

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday 24th December 2023

29th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Sunday of the Genealogy ♦ Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

## THE HOURS

### TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE THIRD HOUR

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

**Kontakion:** Sunday before Nativity

### TROPARIA AND KONTAKION AT THE SIXTH HOUR

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

**Kontakion:** Forefeast

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## THE DIVINE LITURGY

### TYPICAL PSALMS AND BEATITUDES

#### 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 & KONTAKION

##### **Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 4**

[[Music on website / Green Book page 8](#)]

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel

the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,

they cast away the ancestral curse

and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen, //

granting the world great mercy!”

##### **Troparion of the Sunday before the Nativity in Tone 2**

[[Music on website / Sheet](#)]

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. //

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

##### **Troparion of the Forefeast in Tone 4**

[[Music on website / Sheet](#)]

Mary was of David’s seed,

so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.

She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.

The time for the birth was at hand.

Since there was no room at the inn,

the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. //

Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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

##### **Kontakion of the Sunday before the Nativity in Tone 1**

[[Music on website / Sheet](#)]

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!

The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.

The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, //

and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

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

### Kontakion of the Forefeast in Tone 3

[Music on website / Sheet]

Today the Virgin comes to the cave  
to give birth to the Eternal Word.  
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!  
Glorify with the angels and the shepherds  
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

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### THE TRISAGION

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#### PROKEIMENON

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

**Reader:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

**Choir:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

**Reader:** For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

**Choir:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

**Reader:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers

**Choir:** and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

#### EPISTLE

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

Ye Brethren: By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. [Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40]

#### ALLELUIA

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

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

**Reader:** We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

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

**Reader:** For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.

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

#### THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the

deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni 'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus. [Matthew 1:1-25]

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### **ZADOSTOYNIK**

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos,  
ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.  
More honourable than the Cherubim,  
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:  
without defilement thou gavest birth to God the Word:  
true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

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### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous;  
praise befits the upright! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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### **AFTER COMMUNION**

"We have seen the True Light ..." etc., as usual.