shall be filled with His glory. So be it. So be it.

PSALM 131

Reader: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness. How he made an oath unto the Lord, and vowed unto the God of Jacob: I shall not go into the dwelling of my house, I shall not ascend upon the bed of my couch, I shall not give sleep to mine eyes, nor slumber to mine eyelids, nor rest to my temples, until I find a place for the Lord, a habitation for the God of Jacob. Lo, we have heard of it in Ephratha, we have found it in the plains of the wood. Let us go forth into His tabernacles, let us

worship at the place where His feet have stood. Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness. Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice. For the sake of David Thy servant, turn not Thy face away from Thine anointed one. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not annul it: Of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy throne. If thy sons keep My covenant and these testimonies which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit forever on thy throne. For the Lord hath elected Zion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself. This is My rest forever and ever; here will I dwell, for I have chosen her. Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; her beggars will I satisfy with bread. Her priests will I clothe with salvation, and her saints with rejoicing shall rejoice. There will I make to spring forth a horn for David, I have prepared a lamp for My Christ. His enemies will I clothe with shame, but upon Him shall My sanctification flourish.

PSALM 90

Reader: He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of Heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; no evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My Name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

- *Now **read plainly** the apolytikion of the day and the theotokion listed below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARAMON (EVE)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

THEOTOKION FOR THE SIXTH HOUR

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
For verily, we have no favor for the multitude of our sins. Therefore, O virgin Theotokos, plead with Him that was born of thee; for the pleadings of the Mother are very effective in seeking the favor of the Master. Turn thou not away, therefore, from the pleadings of sinners, O most venerable one; for He Who was willing to suffer for our sins is merciful and able to save us.

- *The Priest does the Great Censing around the entire church using the katzion (hand censer), but if none, the regular censer. The idiomela are chanted sticharically (slowly).*

THE IDIOMELA FOR THE SIXTH HOUR

In Tone One

Come, O ye faithful, let us be lifted up with divine inspiration, and let us behold the divine condescend-sion from on high that is made manifest to us in Bethlehem. And being cleansed in mind, by our way of life let us offer virtues in the stead of myrrh, faithfully preparing our entry into the Feast of the Nativity, storing up treasure in our souls and crying: Glory in the highest to God in Trinity, through Whom His good will is revealed to men, that as the Friend of man He may deliver Adam from the ancestral curse.

In Tone Four

Verse. *God cometh from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest. O Lord, I have heard of the report of Thee and was afraid; I considered Thy works and was amazed.*
Hearken, O Heaven, and give ear, O earth. Let the foundations be shaken, let trembling lay hold upon the nethermost regions of the earth. For God the Creator hath clothed Himself with fleshly form; and He that with His mighty handmade the creation, is seen to be in the womb of His creature. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!

In Tone Five

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Come, O ye Christ-bearing people, let us behold a wonder that seizeth every mind with amazement; and as we piously worship, let us chant praises with faith. Today a Maiden great with child cometh to Bethlehem to give birth unto the Lord; and choirs of Angels hasten before her. Seeing these things, Joseph the Betrothed cried out: What is this strange mystery in thee, O Virgin? And how shalt thou bring forth a child, thou Heifer that hast not been yoked?

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: From the womb before the morning star, I bore Thee. Said the Lord to my Lord: Sit Thou on My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Lord again spake to Ahaz, saying: Ask for thyself a sign from the Lord thy God in the depth or in the height. And Ahaz said: I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. And Esaias said: Hear ye now, O house of David; is it a little thing for you to contend with men? And how do ye

contend against the Lord? Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel. Butter and honey shall He eat; before He even knoweth to prefer evil, He shall choose the good. For before the Child shall know good or evil, He refuseth evil, to choose the good. And the Lord said to me: Take to thyself a volume of a great new book, and write in it with a man's pen concerning: "The making a rapid plunder of spoils," for it is near at hand. And make Me witnesses of faithful men, Uriah the priest, and Zacharias the son of Jeberechiah. And I went into the Prophetess; and she conceived, and bore a son. And the Lord said to me: Call His Name: "Spoil quickly, plunder speedily." For, before the Child shall know how to call father or mother, He shall take the power of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria before the king of the Assyrians. God is with us. Know, ye nations, and be vanquished; give ear, even unto the utmost part of the earth: Ye that have prevailed, even ye be vanquished. For though ye should prevail again, yet again shall ye be vanquished. And whatsoever counsel ye shall take, the Lord shall bring it to nought. And whatsoever word ye speak, it shall not abide in you. For God is with us.

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: In the beginning, O Lord, Thou didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou abidest; and all like a garment shall grow old, and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail. But to which of the Angels did He say at any time: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by Angels was certain, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which received beginning in being spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him?

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people

Israel.' "Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

Reader: Let Thy compassions quickly go before us, O Lord, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Thy Name; O Lord, deliver us, and be gracious unto our sins, for Thy Name's sake.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Reader: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Reader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels,

that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance upon us and be merciful unto us.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O God and Lord of hosts and Maker of all things created, Who through the tender-hearted compassion of Thine incomparable mercy didst send down Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and by His precious Cross didst destroy the handwriting of our sins and didst thereby triumph over the origin and powers of darkness: Do Thou, the same Lord Who lovest mankind, receive also these thanksgivings and fervent prayers of us sinners. And deliver us from every harmful and gloomy transgression and from all enemies, both visible and invisible, who seek after us to destroy us. Nail our flesh with the fear of Thee, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of wickedness; but wound our souls with the love of Thee, that looking ever unto Thee and guided by Thee in the light, beholding Thee, the Light ineffable and everlasting, we may ascribe unto Thee ceaseless confession and thanksgiving unto the unoriginate Father, together with Thine only-begotten Son, and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;

- **On Monday, say**: by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;
- **On Tuesday, say**: at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
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- **On Thursday, say**: at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;

at the supplication *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest:	Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.
Choir:	Amen.

THE NINTH GREAT (ROYAL) HOUR OF THE NATIVITY

Priest:	Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Choir:	Amen.
Priest:	Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee.
	O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.
People:	Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)
	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
	All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.
	Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)
	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
	Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
Priest:	For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Reader:	Amen.
	Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)
	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

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

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

PSALM 109

Reader: The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet. A scepter of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Zion; rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints. From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchisedek. The Lord at Thy right hand hath broken kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill them with

dead bodies, He shall crush the heads of many upon the earth. He shall drink of the brook in the way; therefore, shall He lift up His head.

PSALM 110

Reader: I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. He made a remembrance of His wondrous deeds; merciful and compassionate is the Lord; He hath given food to them that fear Him. He will be mindful forever of His covenant; the power of His works hath He declared unto His people, that He may give them the inheritance of the nations; the works of His hands are truth and judgment. Faithful are all His commandments, confirmed unto ages of ages, made in truth and uprightness. He hath sent redemption unto His people, He hath enjoined His covenant forever; holy and terrible is His Name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all they that foster this have a good understanding. His praise abideth unto ages of ages.

PSALM 85

Reader: Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me, for poor and needy am I. Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Thy servant, O my God, that hopeth in Thee. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for unto Thee will I cry all the day long; make glad the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. For Thou, O Lord, art good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend unto the voice of my supplication. In the day of mine affliction have I cried unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me. There is none like unto Thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like unto Thy works. All the nations whom Thou hast made shall come and shall worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy Name. For Thou art great and workest wonders; Thou alone art God. Guide me, O Lord, in Thy way, and I will walk in Thy truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Thy Name. I will confess Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy Name forever. For great is Thy mercy upon me, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost Hades. O God, transgressors have risen up against me, and the assembly of the mighty hath sought after my soul, and they have not set Thee before them. But Thou, O Lord my God, art compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true. Look upon me and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden. Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

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

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

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

- *Now **read plainly** the apolytikion of the day and the theotokion listed below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARAMON (EVE)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was

the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

THEOTOKION FOR THE NINTH HOUR

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Thou who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil death through death, and as God didst reveal Resurrection: Despise not those whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand; show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful one; accept the intercession of Thy Mother, the Theotokos, for us; and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

- *The Priest does the Great Censing around the entire church using the katzion (hand censer), but if none, the regular censer. The idiomela are chanted sticharically (slowly).*

THE IDIOMELA FOR THE NINTH HOUR

In Tone Seven

Herod was astonished when he beheld the piety of the Magi; and being overcome with anger, he diligently inquired what time it had come to pass. Mothers were bereaved of their infants, and in a season yet unripe, the babes were bitterly harvested. Breasts grew dry and the channels of milk closed up. Great was the evil! Wherefore, let us, the faithful, piously gathering together, worship the Nativity of Christ.

In Tone Two

Verse. *God cometh from Teman, the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest. O Lord, I have heard of the report of Thee and was afraid; I considered Thy works and was amazed.*
O Virgin, as Joseph was pierced with sorrow on the way to Bethlehem, thou didst cry unto him: Why art thou downcast and troubled, as thou seest me great with child, knowing nothing of the dread mystery that is come to pass in me? Henceforth, cast aside all fear and understand this strange wonder; for in my womb God now descendeth upon the earth because of His mercy, and He hath taken flesh. When He is born, thou shalt see Him according to His good pleasure; and being filled with joy, thou shalt worship Him as thy Creator, Whom the Angels ceaselessly praise and glorify with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

- *This last idiomelon is chanted from the center of the church in front of the icon of the Nativity.*

In Tone Six

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
+ Today there is born of the Virgin He that holdeth all creation in the palm of His hand. (*thrice*)
+ With swaddling clothes is He wrapped as a mortal, He that is unapproachable in essence.
+ God reclineth in a manger, He that of old established the heavens in the beginning.
+ With milk at the breast is He nourished, He that in the wilderness rained manna on the people.
+ Magi doth He call to Himself, He that is the Bridegroom of the Church.
+ Their gifts doth He receive, He that is the Son of the Virgin.
+ We worship Thy Nativity, O Christ. (*thrice*)
+ Show us also Thy divine Theophany!

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: And of the mother Zion, it shall be said, this and that man is born in her and the Highest Himself hath founded her. His foundations are in the holy mountains.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. (9:6-7)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

THE EPISTLE

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (2:11-18)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Thy Name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise Thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that He is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. Because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed

all the male children in Bethlehem and in all of that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

Reader: Deliver us not up utterly, for Thy holy Name's sake, neither disannul Thou Thy covenant, and cause not Thy mercy to depart from us, for Abraham's sake, Thy beloved, and for Isaac's sake, Thy servant, and for Israel's, Thy holy one.

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Reader: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Reader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels,

that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word; and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: May God have compassion upon us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance upon us and be merciful unto us.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering toward our sins and Who hast led us even to the present hour, in which, as thou didst hang upon the life-giving tree thou didst make a way into paradise for the penitent thief and by death didst destroy death: Be gracious unto us sinners and Thine unworthy servants; for we have sinned and have dealt iniquitously, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the heights of heaven, inasmuch as we have departed from the path of Thy righteousness and have walked after the desires of our own hearts. But we implore of Thy boundless goodness: Spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy mercy, and save us, for Thy holy Name's sake; for our days have passed away in vanity. Wrest us out of the hand of the adversary, and forgive our sins, and mortify our carnal imagination, that, putting off the old man, we may be clothed upon with the new man and may live unto thee, our Master and our Benefactor, and that, so following after Thy commandments, we may attain unto rest eternal, where is the abode of all those who rejoice. For thou art, in truth, the true Joy and Exultation of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE TYPIKA SERVICE

PSALM 102

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from

eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 145

Reader: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being. Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish. Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein, Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry. The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen; the Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes. He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy. The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

THE HYMN OF JUSTININAN

Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, who for our salvation deigned to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled down death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

THE BEATITUDES (**Plain Reading**)

+ In Thy kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
+ Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
+ Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
+ Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
+ Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.
+ Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
+ Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
+ Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
+ Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
+ Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.
+ Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
+ *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
+ Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
+ Remember us, O Master, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
+ Remember us, O Holy One, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.

TYPIKA STICHOI (**Plain Reading**)

The heavenly rank praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Verse. *Come ye before Him and be lighted, and let not your faces be ashamed.*
The heavenly rank praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
The rank of the holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly powers praise Thee, saying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

THE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds: Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father by Whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who procedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Priest: Forgive, remit, pardon, O God, our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in mind and in thought. Forgive us them all, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

Reader: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Reader: O most holy Trinity, consubstantial Power, undivided Kingship, the Cause of all good, be gracious even to me, a sinner. Confirm and instruct my heart and take away from me every

defilement. Enlighten my mind that I may ever glorify, praise and worship Thee, saying: One is holy; one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Reader: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (*thrice*)

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother;

- **On Monday, say**: by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;
- **On Tuesday, say**: at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
- **On Wednesday and Friday, say**: by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross;
- **On Thursday, say**: at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;

at the supplication *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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