

Menaion - December 20

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

LITURGY

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Antiphon I. Mode 2.

Verse 1: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 2: *To proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Verse 3: *The Lord my God is upright, and there is no wrongdoing in Him.* [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Antiphon II. Mode 2.

Verse 1: *The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty; the Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.* [SAAS]

or:

Verse 1: *Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord; let us shout aloud to God our savior.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 2: *And He established the world, which shall not be moved.* [SAAS]

or:

Verse 2: *Let us come before His face with thanksgiving, and let us shout aloud to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, a great King over all the earth.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Verse 3: *Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, unto length of days.* [SAAS]

or:

Verse 3: *For in His hand are the ends of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are His. For the sea is His, and He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.* [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

Antiphon III.

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]

An optional alternative to the Antiphons are the Typika (Psalms 102 and 145), and the Beatitudes with the appointed troparia, which are provided here.

Psalm 102.

Psalm 145.

The Beatitudes.

Mode 1.

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [RSV]

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [RSV]

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [RSV]

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. [RSV]

Canon for the Forefeast.

Ode iii. Mode 1. A stone... rejected. (NM)

From Menaion - - -

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. [RSV]

Isaias, knowing the incarnation of Christ by the Holy Spirit, clearly foretells it, 'The Lord is born as a Child from a Virgin for our rebirth, whose government is upon his shoulder'. [EL]

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [RSV]

Isaias, knowing the incarnation of Christ by the Holy Spirit, clearly foretells it, 'The Lord is born as a Child from a Virgin for our rebirth, whose government is upon his shoulder'. [EL]

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [RSV]

A Star has already dawned from the tribe of Juda; knowing which Kings of the East are moving and hastening to arrive that they may contemplate Christ, who is being brought to birth in Bethlehem. [EL]

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [RSV]

Let all creation sing out a prefestal hymn to the One who was begotten of the Father before the morning star, now shines ineffably from the Virgin and in the flesh is being brought to birth in Bethlehem through his great compassion. [EL]

Canon for the Forefeast.

From Menaion - - -

Ode vi. Mode 1. I imitate the Prophet. (NM)

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [for my sake]. [RSV]

Heaven upon earth shows to the Astrologers through a shining star the heavenly King now being brought to birth for our sake in the city of David. [EL]

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. [RSV]

Heaven upon earth shows to the Astrologers through a shining star the heavenly King now being brought to birth for our sake in the city of David. [EL]

Glory.

The Prophet preaches and clearly cries, 'You house of Ephratha, Bethlehem, in which

God will appear from the Virgin, leap for joy
and dance'. [EL]

Both now.

In a Cave of Bethlehem a Maiden clearly
gives birth to God the Maker of the universe
and wraps him as a mortal in swaddling
clothes and lays him in a manger. [EL]

Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who are wondrous in Your saints. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Hymns After the Small Entrance.

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]

Apolytikion. 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]

Apolytikion of the Parish Church

(The text of the Apolytikion of the local church goes here.)

From Menaion ---

Kontakion.

Mode 3. Automelon.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word

* in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God. [SD]

THE TRISAGION HYMN

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3) [GOA]

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.

The Epistle

For the Saint.

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 115.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His holy one. [SAAS]

Verse: *What shall I give back to the Lord for all He rendered to me?* [SAAS]

Heb. 10:32-38

Brethren, recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. "For yet a little while, and

the coming one shall come and shall not tarry;
but my righteous one shall live by faith." [RSV]

Alleluia. Mode 1. Psalm 131.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 1: *O Lord, Your priests shall clothe
themselves in righteousness.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 2: *For the Lord has chosen Zion.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel

For the Saint.

Mk. 9:33-41

At that time, Jesus and his disciples came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward." [RSV]

Hymn to the Theotokos.

It is truly right to bless you, Theotokos, ever blessed, most pure, and Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Logos. We magnify you, the true Theotokos. [GOA]

Communion Hymn. Psalm 73.

You worked salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ our God. Alleluia. [SAAS]

Hymn after Holy Communion.

Mode 2.

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

THE DISMISSAL

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.

Fasting Rule

Wine: Wine and oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, and eggs.

It is a minor feast.