

Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Prayer Behind the Ambon

Christ our God, from before all ages, You shone forth from the eternal Father, and were not liable to suffering. Yet in these our days You took flesh and were born from a holy Virgin. You became poor for our sakes, that in Your poverty we might become rich. As a newborn Child You were wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, although as God You encompass all things. Master, receive this our worthless praise as You received the praise of the shepherds and the worship and gifts of the Magi. Grant that we may be worthy to join Your heavenly host and be shown to be heirs of the joy of heaven You prepared for those who rightly celebrate Your Birth. For you love mankind, and to You we give glory, together with Yourmber eternal Father, and Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

December 25, 2016

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST



Thy 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 Thee, the Sun
of Righteousness, and to know
Thee, the Orient from on High.
O Lord, glory to Thee!

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

**TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY OF
ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

LITURGICAL PROPSERS:

First Festal Antiphon

(Psalm 111)

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us. (After each verse)

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord!

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them.

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Festal Antiphon

(Psalm 112)

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments!

O Son of God born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia! (After each verse)

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed!

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever!

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and Immortal Word of God...

Third Festal Antiphon

(Psalm 110)

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand!" Until I make thine enemies Thy footstool!

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, Glory to Thee! (After each verse)

The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes.

Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones!

Introit Verse

Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee! The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Tone 4 Troparion

Thy 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 Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!

Tone 3 Kontakion

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!

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Prokeimenon, Tone 8 (Psalm 66)

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High!

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name! Give glory to His praise!

Epistle – Galatians 4:4-7

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Alleluia (Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!