

# *Nativity of the Theotokos*

*Sunday, September 8, 2024*

*Tone 2*

## GREAT VESPERS - SATURDAY EVENING

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*“Come Let Us Worship...”*

### *Psalm 104*

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

**He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.**

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

**At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.**

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

**They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.**

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

**He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,**

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man's heart.

**The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.**

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

**He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. / You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest creep about.**

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

**Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.**

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

**There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them their food in due season.**

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

**You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord rejoice in His works.**

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in the Lord.**

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

**The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.**

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

### *The Great Litany*

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer*

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

***“O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 6***

***Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)***

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear, give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, as incense before You and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

*Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.*

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

*Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.*

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

*Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.*

***Psalm 142 (LXX 141)***

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

*I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.*

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

*Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.*

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

*Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I."*

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

*(Tone 2) – Resurrection*

*Come, let us worship God the Word begotten of the Father before all ages, and incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Having endured the Cross, He was buried as He Himself desired and having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.*

The righteous shall surround me for You shall deal bountifully with me.

*Christ our Savior nailed to the Cross the bond against us, He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death! Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day.*

***Psalm 130 (LXX 129)***

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

*With the archangels let us praise the Resurrection of Christ! He is our Savior, our Redeemer. He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world which He made.*

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

*The angel proclaimed You the crucified and buried Master. He told the women: Come, see the place where He lay! He is risen as He said, for He is almighty. We worship You, O only immortal One. Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life.*

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

*(Tone 6) – Nativity*

*Today God Who rests upon the spiritual thrones has made ready for Himself a holy throne upon earth. He Who made firm the heavens in His wisdom has prepared a living heaven in His love for mankind. For from a barren root He has made a life-giving branch spring up for us, even His Mother. O God of wonders and hope of the hopeless, glory to You.*

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

*This is the day of the Lord: Rejoice, O people. For behold, the bridal chamber of the Light, the book of the Word of Life, has come forth from the womb, and the east gate, the newly born, awaits the entrance of the Great Priest. She alone brings into the world the one and only Christ, for the salvation of our souls.*

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

*Although by the will of God other women who were barren have brought forth famous offspring, yet among all such children Mary has shone most brightly with divine glory. For, herself born wondrously of a barren mother, she bore in the flesh the God of all, in fashion surpassing nature, from a womb without seed. She is the only gateway of the only-begotten Son of God, Who passed through this gate, yet kept it closed: and having ordered all things in His own wisdom He has wrought salvation for all mankind.*

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

*Today the barren gates are opened and the virgin door of God comes forth. Today grace begins to bear its first fruits, making manifest to the world the Mother of God, through whom things on earth are joined with heaven, for the salvation of our souls.*

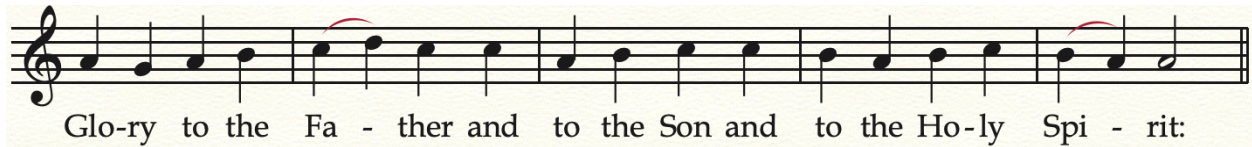
### ***Psalm 117 (LXX 116)***

O praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

*Today is the beginning of joy for all the world; today the winds blow that bring tidings of salvation. The barrenness of our nature has been loosed: for the barren woman is revealed as mother of her who, after bearing the Maker, still remained virgin. From her He Who is God by nature takes what is alien to Him and makes it His own; through her Christ works salvation for those gone astray in the flesh, He Who loves mankind and is the Deliverer of our souls.*

For His merciful kindness is great t'ward us and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

*Today Anna, the barren, gives birth to the child of God, foreordained from all generations to be the habitation of the King of all and Maker, Christ our God, in fulfillment of the divine plan of God. Through her we children of earth have been formed anew, and restored from corruption to life without end.*



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

*(Tone 6) – Nativity*

*Today God Who rests upon the spiritual thrones has made ready for Himself a holy throne upon earth. He Who made firm the heavens in His wisdom has prepared a living heaven in His love for mankind. For from a barren root He has made a life-giving branch spring up for us, even His Mother. O God of wonders and hope of the hopeless, glory to You.*

### ***The Prayer before the Entrance***

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning...put to shame, O our God.

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

**“O Joyful Light”** (Monk Martin)

O Joy-ful Light of the Ho-ly glo - ry, of the im-mor - tal heav-en - ly  
9 ho - ly bless-ed Fa - ther, O Je - sus Christ! Now that we have come to the  
15 set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of eve - ning we praise  
21 God: the Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Spi - rit. For it is right at all times to

***The Evening Prokeimenon: Tone 7***

***Psalm 77 (LXX 76)***

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

*Verse: The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.*

*Verse: For He established the world so that it shall never be moved.*

***The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia***

DEACON: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N.; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God. NN.*); and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for (*the servants of God NN., and*) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: [O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy; and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.]

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *The Evening Prayer*

PEOPLE: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes. Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### *The Evening Litany*

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: That this whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.



DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and for a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*An Excerpt from the Seventh Prayer*

PRIEST: O Master, Bestower of all good things, may we, being moved to compunction on our beds, call to remembrance Your holy name in the night, that enlightened by meditation on Your commandments, we may rise in joyfulness of soul to glorify Your goodness, offering up prayers and supplications to Your tender love for our own sins and for those of all Your people, whom You visit in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos.

For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

*The Prayer with Heads Bowed*

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: O Lord, our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge, Who love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, not awaiting help from men, but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every enemy, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*Aposticha: Tone 2*

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Your creation. \*

Glory to You, O Almighty Lord.

*The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength  
and has girded Himself.*

By the tree You destroyed the curse of the tree, O Savior.  
By Your burial You mortified the majesty of death.  
You have enlightened our race by Your Resurrection. \*

O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

*For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

When You were seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
You restored the beauty of Your creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity \*  
when they pierced Your side with a spear.

The Hebrews, not knowing Your power,  
asked that Your tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Your compassion, \*

You accepted the tomb and rose on the third day. O Lord, glory to You.

*Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever.*

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead You voluntarily endured death,  
descending into hell as the mighty One, \*  
to save all those who awaited Your coming,  
You granted them the life of Paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Your third-day Resurrection \*  
cleansing of our souls and great mercy.

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

*(Tone 8)*

Come, O faithful, let us run to the Virgin:  
The rod of Aaron springing from the shoot of Jesse,  
the child of Joachim and Anna, the forechosen Mother of our God, \*  
the treasure of virginity, the preaching of the prophets.

She is born and the world is renewed!

She is born and the Church is adorned by her heavenly beauty!

She is the holy temple of the Godhead, \*

the vessel of virginity and bridal chamber of the King.

Through her, the mystery of the union of Christ's two natures has come  
about. \*

We worship Him, praising the nativity of the Virgin!

*Hymn of St. Simeon*

Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

*Trisagion Prayers*

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*Resurrection Troparion: Tone 2 (Bulgarian)*

When You de-scend-ed to death, O Life Im - mor - tal,  
5 You slew Ha-des with the splen - dor of Your di - vin - i - ty, and when  
9 from the depths You raised the dead, all the pow-ers of  
13 heav-en cried out: O Giv - er of life, Christ our God  
18 glo - ry to You!

*Troparion Nativity: Tone 4 (Znamenny) (2x)*

4 Your birth, O The-o - to - kos, has brought joy to all the in-hab-it-ed earth:  
6 For from you has shone forth the Sun of Right-eous-ness, Christ our God.  
8 He has loosed us from the curse, and giv - en us bless - ings;  
He has a-bol - ished death, and be-stowed on us e - ter - nal life.

*The Dismissal*

*Kontakion: Tone 4 (Znamenny)*

6 By Your holy birth, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were set free from  
9 bar-ren-ness: Ad-am and Eve from the cor-rup-tion of death. De-liv-ered from the  
12 debt of sin, your peo-ple keep the feast as they sing un-to you:  
The bar-ren wo - man bears the God-bear-er who nur - tures our Life.

*Ikos*

*The prayer and groaning of Joachim and Anna at their barrenness and childlessness have proved acceptable, and have come unto the ears of the Lord; and they have put forth a fruit that brings life to the world. The one offered his prayer in the mountain, the other bore her reproach in the garden. But with joy the barren woman bears the God-bearer who nurtures our life.*

*Exapostilaria Nativity: Tone 2 (Znamenny)*

All the ends of the earth great-ly re-joice to - day at your birth, O

Ma - ry, Moth-er of God and Bride who knows not wed-lock: for

you have re-moved the pain of your par - ents' bar-ren-ness and the

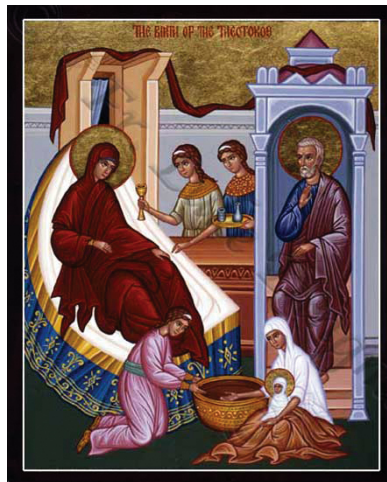
curse on child - birth our Moth - er Eve brought on her-self.

Be re - newed, O Ad - am, and be mag - ni - fied, O Eve; O

proph - ets, dance with the a - pos-tles and the right-eous. Let their

earth's com-mon joy be shared with an - gels and man-kind; for to -

day is born the The - o - to - kos of Jo - a - chim and An - na.



*Nativity of the Theotokos*