

**Vespers sung on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**  
**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross**

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon Thee!//  
Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer arise  
in Thy sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 2 (For the Resurrection)**

Come, let us worship the Word of God  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!  
Having endured the Cross,  
He was buried as He Himself desired.//  
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

*The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ our Saviour  
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,  
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//  
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

*Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

With the Archangels  
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!  
He is our Saviour, our Redeemer.  
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//  
to judge the world which He made.

*Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

The Angel proclaimed Thee,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty.”  
We worship Thee, O only immortal One. //  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 6** *(For the Nativity of the Theotokos)*

Today God, who rests upon the spiritual thrones,  
has prepared for Himself a holy throne on earth.  
He Who in wisdom established the heavens  
has fashioned a living heaven in His love for mankind;  
for, from a barren root He has made a life-bearing branch spring up for us,  
even His Mother.  
O God of wonders and Hope of the hopeless, //  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

*For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

This is the day of the Lord!  
Rejoice, O peoples,  
for, behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life,  
has come forth from the womb!  
The gate that faces the East is born  
and awaits the entry of the Great Priest.  
She alone admits Christ into the world//  
for the salvation of our souls.

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Although by God's will other barren women  
have brought forth famous offspring,  
yet, of all those children Mary shines most brightly, as is fitting to God.  
For she herself was born wondrously of a barren mother,  
and gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,  
in a manner surpassing nature, from a womb without seed.  
She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God,  
Who passed through this gate yet kept it closed,  
and, having ordered all things in His own wisdom, //  
has wrought salvation for all mankind.

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

**Tone 6** *(For the Nativity of the Theotokos)*

Today the gates of barrenness are opened,  
and the virgin gate of God comes forth.  
Today grace begins to bear its first fruit,  
revealing to the world the mother of God.  
Through her things on earth are joined with the heavens//  
for the salvation of our souls.

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Today is the prelude of universal joy;  
today the winds blow that herald salvation,  
and the barrenness of our nature is dispelled;  
for the barren woman is revealed as the mother  
of her who remained a virgin  
after giving birth to the Creator.  
From her the One Who is God by nature  
takes what is foreign to Him and makes it His own,  
and works salvation through the flesh for those who have gone astray. //  
He is Christ, the Lover of man and the Redeemer of our souls.

*For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Today barren Anna gives birth to the handmaid of God,  
who was chosen from all generations  
to become the abode of the King and Creator of all, Christ our God  
in fulfilment of the divine plan.  
Through her we earth-born have been fashioned anew//  
and restored from corruption to life eternal.

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

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**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**The Reading from the book of Genesis.**

Now Jacob went out from Beer-Sheba, and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. Then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [Genesis 28:10-17]

**The reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.**

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [Ezekiel 43:2-44:4]

**The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.**

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [Proverbs 9:1-11]

## **APOSTICHA**

### **Tone 2** *(For the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Thy creation.//  
Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By the Tree Thou didst destroy the curse of the Tree, O Saviour.  
By Thy burial Thou didst mortify the majesty of death.  
Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection.//  
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

When Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
Thou didst restore the beauty of Thy creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear.  
The Hebrews, not knowing Thy power,  
asked that Thy tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Thy compassion,  
Thou didst accept the tomb  
and didst rise on the third day!//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead Thou didst voluntarily endure death,  
descending into hell as the Mighty One  
to save those who awaited Thy coming,  
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day//  
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

### **Tone 8** *(For the Nativity of the Theotokos)*

Come, all you faithful, let us run to the Virgin!  
For, behold, today she is born, who was foreordained before the womb,  
as the Mother of our God,  
the treasure of virginity, the rod of Aaron that budded,  
springing from the root of Jesse,  
the preaching of the Prophets, the offspring of righteous Joachim and Anna.  
She is born and with her the world is renewed.  
She comes from the womb and the Church is adorned in her majesty.  
She is the holy temple, the vessel of the Godhead,  
the virgin instrument and bridal chamber of the King,  
in which has come to pass the strange mystery  
of the union of the natures that came together in Christ.//  
Worshipping Him, we praise the birth of the all-pure Virgin.

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## **TROPARIA**

### **Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 2**

[Music on website / Green Book page 4]

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendour of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

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

### **Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone 4**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thy nativity, O Virgin,  
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!  
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,  
has shone from thee, O Theotokos.  
By annulling the curse,  
He bestowed a blessing://  
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.