

FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

****NOTE:** IF THIS FEAST FALLS ON A TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, INCLUSIVE,
CELEBRATE THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.
OTHERWISE, CELEBRATE THE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT. **

REFRAINS OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out according to all His purposes. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth forever. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

REFRAINS OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever. (*Refrain*)

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

REFRAINS OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints. (*Now sing the Festal Apolytikion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ."*)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

- *Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (*Sung in place of "Holy God"*)

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE)

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

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis!

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

THE EPISTLE

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

MEGALYNARION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord hath sent redemption unto His people. Alleluia.

- *After Communion, instead of singing “We have seen the true light”, sing the Festal Apolytikion: “Thy Nativity, O Christ.”*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, (John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople **OR*** Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia), whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

*** Commemorate the one saint whose Divine Liturgy is celebrated.**