

**eMatins powered by AGES**

# The Service of Matins

**for Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

**Menaion - December 25**

**The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Katavasias of Christmas I and II**

**Text in English**

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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**Menaion - December 25**

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

**MATINS**

**CHOIR**

**Mode 4.**

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

**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.*

From Menaion - - -

**Apolytikion of the Feast.**

**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. (3)

[SD]

*The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 10. It would be followed by the short litany.*

**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**

**Kathisma I.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

*The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 11. It would be followed by the short litany.*

**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.)*

**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.)*

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma II.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by what was done in you? \* And she answers, "For in time I have brought forth a timeless Son. \* But I have no understanding of His conception. \* Husbandless am I: how can I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written." \* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by what was done in you? \* And she answers, "For in time I have brought forth a timeless Son. \* But I have no understanding of His

conception. \* Husbandless am I: how can I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written." \* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

**The Polyeleos.**

*Psalm 134 (135).*

*Psalm 135 (136).*

*Selected Psalm Verses*

**Selected Psalm Verses for Christmas**

All the earth. Alleluia.

1. Shout to God, all the earth; sing now to His name. Alleluia. (65:1) [SAAS]
2. Give glory to His praise. Say to God, "How fearful are Your works." Alleluia. (65:2) [SAAS]
3. Describe all His wonderful works.. Alleluia. (104:2) [SAAS]
4. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth greatly rejoice. Alleluia. (95:11) [SAAS]
5. The Lord sent redemption to His people. Alleluia. (110:9) [SAAS]
6. You are more beautiful than the sons of men. Alleluia. (44:3) [SAAS]
7. Our God is in heaven above; and both in heaven and on earth, all things whatsoever He wills, He does. Alleluia. (113:11) [SAAS]
8. A man will say, "Mother Zion," and a man was born in her. Alleluia. (86:5) [SAAS]
9. O Lord, I will sing of Your mercies forever. Alleluia. (88:2) [SAAS]
10. I will proclaim Your truth with my mouth. Alleluia. (88:2) [SAAS]

11. I shall prepare your seed forever.

Alleluia. (88:5) [SAAS]

12. And I shall build your throne from generation to generation. Alleluia. (88:5) [SAAS]

13. His seed shall remain forever. Alleluia. (88:37) [SAAS]

14. And He shall rule from sea to sea. Alleluia. (71:8) [SAAS]

15. He shall call upon Me, saying, 'You are my Father, my God, and the protector of my salvation'. Alleluia. (88:27) [SAAS]

16. I shall make him, my firstborn, Higher than the kings of the earth. Alleluia. (88:28) [SAAS]

17. All the kings of the earth shall worship Him. Alleluia. (71:11) [SAAS]

18. Who is so great a God as our God? Only You are the God who does wonders. Alleluia. (76:14) [SAAS]

19. Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One. Alleluia. (44:4) [SAAS]

20. You shall shepherd them with an iron staff. Alleluia. (2:9) [SAAS]

21. The Lord at Your right hand crushed kings in the day of His wrath. Alleluia. (109:5) [SAAS]

22. Kings will bring gifts to You. Alleluia. (67:30) [SAAS]

23. I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star. Alleluia. (109:3) [SAAS]

24. You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Alleluia. (109:4) [SAAS]

25. The Lord said to Me, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." Alleluia. (2:7) [SAAS]

26. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance. Alleluia. (2:8) [SAAS]

27. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; Your royal scepter is a scepter of uprightness. Alleluia. (44:7) [SAAS]

28. You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Alleluia. (44:8) [SAAS]

29. Therefore God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. Alleluia. (44:8) [SAAS]

30. For You shall inherit all the Gentiles. Alleluia. (81:8) [SAAS]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**  
**Mode 1.**

Let us bow in worship and adore \* the Father; likewise let us glorify \* the Son; and also let us praise \* the all-holy Spirit faithfully, \* crying out in unison, \* "Save us all, we implore, all-holy Trinity."

Both now. **Theotokion.**  
**Mode 1.**

We Your people now invoke the name \* of Your holy Mother entreating for us. \* O Good One, at her fervent prayers, \* send to us Your tender mercies, O Christ, \* so that we may glorify \* You, the hope of our souls, O Lord.

**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 blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

## CHOIR

### Kathisma III.

From Menaion - - -

#### Mode 4. *Joseph marveled.*

He whom nothing can contain has been contained in a womb. \* He is in the Father's bosom and His Mother's embrace. \* How can this be, but as He knows and willed and was well pleased. \* Fleshless as He was, He willingly took flesh. \* And He Who Is became what He was not, for us. \* And while departing not from His own nature, \* He shared in our nature's substance. \* So Christ was born with dual natures, \* wishing to replenish the world on high. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

He whom nothing can contain has been contained in a womb. \* He is in the Father's bosom and His Mother's embrace. \* How can this be, but as He knows and willed and was well pleased. \* Fleshless as He was, He willingly took flesh. \* And He Who Is became what He was not, for us. \* And while departing not from His own nature, \* He shared in our nature's substance. \* So Christ was born with dual natures, \* wishing to replenish the world on high. [SD]

## Antiphon I.

### Mode 4.

Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Savior, nonetheless help me and save me. (2) [SD]

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2) [SD]

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad. [SD]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [SD]

### Prokeimenon. Psalm 109.

I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent. (2)

**Verse:** *The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make your enemies the footstool of Your feet."*

I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent. [SAAS]

## DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

## PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR**

Amen.

**Mode 2.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (2) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

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

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**PRIEST**

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**DEACON**

Let us be attentive.

*(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)*

**PRIEST (from the gate)**

**Mt. 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived

in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus. [RSV]

*(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)*

**READER**

**Psalm 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]

From Menaion - - -

## CHOIR

Glory. **Mode 2.**

All things are filled with joy today, for  
Christ is born from the Virgin. [SD]

Both now.

All things are filled with joy today, for  
Christ is born from the Virgin. [SD]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

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

Glory to God in the highest, and peace  
on earth. Today Bethlehem receives him who  
is ever seated with the Father. Today Angels  
glorify in a manner fitting God the babe that  
is born. Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, and good will among men. [SD]

## DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your  
inheritance. Look upon your world with  
mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox  
Christians in glory, and send down upon us  
your rich mercies, through the intercessions  
of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and  
ever-Virgin Mary, the power of the precious  
and life giving Cross, the protection of the  
honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the  
supplications of the honorable and glorious  
prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the  
holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our  
Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs  
and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great,  
Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom,  
Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful,  
patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop  
of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous,  
Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers;  
the holy, glorious great Martyrs George  
the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes,  
Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the  
General, Menas the Wonderworker, the  
Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios;  
the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs;  
the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable  
Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs  
Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine,  
Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene;  
of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (**local patron  
saint**); the holy and righteous ancestors of  
God Joachim and Anna, and of all your Saints.  
We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us  
sinners who pray to you and have mercy on  
us.

## CHOIR

Lord, have mercy. (12)

## PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love  
of mankind of your only-begotten Son, with  
whom you are blessed, together with your



all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

**CHOIR**

**Ode i.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

Christ is born; glorify Him! \* Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him. \* Christ is on earth; arise to Him. \* Sing to the Lord, all you who dwell on the earth; \* and in merry spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. \* For He is glorified. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Man was made in the image of God. \* Because of his transgression he tumbled down, \* and was to corruption wholly bound, \* falling from a divine, superior life. \* Now the wise Creator once again refashions Him. \* For He is glorified. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The Master Builder, seeing collapsed \* the man whom He constructed with His own hands, \* bowing the heavens now descends. \* And through a pure and holy Virgin unites \* wholly with his nature, having truly taken flesh. \* For He is glorified. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Christ our God, as the Father's Son, \* His wisdom, Logos, power and radiance, \* eluding the powers everywhere, \* extraterrestrial and those down on earth, \* and becoming human, has recovered us again. \* For He is glorified.

[SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion ---

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

Of old the Master who works wonders saved His people, / making the watery wave of the sea into dry land; / and now of His own will He has been born from a maiden: / He establishes a path for us to mount to heaven! // We glorify Him: equal in essence to the Father and to mortal men. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Plainly foreshadowed by the burning bush that was not consumed, / a hallowed womb has borne the Word. / God is mingled with the form of mortal men, / and so He looses the unhappy womb of Eve from the ancient, bitter curse. // Therefore we glorify Him! [OCA]

Glory.

Plainly foreshadowed by the burning bush that was not consumed, / a hallowed womb has borne the Word. / God is mingled with the form of mortal men, / and so He looses the unhappy womb of Eve from the ancient, bitter curse. // Therefore we glorify Him! [OCA]

Both now.

A star showed plainly to the Magi / the Word that was before the sun, who has come to make transgression cease. / They saw You, wrapped in swaddling clothes, within a poor and lowly cave, / for You share all our sufferings. // In joy they gazed upon You, who are at once both Man and Lord. [OCA]

**Katavasia**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

Christ is born; glorify Him! \* Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him. \* Christ is on earth; arise to Him. \* Sing to the Lord, all you who dwell on the earth; \* and in merry spirits, O you peoples, praise His birth. \* For He is glorified. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Working signs of old the Master saved the people, \* replacing fluid waves of the sea with dry land. \* Now born of a Maid by His own will, He has made \* passable a way to heaven. Him, in essence \* equal to mankind and the Father, we glorify. [SD]

**Ode iii.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

To the Son, begotten \* without flux, of the Father, before the ages, \* and who was lately made incarnate \* of the Virgin without seed; \* to Christ God now let us cry aloud: \* You have exalted the horn of our strength. Only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Made of dust was Adam, \* while enjoying superior insufflation. \* But through seduction by the woman, \* he slipped into corruption. \* Gazing at Christ born of woman, he cries: \* You who for me have become now like me, \* only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Through participation \* in inferior flesh, You, O Christ, did impart \* divine nature. And conforming \* to ignoble clay formation, \* You were born human and remained God, \* and

have exalted the horn of our strength. \* Only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Bethlehem, be merry, \* as the Queen of the rulers of Judah; for lo, \* Israel's shepherd who is seated \* on the Cherubim's shoulders, \* Christ who manifestly hails from you \* and who exalted the horn of our strength, \* has reigned as King over all. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion - - -

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

Benefactor, graciously accept, the praises of Your servants / and bring down the spiteful, haughty looks of the enemy. / Blessed Lord, who see all: / Raise us up far above sin, // and establish Your singers firm and unshaken upon the foundation of the faith. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The choir of shepherds abiding in the fields / was overwhelmed by the strange sight they were accounted worthy to behold: / for they looked upon the all-blessed offspring of an all-pure Bride; / and they saw also the ranks of bodiless angels, // who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed. [OCA]

Glory.

The choir of shepherds abiding in the fields / was overwhelmed by the strange sight they were accounted worthy to behold: / for they looked upon the all-blessed offspring of an all-pure Bride; / and they saw also the ranks of bodiless angels, // who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed. [OCA]

Both now.

In His compassion, the One who rules the heights of heaven / has become as we are, born

of a Maiden who has not known man./The Word who before was wholly outside matter,/ in these last times has assumed the material substance of the flesh//so that He might draw to Himself fallen Adam, the first-formed man.

[OCA]

**Katavasiae**  
**Canon I. Mode 1.**

To the Son, begotten \* without flux, of the Father, before the ages, \* and who was lately made incarnate \* of the Virgin without seed; \* to Christ God now let us cry aloud: \* You have exalted the horn of our strength. Only You are holy, O Lord. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Hearken, Benefactor, to the hymns of Your servants, \* and humble the arrogant contempt of the foe. \* Carry us Your musicians, all-seeing Master, \* high above all sin, immovably established \* firmly on the Faith's foundation, O Blessed One. [SD]

**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 you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy

Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

Mid-Ode Kathisma or Hypakoe  
From Menaion - - -

**READER**

**Hypakoe. Mode pl. 4.**

Heaven called the Magi by a star, and thus it brought the first-fruits of the Gentiles to You, the infant lying in the manger. And they were amazed, not by scepters and thrones, but by the utter poverty. For what is more shabby than a cave? And what is more humble than swaddling clothes? But it was through these that the riches of your divinity shone forth.

Lord, glory to You! [SD]

From Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Ode iv.**  
**Canon 1 of the Feast.**  
**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

Jesse's root produced a branch, O Christ, \* and You its flower blossomed forth, \* from the Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once was called \* overshadowed, dense mountain. \* From her who knew not man You came incarnate, \* the immaterial God. \* Glory to Your power, O Lord. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

O Christ, of whom Jacob once foretold, \* the expectation of the nations, \* from the tribe of Judah You arose and came to carry off \* the power of Damascus and spoils of Samaria, \* converting error into godly faith. \* Glory to Your power, O Lord. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

You rose out of Jacob as of old \* the seer Balaam foretold. \* And mystic scholars of

his oracles, those stargazers from the east,  
\* You, the Star, fulfilled with joy, \* the first  
importation from the Gentiles, \* O Master,  
whom You received \* bearing You acceptable  
gifts. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Like rain on a fleece did You descend,  
\* O Christ, into the virgin womb; \* and like  
raindrops falling down to earth, so did  
Ethiopians, \* and kings from Tarshish, the  
Isles of Arabia, \* Sheba, Persia and all the  
earth, O Savior, fall down to You. \* Glory to  
Your power, O Lord. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion - - -

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

Of old, Habakkuk the prophet was  
counted worthy / to behold ineffably the figure  
and symbol of Christ's birth, / and he foretold  
in song the renewal of mankind. / For a young  
Babe, even the Word, has now come forth  
from the mountain that is the Virgin, // for the  
renewal of the peoples. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Of Your own will, Most High, You have  
come forth equal to mortal men, / taking flesh  
from the Virgin, / to purge the poison of the  
serpent's head. / God by nature, You lead all //  
from the gates that know no sun to the life-  
giving light. [OCA]

Glory.

People that before were sunk in  
corruption, / but now have wholly escaped  
the perdition of the adversary, / lift up and  
clap your hands in songs of praise, / honoring  
Christ alone, our Benefactor, // Who in His  
compassion is come into our midst. [OCA]

Both now.

Sprung from the stem of Jesse, Holy  
Virgin, / you have passed beyond the  
boundaries of human nature, / for you have  
borne the pre-eternal Word of the Father, /  
according to His good pleasure, by a strange  
self-emptying, // He passed through your  
womb, yet kept it sealed. [OCA]

**Katavasias**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

Jesse's root produced a branch, O Christ, \*  
and You its flower blossomed forth, \* from the  
Virgin who by Habakkuk prophetically once  
was called \* overshadowed, dense mountain.  
\* From her who knew not man You came  
incarnate, \* the immaterial God. \* Glory to  
Your power, O Lord. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Prophet Habakkuk in his ode was  
foretelling \* mankind's remaking, when of old  
he was granted \* to see its type in a manner  
past expression: \* From the Virgin mountain  
as a newborn infant \* the Logos emerged, to  
refashion the peoples. [SD]

**Ode v.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

God of peace and Father of mercies,  
Your Son \* You have sent unto us as Your  
messenger, \* the Angel of great counsel who  
is granting peace. \* Therefore having been  
guided to the light of godly knowledge, \*  
waking from the night to dawn, we sing Your  
glory, O Lover of man. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Submitting to Caesar Augustus' decree,  
\* You, O Christ, were enrolled among your  
own slaves, \* and freed us from our slavery  
to the enemy and sin. \* Assuming our entire  
impoverished earthen nature, \* by this very  
union and communion You rendered it  
deified. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Submitting to Caesar Augustus' decree,  
\* You, O Christ, were enrolled among your  
own slaves, \* and freed us from our slavery  
to the enemy and sin. \* Assuming our entire  
impoverished earthen nature, \* by this very  
union and communion You rendered it  
deified. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

As Prophet Isaiah of old said, behold, \*  
has the Virgin conceived in the womb and  
borne \* God in human form, and yet remains  
a virgin still. \* In truth the Theotokos is  
she through whom we sinners \* have been  
reconciled to God. Come, let us praise her  
faithfully. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion - - -

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

From the night of deeds of dark error we  
watch in vigil, singing to You, Christ, as to our  
benefactor. Come to us and grant us cleansing:  
Make easy the path for us by which we may  
ascend and so attain to glory. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The Master, by His coming in the  
flesh, /has cut clean through the harsh enmity  
of the flesh against Him, /and has destroyed  
the might of the murderer of our souls. /

Uniting the world to the immaterial essences, //  
He has made the Father merciful to the  
creation. [OCA]

Glory.

The Master, by His coming in the  
flesh, /has cut clean through the harsh enmity  
of the flesh against Him, /and has destroyed  
the might of the murderer of our souls. /  
Uniting the world to the immaterial essences, //  
He has made the Father merciful to the  
creation. [OCA]

Both now.

The people that walked before in  
darkness /today have seen a light from the  
beacon on high. /The Son offers to God the  
nations as His inheritance, /bestowing grace  
past telling // where sin once flourished more  
abundantly. [OCA]

**Katavasias**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

God of peace and Father of mercies,  
Your Son \* You have sent unto us as Your  
messenger, \* the Angel of great counsel who  
is granting peace. \* Therefore having been  
guided to the light of godly knowledge, \*  
waking from the night to dawn, we sing Your  
glory, O Lover of man. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Would that You come, O Christ, to us who  
once were darkened \* by the night of works of  
error, but who offer \* hymns to You wakefully  
now, O Benefactor. \* Grant us forgiveness, and  
make easy the pathway. \* Ascending this path  
may we also find glory. [SD]



**Ode vi.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

From Menaion ---

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

Such as it received \* Jonah as an embryo,  
the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels  
intact. \* With the Virgin, though, when the  
Logos had dwelt in her taking on flesh, \*  
He came forth from her preserving her yet  
incorrupt. \* For from her no fluxion suffered  
He, \* and He kept her unaltered in childbirth.

[SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

He is come made flesh \* Christ our God,  
whom from the womb before the morning  
star does God the Father beget. \* He who rides  
upon the immaculate host of the heavenly  
minds \* now is laid in a manger of irrationals.  
\* He is wrapped in tattered swaddling clothes,  
\* but He looses transgressions' entangling  
bonds. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

He is come made flesh \* Christ our God,  
whom from the womb before the morning  
star does God the Father beget. \* He who rides  
upon the immaculate host of the heavenly  
minds \* now is laid in a manger of irrationals.  
\* He is wrapped in tattered swaddling clothes,  
\* but He looses transgressions' entangling  
bonds. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

For a child was born, \* a Son, from Adam's  
nature, and given unto those who believe in  
Him. \* Of the age to come He is Father and  
Prince, and His name has been called \* the  
Angel of Great Counsel. Mighty God is He; \*

wonderful Counselor, Prince of peace, \* and  
He governs creation with authority. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion ---

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

Enclosed in the farthest depths of the sea,/  
Jonah entreated You to come and still the  
storm./ And I, Christ, pricked by the dart of  
the tyrant,/ call upon You, the slayer of evil, //  
beseeching You to come quickly and deliver  
me from my slothfulness. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

God the Word, who was in the beginning  
with God,/ seeing our nature powerless to  
guard unharmed its ancient fellowship with  
Him,/ now grants it a new strength:/ abasing  
Himself, in a second act of fellowship// He  
makes it once again free from the passions. [OCA]

*Glory.*

God the Word, who was in the beginning  
with God,/ seeing our nature powerless to  
guard unharmed its ancient fellowship with  
Him,/ now grants it a new strength:/ abasing  
Himself, in a second act of fellowship// He  
makes it once again free from the passions. [OCA]

*Both now.*

For our sakes He has come forth from  
the loins of Abraham/ to raise up as His sons  
those who were sadly fallen in the darkness of  
sin/ that had bowed them down to the earth;/  
and He who dwells in light has now been  
pleased, despite His high dignity, // to dwell in  
a manger for the salvation of mankind. [OCA]

**Katavasias**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

Such as it received \* Jonah as an embryo,  
the sea beast disgorged him from its bowels



intact. \* With the Virgin, though, when the Logos had dwelt in her taking on flesh, \* He came forth from her preserving her yet incorrupt. \* For from her no fluxion suffered He, \* and He kept her unaltered in childbirth.

[SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Jonah, as he sat in the sea's deepest caverns, \* implored to come to You and out of the tempest. \* But as for me, by the tyrant's arrows wounded, \* I pray You, O Christ, the Destroyer of evil, \* come to me quicker than my soul's own indifference. [SD]

**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 You are the King of peace and the savior of our souls, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

From Menaion ---

**READER**

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 3. Automelon.**

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \*

earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. [SD]

**Oikos.**

Bethlehem has opened Eden. Come, let us see. We have found the hidden delight. Come, let us receive the things of Paradise inside the Cave. There, we shall see an unwatered root that blossomed forgiveness. There, we shall find an undug well, from which David of old desired to drink. There, the Virgin quenched the thirst of both Adam and David, when she gave birth to her baby. So let us go there now, where He was born a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. [SD]

**Synaxarion.**

From the Menaion.

On December 25 is the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi.

On this day we also commemorate the Shepherds who saw the Lord.

To Him be glory to the ages of ages.  
Amen.

**CHOIR**

From Menaion ---

**Ode vii.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

The Servants nurtured piously together, \* with contempt regarding the impious king's decree, \* intrepidly faced the threat of holocaust, \* and while standing in the midst of

flames they chanted thus, \* saying: O God of the fathers, You are blessed. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night \* witnessed an astonishing epiphany of light. \* For the glory of the Lord surrounded them, \* and an Angel shouted: Praise the Lord for Christ is born, \* and say, O God of the fathers, You are blessed. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

And suddenly, with the Angel a multitude \* of the host of heaven chanted, "Glory to God \* in the highest heaven and upon the earth, \* peace to all mankind by the eternal divine good will," \* and sang: "O God of the fathers, You are blessed." [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

"What can this be?" the shepherds said in wonder. \* "Let us go ourselves and witness this divine event." \* And coming to Bethlehem they worshipped Christ \* along with her who gave Him birth, and they chanted with joy, \* saying: "O God of the fathers, You are blessed." [SD]

### **Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion - - -

### **Heirmos Mode 1.**

Caught and held fast by love for the King of all, / the children despised the impious threats of the tyrant in his boundless fury: / And as the terrible fire withdrew before them, / they said to the Master: // Blessed are You throughout all the ages! [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The seething and roaring furnace, heated seven-fold, / burnt up the servants of the king

in its fury, / while it spared the children. / For as the flame encircled them, / the Lord, rewarding their godliness, // shed upon them abundant dew. [OCA]

*Glory.*

Using Your ineffable Incarnation as a shield, O Christ our Defender, / You have put mankind's adversary to shame. / Taking mankind's form, You grant him the joy of becoming divine: / For it was in this hope // that we fell of old from on high into the dark depths of the earth. [OCA]

*Both now.*

By Your almighty power You have overthrown the fierce sin / that raising its head in wanton pride, / raged blasphemously in a world gone mad / and those whom in times past it dragged down, / You have delivered today from its snares, Benefactor, // taking flesh of Your own will! [OCA]

### **Katavasias**

### **Canon I. Mode 1.**

The Servants nurtured piously together, \* with contempt regarding the impious king's decree, \* intrepidly faced the threat of holocaust, \* and while standing in the midst of flames they chanted thus, \* saying: O God of the fathers, You are blessed. [SD]

### **Iambic. Mode 1.**

As the three young men were ensnared by the longing \* for the King of all, hence they disdained the tyrant's \* impious chatter, though he was very angry. \* The infinite fire yielded to them, who uttered, \* Blessed are You, O Master, unto the ages. [SD]

**Ode viii.**

**Canon 1 of the Feast.**

From Menaion ---

**Heirmos. Mode 1.**

Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the image \* of an extraordinary wonder. \* For it did not burn the youths it accepted, \* nor did the fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb wherein it went. \* So let us melodiously chant in praise: \* Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, \* and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The daughter of Babylon drew into exile \* David's children as captives from Zion. \* In return, she sends her own captivated \* children, the three Magi bearing gifts, to court David's Daughter bearing God. \* So let us melodiously chant in praise: \* Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, \* and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Lamentation once suspended organ of song; \* for Zion's children would not sing in strange lands. \* Rising out of Bethlehem, Christ abolished \* all the error of Babylon, her symphony of music as well. \* So let us melodiously chant in praise: \* Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, \* and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [SD]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Babylon captured the spoils of war and riches \* from the Queen of the cities of Zion. \* Now from Zion, Christ captivates her treasures, \* namely her stargazing kings themselves, bedazzled by the bright guiding star. \* So let us melodiously chant in praise: \*

Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, \* and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion ---

**Heirmos Mode 1.**

The children of the old covenant who walked in the fire without being burned,/ prefigured the womb of the maiden that remained sealed/when she gave birth in fashion past nature./The same grace of God brought both these wonders to pass in a miracle//raising up the nations to sing in praise. [OCA]

*Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

Turning away from the guilt of its vain attempt to become as God,/the whole creation sings, like the three Children,/in praise of the eternal Word, who now empties Himself:/yet in trembling, fearing in its corruption to bring a prayer unacceptable to God,//although the divine wisdom ever maintains it in being. [OCA]

Glory.

Turning away from the guilt of its vain attempt to become as God,/the whole creation sings, like the three Children,/in praise of the eternal Word, who now empties Himself:/yet in trembling, fearing in its corruption to bring a prayer unacceptable to God,//although the divine wisdom ever maintains it in being. [OCA]

Both now.

You have come, Resurrection of the nations,/to bring back the wandering nature of mankind,/leading it from the hills of the wilderness to a pasture rich in flowers./As in Your providence You have appeared as Man and God,//destroy the violent strength of the murderer of mankind. [OCA]

**Katavasia**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the image \* of an extraordinary wonder. \* For it did not burn the youths it accepted, \* nor did the fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb wherein it went. \* So let us melodiously chant in praise: \* Let all creation bless and extol the Lord, \* and let it exalt Him supremely to the ages. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Standing in fire without burning, the young men \* did of old portray thus the womb of the Maiden. \* Remaining sealed, supernaturally it gave birth. \* Grace with a single miracle-working power \* did both, and rouses all the peoples to sing praise. [SD]

**DEACON**

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

**CHOIR**

From Menaion - - -

**Ode ix.**

**Canon I.**

**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.*

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. \* For, behold, the grotto is heaven; \* cherubic throne is the Virgin; \* the manger a grand space \* in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; \* Whom in extolling do we magnify. [SD]

**Troparia.**

*O my soul, magnify God who was born in the flesh from a Virgin.*

The wise men concluded from their observations of \* the extraordinary path of the peculiar nova which had lately \* appeared and was shining more brightly than anything in outer space, \* that Christ the King was born on earth, in Bethlehem to save our souls. [SD]

*O my soul, magnify the King who was born as an infant in the grotto.*

When Magi came saying: "Where is the newly born \* child King whose star has appeared? \* For we have come to adore Him \* with gold, myrrh and incense," \* then Herod, the enemy of God, was vexed, and madly incensed, \* fuming he plotted how to murder Christ. [SD]

*O my soul, magnify God who was worshiped by the Magi.*

Herod ascertained the exact time the star appeared; \* by the guidance of which the wise men \* with gifts in Bethlehem worshipped Christ; \* by Whom they were directed \* to go to their country by another way, \* abandoning that terrible, ridiculous infanticide. [SD]

**Iambic Canon.**

From Menaion - - -

**Iambic Canon.**

**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*Today the holy Virgin gives birth to the Master within the cave and grotto.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \*

give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. [SD]

*Today our Lord and Master is born as an infant; His Mother is a virgin.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \* give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. [SD]

Glory.

*O my soul, magnify the power of the Godhead, that is three hypostases and also undivided.*

We have clearly seen the obscure types and shadows \* fulfilled; and the light of the truth we perceive now, \* O pure Theotokos and Mother of the Logos \* who lately came forth from the gate that had been closed. \* Worthily we bless your womb, all-holy Virgin.

[SD]

Both now.

*O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us.*

Having been granted the longed-for experience \* of the Advent of God, the Christ-pleasing people \* tearfully prays to see the regeneration, \* the life-giving Baptism. All-pure and holy Virgin, \* grant us the favor, to venerate that glory. [SD]

**Katavasias**

**Canon I. Mode 1.**

*O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.*

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. \* For, behold, the grotto is heaven; \* cherubic throne is the Virgin; \* the manger

a grand space \* in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; \* Whom in extolling do we magnify. [SD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

*O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \* give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. [SD]

**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**

**Exaposteilarion.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 3. Automelon.**

Our Savior from on high \* the Orient from the East \* visited us who in the dark



\* and shadow hitherto had lain; \* now we have found the truth indeed. \* And this is so because from the Virgin the Lord is born. (3)

[SD]

### **Lauds. Mode 4.**

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, reproof 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 Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

### **Sticheron 1. Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.* [SAAS]

You righteous, be glad in heart; and the heavens, be exultant. Leap for joy, O mountains, at the birth of the Messiah. Resembling the Cherubim, the Virgin Maiden is seated and holds in her embraces God the Logos incarnate. The shepherds glorify the newborn Babe; Magi bring the Master their precious gifts. Angels are singing hymns of praise, and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." [SD]



**Sticheron 2. Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]*

The Father was well pleased; the Logos became flesh; and the Virgin gave birth to God who became man. A Star reveals Him; Magi bow in worship; Shepherds marvel, and creation rejoices. [SD]

**Sticheron 3. Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]*

O Virgin Theotokos who gave birth to the Savior, you reversed the curse to which Eve once was subject. For you have become the Mother of the Father's good pleasure, and you hold in your embraces God the Logos incarnate. The mystery admits no inquiry; we all glorify it by faith alone, and with you we cry aloud and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." [SD]

**Sticheron 4. Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]*

Come, let us extol and praise the Savior's Mother, who remained a virgin even after childbirth. Animate City of our King and God, rejoice, for Christ having dwelt in you has wrought our salvation. Together with Gabriel we sing your praise, together with the shepherds we glorify you, crying out, "Theotokos, intercede with the Lord, who is incarnate from you, to save us." [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

When the time came for Your Advent on earth, the first census of the Roman world was conducted. Then it was that You began to record the names of those who would believe in Your birth. Such a decree was published by Caesar, because the timelessness of Your eternal kingdom was revealed anew. And now, we in our turn, above and beyond a monetary tax, bring to You the wealth of Orthodox theology, O God and Savior of our souls. [SD]

*The [second] choir sings the following Idiomelon, up to the asterisk; then the first choir begins the Great Doxology, starting with the last verse of the Idiomelon: "Glory to God in the highest..."*

Both now.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

Today in Bethlehem, Christ is born of the Virgin. Today, the Unoriginate begins, and the Word becomes flesh. The hosts of heaven are rejoicing, and the earth and humanity are merry. The Magi bring their gifts. The Shepherds proclaim the marvel. And we unceasingly cry aloud: \* "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" [SD]

**Great Doxology**

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, 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 hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. 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.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

### 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]

### 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**

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.

**PRIEST**

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.)*

**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 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, 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.)*