

**Vespers sung on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**Sunday after the Nativity of Christ ♦ Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed and**  
**David the King ♦ Holy Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord**

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 2**

[Music on website]

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)**

[Music on website]

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!*

**Tone 2 (For the Nativity)**

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
as we sing of this present mystery:  
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;  
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;  
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;  
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,  
now feast on the delights of Paradise:  
for today the Father's perfect Image,  
marked with the stamp of His eternity,  
has taken the form of a servant.  
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;  
He was true God, and He remains the same,

[but through His love for mankind ...]

but through His love for mankind,  
He has become what He never was: true man.  
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://  
“O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!”

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

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,  
the whole universe was filled with light.  
The shepherds watched in the fields.  
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.  
But Herod was troubled,  
for God had appeared in the flesh.//  
He is the Saviour of our souls.

*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.*

Thy Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.  
Thy rule is from age to age.  
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,  
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,  
Thou hast filled all creation with joy.  
The light of Thy coming has shone on us;  
every living creature praises Thee,  
the Image of the Father's glory.  
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,  
the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
Thou hast shone forth from the Virgin.//  
O God, have mercy on us!

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

What shall we offer Thee, O Christ,  
Who for our sakes hast appeared on earth as a man?  
Every creature made by Thee offers Thee thanks:  
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;  
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;  
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,  
and we offer Thee a virgin Mother!//  
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

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

**Tone 1 (For King David)**

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God,  
for from him came the virgin stem;  
from this stem blossomed the Flower – Christ.  
Delivered from corruption, Adam and Eve cry out to Him,//  
for He is compassionate.

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

**Tone 1 (For Saint Joseph)**

In his old age Joseph the Betrothed clearly saw the prophecies fulfilled.  
He was given a mysterious command,  
but he received enlightenment from the Angels who cried out://  
“Glory to God, for He has granted peace to the world!”

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

**Tone 1 (For Saint James)**

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord!  
 He is a bishop and also a courageous martyr.  
 Therefore, O Jesus,  
 God wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave and manger, //  
 through his prayers save those who praise Thee!

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

**Tone 6 (For the Righteous Ones)**

Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James:  
 one was the Prophet King,  
 and the other – an Apostle and the first bishop.  
 Since we have been saved from error by their teachings, //  
 let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the Virgin and took on flesh //  
 in order to save our souls!

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)**

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;  
 as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,  
 so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.  
 The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame. //  
 Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

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

[Music on website]

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!

*V. 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;*

**Tone 6** *(For the Righteous Ones)*

Thy Nativity became the commemoration of priests,  
and the strength and joy of kings,  
Rejoicing in it, we say:  
“Our Father, in heaven, //  
hallowed be Thy Name, O Lover of man!”

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6** *(For the Feast)*

Today the Invisible Nature is joined to mortal men,  
coming forth from the Virgin.  
Today the Infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes at Bethlehem.  
Today God leads the Magi by a star to worship Him,  
and with gold and frankincense and myrrh they foretell His three-day burial. //  
Therefore we sing: “O Christ our God, made flesh of the Virgin, save our souls!”

---

**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;*

**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!

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

**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!

---