#### **DECEMBER 25**

# The Nativity according to the Flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ Great Compline

(Following "God is with us," we sing the following)

#### Tone 8

The <u>day</u> is over; I <u>thank</u> You, O Lord! Grant me to pass this evening and this <u>night</u> without sin,//and save me, O Savior!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

The <u>day</u> is over; I glorify You, O <u>Mas</u>ter! Grant me to pass this evening and this night without <u>giv</u>ing offense,//and save me, O <u>Sav</u>ior!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The <u>day</u> is over; I sing to You, O <u>Ho</u>ly One! Grant me to pass this evening and this night free from temp<u>ta</u>tion,//and save me, O <u>Sav</u>ior!

#### Tone 6

The bodiless Cherubim glorify You with never-<u>end</u>ing songs. The six-winged Seraphim exalt You with ceaseless <u>voices</u>. All the hosts of Angels honor You with the <u>thrice</u>-holy hymn. For You, O Father, are from all eternity, with Your co-e<u>ter</u>nal Son, and with the Spirit of life, Who is <u>equal</u> to You;// You have revealed the unity of the <u>Trin</u>ity.

O most-holy Virgin and Mother of God, and you eye-witnesses and servants of the Word, all you choirs of prophets and martyrs, who enjoy eternal life, fervently pray for us all, who are in fearful distress, that we may be delivered from the deceit of the Evil One, so that we may sing the song of the Angels: Holy, holy, holy, Thrice-holy Lord,// have mercy on us and save us!

# (after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trisagion) Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O <u>Christ</u> our God, has shone to the world the light of <u>wis</u>dom! For by it, those who <u>wor</u>shipped the stars, were taught by a star to a<u>dore</u> You, the Sun of <u>Right</u>eousness, and to know You, the <u>Or</u>ient from on high.// O Lord, glory to You!

#### (after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Trisagion) Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.

<u>Angels</u> with shepherds <u>glo</u>rify Him;

The Wise Men <u>journey</u> with the star,//
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

# Litya

## **Tone 1** *(by John the Monk)*

Make <u>merry</u>, O heaven and earth, as the <u>Proph</u>ets foretold! Celebrate in the spirit, O <u>Ang</u>els and men! <u>God</u> is born from a woman and appears in the flesh to those who sit in <u>darkness</u> and <u>shadow</u>. A <u>cave</u> and a manger <u>wel</u>come Him. Shepherds announce the <u>won</u>der. <u>Wise</u> Men from the East offer gifts in <u>Beth</u>lehem. Let us from our unworthy lips offer <u>praise</u> like the <u>Ang</u>els: "<u>Glory</u> to God in the highest, and on <u>earth</u> peace!" The Expectation of the <u>Na</u>tions has come.//

To<u>day</u> heaven and earth are united, for <u>Christ</u> is born.

Today God has come to earth, and man ascends to <u>heaven</u>.

To<u>day</u> God, Who by nature can<u>not</u> be seen,
is <u>seen</u> in the <u>flesh</u> for our sake.

Let us <u>glo</u>rify Him, <u>cry</u>ing:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on <u>earth</u> peace!

Your <u>com</u>ing has brought <u>peace</u> to us.//
Glory to You, O our Savior!"

"Glory to God in the highest,"
I hear the Angels sing today in Bethlehem.
Glory to Him Whose good pleasure it was that peace should come upon earth.
The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens.
Light has shone on those in darkness; it has exalted the lowly, who sing like the Angels://
"Glory to God in the highest!"

Man was created in God's image and likeness, but when Jesus saw him fallen through transgression, He bowed the heavens and came down, dwelling in a Virgin's womb, without forsaking His divinity.

Adam, once corrupted, was refashioned.

He cried out: "Glory to Your appearing,//
O my Redeemer and my God!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

#### Tone 5 (by John the Monk)

The <u>Wise</u> Men, kings from <u>Per</u>sia, perceived with<u>out</u> any doubt that You were <u>born</u> on earth, O <u>Heav</u>enly King. <u>Drawn</u> by the light of a star, they hurried to <u>Beth</u>lehem. They offered You acceptable gifts: gold, myrrh, and <u>frank</u>incense.

They fell <u>down</u> before You and <u>wor</u>shipped You, seeing You, the <u>Time</u>less One,//

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# Tone 6 (by Germanus)

All the Angels in heaven make merry and <u>dance</u> today. All creation <u>leaps</u> for joy. The Lord and Savior is born in <u>Beth</u>lehem. Every deception of idols is <u>swept</u> away,// and Christ reigns unto all ages.

## **Aposticha**

#### Tone 2 (by Germanos)

A great and wondrous mystery un<u>folds</u> today. A Virgin gives birth and remains a <u>virgin</u>. The <u>Word</u> is made flesh without leaving His <u>Fa</u>ther. Angels and shepherds <u>glo</u>rify Him. Let us <u>join</u> in their song:// "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace!"

V. The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool!" (Ps. 109:1)

#### **Tone 3** *(by Germanos)*

Today the Virgin gives birth to the <u>Maker of all</u>. Eden <u>offers a cave</u>. To those in darkness, a star reveals <u>Christ</u>, the Sun. Wise Men are enlightened by faith and <u>wor</u>ship with gifts. Shepherds behold the wonder, and the <u>Angels sing://</u> "Glory to God in the highest!"

V. Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. (Ps. 109:4a)

# Tone 3 (by Anatolius)

When Jesus the Lord was born in Bethlehem of <u>Ju</u>dah, Wise Men came from the East to worship <u>God</u> made man. Eagerly opening their <u>treas</u>ures, they offered precious <u>gifts</u> to Him: purest gold for the King of the <u>ages</u>; frankincense, for the <u>God</u> of all; myrrh, for the <u>Immortal One</u>, as though He were <u>dead</u> three days. Come, all you nations, let us <u>wor</u>ship Him!// He is <u>born</u> to <u>save</u> our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

## **Tone 4** *(by John the Monk)*

Sing, O Je<u>ru</u>salem!

Make merry, all who love **Zion!** 

Today Adam's ancient bonds are broken.

Paradise is opened to us.

The <u>serpent</u> is <u>cast</u> down.

Long ago our first mother was deceived by him.

Now he sees a woman become mother of the Creator.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

Through Eve, woman became the <u>tool</u> of sin,

bringing death to all flesh,

but through Mary, she becomes the first-fruits of sal<u>va</u>tion for <u>all</u> the world, for God, the All-perfect, is <u>born</u> of her.

By His birth He seals her virginity.

He is bound in swaddling clothes to loose the bonds of sin.

Through His birth, the pains of Eve are healed.

Let all creation sing and dance for joy,//

for Christ has come to restore it and to save our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# **Tone 4** *(by Anatolius)*

You have dwelt in a cave, O <u>Christ</u> our God; a manger <u>wel</u>comed You; <u>shep</u>herds and Wise Men <u>wor</u>shipped You. Then were the words of the <u>Proph</u>ets fulfilled, and the hosts of Angels <u>mar</u>veled and cried:// "Glory to Your condescension, O only <u>Lov</u>er of Man!"

# Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O <u>Christ</u> our God, has shone to the world the light of <u>wis</u>dom! For by it, those who <u>wor</u>shipped the stars, were taught by a star to a<u>dore</u> You, the Sun of <u>Right</u>eousness, and to know You, the <u>Or</u>ient from on high.// O Lord, <u>glo</u>ry to You! (thrice)

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, ("The Services of Christmas", 1981).