

**Vespers sung on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**  
**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**

**“LORD I CALL ...”**

**Tone 5**

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 5 (For the Resurrection)**

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,  
Thou hast put the devil to shame.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin  
and saved us from the gates of death.//  
We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter  
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.  
The princes of hell were frightened by this,  
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.  
Christ the King of glory had entered,  
saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//  
And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

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

O great wonder!  
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man  
and rose again immortal.  
Come, O sons of nations,  
let us worship Him,  
for delivered from error by His compassion,//  
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

**Tone 2 (For the Feast)**

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 ,,

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,  
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 (For the Feast)**

When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,  
 the many kingdoms of men came to an end,  
 and when Thou wast made man of the pure Virgin,  
 the many gods of idolatry were destroyed.  
 The cities of the world passed under one single rule,  
 and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead.  
 The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,  
 and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the Godhead,  
 when Thou, our God, wast made man. //  
 Great is Thy mercy, O Lord, glory to Thee!

**APOSTICHA****Tone 5 (For the Resurrection)**

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,  
 O incarnate Christ and Saviour.  
 By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
 as the Lord and Lover of man,  
 Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell,//  
 and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,  
 Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
 By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.  
 Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
 and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God.//  
 Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.  
Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise//  
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions;//  
and save us, O Lover of man!

*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 2 (For the Feast)**

Thou hast dwelt in a cave, O Christ our God,  
and a manger welcomed Thee;  
shepherds and Wise Men worshipped Thee.  
Then were the words of the Prophets fulfilled,  
and the hosts of Angels marvelled and cried://  
“Glory to Thy condescension, O only Lover of Man!”

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**TROPARIA**

**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.

*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!

*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!