

**Reader's Vespers for the Nativity of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos
and Ever-Virgin Mary
Sung on Thursday 7th September 2023 for Friday 8th September 2023**

"LORD, I CALL ..."

Tone 6

[\[Music on Website\]](#)

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!

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

Tone 6

[\[Music on Website\]](#)

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!

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

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.

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

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

Repeat: Although by God's will ...

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

Tone 6

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.

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

Repeat: Today the gates of barrenness ...

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.*

Tone 6

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!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed, Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God, the Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Evening Prokeimenon

Reader: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Reader: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Reader: My help cometh from the Lord,

Choir: Who hath made heaven and the earth.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Reader: 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]

Reader: The Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

Reader: 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 43:27-44:4]

Reader: The reading from the Proverbs of Solomon.

Reader: 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 4

[Music on Website]

The joy of all the world has dawned for us from the righteous ones:

the all-praised Virgin who springs from Joachim and Anna.

Through the abundance of goodness she becomes the living temple of God,
and she alone is acknowledged as truly the Theotokos.

Through her prayers, O Christ God, //

send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

V. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)

As foretold by the Angel's prophecy,
thou hast come forth today, O Virgin,
the most sacred fruit of righteous Joachim and Anna.
Thou art the heaven and throne of God, the vessel of purity,
heralding joy to all the world, thou that bringest us our life;
thou dost destroy the curse and givest blessing in its stead.
Wherefore on this feast of thy birth, O Maiden called by God, //
entreat peace for the world and for our souls great mercy!

V. Even the rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps. 44:11b)

Let the barren and childless Anna today clap her hands with gladness!
Let those on earth be decked in splendour;
let rulers leap for joy;
let priests be glad in blessing; let the whole world keep the feast!
For behold, the Queen and immaculate bride of the Father
has sprung forth from the root of Jesse.
No longer will women bear children in sorrow,
for joy has blossomed forth,
and the Life of mankind now dwells in the world.
No longer are the offerings of Joachim turned away,
for the lamentation of Anna has been changed to joy.
She cries: "Rejoice with me, all you chosen of Israel,
for behold, the Lord has given me the living palace of His divine glory
for our common gladness and joy //
and for the salvation of our souls!"

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

Tone 8

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.

TROPARION

Tone 4

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos

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.

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

[\[Music on Website\]](#)

Repeat: Thy nativity, O Virgin ...

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

Repeat: Thy nativity, O Virgin ...