

The Service of Matins
Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Maui Orthodox Christian Mission

Metropolis of San Francisco
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Service held at Saint Theresa Church
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
(Dated: December 22, 2018)

Octoechos
Fourth Tone
On Saturday Morning
Menaion

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

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Part I

Akolouth (Fixed portion)

I. ROYAL BEGINNING

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

People: *(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.

People: Amen.

A. Trisagion

People: **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 name's sake.

**

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.

People: Amen.

II. THE ROYAL TROPARIA

A. Troparion of the Cross

People: 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.

B. Kontakion of the Cross

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

People: 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.

C. Theotokion

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

People: 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.*

III. 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.

People: Amen.

IV. HEXAPSALM (SIX PSALMS)

People: 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.

A. Psalm 3

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.

B. Psalm 37

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.

C. Psalm 62

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.

D. Psalm 87

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!

E. Psalm 102

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 eagle's.

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.

F. Psalm 142

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 name's 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.

V. 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.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

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.

Part II

Sequences (Variable portion)

VI. THEOS KYRIOS (GOD IS LORD)

CHOIR

Mode 4. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse 1: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

Verse 3: And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.

Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. Glory. For the Woman Saint.

Mode 4.

Your own ewe-lamb cries to You loudly, O Jesus, and she says, * "For my Bridegroom do I long, and seeking You I now contend; * and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. * I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. * I die for You that I may also live in You. * Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice * as I offer myself to You with love." * At her entreaties and intercessions, * save our souls, O Merciful Lord.

Both now.

Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.

Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

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

(Amen.)

CHOIR

A. *Kathisma I*

Mode 4. N/M (Come quickly.)

Creation is glad today with gladness great and divine, for from a pure maiden is now born the Son of my God, Christ Jesus, the Lord of all, making all the race of man immortal forever, as He does destroy the curse of Eve, our first mother. As to our Benefactor, let us offer Him songs of praise.

Glory. Both now. Repeat.

Creation is glad today with gladness great and divine, for from a pure maiden is now born the Son of my God, Christ Jesus, the Lord of all, making all the race of man immortal forever, as He does destroy the curse of Eve, our first mother. As to our Benefactor, let us offer Him songs of praise.

Kathisma II.

Mode 3. N/M (On this day.)

As the virgin held the word, who was before all the ages, righteous Joseph cried aloud to her while singing her praises: Thee I see who has been born as the Lord's own temple, bearing Him who now comes forth to save all mortals, and who in his mercy makes them who extol Him to be the temples of God.

Glory. Both now. Repeat.

As the virgin held the word, who was before all the ages, righteous Joseph cried aloud to her while singing her praises: Thee I see who has been born as the Lord's own temple, bearing Him who now comes forth to save all mortals, and who in his mercy makes them who extol Him to be the temples of God.

READER

VII. PSALM 50 (51)

Mode 2.

CHOIR [Merciful,] Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.

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

For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me.

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

For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me.

Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom.

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

You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice.

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

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

Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit.

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

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

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

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

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart 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 offerings and whole burnt offerings.

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

Glory.

At the intercession of the Apostles, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. [SD]

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. [SD]

Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, has granted us eternal life and great mercy. [SD]

Kontakion.

Mode 2. N/M (In seeking the heights.)

When they that are found in trials and adversities flee unto thy church, O Anastasia, they receive the august and wondrous gifts of divine grace which does Abide in thee; for at all times O saint of God, you pourest forth streams of healing for the world.

1. *Oikos.*

Named with the name of the Lord's Resurrection, now by your prayers raise me who have fallen, letting a drop of your wonders fall on my soul, O Martyr, and quench the flame of dread sin. For you save the world each day from passions of many kinds, with I too have been tried. For granting all things to all, you pour out healings for the world.

VIII. SYNAXARION

From the Menaion.

On December 22, we commemorate the holy Great Martyr Anastasia Pharmacolytria.
 On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyr Chrysogonos.
 On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyr Theodota and her children.
 On this day we also commemorate the holy Martyr Zoilos.
 On this day was the door-opening of the Great Church of God.
 On this day was the procession with lights at the Church of God.
 By the intercessions of Your saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us.

DEACON

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

CHOIR

Ode ix.

IX. MEGANLYNARION

Megalynarion. Mode pl. 4.

Verse: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Verse: For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Verse: For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Verse: He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Verse: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Verse: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever. [RSV]

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. [SD]

Heirmos. Mode pl. 4.

You are the Theotokos * lit'rally, O Virgin; * and we confess it, for we have been saved through you * whom we, O pure one, with choirs of angels magnify. [SD]

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. 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.

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(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.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

X. EXAPOSTEILARION

Mode 3. N/M (On the mountain.)

Glorious Virgin Martyr, splendour of champions, all-wise Anastasia, do not cease to implore the one who is now coming to be born of a Virgin Maiden, the pure Mother of God, in a cave and a manger, to grant release from sins to all those who celebrate your all-holy memory and honour you with love.

For the Forefeast.

Mode 3. N/M (On the mountain.)

Your light-bearing memorial, Martyr Anastasia, proclaims in advance Christ's Nativity in Bethlehem, as it summons Magi from the Persia with gifts; the Shepherds with Angels to sing in praise; for you offered yourself like gold, incense and myrrh to your Master, when you struggled in the contest, O wise in God.

Lauds. Mode pl. 2.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichera. For the Forefeast.

Mode pl. 2. N/M (O angelic powers.)

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.

Now all the ancient images are being discharged, for the Virgin is with child, the stone has been cut from the mountain, Jesse's rod has blossomed and Gideon's dew has now been poured out on earth. Peoples, let us cry out, 'The King of Israel, Christ, is at hand!'

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre.
Strange happenings of a strange birth-giving are seen! How is the One enthroned with the Father being laid in a manger of irrational beasts? How is the One who cannot be touched in swaddling clothes? How is the One who is everywhere in the Cave? Peoples, let us cry out, 'The King of Israel, Christ, is at hand!'

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute.
The One who worked wonders and smote Egypt, rained Manna on the ungrateful people, becomes incarnate and suckles at the breast. Seen as a little child, he flees from Herod, borne on the Virgin Mother as on a light cloud, as Isaias, the most visionary of prophets foresaw.

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord.
The pre-existent Child, King of the ages, is willingly brought to birth and is given to us as a son. Listen, you Nations, Israel, give ear! Understand and be discomfited, for he is with us, the One grind down and wipe out from the earth every kingdom and rule that does not obey him.

Glory. N/M (O angelic powers.)

Jew, you will be shepherded with a rod of iron, as you did not believe and resisted the Prophets; for to the Son when he is born the Father gives Nations as his lot and the whole earth as his possession, while you he will thrust aside, foul murderer, for you cannot be persuaded to cry, 'The King of Israel, Christ, is at hand!' [EL]

Both now. N/M (O angelic powers.)

David, leap for joy, for Christ comes from your loins! Jesse, be glad, for your root has flowered! Juda, from your thigh the Lord will come forth. Nations he devours, as Balaam said. As great Isaias said, 'See, the all-revered Virgin will give birth to a little child, Emmanuel?'. [EL]

READER

Doxology (read)

To you belongs glory, O Lord our God, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, and we thank you, for your great glory. Lord, King, Heavenly God, Father Almighty; only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit. Lord God, the Lamb of God, the Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, you who take away the sins of the world. Accept our supplication, you who sit at the right of the Father, and have mercy on us. For you are the only Holy One, you are the only Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. Every day I shall bless you, and I shall praise your name forever, and unto the ages of ages. Lord, you have become for us a refuge from generation to generation. I have said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you. Lord, to you I have fled; teach me to do your will, for you are my God. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we shall see light. Extend your mercy to those who know you. Grant, O Lord, that in this day we may be kept without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is your name unto the ages. Amen. Let your mercy, Lord, come upon us, just as we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments. Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy remains forever, do not turn away from the works of your hands. To you belongs praise, to you belongs a hymn, to you belongs glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST (in a low voice)

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Aposticha.

Mode 2. N/M (O House of Ephratha.)

The Star shines out already in the Cave; you Shepherds with Angels, you Magi with gifts, get ready to arrive.

Verse: God will come from Teman, the Holy One from the mount of shaded leafy trees.

Christ is drawing near; the Star already shines. The heavenly multitude of the host of spiritual powers bows down.

Verse: Lord, I have heard Your report and was afraid; I considered Your works and was greatly astonished.

Bethlehem, rejoice! The One who shepherds Israel, the Saviour, is upon you. Judea, you are no longer least among the rulers. [EL]

Glory. For the Woman Saint.

Mode pl. 1.

Today a day of the forefeast of the incarnation of Christ God has shone out with the feast of the all-praised Martyr Anastasia. See, the Virgin is approaching Bethlehem to lay, wrapped in swaddling clothes, in a manger of irrational beasts, the Babe who has freed us from the ancient curse and saves our souls. [EL]

Both now. For the Forefeast.

Mode pl. 1.

?Do not be downcast, Joseph, when you see my womb. For you will see what is born of me and you will rejoice and worship him as God?, said the Mother of God to her own betrothed, as she was about to give birth to Christ. Let us sing her praise, as we say, ?Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you; and through you, with us?. [EL]

PRIEST

It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night. [SAAS]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

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

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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, but deliver us from evil.

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 forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. [SD] DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Wisdom.

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages. (Amen.)

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

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.

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

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

Dismissal

PRIEST

May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (local patron saint); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Conclusion, i.e. "Through the prayers..."

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

(Amen.)