

Horologion - Midnight Office
Menaion - December 25

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

MIDNIGHT OFFICE

PRIEST

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

(Amen.)

Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
present in all places and filling all things,
treasury of good things and giver of life: come;
take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every
stain, and save our souls, O Good one. [HC]

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. [GOA]

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.

READER

Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12)

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

Come, let us worship and bow down
before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalms 50 (51).

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. [SAAS]

CHOIR

Idiomela of the Lity.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1.

Let heaven and earth today prophetically be glad. Let us, Angels and mortals, spiritually keep festival, for God has appeared in flesh, born from a woman, to those who sit in darkness and shadow. A cave and a manger have received him. Shepherds proclaim him. Magi from the East bring gifts in Bethlehem, while with unworthy lips let us bring him praise, as we sing, like the Angels, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth'; for the

expectation of the nations has come. He has come, he has saved us from the slavery of the foe. [EL]

Mode 1.

Heaven and earth have been made one today, now that Christ is born. Today God has come upon earth, and humanity gone up to heaven. Today for humankind the One who by nature is unseen is seen. Therefore let us too give glory as we cry to him, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, with which your Coming has rewarded us. Our Saviour, glory to you!' [EL]

Mode 1.

"Glory to God in the highest!" I hear the Angels sing this today in Bethlehem to Him whose good will it was that there be peace on earth. Now the Virgin is wider than heaven. Light has risen for those in darkness, and has lifted up the lowly who, like the angels, are singing, "Glory to God in the highest." [SD]

Mode 1.

When he saw that the one in his image and likeness had fallen away through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down and made his dwelling in a virgin womb without change, that in it he might refashion corrupted Adam as he cried, 'Glory to your epiphany, my Redeemer and my God!' [EL]

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 1.

Magi, Persian Kings, having clearly learnt that the heavenly King had been born on earth, drawn by a bright star arrived in Bethlehem, bringing chosen gifts, gold and incense and myrrh. And falling down they

worshipped, for they saw lying in the Cave the Timeless as a babe. [EL]

Mode pl. 2.

All the Angels in heaven form a chorus and exult today; and all creation leaps for joy, because our Savior and Lord has been born in Bethlehem. All the deception of idols has ceased, and Christ reigns as King, forever and ever. [SD]

Idiomela of the Aposticha.

(without the verses coming before)

Mode 2.

A great and paradoxal miracle has taken place today. A Virgin has given birth, and there is no damage to her womb. The Word becomes flesh, and He is not separated from the Father. Angels and Shepherds give glory, and we join them in shouting: "Glory in the highest to God, and on earth let there be peace." [SD]

Mode 3.

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Maker of the universe. Eden offers a cave, and a star announces Christ, the Sun to those in darkness. Magi were illumined by faith and came and worshiped Him with gifts. Shepherds saw the wonder, as Angels were singing: "Glory in the highest to God!" [SD]

Mode 3.

When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi came from the East, and they worshiped God become man. They readily opened their treasures, and they offered Him precious gifts: pure gold to the King of the ages; incense to the God of all; and myrrh to the immortal One, who would die for three days. Come, all nations, let us

worship Him who was born to save our souls. [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

Rejoice, Jerusalem; and all you who love Zion, celebrate! Today the age old bond of the condemnation of Adam has been released. Paradise is opened to us; the serpent is neutralized. He deceived a woman in Paradise of old, but now he sees a woman become the Mother of the Creator. What profound riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! Woman, who became the instrument of sin, and who brought death to all flesh, has now through the Theotokos become the beginning of salvation for the world. For the all-perfect God is born as an infant from her, and in birth He preserves her virginity, and being wrapped in swaddling clothes He breaks the chains of sins. Becoming an infant, He heals the labor pains of Eve. Therefore, let all creation dance and leap for joy. For Christ came to recall it, and to save our souls. [SD]

Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

You dwelt in a cave, O Christ our God, and a manger received you. Shepherds and Magi worshiped You. And then the message of the Prophets was fulfilled. The angelic hosts were filled with wonderment, and they shouted saying, "Glory to Your condescension, only Lord who loves humanity!" [SD]

READER

Trisagion Prayers.

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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.

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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. [GOA]

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.

READER

Amen.

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]

Lord, have mercy. (40)

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

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

PRIEST

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, (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.

Let us pray for the peace of the world.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For all pious and Orthodox Christians.

For our (episcopal rank) (name).

For our nation.

For the armed forces.

For our departed fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers.

For those who have mercy on us and serve us.

For those who hate us and those who love us.

For those who have asked us the unworthy to pray for them.

For the release of captives.

For those who are traveling.

For those who are ill.

Let us pray also for the abundance of the fruits of the earth.

And for all our family and friends who have fallen asleep before us, the Orthodox here and everywhere piously laid to sleep.

Let us also say for ourselves: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

(Amen.)