

**GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020**  
**TONE 3; FIRST DAY OF THE FOREFEAST OF &**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)**

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, 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, 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.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this Holy House and those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan N., (our Archbishop N. or Bishop N.), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John and their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Choir: Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon: For the President, civil authorities, and Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: 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.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: 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.

## **“Blessed is the man” and verses**

### **Little Litany**

Deacon: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: 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 Thine is the might and the kingdom 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.

### **“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE THREE**

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 hell.

- + 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.

### **For the Resurrection in Tone Three**

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

O Christ Savior, the might of death hath verily broken down under Thy Cross; and the deceit of Diabolus hath ceased; and the race of man hath by faith escaped and been saved. Wherefore, praise is offered Thee perpetually.

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

The whole creation, O Lord God, hath been lighted by Thy glorified Resurrection; and paradise hath been opened withal. Wherefore, all creatures laud Thee and offer Thee praise perpetually.

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

I glorify the power of the Father, magnify the power of the Son, and praise the might of the Holy Spirit, one Godhead, indivisible, uncreated, consubstantial Trinity, reigning through all eternity.

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

Thy glorified Cross, O Christ, do we worship, and Thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for by Thy wounds we are all healed.

### **For the Forefeast of the Nativity in Tone One (\*\*O all-lauded Martyrs\*\*)**

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

O pure living palace of our God, \* O all-blameless Virgin, He Whom all the Heavens cannot contain hath been contained in thee. \* Past all understanding, \* thou shalt bear Him in the cave; \* for He hath been made poor and hath taken flesh that He might deify \* and make rich me, who was rendered poor \* by a surfeit \* of exceeding bitter food.

*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.*

At Caesar's commandment, Thou, O Christ, \* wast enrolled with us Thy servants in Thy tender compassion that Thou mightest come to grant \* freedom and redemption \* and Thine everlasting life \* to us, Thy thankless servants, who worship Thy divine and saving Birth, \* O long-suffering and forbearing Lord, \* since Thou camest \* that Thou mightest save our souls.

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.*

The all-holy Virgin free of blame \* having pondered on the great incomprehensible childbirth that transfigured and made new \* nature's established bound'ries, \* she cried out unto her Son: \* O most beloved Child, I am sore amazed at this great mystery; \* how I gave birth, and am virgin still, \* by Thy power, \* Who hast made all by Thy will.

**For the Forefathers in Tone Eight (\*\*The Paradise of Eden\*\*)**

*Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

As we the faithful celebrate today \* the Forefathers' memory, \* let us praise Christ the Redeemer and our King, \* Who magnified them in the midst \* of all nations upon the earth \* and through faith accomplished strange and wondrous signs, \* performing marvels and miracles, \* since He is powerful and strong, \* and Who from them hath shown unto us \* that rod of power prophesied: \* Mary, the Child of God, \* who alone had no experience of man \* and from whom came the Flower, \* the promised Christ, Who sprouted life for all, \* inexhaustible delight, \* and our salvation to eternity.

*Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all nations; praise Him, all people.*

As in a gentle shower 'midst the flame, \* the Children of God rejoiced \* as they walked about amidst the Spirit's dew; \* and in the flame they mystically \* did prefigure the Trinity \* and the wondrous Incarnation of Christ God; \* since they were wise, by their faith in God \* they quenched the power of the fire; \* and righteous Daniel was also seen \* to muzzle lions in the den. \* Since Thou, O Friend of man, \* art entreated by their prayers in our behalf, \* rescue us all, O Savior, \* from the eternal fire that nought can quench, \* and vouchsafe that we attain \* unto Thy Kingdom in the Heavens, O Lord.

*Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

When in the furnace of the blazing flame, \* Thy holy and faithful Youths \* proved to be as in a cool, refreshing dew; \* then did they mystically portray \* from before that Thou wast to come \* from a Virgin whom Thy brightness would not burn. \* As for Thy coming the second time \* in Thy dread glory as our God, \* the wondrous Prophet and righteous man, \* great Daniel, clearly hath foretold, \* when he cried out and said: \* I beheld until the thrones were set in place \* and the Judge sat for judgment; \* and then rushed forth the river of that fire, \* from the which may we be saved, \* by their entreaties, O our Master Christ.

**DOXASTICON FOR SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE SIX**

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

Verily, Daniel, the man of desires, when he saw Thee, O Lord, a Stone cut out without hands, did foretell Thee a Babe born without seed, O Word incarnate of the Virgin, the untransformed God, Savior of our souls.

**THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE THREE**

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

O Lady of exceeding honor, how can we but wonder at thee giving birth to incarnate God? For thou, O all-blameless, not knowing a man, didst give birth in the flesh to a Son without father, who before eternity was begotten of the Father without mother, the property and essence of each substance remaining intact. Wherefore, O virgin Mother, beseech Him to save the souls of those who assent and confess, with true belief, that thou art the Theotokos.

**THE HOLY ENTRANCE**

*(While the "Both Now" is chanted, the following dialogue occurs QUIETLY as the clergy make the entrance.)*

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

Priest: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks unto Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord Who lovest mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, O Lord, Lord, are our eyes, and in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. 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.

*(When the clergy reach the center of the solea, the first part of the great censing begins. After the first part of the great censing is completed, this next dialogue occurs 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! Let us attend!

### **THE HOLY ENTRANCE**

*(After the choir has finished, the following is said ALOUD.)*

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

### **O GLADSOME LIGHT**

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.

### **SATURDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX**

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (ONCE)

*Verse 1.* The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. *(Refrain)*

*Verse 2.* For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. *(Refrain)*

*Verse 3.* Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. *(Refrain)*

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES**

The First Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Genesis (14:14-20).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: When Abram heard that Lot his nephew had been taken captive, he numbered his own home-born servants 318, and pursued after them to Dan. And he fell upon them at night, he and his servants who were with him, and he smote them and pursued them as far as Chobal, which is on the left of Damascus. And he recovered all the cavalry of Sodom, and he recovered Lot his nephew, and all his possessions, and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him, after he returned from the slaughter of Chodollogomor, and the kings with him, to the valley of Saby; this was the king's dale. And Melchisedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed Abram, and said: Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Who made heaven and earth, and blessed be the Most High God, Who delivered thine enemies into thy hand.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus said Moses to the sons of Israel: Behold, I have delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land, which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spake to you at that time, saying: I shall not be able to bear you by myself. The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and behold, ye are today as the stars of heaven for multitude. The Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousand-fold more than ye are, and bless you as He hath spoken to you. So I took of you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of tens, and instructors for your judges. And I commanded your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brethren, and judge justly between a man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. Thou shalt not have respect to persons in judgment, thou shalt judge small and great equally; thou shalt not shrink from before the person of a man, for the judgment is God's.

### The Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Deuteronomy (10:14-21).

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus said Moses to the sons of Israel: Behold, the heaven, and the Heaven of heaven, belong to the Lord thy God, the earth and all things that are therein. Yet the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and above all nations, as at this day He chose you out of their seed after them. Therefore, ye shall circumcise the hardness of your heart, and ye shall not harden your neck. For the Lord our God, He is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great, and strong, and terrible God, Who doth not respect persons, nor will He by any means accept a bribe; executing judgment for the stranger and orphan and widow, and He loveth the stranger to give him food and raiment. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt cleave to Him, and shalt swear by His Name. He is thy boast, and He is thy God, Who hath wrought for thee these great and glorious things, which thine eyes have seen.

### **THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION**

Deacon: Let us say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan N. and our Bishop N.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons, and monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, [Names], and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church and (for the departed servants of God, [Names], and) all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing, and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **THE EVENING PRAYER**

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

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

### **THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: 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 Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **THE PEACE**

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

• *All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### **APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE THREE**

O Christ, Who didst darken the sun with Thy Passion, and didst light all created things with the light of Thy Resurrection, and didst make them to rejoice, accept our evening praise, O Lover of mankind.

*Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.*

Verily, Thy life-giving Resurrection hath lighted the whole universe, renewing Thy corrupt creation. Wherefore, in that Thou hast delivered us from the curse of Adam, we shout to Thee, O Lord Almighty, glory to Thee.

*Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.*

O changeless God, Thou didst suffer in the changing body, and when creation could not bear to behold Thee suspended on the Cross, it trembled with fear, and sighed, praising Thy long-suffering. Then, descending to Hades, Thou didst arise on the third day, granting life to the world and Great Mercy.

*Verse 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.*

Thou didst suffer death, O Christ, that Thou mightest deliver our race from death. Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day, and didst arouse with Thee those who know that Thou art true God, verily illuminating the world, O Lord. Wherefore, glory to Thee.

### **DOXASTICON FOR SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO**

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

Rejoice, O honored Prophets, who didst organize well the law of the Lord, and appeared as stable, unshakeable pillars of faith; for verily, they hath become mediators of the New Covenant of Christ. Wherefore, having been translated to heaven, plead ye with Him to grant safety to the world and to save our souls.

### **DOXASTICON FOR THE FOREFEAST IN TONE TWO**

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

Behold, the time of our salvation approacheth; make thou ready, O cave, for it is time for the Virgin to give birth. And thou, Bethlehem of Judah, rejoice and be glad; for from thee shall shine forth our Lord. Harken, O mountains and hills and the regions about Judah: for Christ cometh to save man whom He did create, since He is the Lover of mankind.

### **THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER**

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

### **THE TRISAGION PRAYERS**

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; 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 God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

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

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.

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### **APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO**

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

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY FOREFEAST IN TONE 4** (\*\**Joseph was amazed*\*\*) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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.

**THE DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

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, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; etc.

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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