

**The Service of Matins**  
**The Holy Twenty Thousand Martyrs Burned in Nicomedia**  
**Katavasia of Christmas II**

**Maui Orthodox Christian Mission**

*Metropolis of San Francisco*

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

*Service held at Saint Theresa Church*

*Kihei, Maui, Hawaii*

(Dated: December 28, 2013)

**Maui Orthodox Christian Mission Project**  
**for a Daily Sequential Hymnal in English**

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# Acknowledgements

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# Orthros (Service of Matins)

## Akolouth (Fixed portion)

### ROYAL BEGINNING

Priest

Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader

*(intoned)* Amen.

Priest

\* Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of every impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

Reader

Amen.

### Trisagion

Reader

\*\*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your names sake.

\* From the Sunday of Pascha through the Sunday of Pentecost, Glory to You, O God ... and Heavenly King ... is not said.

\*

\*\*From Pascha until its Apodosis instead of Holy God ..., we chant: Christ is risen from the dead ..., (thrice, once from the Holy of Holies, and twice by the choir).

\*\*

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, (*intoned*) but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

### **The Royal Troparia**

#### *Troparion of the Cross*

Reader

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the rulers against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your commonwealth through Your holy Cross.

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

*Kontakion of the Cross*

Reader

You, O Christ our God, Who chose of Your own will to be lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth which is called by Your name. In Your power, gladden the hearts of our faithful rulers against those who war against them, having Your alliance as their weapon of peace, an invincible standard.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion*

Reader

Awesome and blameless protection, do not overlook our petitions, O pure and praiseworthy Theotokos; make firm the community of the Orthodox; save those whom you have called to rule; and grant them victory from heaven, *(intoned) for you bore God, only blessed one.*

**Litany**

Priest

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we beseech You, hear us and have mercy.

Chanter

*(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Chanter

*(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Again we pray for our Archbishop (Name), and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Chanter

*(intoned)* Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest

Truly You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter

*(intoned)* Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest

Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

### HEXAPSALM (SIX PSALMS)

Reader

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

### Psalm 3

Reader

O Lord, why are those who afflict me multiplied?

Many rise up against me. Many say to my soul: there is no salvation for him in his God.

But You, O Lord, are my Helper, my Glory, and the One who lifts up my head.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain.

I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves round about against me.

Rise, O Lord; save me, my God; for You have struck down all who without cause are my enemies; You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is on Your people.

(And Again) I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

### **Psalm 37**

Reader

O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath!

For Your arrows are fastened in me, and You have laid Your hand heavily upon me

There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Your wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins.

For my iniquities have risen higher than my head; they have pressed heavily on me as a heavy burden.

My wounds have become foul and festering in the face of my foolishness.

I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; I went all the day long with downcast face.

For my loins are filled with inflammation, and there is no healing in my flesh.

I am afflicted and exceedingly humbled, I have groaned from the turmoil of my heart.

O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength has failed me; and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and my neighbors drew near over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off.

And those who sought after my soul used violence; and those who sought evils for me spoke vain things, and they meditated deception all the day long.

But as for me, like a deaf man I did not hear them, and I was as a speechless man who does not open his mouth.

And I became as a man that does not hear, and that has no reproofs in his mouth.

For I have hoped in You, O Lord; You will hear me, Lord my God.

For I said: Let my enemies never rejoice over me; indeed, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me.

For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me.

For I will declare my iniquity, and I will anguish concerning my sin.

But my enemies live and are made stronger than I, and those who hated me unjustly are multiplied.

Those who render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

(And Again) Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

### **Psalm 62**

Reader

O God, my God, to You I rise early at dawn.

My soul has thirsted for You; how often has my flesh longed after You in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered.

So I have appeared before You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise You.

So shall I bless You in my life, and I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with lips of rejoicing.

If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at the dawn.

For You have become my Helper; I will rejoice in the shelter of Your wings.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

But as for those who in vain have sought after my soul, they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword, they shall be portions for foxes.

But the king shall be glad in God; everyone shall be praised that swears by Him; for the mouth of those who speak unjust things is stopped.

(And Again) At the dawn I meditated on You; For You have become my Helper; in the shelter of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Psalm 87

Reader

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

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication.

For my soul is filled with evils, and my life has drawn near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit; I have become as a man without help, free among the dead.

I am like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, Whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand.

They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and the shadow of death.

Your anger lies heavily on me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

You have removed my friends far from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves.

I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; my eyes have grown weak from poverty.

I have cried to You, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands to You.

No, will You work wonders for the dead? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to You?

No, shall any in the grave tell of Your mercy, and of Your truth in that destruction?

No, shall Your wonders be known in that darkness, and Your righteousness in that land that is forgotten?

But as for me, I have cried to You, O Lord; and in the morning my prayer shall come before You.

O Lord, why do You therefore cast off my soul and turn Your face away from me?

I am as a poor man, and in troubles from my youth; indeed, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress.

Your fierce wrath has gone over me, and Your terrors have sorely troubled me.

They came around me all day long like water, they engulfed me altogether.

Because of my misery You have removed friend and neighbor and my acquaintances far from me.

(And Again) O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication!

### **Psalm 102**

Reader

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all that He has done for you.

Who is gracious to all your iniquities, Who heals all your infirmities.

Who redeems your life from corruption, Who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfills your desire with good things; your youth shall be renewed as the eagles.

The Lord does deeds of mercy, and executes judgment for all those who are wronged.

He has made His ways known to Moses, the things that He has willed to the sons of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long suffering and plenteous in mercy; He will not be angered to the end, neither will He be angry to eternity.

He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, neither has He rewarded us according to our sins.

For according to the height of heaven from the earth, so has the Lord made His mercy to prevail over those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our iniquities from us.

Like a father has compassion on his sons, so has the Lord had compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows of what we are made, He has remembered that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.

For when the wind passes over it, then it shall be gone, and its place will no longer remember it.

But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even to eternity, on those who fear Him.

And His righteousness is on sons of sons, on those who keep His testament and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O all you His Angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.

Bless the Lord, O all you His hosts, His ministers that do His will.

Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

(And Again) Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

**Psalm 142**

Reader

O Lord, hear my prayer, in Your truth give ear to my supplications; hear me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living shall be justified.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has humbled my life down to the earth.

He has sat me in darkness as those who have been long dead, and my spirit within me has become despondent; my heart within me is troubled.

I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Your works, I pondered on the creations of Your hands.

I stretched forth my hands to You; my soul thirsts after You like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has fainted away.

Do not turn Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I have put my hope in You.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk; for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord; I have fled to You for refuge.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Your good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; You shall quicken me for Your names sake, O Lord.

In Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction, and in Your mercy You shall utterly destroy my enemies.

And You shall cut off all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

(Repeat) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Reader

(*intoned*) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God. Lord, my Hope, glory to You.

**LITANY OF THE PEACE (THE GREAT LITANY)**

Deacon

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon

For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

(*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For travelers by sea, land and air; the sick, the suffering, the captives and their salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Chanter

*(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious \* Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

Chanter

*(sung)* To You, O Lord.

Priest

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter

*(sung)* Amen.

# Sequences (Variable portion)

## THEOS KYRIOS (GOD IS LORD)

*Mode 2.*

God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Verse:* O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His holy name.

*Verse:* All the nations circled me, and I warded them off with the name of the Lord.

*Verse:* This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

## Apolytikion

*The Holy Twenty-Thousand Martyrs Burned In Nicomedia*

*December 28. Mode 2*

Blessed is the earth that drank your blood, O prizewinners of the Lord, and holy are the tabernacles that received your spirits; for in the stadium ye triumphed over the enemy, and ye proclaimed Christ with boldness. Beseech Him, we pray, since He is good, to save our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*The Nativity of Christ*

*December 25. Mode 4*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

**Theotokion**

*Mode 4.*

O Theotokos through you became manifest to us on earth the mystery which was hid from eternity and which the Angels themselves knew not that God uniting natures without confusion becomes a man and accepts crucifixion for our salvation voluntarily. By virtue of this resurrecting man whom He had first created He saved our souls from death.

**THE PSALTER**

**The Small Litany**

PRIEST

In peace let us again pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For yours is the dominion, the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

### Sessional Hymns

#### Kathisma I

*Mode pl. 4. Thou, as the Life of all.*

Ye faithful, what a strange myst'ry here is before us! \* As He alone doth know, God is born of a woman; \* all the arrays of Angels, \* being astonished at His descent to us, \* cry aloud singing praises \* that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, \* He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God, to save the race of mankind.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Ye faithful, what a strange myst'ry here is before us! \* As He alone doth know, God is born of a woman; \* all the arrays of Angels, \* being astonished at His descent to us, \* cry aloud singing praises \* that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, \* He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God, to save the race of mankind.

#### Kathisma II

*Same Melody.*

As shepherds played a song on their flutes and their reed-pipes, \* a great angelic host called aloud to them, saying: \* Sing ye now a divine song, \* O ye that shepherd the nurslings of the flock; \* cry aloud singing praises, \* that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, \* He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God, to save the race of mankind.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

As shepherds played a song on their flutes and their reed-pipes, \* a great angelic host called aloud to them, saying: \* Sing ye now a divine song, \* O ye that shepherd the nurslings of the flock; \* cry aloud singing praises, \* that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, \* He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God, to save the race of mankind.

**Kathisma III**

*Mode 1. The soldiers standing guard.*

A twenty-thousand numbered battalion of Martyrs, \* most ven'erable to us, riseth up full of brightness, \* enlight'ning by faith the hearts and the minds of all godly folk. \* Kindled with divine and ardent love to the Master, \* this courageous host received a sanctified ending \* when eagerly burned with fire.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

*Same Melody.*

Become a babe for us, O long-suffering Savior, \* Thou willingly was set down 'midst beasts in a manger; \* and shepherds with Angels sang out Thy praises and cried aloud: \* Praise and glory be to Him brought forth on the earth now, \* Who hath made the essence of the earthborn exalted; \* let Christ our God be extolled.

**THE LITTLE LITANY**

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIR

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

READER

Amen.

### PSALM 50

Reader

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is continually before me.

Against You only have I sinned and done this evil before You; that You may be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be made clean; You will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and with Your governing Spirit establish me.

I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly will turn back to You.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, my tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt offerings You will not be pleased.

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;

Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings;

Then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. And have mercy on me, O God.

Choir

*Mode 2g.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

At the intercession of the holy Saints, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offenses.

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offenses.

PRIEST / DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles; our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker and Charalambos the Hieromartyr; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; of our holy God-bearing

Fathers; (the patron saint of the church); the holy and righteous ancestors of righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; of the holy twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia, whose memory we are celebrating, and of all your Saints; we beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIRS

Lord have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Reader

Amen.

### **Kontakion of the Nativity**

READER

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, (*intoned*) *He that existed before the ages as God.*

### **Oikos of the Nativity**

READER

Bethlehem hath opened Eden; come, let us see. We have found the delight that is hidden; come, let us lay hold on the things of Paradise within the cave. There hath the unwatered Root appeared, sprouting forth forgiveness; there is found the undug Well, whence David of old yearned to drink; there hath the Virgin brought forth a Babe, and straightway made an end of the thirst both of Adam and of David. For this cause, let us hasten thereto, where there is born a young Child, (*intoned*) *He that existed before the ages as God.*

### Synaxarion

#### READER

On the twenty-eighth of this month we commemorate the holy Twenty Thousand Martyrs who were burned in Nicomedia.

On this day we commemorate the holy Councilmen who were spared the fire, but were thereafter perfected in martyrdom.

On this day we also commemorate the following Martyrs of Nicomedia:  
 Saint Indus, having been cast into the sea, was perfected in martyrdom.  
 Saints Gorgonius and Peter were perfected in martyrdom in the sea.  
 The holy Martyr Zeno was perfected in martyrdom by the sword.  
 The holy Martyr Mardonius was perfected in martyrdom by fire.  
 Saint Dorotheus the Prefect was perfected in martyrdom by the sword.  
 Saint Theophilus the Deacon, having been stoned, was perfected in martyrdom.  
 Saint Mydonius, having been buried alive in a pit, was perfected in martyrdom.  
 Saint Glycerius the Presbyter was perfected in martyrdom by fire.

On this day Saint Domna, having been beheaded and cast into the fire, was perfected in martyrdom.

On this day Saint Secundus was perfected in martyrdom by the sword.

On this day our righteous Father Simon the Myrrh-streamer, Founder the sacred Monastery of Simonopetra on Mount Athos, repose in peace.

On this day our righteous Father Babylas of Tarsus in Clicia reposed in peace.

On this day we commemorate our righteous Father Ignatius of Lomsk.

On this day we commemorate the holy New Hieromartyr Vladimir Troepolsky the Priest, who was slain in the year 1904.

*(intoned) By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.*

#### CHOIR

### Katavasiai

#### *Katavasiai of Christmas II. Ode i. Mode 1.*

Working signs of old, the Master saved the people,\* Replacing fluid waves of the sea with dry land.\* Now, born of a Maid by His own will He has made\* Passable a way to heaven. Him in essence\* Equal to mankind and the Father we glorify.

*Ode iii.*

Hearken, Benefactor to the hymns of Your servants,\* And humble the arrogant contempt of the foe.\* Carry us, Your musicians, all-seeing Master,\* High above all sin immovably established\* Firmly on the Faith's foundation, O Blessed One.

*Ode iv.*

Prophet Habakkuk in his ode was foretelling\* Mankind's remaking when of old he was granted\* To see its type in a manner past expression:\* From the Virgin mountain as a newborn infant\* The Logos emerged to refashion of the peoples.

*Ode v.*

Would that You come, O Christ, to us who once were\* Darkened by the night of works of error but who offer\* Hymns to You wakefully now, O Benefactor,\* Grant us forgiveness and make easy the pathway.\* Ascending this path, may we also find glory.

*Ode vi.*

Jonah as he sat in the sea's deepest caverns\* Implored to come to You, and out of the tempest.\* But as for me by the tyrant's arrows wounded,\* I pray You, O Christ, the destroyer of evil:\* Come to me quicker than my soul's own indifference.

*Ode vii.*

As the three young men were ensnared by the longing\* For the King of All, hence they disdained the tyrant's\* Impious chatter, though he was very angry.\* The infinite fire yielded to them who uttered:\* Blessed are You, O Master unto the ages.

*We praise, and we bless, and we worship the Lord.*

*Ode viii.*

Standing in fire without burning, the young men\* Did of old portray thus the womb of the Maiden.\* Remaining sealed supernaturally it gave birth.\* Grace with a single miracle-working power\* Did both and rouses all the peoples to sing praise.

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of light.

**The Magnificat***Mode 1.*

## CHOIRS

*Verse: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

*Verse: For He has considered the humility of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

*Verse: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

*Verse: He performed mighty deeds with His arm; He confounded the proud in the intention of their heart.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

*Verse: He deposed the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the humble; He filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

*Verse: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.*

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

**Katavasia**

*Ode ix. Mode 1.*

*O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence,\* Free of any peril as it is, O Virgin.\* Whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing\* In earnest is difficult; therefore, O Mother,\* Give us strength to match our volition, we pray you.

**Small Litany**

PRIEST / DEACON

Let us again in peace pray to the Lord.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST / DEACON

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

CHOIRS

To You, O Lord.

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise you and give you glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIRS

Amen.

**Exaposteilarion***Mode 2. Hearken, ye women.*

O host of Martyrs all-revered, \* God-chosen company of Saints, \* ye Twenty Thousand, entreat God, \* Who hath been born of a Virgin, \* and supplicate Him fervently \* to save from every suffering \* them that now honour you with hymns \* and keep the feast of your shining \* and most illustrious mem'ry.

*Of the feast. Same Melody.*

That nobler image wrought by God, \* I once partook of; but, alas! \* wretch that I am, I was thrust out \* because of an ancient intemp'rance. \* But since Thou art compassionate, \* O Christ, Thou didst ineffably \* partake with me of what is worse, \* Saviour, renewing me thereby \* through the pure blood of the Virgin.

**LAUDS (PRAISES)***Mode 4.*

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To You, O God, is due our song.

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

**Stichera Prosomia***First Hymn of Praise. Mode 4. As one valiant.**To do in them the written judgment. This glory shall be to all His saints.*

O Good Master, in Thy desire \* to show unto all men the wealth \* of Thy boundless kindness and goodness unto us, \* Thou tookest on Thee the substance whereof all men have been composed; \* and Thou wast born in the flesh \* and didst dwell in a lowly cave, \* that Thou mightest make \* all men heavenly, while exalting them that ever laud and sing the praises \* of Thine ineffable Birth, O Lord.

*Second Hymn of Praise**Praise God for His saints; praise Him for the firmament of His power.*

O Good Master, in Thy desire \* to show unto all men the wealth \* of Thy boundless kindness and goodness unto us, \* Thou tookest on Thee the substance whereof all men have been composed; \* and Thou wast born in the flesh \* and didst dwell in a lowly cave, \* that Thou mightest make \* all men heavenly, while exalting them that ever laud and sing the praises \* of Thine ineffable Birth, O Lord.

*Third Hymn of Praise*

*Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him in proportion to the magnitude of His greatness.*

On receiving great fortitude \* and made strong with a firm resolve, \* mighty in the power of God, the King of all, \* ye soundly conquered the strengthlessness \* of your nature, O unsubdued \* Martyrs of the Lord; \* and as mighty protectors, ye entreat that peace be granted to the whole world, \* and that the faithful may all be saved.

*Fourth Hymn of Praise*

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

In his words did Philotheus \* and in deeds did Dorotheus, \* with divine Mardonius and Gorgonius, \* Secundur, Peter and Indus, prove to be greater than the foe; \* and with joy they turned away \* his encampments in sore defeat; \* and they intercede \* with the Lord to deliver from all dangers them that celebrate and honor \* their solemn festival faithfully.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Theotokion**

*Mode pl. 1.*

*Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Incomprehensible is the mystery that is accomplished today in Bethlehem! The invisible One becomes visible; the fleshless One assumes flesh; the Logos takes substance; and the One who is becomes what He was not. A Virgin gives birth in a cave to a new baby who is the Fashioner of nature. A manger portrays a heavenly throne, and animals represent an array of Cherubim. Shepherds marvel; Magi bring gifts. Angels sing praises, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth. For Emmanuel, without changing, is well pleased to be with mankind.”

## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

1. Glo-ry be to You Who showed the light. Glo-ry in the high - est to God, and on earth peace, good will a - mong men.
2. We praise You; we bless You; we wor - ship You; we glo - ri - fy You; we give thanks to You for Your great glo - ry.
3. O Lord, King, heav - en - ly God, the Fa - ther Al-might - y, O Lord the on - ly-be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.
4. O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, Who take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, You Who take a - way the sins of the world.
5. Re - ceive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Fa - ther; and have mer - cy on us.
6. For You a - lone are ho - ly; You a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ, to the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A-men.
7. Ev - 'ry day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name for - ev - er and un - to the a - ges of a - ges.
8. Vouch - safe, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.
9. Bless - ed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fa - thers, and praised and glo - ri - fied is Your name un - to the a - ges. A - men.
10. Let Your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us, e - ven as we have hoped in You.
11. Bless - ed are You, O Lord, teach me Your stat - utes. (3x)
12. Lord, You have been our ref - uge from gen - er - a - tion to gen-er - a - tion. I said: O Lord, have mer - cy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned a - gainst You.
13. O Lord, to You have I fled for ref - uge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.
14. For in You is the foun - tain of life; in Your light we shall see light.
15. Con - tin - ue Your mer - cy un - to those who know You.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly Might - y, ho - ly Im-mor - tal, have mer - cy on us. (3x)

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir - it; Both now and ev - er, and un - to the a - ges of a - ges. A-men.

Ho - ly Im-mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Ho - - - -ly God, Ho - - - -ly Might - - -y, Ho - - - ly Im-mor - - - tal, have mer - - - cy on us.