

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SEPTEMBER 08 FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

O Lord, remember David and all his meekness. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrata; we found it in the fields of the wood.

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

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early. (**Refrain**)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it. Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. (**Refrain**)

For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation. (**Refrain**)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Here will I dwell, for I have desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Then, the following:*

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *Now sing these apolytikia in the following order.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

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

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (2:5-11)

Brethren, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name. That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Jesus and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But Jesus answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As Jesus said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!"

MEGALYNARION OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

Magnify, O my soul, the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb.

Verily, virginity, O Theotokos, is impossible for a mother, as birth-giving is impossible for virgins. Yet in thee hath the dispensation of both been accomplished. Wherefore, all we families of the earth ceaselessly bless thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

- *Post-Communion Hymn: "We have seen the true light."*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Nativity we now celebrate—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, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; 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.