

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

TONE 4

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday After the Nativity; Holy Righteous Ones:  
Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Your sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!*

**Tone 4**     *(for the Resurrection)*

We glorify Your Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,  
by always honoring Your life-creating Cross;  
by it, You have renewed the corrupted nature of man,  
O almighty One.  
By it, You have renewed our entrance to heaven,//  
for You are good and the Lover of man.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*

You loosed the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Savior,  
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.  
By descending to hell, O almighty God,  
You broke the bonds of death.  
Therefore, we adore Your Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://  
"Glory to You, O all powerful Lord!"

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

You smashed the gates of hell, O Lord,  
and by Your death You demolished the kingdom of death.  
You delivered the race of men from corruption,//  
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

*v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 2**      *(for the Feast, by Germanus)*

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
as we sing of this present mystery:  
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;  
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;  
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;  
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,  
now feast on the delights of Paradise:  
for today the Father's perfect Image,  
marked with the stamp of His eternity,  
has taken the form of a servant.  
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;  
He was true God, and He remains the same,  
but through His love for mankind,  
He has become what He never was: true man.  
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://  
"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

*(by Anatolius)*

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,  
the whole universe was filled with light.  
The shepherds watched in the fields.  
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.  
But Herod was troubled,  
for God had appeared in the flesh.//  
He is the Savior of our souls.

*v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.  
Your rule is from age to age.  
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,  
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,  
You have filled all creation with joy.

The light of Your coming has shone on us;  
every living creature praises You,  
the Image of the Father's glory.  
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,  
the same yesterday, today, and forever,  
You have shone forth from the Virgin.//  
O God, have mercy on us!

*V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel  
hope on the Lord!*

What shall we offer You, O Christ,  
Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?  
Every creature made by You offers You thanks:  
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;  
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;  
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,  
and we offer You a virgin Mother!//  
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

*V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and  
He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 1**      *(for King David)*      *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God,  
for from him came the virgin stem;  
from this stem blossomed the Flower - Christ.  
Delivered from corruption, Adam and Eve cry out to Him,//  
for He is compassionate.

*V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

**Tone 1**      *(for St. Joseph)*      *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

In his old age Joseph the Betrothed clearly saw the prophecies fulfilled.  
He was given a mysterious command,  
but he received enlightenment from the Angels who cried out://  
"Glory to God, for He has granted peace to the world!"

*V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

**Tone 1**      *(for St. James)*      *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord!  
He is a bishop and also a courageous martyr.  
Therefore, O Jesus,  
God wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave and manger,//  
through his prayers save those who praise You!

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

**Tone 6**      *(for the Righteous Ones)*

Let us celebrate the memory of the God-fearing David and James:  
one was the Prophet King,  
and the other - an Apostle and the first bishop.  
Since we have been saved from error by their teachings,//  
let us glorify Christ, Who shone forth from the Virgin and took on flesh//  
in order to save our souls!

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

**Tone 4**      *(Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord  
through you, O Virgin.  
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonder in you:  
“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”  
Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,  
since God was freely born of her without a father.  
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,  
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder  
and brought it to His Father,  
joining it to the heavenly pow'rs.//  
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O Theotokos.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 4**      *(for the Resurrection)*

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,  
You have annulled our ancestral curse.  
By descending to hell, You have freed the eternal prisoners,  
granting incorruption to the human race.//  
Therefore in songs we glorify Your life-creating and saving Resurrection.

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,  
You shook all of creation.  
By being laid in the tomb You have raised those who dwelt in the tombs,  
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//  
Therefore in songs we glorify Your rising on the third day.

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

The lawless people, O Christ,  
handed You over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,  
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.  
But voluntarily You endured burial,  
rising by Your own power on the third day as God,//  
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

*V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

With tears the women reached Your tomb,  
searching for You, but not finding You.  
They wept with wailing and lamented:  
“Woe to us! Our Savior, King of all,  
how were You stolen?  
What place can hold Your life-bearing body?”  
An Angel replied to them:  
“Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,//  
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

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

**Tone 6**      *(for the Righteous Ones)*

Your Nativity became the commemoration of priests,  
and the strength and joy of kings,  
Rejoicing in it, we say:  
“Our Father, in heaven,//  
hallowed be Your Name, O Lover of man!”

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

**Tone 6**      *(for the Feast)*

Today the Invisible Nature is joined to mortal men,  
coming forth from the Virgin.  
Today the Infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes at Bethlehem.  
Today God leads the Magi by a star to worship Him,  
and with gold and frankincense and myrrh they foretell His three-day burial.//  
Therefore we sing: "O Christ our God, made flesh of the Virgin, save our souls!"

*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 4**      **Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
"Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy!"

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

**Tone 2**      **Troparion**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
you have seen a Virgin great with child;  
and you gave glory with the shepherds;  
you worshipped with the Magi,  
and received the news from the Angel.//  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

**Tone 4**      **Troparion**      *(Feast)*

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore You,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to You!

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

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**Tone 3      Kontakion      *(Righteous Ones)***

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, //  
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!”

**Tone 3      Kontakion      *(Feast)***

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!  
The Wise Men journey with the star, //  
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all.  
(Ps. 103:26)

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Righteous Ones)**

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)

**Epistle**

(200) Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday After)

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!*  
(Ps. 44:3b)

*V. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)*

**Tone 4**

*V. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)*

**Gospel**

(4) Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:  
heaven – the cave;  
the cherubic throne – the Virgin;  
the manger – the place where Christ lay;  
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*