

ORDER OF THE GREAT HOURS OF THE NATIVITY

The service of the Great Hours is celebrated on the morning of the Paramon of the Feast; and if the Feast falls on a Sunday or a Monday, then the Royal Hours are celebrated on Friday morning.

PLEASE NOTE: The Troparion of the Hours to be sung is "And it came to pass that Mary was enrolled," as on page 99b on this book. However, when the Feast falls on a Sunday or Monday, and the Royal Hours are celebrated on Friday morning, then the Troparion to be sung is "Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened for all," as on page 98 of this book.

FIRST HOUR

After "Blessed be God," "Holy God," and "O come, let us worship" three (3) times, recite Psalm 5, "Give ear, O Lord," on page 68 in the Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar.

Then recite Psalm 44, "My heart hath uttered a good work," on page 372 in Nassar.

Then recited Psalm 45, "Our God is our refuge and our strength," on page 374 in Nassar.

"Glory and Both now"; "Alleluia" three (3) times; "Glory to thee, O God"; "Lord have mercy" three (3) times. "Glory" and the Troparion, as on page 99b or 117 of this book: "And it came to pass that Mary was enrolled."

Now sing To Our Lady on page 111 of this book: "What shall we call thee, O full of grace".

Then pages 112 through 115 of this book, the Idiomela in Tone 8.

Then follow the Nassar Book from page 378 to the conclusion of the First Hour.

Glory: (Sing Troparion: "And it came to pass," page 99b of this book.)
Both Now: (Sing the following in Tone 4.)

Ison

What shall we call thee, O full of grace? Shall we call thee
heav-en be - cause thou didst give rise to the
Sun of right-eous - ness? Or, shall we call thee par - a - dise be - cause
thou didst bring forth the Flow'r of in - cor - rup - tion?
Or a Vir - gin be - cause thou didst re - main with - out de -
file - ment? Or a pure Moth - er be - cause
thou didst car - ry in thy ho - ly arms as a son the God of
all? There-fore, plead with him that he may save our souls.

Idiomelon Tone 8

Pre - pare, O Beth - le - hem, and let the man - ger make
read - y and the cave re - ceive; for

truth ____ hath ____ come, and shad - - - ow ____ hath
 passed. And God hath ap-peared to man - kind from the
 Vir - - - gin, tak - ing our____ like - - ness and
 de - i - fy - - ing our
 na - - - ture. Where - fore, Ad - - am and Eve are made -
 new, cry - ing, Good-will hath ap - peared ____ on earth to
 save ____ our ____ race.

Stichos 1 Tone 3

God com - eth from ____ Ti - man.

Idiomelon

Now, hath come the time for thē a - fore - said proph - e - cy
 mys - tic' - ly ut - tered to be ful - filled, name - ly, And thou

Beth - le - hem in the land of Ju - - - dah art not the
least a - mong prin - - - ces,
hav - ing gone be - fore and pre - pared the cave; for
out of thee shall come a Gov - er - nor of na - - tions,
from the Vir - gin Maid - en in - car - nate, by whom I mean
Christ God who shall gov - ern his peo - ple, the
new Is - ra - el. Let us there - fore
raise un - to him mag - ni - fi - ca - tion.

Glory Tone 8

Glo - ry to the Fa - - ther and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Spir - it. Both now and ev - - er, and un - to
a - - - ges of a - - - ges. A - - men.

Slow

Thus sa - ith Jo - seph to the Vir - gin: What __ is this thing, O
Mar - y, that I be - hold in thee. Ver - i - ly, I am sur -
- prised and per - plexed, and my mind is daz - zled.
Where - fore, hence - forth from this mo - ment be thou ____ se -
- clud - ed in se - cret. What is this mat - ter, O
Mar - y, that I ____ be - hold in thee? For thou hast giv - en
me in - stead of hon - our, dis - grace; and in - stead of glad - ness, sor -
- row; and in - stead of being ex - tolled, thou ____ hast brought _____.
me ____ blame. There - fore, I can - not bear the re -
- proach ____ of men, from the Tem - ple of the Lord I took ____.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, common time, and Tone 4. The lyrics are as follows:

thee; from the priests I re - ceived thee as
in - no - cent of all blame. What then is this
thing I be - - - hold?

We now continue with the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy, in the 4th Tone, as on the bottom of page 375 of the Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar, followed by the Old and New Testament readings on pages 376-378. After the Gospel, the Reader says "Order my steps..." and continues with Holy God. Then the Kontakion of the Forefeast is sung, as on page 76 of this book, followed by "Lord, have mercy (40x)..." and the rest of the First Hour.

After "O come, let us worship" three (3) times, recite the following Psalms:

PSALM 66: "May God have mercy upon us and bless us," page 378 of Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar.

PSALM 86: "The foundations thereof are in the holy mountains," page 379 of Nassar.

PSALM 50: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great mercy," Page 82 of Nassar.

"Glory and Both now"; "Alleluia" three (3) times; "Glory to thee, O God"; "Lord have mercy" three (3) times. "Glory" and the Troparion as on page 99b or 117 of this book: "And it came to pass that Mary was enrolled...".

Then "Both now" and "Thou art the true vine," on page 118. Continue with the Idiomela from pages 118 to 122, and then with the rest of the service, following Nassar on page 380.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Special Melody: *Joseph was amazed**

Arr. by Christopher Holwey, from the
arrangement by Abdo Elias,
Protopsaltis of the Archdiocese
of Mt. Lebanon (20th century)

And it came to pass that Mar - y was en - rolled with
Jo - seph the old man, in Beth - le - hem, since she was of the
seed of Da - - - vid, and was great with the
Lamb, with - out seed. And when the time for de - liv'ry drew
near, and they had no place in the vil - lage, the
cave did ap - pear to the
queen as a de - light - ful pal - - - ace. Ver - i - ly,
Christ shall be born, rais - ing the
like - ness that fell of old.

*Please Note: This is the correct tone to be used for this particular hymn, which is different than how Kazan did it.

Reader: Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou art the true vine, O The-o-to-kos, bear-ing the

Fruit of life. Thee do we im-plore.

Where-fore, O La-dy, in-ter-cede thou to -

- geth-er with the A-pos-tles and the saints,

for the sal-va-tion of our souls.

Idiomela, Tone 6

This is our God, be-side whom none oth-er

may be con-sid-ered. He it was who was born of the

Vir-gin and went a-bout a-mong men,

the on-ly Son, be-held as a man

placed in a mean-man - - ger, the Lord

of the house wrapped in swad - - dling
clothes. And the star point - eth for the Ma - gi to
wor - ship him; and we sing shout - ing, O
Trin - i - ty, save our souls.

Stichos, Tone 8

Lord, thy hear - ing have I heard.

Idiomelon

When the su - per - sen - sus - al hosts be - held thy
mys - ter - y be - fore thy Birth, O Lord,
they were struck with sur - prise; for thou, who
didst a - dond the heav - ens with stars, wast pleased to be -
- come like a babe, and lie in a man - - ger

for _____ beasts, O thou Al - might - y One in whose

grasp____ are____ all the re - gions of the earth; and by____ thy__

dis - pen - sa - tion thy com - pas - sion was made

known, O Christ, and thy__ Great_ Mer - - - cy.

Where - - - fore, glo - ry____ to____ thee.

Glory/Both Now - Tone 3, Slow

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Spir - it. Both now and ev - er, and un - to
a - - - ges of a - - - ges. A - - men.

Tell us, O Jo - seph, how__ it is that__ thou dost bring the
Vir - gin whom thou__ didst re - ceive from the ho - ly
plac - es to Beth - le - hem great_____ with child? And
he re - pli-eth, say - ing, I have searched the Proph - ets,
and it was re-vealed to me__ by the an - - - - gel__
There - fore, I am con - vinced that Mar - - y shall

give birth in an in - ex - plic - a - ble man - ner to
God, whom Ma - gi from thē east shall come to wor - ship and to
serve with pre - - - cious gifts.
Where - fore, O thou who wast in - car - nate for
our sakes, glo - - - ry to thee.

We now continue with the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy, in the 4th Tone, as on the bottom of page 380 of the Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar, followed by the Old and New Testament readings on pages 380-383. After the Gospel, the Reader says "Blessed is the Lord God ..." and continues with Holy God. Then the Kontakion of the Forefeast is sung, as on page 76 of this book, followed by "Lord, have mercy (40x)..." and the rest of the Third Hour.

After "O come, let us worship" three (3) times, recite the following Psalms:

PSALMS 71: "Give to the king thy judgment, O God," on page 383 of Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar.

PSALM 131: "O Lord, remember David, and all his meekness," on page 384 of Nassar.

PSALM 90: "He who dwelleth in the aid of the most High," on page 385 of Nassar.

"Glory and Both now"; "Alleluia" three (3) times; "Glory to thee, O God"; "Lord have mercy" three (3) times; "Glory" and the Troparion, as on page 99b or 117 of this book: "And it came to pass that Mary was enrolled...".

Then the following pages, "Both now and ever," and "For verily, we have no favor for the multitude of our sins," on page 124 of this book, and continue with the Idiomela from pages 125-129, and then with the rest of the service, following Nassar on page 388-391.

Tone 4

Reader: Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

For ver - i - ly, we have no fa - - vor for the
mul - ti - tude of our sins. There - fore, O Vir - gin The - o - -
- to - kos, plead with him that was born _____ of
thee; for the plead - ings of the Moth - er are
ver - y ef - fec - tive in seek - ing the fa - vour of the
Mas - ter. Turn thou____ not a - way,
there - fore, from the plead - ings of sin - ners, O most_
ven - er - a - ble one; for he who was
will - ing to suf - fer for our sins is
mer - ci - ful and a - ble to save____ us.

Tone 1

Come, ye believ - ers, let us as - cend in a di - vine __
man - ner and be - hold a di - vine con - de -
- scen - - - sion, re - vealed to us from on high,__
o - pen - ly in Beth - - - - le - hem.
And hav - ing pur - i - fied our minds by good __
con - duct, let us of - fer vir - - tues in -
- stead ____ of frank - in - cense. Let us go be -
- fore and pre - pare with faith en - tranc - es for the Na -
- tiv - i - ty a - mong the spir - it - ual trea - - - sures,
cry - ing, Glo - ry in the high - est to God __
the One in Trin - i - ty, through whom good - will ap -

Musical notation for the first section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring three staves of music with corresponding lyrics.

- peared a - mong__ men__ to de - liv - er Ad - am from thē
an - cient curse; for he is the
Lov - - - er of man - - - kind.

Stichos, Tone 4

Musical notation for the Stichos, Tone 4, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

God____ com - - - eth from Ti - - - man.

Idiomelon

Musical notation for the Idiomelon, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

Lis - - ten, O heav - - en, and give ear,____ O earth.

Musical notation for the second section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

Let____ the foun - - da - tions shake, and let trem - bling fall on

Musical notation for the third section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

all be - low the earth; for God hath

Musical notation for the fourth section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

dwellt in a cre - - a - - tion of flesh; and

Musical notation for the fifth section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

he____ who____ made cre - - a - - tion with a pre - cious hand is

Musical notation for the sixth section of the Hours of the Nativity, featuring one staff of music with corresponding lyrics.

seen____ in the womb of a cre - - at - ed one. O the depth____ of the

rich - es and wis - dom and knowl - edge of
God! How un - search - a - ble are his judge - ments, and his
ways____ past____ find - - - ing out.

Tone 5

Glo - ry to__ the_ Fa - - ther and to__ the__
Son and to the Ho - ly__ Spir - - - it.
Both__ now and ev - - er, and un - to a - ges of
a - - - ges.____ A - - - men.

Come, ye na - tions that have put on Christ, let
us be - hold a won - der that o - ver - tak - eth all
minds with a - ston - ish - ment; and as we
kneel down in true wor - - - ship, let us give
praise in faith; for the Maid - en,
hav - ing con - ceived, com - eth to - day to Beth - le - hem, to give
birth to the Lord.. The ranks of
an - gels has - ten, and Jo - seph, see - ing these_ things,
shout - ed, cry - - - ing, What is this strange
mys - t'ry that hath be - fall - en thee, O

Vir - - - - - gin?
 And how _____ shalt thou
 give _____ birth, O heif - - - - -
 - er that hath _____ not known _____ wed -
 - lock?

We now continue with the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy, in the 8th Tone, as on the top of page 388 of the Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar, followed by the Old and New Testament readings on pages 388-390. After the Gospel, the Reader says "Swiftly let thy compassion ..." and continues with Holy God. Then the Kontakion of the Forefeast is sung, as on page 76 of this book, followed by "Lord, have mercy (40x)..." and the rest of the Sixth Hour.

After "O come, let us worship" three (3) times, recite the following Psalms:

PSALM 109: "The Lord said to my Lord: Sit thou at my right hand," on page 391 of Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar.

PSALM 110: "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart," on page 392 of Nassar.

PSALM 85: "Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear me," on page 59 of Nassar.

"Glory and Both now"; "Alleluia" three (3) times; "Glory to thee, O God"; "Lord have mercy" three (3) times; "Glory" and the Troparion, as on page 99b or 117 of this book: "And it came to pass that Mary was enrolled...".

Then the Reader chants "Both now and ever," and continues with "Thou who for our sake," in Tone 8, as on page 31 in the Byzantine Matins Project by Kazan.

Then continue with the two Idiomela on pages 131-133 of this book. Then chant Glory/Both Now in Tone 6, and "Today is born of the Virgin," as on pages 134-137 of this book.

Conclude with the rest of the Ninth Hour and Typika as on pages 393-396 of Nassar.

Idiomelon 1

Ver - i - ly, Her - od was o - ver - tak - en by a -
 - ston - ish - ment when he saw the pi - e - ty of the
 Ma - gi. And hav - ing been o - ver - rid - den with
 wrath, he be - gan to in - quire of them a - bout the time.
 He robbed the moth - ers of their child - ren and
 ruth - less - y reaped the ten - der bod - ies of the
 babes. And the breasts____ dried____ up, and the
 springs of____ milk____ failed. Great____ then
 was____ the ca - lam - i - ty. Where - - fore, be'ng
 gath - ered, O be - liev - ers, in____ true wor - - ship, let

us a - dore the Na - tiv - i - ty of Christ.

Stichos, Tone 2

God com - - - eth from Ti - - - man.

Idiomelon

As Jo - - seph was go - ing his way to Beth - le - hem__

pierced with sad - - ness, thou didst cry__ un - to him, O

Vir - - - gin, say - ing, Why____ frown - est

thou and art trou - - - bled when thou__

seest__ me__ great__ with__ child, com - plete - ly__

ig - no - rant of the ter - - ri - ble mys - ter - y__ that__

is in__ me? Drive a - - way from thee all dis -

- may, com - pre - hend - - - ing the strange__

mat - ter; for God, for his____ mer-cy's sake, hath de -
- scend - ed to earth and hath now ta - ken flesh____
in my____ womb and thou____ shalt see him____
born, as it pleased____ him, and thou____ shalt be filled with
joy and wor - - - ship him;— for he is
thy____ Cre - - - a - - - - tor,
whom the an - gels praise cease - less - ly and glo - ri - fy, with the
Fa - - - - ther and the Ho - - ly____ Spir - - - - it.

Slowly

Read: "Glory to the Father and to the Son... Both now and ever..."

To - day is born ____ of the Vir - - - - gin

him who hold - est all cre - a - - - - tion

1, 2. 3.

in the hol - low of his ____ hand. in the hol - low of his hand.

He whose es - sence is un - touch - - - a - ble

is wrapped _____ in swad - dling clothes as a babe.

The God who from of old _____

es - tab - lished the heav - - - - ens li - eth in a man - ger.

He who show - ered the peo - ple with man - na in the

wild - er - ness feed - eth on milk from the breasts.

And the bride - groom of the Church call - eth the Ma - gi.

And the Son of the Vir - - - gin ac - cept - eth gifts from them.

We wor - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ.

We wor - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ.

We wor - - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ.

Another version

Glo - - - ry to the Fa - - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - - ly

Spir - - - it.

Both - now - and - ev - er, and un - to

a - ges of a - ges. A - - - men.

The musical notation consists of ten staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The notes are primarily quarter notes with various slurs and grace notes. The lyrics are written below each staff.

To - day is born— of the Vir - gin him who—
hold-est all cre - a - tion in the hol - low of his hand.
He whose es - sencse is un - touch-a - ble is wrapped— in
swad - dling clothes as— a— babe. The
God who from of old es - tab - lished the heav - - - ens
li - eth in a man - - - - ger.
He— who show - ered the peo - - ple with
man - na in the wild - er - ness feed - eth on milk from the
breasts. And the bride - groom of the Church
call - eth the Ma - gi. And the Son— of— the

Vir - gin ac - cept - eth gifts from them.

We wor - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ. We

wor - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ. We

wor - ship thy Na - tiv - i - ty, O

Christ.

We now continue with the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy, in the 4th Tone, as on the bottom of page 393 of the Divine Prayers and Services by Nassar, followed by the Old and New Testament readings on pages 394-395. After the Gospel, the Reader says "Forsake us not utterly, ..." and continues with Holy God. Then the Kontakion of the Forefeast is sung, as on page 76 of this book, followed by "Lord, have mercy (40x)..." and the rest of the Ninth Hour and Typika on page 395-396 of Nassar..