

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY**  
**SYNAXIS OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS**

**AT GREAT VESPERS**

***LORD I CALL:*** *(Three stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2 (spiral bound vespers book), followed by four for the Nativity and three for the Righteous Ones)*

***Nativity, tone 2:***

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
as we sing of this present mystery:  
the wall which divided God from man has been destroyed;  
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;  
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;  
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,  
now feast on the delights of Paradise:  
for today the Father's perfect Image,  
marked with the stamp of His eternity,  
has taken the form of a servant.  
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;  
He was true God, and He remains the same,  
but through His love for mankind,  
He has become what He never was: true man.  
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://  
"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,  
the whole universe was filled with light.  
The shepherds watched in the fields.  
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.  
But Herod was troubled,  
for God had appeared in the flesh.//  
He is the Savior of our souls.

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.  
Your rule is from age to age.  
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,  
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,  
You have filled all creation with joy.  
The light of Your coming has shone on us;  
every living creature praises You,  
the Image of the Father's glory.  
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,  
the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
You have shone forth from the Virgin.//  
O God, have mercy on us!

What shall we offer You, O Christ,  
Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?  
Every creature made by You offers You thanks:  
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;  
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;  
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,  
and we offer You a virgin Mother!//  
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

***Righteous Ones, tone 1:***

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God,  
for from him came the virgin stem;  
from this stem blossomed the Flower – Christ.  
Delivered from corruption Adam and Eve cry out to Him,//  
for He is compassionate.

In his old age Joseph the Betrothed clearly saw the prophecies  
fulfilled.  
He was given a mysterious command,  
but he received enlightenment from the Angels who cried out://  
"Glory to God, for He has granted peace to the world!"

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord!  
He is a bishop and also a courageous martyr.  
Therefore, O Jesus,

God wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave and manger,//  
through his prayers save those who praise You!

***GLORY...Righteous Ones, tone 6:***

Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James!  
One was the king of the Prophets;  
the other was an apostle and the first bishop;  
that being saved from error by their teachings,//  
we may glorify Christ  
Who shone forth incarnate from the Virgin to save our souls!

***NOW AND EVER... the Dogmatikon in tone 2 (spiral  
bound vespers book)***

***APOSTIKHA: all stikhera of the resurrection in tone 2 (spiral  
bound vespers book)***

***GLORY...Righteous Ones, tone 6:***

Your Nativity became the commemoration of priests,  
and the strength and joy of kings,  
Rejoicing in it, we say:  
“Our Father, in heaven,//  
hallowed be Your name, O Lover of mankind!”

***NOW AND EVER...for the feast, tone 6:***

Today the Invisible Nature is joined to mortal men,  
coming forth from the Virgin.  
Today the Infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes at  
Bethlehem.

Today God leads the Magi by a star to worship Him,  
and with gold and frankincense and myrrh they foretell

His three-day burial.//

Therefore we sing: “O Christ our God, made flesh of the Virgin,  
save our souls!”

**TROPARIA**

**Resurrection, tone 2**

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

**Righteous Ones, tone 2**

Proclaim, holy Joseph, to David the ancestor of Christ our God  
The amazing wonders you have witnessed:  
You have seen a virgin great with child,  
You gave glory with the shepherds,  
You worshipped with the magi,  
And an angel of the Lord revealed the wonders to you!//  
Therefore pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Nativity, tone 4**

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!

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