**DECEMBER 25**

**The Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**

**The First Antiphon**

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known. *(Ps. 110:1a)*

*Refrain:*Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. *(Ps.* *110:1b-2a) (Refrain)*

They are sought out according to His will. *(Ps. 110:2b) (Refrain)*

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

*(Ps. 110:3) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,

 and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

**The Second Antiphon**

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *(Ps.* *111:1)*

*Refrain:*O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. *(Ps.* *111:2) (Refrain)*

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever.

*(Ps.* *111:3) (Refrain)*

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous. *(Ps.* *111:4) (Refrain)*

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

*(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God… “)*

**The Third Antiphon**

The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand.” *(Ps. 109:1a)*

**Tone 4 Troparion**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,

has shone to the world the light of wisdom!

For by it, those who worshipped the stars,

were taught by a star to adore Thee,

the Sun of Righteousness,

and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

“Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!” *(Ps. 109:1b)*

 *Troparion of the Feast*

The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in the midst of Thine enemies!” *(Ps. 109:2)*

 *Troparion of the Feast*

With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy power, in the radiance of holiness.

*(Ps. 109:3)*

 *Troparion of the Feast*

 **Entrance Verse**

Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: “Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” *(Ps. 109:4)*

**Tone 4 Troparion**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,

has shone to the world the light of wisdom!

For by it, those who worshipped the stars,

were taught by a star to adore Thee,

the Sun of Righteousness,

and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Tone 3 Kontakion**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,

and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.

Angels with shepherds glorify Him;

The Wise Men journey with the star,//

since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

*(Instead of the Trisagion)*

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

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon**

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; / let it praise Thy Name, O Most High! *(Ps. 65:3)*

V. *Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)*

**Epistle**

 (209) Galatians 4:4-7

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)*

V. *Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (Ps. 18:2)*

 **Gospel**

 (2) Matthew 2:1-12

***(Instead of “It is truly meet…,” we sing:)***

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,

more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:

heaven—the cave;

the cherubic throne—the Virgin;

the manger—the place where Christ lay:

the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

 *(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)*

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence,

for that is a safer course;

so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs

to thee, O Virgin.

But grant us strength, O Mother,

equal to our natural calling.

**Communion Hymn**

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. *(Ps. 110:8a)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, (“The Services of Christmas”, 1981).