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The Service of Vespers

on Thursday Evening

for Friday, December 20, 2019

Menaion - December 20

**Memory of the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer; and
Forefeast of the Birth of our Savior**

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - December 20

Memory of the Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer; and Forefeast of the Birth of our Savior

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 1.

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 - - -

Idiomelon. Mode 1.

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

Peoples, let us celebrate the forefeast of
the Nativity of Christ; and raising our minds,
let us be taken up in spirit to Bethlehem, and
let us contemplate with spiritual thoughts the
Virgin, who hastens to give birth in a Cave
to the Lord of all things and our God. Joseph,
as he contemplated the greatness of the
wonders, seemed to see a human, wrapped
in swaddling clothes like an infant; while he
understood from the things that came to pass
that he was the true God, who grants our
souls his great mercy. [EL]

Idiomelon. Mode 1.

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

Peoples, let us celebrate the forefeast of
the Nativity of Christ; and raising our minds,
let us be taken up in spirit to Bethlehem,
and let us contemplate the great mystery in
the Cave; for Eden has been opened, as God
comes forth from a pure Virgin, he who is
perfect in both divinity and humanity. And
so let us cry: Holy God, the Father without
beginning; Holy Strong, the incarnate Son;
Holy Immortal, the comforter Spirit. Holy
Trinity, glory to you! [EL]

Idiomelon. Mode 1.

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

Listen, O heaven, and give ear, O earth; for see, the Son and Word of God the Father goes forth to be born of a Maiden, who knows not man, by the good pleasure of him who begot him impassibly, and by the co-operation of the Holy Spirit. Bethlehem make ready, Eden open your gate; because the One who Is becomes what he was not, and the fashioner of all creation is being fashioned, he who grants the world his great mercy. [EL]

For the Saint.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. N/M (When you were called.)

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

Rightly are you called God-bearer: when the Master in his compassion took you in his arms, blessed Ignatios, as he revealed the doctrines of the true wisdom from the highest, then you received the beam with many lights, soaking up, like a sponge, the waters from the deep of enlightenments; and so you followed step by step Christ our God who called you. Implore him to save and enlighten our souls.

[EL]

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

Wounded with perfect love, when the whirlwind of affection set your soul aflame, most holy Father, urging you forward to go towards the Master, then you cried out that revered word, 'I am the Creator's wheat, and I must be completely ground by the teeth of

wild beasts, that I may appear as the purest bread for the Word, our God'. Implore him to save and enlighten our souls. [EL]

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

You were crucified with Christ, O Revealer of mysteries, when you cried aloud that inspired word, 'My love has been crucified, and I am pressing forward with speed to share in his suffering'. Therefore, blessed Ignatios, you set out like the sun from the East and sped towards the West, giving light, and you were adorned with a diadem of the Kingdom as you were brought to Christ. Implore him to save and enlighten our souls.

[EL]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4.

Godbearer Ignatios, you enfolded Christ your love in your embrace, and you received the reward of your priestly service of the Gospel: to be perfected through blood; and so, becoming wheat of the immortal husbandman, you were ground by the teeth of wild beasts and were revealed as sweet bread for him. Blessed Athlete, intercede on our behalf. [EL]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 4.

Bethlehem receive the Mother City of God; for she has come to give birth in you to the unwaning light. You Angels, marvel in heaven; mankind give glory upon earth, Magi from Persia bring your triple glorious gift, Shepherds abiding in the fields sing the thrice-

holy hymn. Let everything that has breath
praise the Maker of all. ^[EL]

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Prayer of the Entrance

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise,
bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of
all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer
before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to
words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that
hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord,
our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise.

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Mode 2.

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 pl. 2.

My help comes from the Lord, who made
heaven and earth. (2) ^[SAAS]

Verse: *I lifted my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall my help come?*

My help comes from the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.

DEACON

Let us all say with all our soul and with all
our mind, let us all say.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we
pray You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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.)

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.

Idiomelon 1. Mode 2.

Bethlehem, land of Judah, city according to the flesh, radiantly make ready the divine Cave, in which God comes to birth in flesh from a Holy Virgin who knows not man, to save our race. ^[EL]

Idiomelon 2. Mode 2.

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

Come, let us all faithfully celebrate the forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; and spiritually setting forth our hymn like a star, let us with the Shepherds shout aloud the Magis' hymn of glory, 'The salvation of mortals has come from a virgin womb, to call back believers'. ^[EL]

Idiomelon 3. Mode 2.

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

O House of Ephratha, * the city that is holy, * the glory of the Prophets, * prepare your house, for therein * the Virgin will give birth to God. ^[SD]

Glory. **For the Saint.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1.

How firm and adamant was your soul, most blessed Ignatios! For as you had an unyielding desire for your true lover, you said, 'There is in me no matter-loving fire, but rather living water, which speaks in me, and from within says to me: Come to the Father'; therefore, fired by the divine Spirit, you roused wild beasts to part you quickly from the world and send you to Christ the beloved; implore him that our souls may be saved. ^[EL]

Both now. **For the Forefeast.**

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

See, the time of our salvation has drawn near. Cave make ready, the Virgin is drawing near to give birth. Bethlehem, land of Judah, be

glad and rejoice, because from you our Lord has dawned. Listen, mountains and hills, and lands around Judea, because Christ is coming to save mankind whom he fashioned, for he loves mankind. ^[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 - - -

Three-ode Canon of the Forefeast

CHOIR

Ode i.

The Heirmos. Mode 2.

To the Lord who by his divine command dried up the pathless raging sea and guided the Israelite people through it on foot let us sing; for he has been greatly glorified. (2) ^[EL]

Glory.

The ineffable descent of the Word of God, that is of the God-man Christ, is made known; he did not think that to be God was robbery, but is coming having taken the form of a servant from a pure Maiden, Child of God. ^[EL]

Both now.

Christ comes willingly to serve the one whose form the fashioner now puts on. He enriches Adam in his penury with Godhead, granting him a strange refashioning and rebirth, as he is compassionate. ^[EL]

From Menaion - - -

Ode viii.

The Heirmos. Mode 2.

The unwearied fire, nurtured by limitless fuel shuddered at the unsullied body, close companion of the soul, of the docile youths, and gave way; while as the ever-living flame died down a hymn that lives for ever was being raised, 'Praise the Lord, all you his works, and highly exalt him to all the ages'. (2)

^[EL]

Glory.

I will make you all my kinsmen, if you keep my commandments, says Christ to mankind, as he comes from a pure womb. He gives them peace and now commands them to have lowly thoughts, to recognise him as Lord and chant: We highly exalt you to all the ages.

^[EL]

Both now.

O Word of God for you being given birth was the reverse of the order of the flesh; for it was not flesh and blood which sustained your holy flesh, but the presence of the Holy Spirit and the divine overshadowing of the Most High; and knowing you as Lord, we hymn and highly exalt you to all the ages. ^[EL]

From Menaion - - -

Ode ix.

The Heirmos. Mode 2.

You magnified the Mother of God who gave you birth, O Christ, from whom you our Fashioner put on a body with feelings like ours, the ransom of our faults. As all we generations call her blessed we magnify you.

(2) ^[EL]

Glory.

Rejecting all the stain of passion, let us take up as befits the coming of Christ a prudent disposition; for he is coming forth without stain to bear flesh and to grant to all divine refashioning through the Spirit. [EL]

Both now.

Looking to Christ, who humbles himself, let us be lifted up from the passions that seek the ground; with good zeal trained by faith not to think lofty things, let us be humbled in spirit; that by works which exalt we may exalt up the One who is being brought forth. [EL]

The Heirmos.

You magnified the Mother of God who gave you birth, O Christ, from whom you our Fashioner put on a body with feelings like ours, the ransom of our faults. As all we generations call her blessed we magnify you.

[EL]

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.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. [SD]

Glory. **For the Saint.**

Mode 4.

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Ignatius. Intercede with

Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls. [SD]

Both now.

Apolytikion. For the Forefeast.

From Menaion ---

Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image. [SD]

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, the holy and glorious hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer, whose memory we are observing; 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.)