

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday 31st December 2023

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Leavetaking of the Nativity of Christ

Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed and David the King

Holy Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord

## THE HOURS

### TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE THIRD HOUR

**Troparia:** Resurrection; Glory ... The Holy Righteous Ones; Both now ... From the Horologion

**Kontakion:** The Holy Righteous Ones

### TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE SIXTH HOUR

**Troparia:** Resurrection; Glory ... The Nativity; Both now ... From the Horologion

**Kontakion:** The Nativity

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## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### FIRST ANTIPHON

[Music on website / Sheet]

**Reader:** I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.  
*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them.

*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.

*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

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

*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us!*

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### SECOND ANTIPHON

[Music on website / Sheet]

**Reader:** Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.  
*O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed.

*O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever.

*O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

*O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

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

O only-begotten Son and Word of God. O Thou Who art Immortal, yet for our salvation didst deign to be incarnate of the holy Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary; and without change wast made man; Who also wast crucified for us; and by death didst overcome death: save us, O Christ, our God; one Person of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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### THIRD ANTIPHON

**Reader:** The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand."

**Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4**[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
dawned upon the world the light of knowledge!  
For, by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star  
to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Reader:** "Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!"

**Choir:** **Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...**

**Reader:** The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty sceptre; rule in the midst of Thy foes.

**Choir:** **Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...**

**Reader:** Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendour of Thy holy ones!

**Choir:** **Thy Nativity, O Christ our God ...**

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**ENTRANCE HYMN**

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**TROPARIA & KONTAKIA****Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5**[\[Music on website / Green Book page 10\]](#)

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

**Troparion of the Nativity in Tone 4**[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
dawned upon the world the light of knowledge!  
For, by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star  
to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Troparion of the Holy Righteous Ones in Tone 2**[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;  
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;  
thou didst worship with the Magi,  
and didst receive the news from the Angel.//  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

**Kontakion of the Holy Righteous Ones in Tone 3**[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,//  
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honour Thee!"

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

### **Kontakion of the Nativity in Tone 3**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;  
The wise men journey with the star, //  
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

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### **THE TRISAGION**

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#### **PROKEIMENA**

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone.

**Reader:** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

**Choir:** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

**Reader:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

**Choir:** Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

**Reader:** And in the Fourth Tone.

**Reader:** God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

**Choir:** God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

#### **EPISTLE**

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Ye Brethren: I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. [Galatians 1:11-19]

#### **ALLELUIA**

**Priest:** Peace be to thee that readest, and to all the people.

**Reader:** And to thy spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Reader:** The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Reader:** Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Reader:** Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

**Choir:** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL**

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the wise men 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 till 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 fulfil 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 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 Archela'us 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." [Matthew 2:13-23]

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### **ZADOSTOYNIK**

[[Music on website / White Book page 60](#)]

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honourable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!  
To love silence is easier,  
as a safeguard against fear!  
But to compose songs of love in harmony is more difficult, O Virgin!  
Grant us strength, O Mother, equal to our purpose.

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### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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