Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil of December 25
The Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

(Served on the late afternoon or early evening on December 24)

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: 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.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take

their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

"O LORD, I HAVE CRIED" IN TONE TWO (**KAZAN**) (**KARAM**)

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

+ Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
+ Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
+ With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
+ The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
+ For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
+ They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hades.
+ But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
+ Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
+ Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
+ I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
+ I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
+ When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
+ In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
+ I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
+ Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
+ I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
+ Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
+ Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

Verse 8. *Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.*

Verse 7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

For the Nativity of Christ in Tone Two (**KAZAN**) (**HTM**)

Verse 6. *If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord as we declare this present mystery. The middle wall of partition is broken asunder; the flaming sword is turned back, the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life, and I partake of the Paradise of Delight, whence I was cast out before through disobedience. For the Identical Likeness of the Father, the Express Image of His eternity, taketh the form of a servant,

and without undergoing change He cometh forth from a Mother that knew not wedlock. For that which He was, He hath remained, even true God; and that which He was not, He hath taken upon Himself, becoming man out of love for man. Unto Him let us cry: O God, Who art born of a Virgin, have mercy on us.

Verse 5. *Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*
Come, let us rejoice in the Lord… *(repeat above)*

Verse 4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*
When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all things were enlightened. Yet while the shepherds were abiding in the field, while the Magi did worship, while the Angels sang praises, Herod was troubled. For God hath appeared in the flesh, the Savior of our souls.

Verse 3. *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*
When the Lord Jesus was born… *(repeat above)*

Verse 2. *Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.*
Thy Kingdom, O Christ God, is the Kingdom of all the ages, and Thy sovereignty is in every generation and generation. Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and become man of the Ever-virgin Mary, Thou hast shined light upon us by Thy coming, O Christ God. O Light of Light, Effulgence of the Father, Thou hast made all creation radiant. Every breath praiseth Thee, the Express Image of the Father's glory. O Thou Who art, and hast ever been, and hast shone forth from a Virgin, O God, have mercy on us.

Verse 1. *For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*
What shall we offer Thee, O Christ? For Thou hast appeared on earth as man for our sakes. Of all the creatures made by Thee, each offereth Thee thanksgiving. The Angels offer Thee the hymn; the Heavens, the star; the Magi, their gifts; the shepherds, their wonder; the earth, her cave; the wilderness, the manger; and we offer Thee a Virgin Mother. O God, Who wast before the ages, have mercy on us.

DOXASTICON FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE TWO (**KAZAN**) (**HTM**) (**JSP**)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
When Augustus reigned alone upon the earth, the many kingdoms of men came to an end; and when Thou becamest man of the pure Virgin, the many gods of idolatry were destroyed. The cities came under one earthly kingdom; and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead. The nations were enrolled by the decree of Caesar; and we, the faithful, were enrolled in the Name of the Godhead, when Thou, our God, wast made man. Great is Thy mercy: Glory be to Thee.

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

*(While the Doxasticon is chanted, the following dialogue occurs QUIETLY as the clergy make the entrance with the **GOSPEL BOOK**, not the censer.)*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, Who hast appointed in Heaven orders and hosts of angels and archangels for the service of Thy glory: Cause that with our entrance there may be an entrance of holy angels serving with us and glorifying thy goodness. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

(The clergy process to the center of the solea and recite this next dialogue QUIETLY.)

Deacon: Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance to Thy Holy Place, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(After the choir has finished, the following is said ALOUD.)
Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT (**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

- *No daily prokeimenon is sung, and the readings are immediately begun. At pastoral discretion, the Old Testament readings and troparia can be abbreviated in this order: the first reading (Genesis 1:1-13), the first troparion ("Thou wast born secretly in the cave,"), the seventh reading (Isaiah 9:6-7), the second troparion ("Thou hast dawned forth from a Virgin"), and the eighth reading (Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10).*

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The First Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (1:1-13)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. Now the earth was invisible, and as yet unfinished: and darkness was upon the deep. And the Spirit of God moved over the water. And God said: Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided between the light and between the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening, and there was morning: one day. And God said: Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water: and let it divide between the water and the water: and it was so. And God made the firmament: and God divided between the water which was under the firmament and between the water which was above the firmament. And God called the firmament Heaven: and God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning: the second day. And God said, Let the water under the heaven be gathered together into a single congregation, and let the dry land be visible: and it was so. And it came to pass that the water under the heaven was gathered together into congregations thereof, and the dry land appeared. And God called the dry land Earth, and the bodies of water He called Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth put forth pasture of grass, sowing seed after his kind and after his likeness, and the fruit tree yielding fruit, whose seed is in itself, after his kind, upon

the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth pasture of grass, sowing seed after his kind and after his likeness, and the fruit tree yielding fruit, whose seed is in itself, after his kind, upon the earth: and God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning: the third day.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Numbers. (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Spirit of God came upon Balaam. And he took up his parable and said: How goodly are thy habitations, O Jacob, and thy tents, O Israel: as shady glens, and as gardens by a river, and as tents which the Lord pitched, and as cedars by the waters. There shall come a man out of his seed, and he shall rule over many nations; and his kingdom shall be exalted and shall increase. God led him out of Egypt; he hath as it were the glory of a unicorn; he shall consume the nations of his enemies, and he shall draw out the marrow of their fat bones, and with his darts shall he shoot down the enemy. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a lion's whelp; who shall stir him up? They that bless thee are blessed, and they that curse thee are cursed. A star shall rise out of Jacob, and a man shall spring out of Israel; and shall crush the princes of Moab, and shall despoil all the sons of Seth. And Edom shall be an inheritance, and Esau his enemy shall be an inheritance, and Israel hath wrought valiantly.

The Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Micah. (4:6-7, 5:2-4)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: In those days, saith the Lord, I will gather her that is broken, and will receive her that is cast out, and those whom I cast out. And I will make her that was broken a remnant, and her that was cast out a mighty nation; and the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth and for evermore. And thou, Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, art thou too little to be among the thousands of Judah? For out of thee shall one come forth to Me, to be a ruler in Israel; and His goings forth are from the beginning, even from the days of eternity. Therefore shall He appoint them to wait until the time of her that giveth birth; she shall bring forth, and then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the sons of Israel. And the Lord shall stand, and see, and shepherd His flock in might, and they shall dwell in the glory of the Name of the Lord their God; for now shall they be magnified even to the ends of the earth.

TROPARION IN TONE SIX (**HTM**) (**JSP**)

Choir: Thou wast born secretly in the cave, O Savior; but Heaven announced Thee unto all, using the star as its voice.

Refrain: And it brought to Thee the Magi, who worshipped Thee in faith. With them, have mercy on us.

STICHOI FROM PSALM 86 IN TONE SIX

+ His foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. *(Refrain)*

+ Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. I will make mention of Raab and Babylon to them that know me. *(Refrain)*
+ And lo, the foreigners and Tyre and the people of the Ethiopians. *(Refrain)*
+ 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. *(Refrain)*
+ The Lord shall tell it in the writ of the people and the princes, even these that were born in her. How joyous are all they that have their habitation in Thee. *(Refrain)*

TROPARION 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.

Thou wast born secretly in the cave, O Savior; but Heaven announced Thee unto all, using the star as its voice. And it brought to Thee the Magi, who worshipped Thee in faith. With them, have mercy on us.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Fourth Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (11:1-10)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus saith the Lord: There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall come up from his root; and the Spirit of God shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge, and godliness, the spirit of the fear of God shall fill Him. He shall not judge according to appearance, nor reprove according to report; but with righteousness shall He judge the cause of the lowly, and with uprightness shall He reprove the glorious of the earth; and He shall smite the earth with the word of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He destroy the ungodly. And He shall have His loins girt with righteousness, and His sides clothed with truth. And the wolf shall feed with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the young calf and lion and bull shall feed together; and their young shall be together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And an infant shall put his hand on the hole of asps, and a weaned child on the nest of young asps. And they shall not hurt, nor shall they at all be able to destroy anyone on My holy mountain; for the whole world is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as much water covereth the seas. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and He that shall arise to rule over the nations; in Him shall the nations trust, and His rest shall be glorious.

The Fifth Reading

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 Sixth Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Daniel. (2:31-36, 44-45)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Daniel said unto Nebuchadnezzar: Thou, O King, sawest, and behold, an image; great was that image, and the appearance of it excellent, standing before thy face; and the sight of it was terrible. It was an image, the head of which was of pure gold; its hands and breast and arms, of silver; its belly and thighs, of brass; its legs, of iron; its feet, part of iron and part of earthenware. Thou beheldest until a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands, and it smote the image upon its feet of iron and earthenware, and utterly reduced them to powder. Then once for all the earthenware, the iron, the brass, the silver, the gold, were ground to powder, and became as chaff from the summer threshing-floor; and the violence of the wind carried them away, and no place was found for them; and the stone which had smitten the image became a great mountain, and filled all the earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. The God of Heaven shall set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and His Kingdom shall not be left to another people, but it shall beat to pieces and grind to powder all other kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Whereas thou sawest that a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands, and it beat to pieces the earthenware, the iron, the brass, the silver, the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what must happen hereafter; and the dream is true, and the interpretation thereof sure.

TROPARION IN TONE SIX (**HTM**) (**JSP**)

Choir: Thou hast dawned forth from a Virgin, O Christ, Thou noetic Sun of Righteousness. And a star pointed to Thee, the Uncontainable, contained within a cave.

***Refrain*:** Thou hast led the Magi to worship Thee; together with them we magnify Thee: O Giver of Life, glory be to Thee.

STICHOI FROM PSALM 92 IN TONE SIX

+ The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself. *(Refrain)*
+ For He established the world which shall not be shaken. Thy throne is prepared of old; Thou art from everlasting. *(Refrain)*
+ The rivers have lifted up, O Lord, the rivers have lifted up their voices. The rivers will lift up their waves, at the voices of many waters. *(Refrain)*
+ Wonderful are the surgings of the sea, wonderful on high is the Lord. Thy testimonies are made very sure. *(Refrain)*
+ Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days. *(Refrain)*

TROPARION 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.

Thou hast dawned forth from a Virgin, O Christ, Thou noetic Sun of Righteousness. And a star pointed to Thee, the Uncontainable, contained within a cave. Thou hast led the Magi to worship Thee; together with them we magnify Thee: O Giver of Life, glory be to Thee.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Seventh Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Unto us a Child is born, and unto us a Son is given, Whose government is come upon His shoulder; and His Name shall be called: The Angel of Great Counsel, wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, He that hath authority, the Prince of Peace, the Father of the age to come, for I will bring peace upon the princes, and peace and health to Him. His government shall be great, and of His peace there is no end. It shall be upon the throne of David, and upon his Kingdom, to establish it, and to support it in judgment and righteousness, from henceforth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of Sabaoth shall perform this.

The Eighth Reading

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 PRAYER OF THE TRISAGION HYMN

Priest: (*QUIETLY*) O Holy God, Who restest in the Holy Place; Who art hymned by the Seraphim with thrice-Holy cry, and glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by every Heavenly Power; Who out of nothingness hast brought all things into being; Who hast created man according to Thine image and likeness and hast adorned him with Thine every gift; Who givest to him that askest wisdom and understanding; Who despisest not the sinner, but hast appointed repentance unto salvation; Who hast vouchsafed unto us, Thy humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour, to stand before the glory of Thy Holy Altar and to offer the worship and praise which are due unto Thee: Thyself, O Master, receive even from the mouth of us sinners the Thrice-Holy Hymn, and visit us in Thy goodness. Pardon us every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary; sanctify our souls and bodies; and grant us to serve Thee in holiness all the days of our life: through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints, who from the beginning of the world have been well-pleasing unto Thee.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever…

Deacon: …and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE TRISAGION HYMN

Choir: 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.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Deacon: With strength!

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

THE EPISTLE

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 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.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues. The variables are listed below.*

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION (**KARAM**) (**HOLWEY**) (**CHORAL**)

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PARAMON VESPERAL LITURGY

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. Alleluia.

- *After Communion, sing "We have seen the true light."*

THE GREAT DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His divine grace and love towards mankind, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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 He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *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.

- *As the faithful depart the church, the choir can sing the Apolytikion for the Nativity.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR (**CHANT**) (**CHORAL**)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

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