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The Service of Vespers

on Monday Evening

for Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Menaion - December 24

Memory of the Holy Martyr Evgenia

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - December 24

Memory of the Holy Martyr Evgenia

VESPERS

PRIEST

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

(Amen.)

READER

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.

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my
God, You are magnified exceedingly; You
clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and
majesty, who cover Yourself with light as
with a garment, who stretch out the heavens
like a curtain; You are He who covers His
upper chambers with water, who makes the
clouds His means of approach, who walks
on the wings of the winds, who makes His
angels spirits and His ministers a flame of
fire. He established the earth on its stable
foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of
ages. The deep like a garment is His covering;
the waters shall stand upon the mountains;
at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound
of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The
mountains rise up, and the plains sink down
to the place You founded for them. You set
a boundary they shall not pass over; neither
shall they return to cover the earth. You are
He who sends springs into the valley; the

waters shall pass between the mountains;
they shall give drink to all the wild animals
of the field; the wild asses shall quench their
thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside
them; they shall sing from the midst of the
rocks. You are He who waters the mountains
from His higher places; the earth shall be
satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are
He who causes grass to grow for the cattle,
and the green plant for the service of man, to
bring forth bread from the earth; and wine
gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face
with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.
The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit,
the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted;
there the sparrows shall make their nests;
the house of the heron takes the lead among
them. The high mountains are for the deer; the
cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the
moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting.
You established darkness, and it was night,
wherein all the wild animals of the forest
will prowl about; the young lions roar and
snatch their prey, and seek their food from
God. The sun arises, and they are gathered
together; and they shall be put to bed in their
dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his
labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall
be magnified greatly; You made all things
in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your
creation. There is this great and spacious sea:
the creeping things are there without number;
the living things are there, both small and
great; there the ships pass through; there is
this dragon You formed to play therein. All
things wait upon You, that You may give
them food in due season. When You give
it to them, they shall gather it; when You

open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.

PRIEST (*inaudibly*)

1st Prayer

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

2nd Prayer

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

3rd Prayer

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

4th Prayer

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

5th Prayer

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, 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 to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Mode 4.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are
stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward
me.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O
Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my
supplication.

Stichera. For the Forefeast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. N/M (To a brave one.)

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O
Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness
with You.* [SAAS]

Let us sound the cymbals, let us cry out
with joy in songs: Christ's revelation has been
made manifest. The proclamations of the
Prophets have reached their term, for the one
they said would appear in flesh to mortals is
being brought to birth in a holy Cave, laid in a
manger like a babe and wrapped in swaddling
clothes like little child. [EL]

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You;
my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in
the Lord.* [SAAS]

With upright mind let us make songs ring
out for the Forefeast of Christ's Nativity. For
he that is equal in honour to the Father and
the Spirit, having through compassion clothed
himself in our matter, is about to be born in
the city of Bethlehem. Shepherds with Angels
sand the praise of his ineffable birth. [EL]

*From the morning watch until night; from the
morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the
Lord.* [SAAS]

Seeing a Conception beyond explanation
and Birth beyond expression, the Virgin was
amazed. Rejoicing and yet also weeping she
exclaimed, 'How can I offer my breast the him
who nourishes the universe? Or how can I
sing your praise as both my Son and my God?
By what title can I address you, Lord beyond
all naming?' [EL]

For the Holy Woman.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2. N/M (Joseph took You.)

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

When with godlike foresight you went out from the city, you clearly left behind the pleasure of the world; and having heard the sweet melody of psalms, you were flooded with the light of divine knowledge; while having conceived fear in your womb, you gave birth to a divine and saving Spirit for those who journeyed with you. [EL]

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. [SAAS]

When you had been made a bride of Christ, with zeal you brought to your servants to him, bearing them as a living gift, imitating your courage, Evgenia, shining out clearly with faith and grace, practising every virtue, as true Martyrs proclaiming to all true religion. [EL]

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [SAAS]

Clearly illumined by the beam of the Spirit, you bring a choir of virgins to Christ, having caught them by your word of wisdom and shown them the course of the path that leads on high, you guided them to shine with the blood of Martyrs. Dancing with them, you have now found a fitting desire: true delight, all-praised Martyr. [EL]

Glory. Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

See, the moment of our salvation has drawn near. Cave, make ready, the Virgin

draws near to give birth. Bethlehem, land of Juda, rejoice and be glad, because from you our Lord has dawned. Listen, mountains and hills and all the country of Judea, for Christ is coming to save humanity that he fashioned, for he loves mankind. [EL]

(No Entrance)

READER

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.
(2) [SAAS]

Verse: *You heard me when I called, O God of my righteousness. You strengthened my heart when I was in distress.*

The Lord will hear me when I cry to Him.

READER

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you,

Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments.

Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our evening 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 evening 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, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the 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)*

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

PRIEST

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

CHOIR

Aposticha of the Feast.

Mode 1.

You peoples, let us celebrate the Eve of Christ's Nativity; and raising our minds on high let us go up in spirit to Bethlehem; and with the eyes of the soul let us look on the Virgin as she hastens to give birth in a Cave to our God, the Lord of all things. Joseph, when he looked on the greatness of his wonders, thought that what he saw was a mortal, wrapped in swaddling clothes as a babe; but from all that came to pass he understood that it was the true God, who grants our souls his great mercy. [EL]

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

You peoples, let us celebrate the Eve of Christ's Nativity; and raising our minds on high let us go up in spirit to Bethlehem; and look on the great mystery in a Cave; for Eden has been opened as God comes forth from a pure Virgin, perfect in his divinity as in his humanity. Therefore let us cry: Holy God, Father without beginning, Holy Strong, incarnate Son, Holy Immortal, Comforter Spirit. Holy Trinity, glory to you! [EL]

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

Hear, O heaven, and give ear, O earth; for see, the Son and Word of God the Father comes forth to be born of a maiden who has not known man, by the good pleasure of him who begat him impassibly and by the

co-operation of the Holy Spirit. Bethlehem, prepare; Eden, open your gate, for he who is becomes what he was not, and the Fashioner of all creation is fashioned, he who grants the world his great mercy. [EL]

Glory. Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 2.

Cave prepare, for the Ewe Lamb comes bearing Christ in her womb; Manger receive him who with a word has loosed us born of earth from irrational action. Shepherds abiding in the fields, bear witness to a fearful wonder; Magi from Persia, offer the King gold, frankincense and myrrh; for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin mother. Bending over him like a slave, his Mother worshipped him and addressed him as he lay in her arms: How were you sown in me? How have you grown in me, my Redeemer and my God? [EL]

PRIEST

Song of Simeon.

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

From Menaion ---

Forefestal Canon

CHOIR

Ode i.

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant/
beneath the waves of the sea./Now You are
hidden in a manger/and Herod seeks to kill
You./But with the Magi, let us sing to the

Lord,/for gloriously has He been glorified!

[OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Lord my God, I sing You a birthday hymn,/rejoicing in the vigil of the feast,/for by Your Nativity You have given me divine rebirth,/raising me up to my first excellence.

[OCA]

Glory.

Lord my God, I sing You a birthday hymn,/rejoicing in the vigil of the feast,/for by Your Nativity You have given me divine rebirth,/raising me up to my first excellence.

[OCA]

Both now.

All things in heaven and on earth were amazed at Your power,/beholding You upon Your throne on high and in the manger below!/In ways beyond understanding You have come to us, Savior,/appearing in two natures: God and man! [OCA]

Ode iii.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

You suspended the earth upon the waters;/now creation beholds You born in a cave./It quakes with great amazement and cries,/None is holy but You, O Lord! [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Manifesting the signs of Your incarnation, merciful Lord,/You have unfolded visions and breathed forth prophecies./Now You have come, fulfilling them all:/born in the flesh from a pure maiden in the city of David.

[OCA]

Glory.

Earth has spread out its expanse to receive the Creator;/the angels glorify Him; the heavens send a star;/the shepherds sing His praise and the Magi offer their gifts:/Let the whole world acknowledge Him! [OCA]

Both now.

The riddles of the soothsayer and diviner Balaam are now fulfilled,/for a star has dawned from Jacob/leading the Magi, kings from Persia, bringing gifts/to the Sun of Glory! [OCA]

Ode iv.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Foreseeing Your coming from the Virgin,/Habakkuk cried out trembling,/You are come incarnate from Teman, Deliverer,/to call back Adam from his exile. [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Now the Lord draws near and comes./He is the expectation of the nations and salvation of the world./Prepare the cave, city of Bethlehem;/shepherds, hasten with the Magi! [OCA]

Glory.

By the overwhelming strength of Your divine nature,/You have been joined with mortal men/through a union without confusion, Savior,/in the likeness of Adam's flesh./In thus assuming human nature,/You grant it immortality and salvation. [OCA]

Both now.

The Word is made manifest/and assumes the material substance of our flesh./In His ineffable dispensation,/He takes up His dwelling with us./Come, faithful, let us

look upon His glory,/the glory of the Only-begotten Son from God the Father! [OCA]

Ode v.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Isaiah saw the never-setting light/of Your compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ./Rising early from the night he cried out:/Behold, a Virgin shall conceive/and shall bear the Incarnate Word./All those on earth shall greatly rejoice! [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

When You became earthly, Creator,/You renewed those born on earth/and the manger, the swaddling clothes and a cave/revealed Your lowliness, O Word./for Your Mother's betrothed is thought by men/to be Your Father in the flesh/and so he takes the place of the Father who begot You by His counsel!

[OCA]

Glory.

The Magi, first fruits of the gentiles,/offer You gifts in a cave in Bethlehem/at Your birth from a Mother who suffered no pangs of travail:/myrrh foretells Your death, gold Your royal power,/frankincense the pre-eminence of Your divinity. [OCA]

Both now.

You came forth from a painless birth,/Word co-eternal with the Father./You make Your dwelling in the cave with the manger as Your throne./Through Your fearful dispensation You amaze the Magi and the shepherds./You fill the angels with awe as they cry: Glory to Your dominion! [OCA]

Ode vi.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Jonah was caught but not held fast/in the belly of the whale./He was a sign of Your birth and appearance in the flesh,/coming forth from the fish as from a bridal chamber./You are born and shall suffer death and burial,/and shall rise again on the third day!

[OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The wall of partition of the ancient curse/is destroyed by Your coming, O Christ;/the flaming sword now gives way before all who approach./I partake in faith of the life-giving tree in Eden,/becoming once again a husbandman of the fruit of immortality. [OCA]

Glory.

Hell reigned with sin from Adam even down to You,/but their shameless tyranny has been brought to naught,/for You are born in the flesh from the tribe of David;/You have set a light upon the throne of his kingdom, Deliverer:/You shall reign to all ages! [OCA]

Both now.

The wicked Herod became a slayer of children but not of Christ:/though he reaped a bitter harvest of infants,/he failed to seize and kill the Bread of Life,/Who in divine power escaped the pursuer to give life to all! [OCA]

Ode vii.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Inexpressible wonder!/In the furnace You saved the holy youths from the flame./Now You are laid in a poor manger as a Babe,/for the salvation of us who sing:/Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer! [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

The enemy and deceiver was wounded,/ beholding God laid in a poor and narrow manger as a babe:/he was cast down by the hand of God for our salvation, who sing:/ Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer! [OCA]

Glory.

O happy manger!/Receiving the Creator as a babe,/you are made the throne of the cherubim,/for the salvation of us who sing:/ Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer! [OCA]

Both now.

Obeysing the law of mortals,/You have come as a babe and accepted to be wrapped in swaddling clothes:/Loosing the bonds of my offenses,/You have bestowed freedom upon those who cry aloud:/Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer! [OCA]

Ode viii.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Be amazed, O heavens!/Be shaken, foundations of the earth!/Behold, He Who dwells on high holding the world in His hand/ is wrapped in swaddling clothes and received as a guest in a narrow manger./Bless Him, youths, praise Him, O priests!/People, exalt Him above all forever! [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

Adam the prisoner has been set free;/ deliverance is given to all the faithful,/for You are bound in swathing bands, Savior,/ laid in a small cave and the manger of dumb beasts./Therefore we rejoice, offering You a hymn in faith/as we celebrate the vigil of Your nativity. [OCA]

Glory.

The idolatry of the nations shall cease,/ for the Magi, wise men from the east,/bring gifts to Christ the King of all at His birth:/ gold and myrrh and frankincense./Bless Him youths, praise Him, O priests!/People, exalt Him above all forever! [OCA]

Both now.

What strange wonder!/Goodness and boundless forbearance!/He Who dwells in the heights is counted as a babe;/He Who is God of all flees of His Own will from Herod./Bless Him youths, praise Him, O priests!/People, exalt Him above all forever! [OCA]

Ode ix.

From Menaion - - -

Heirmos Mode pl. 2.

Do not be amazed, O Mother,/beholding Me now as a Babe,/the Son begotten from the bosom of the Father before the morning star,/ for I have come to restore the earth;/I shall glorify with Myself the fallen nature of mortal mankind;/I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and love! [OCA]

Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

My Son without beginning,/I am blessed beyond words by Your strange birth,/for You have delivered me from all travail;/as I behold You fleeing from Herod, the sword of sorrow pierces my heart,/but You shall live, saving those who honor You! [OCA]

Glory.

As an exile I flee to the land of Egypt, O Mother,/but I shall smash all idols made by the hands of men./Those who seek My life in vain shall be dashed to pieces like a potter's

vessel,/but with My divine power I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and love! [OCA]

Both now.

Let the creation rejoice exceedingly!/The Creator now makes Himself to be created!/He Who is before all things now makes Himself known as God newly-revealed!/Let the Magi with their gifts make haste to meet Him!/Let the shepherds clap their hands in faith at the wonder!/Let mortals join the angels and celebrate in the feast! [OCA]

Heirmos.

Do not be amazed, O Mother,/beholding Me now as a Babe,/the Son begotten from the bosom of the Father before the morning star,/for I have come to restore the earth;/I shall glorify with Myself the fallen nature of mortal mankind;/I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and love! [OCA]

PEOPLE

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.)

Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

As she carried in her womb * what she conceived without seed, * Mary went to Bethlehem * with elder Joseph to enroll, * for they were of the house and the lineage of David. * The time arrived for her * to give birth to her Child; * but then there was no place * in the inn for them. * Therefore the grotto served as a luxurious * royal palace for the Queen. * And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image * which was formerly fallen.

(3) [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!

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.

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

(Amen.)