

Friday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord

First Antiphon: I will confess You with all my heart,
O Lord, * I will tell all your marvels.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior,
save us.

In the counsels of rightful men and in the
assemblies, * great are the works of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior,
save us.

They are sought * in order to accomplish his will.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior,
save us.

Glory be . . . now and forever, Only Begotten Son . . .

Third Antiphon: The Lord said to my Lord: * Sit at
my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Christmas Tropar, tone 4: Your birth, O Christ our
God, * has shed upon the world the light of
knowledge; * for through it, those who worshipped
the stars* have learned from a star to worship You,
the Sun of Justice, * and to recognize You as the
Orient from on high.* Glory be to You, O Lord!

The scepter of your power the Lord will stretch forth
from Zion: * Rule in the midst of your enemies.

Your birth, O Christ

Yours is princely power in the day of your birth in
holy splendor.

Your birth, O Christ

At the 'small entrance': Before the daystar, like the
dew, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn, and
he will not repent; You are a priest forever, according
to the order of Melchizedek.

Your birth, O Christ

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Kondak of Christmas, tone 3: Today the Virgin
gives birth to Perfect Essence, * and the earth offers
a cave to the Inaccessible. * The angels sing his
glory with the shepherds, * the wise men journey
with the star, * for there is born for us an infant child,
God Eternal.

Instead of 'Holy God...': All you, who have been
baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Prokimen, tone 8: Let all the earth worship and sing
praise to You: * sing praise to Your Name.

Verse: Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth, sing
praise to the glory of his name; * proclaim his
glorious praise.

Epistle: Galatians 4: 4 - 7

Brothers and Sisters! When the designated time had
come, God sent forth his Son born of a woman, born
under the law, to deliver from the law those who
were subjected to it, so that we might receive our
status as adopted sons. The proof that you are sons
is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the
spirit of his Son, which cries out "Abba!" ("Father!")
You are no longer a slave but a son! And the fact
that you are a son makes you an heir, by God's
design.

Alleluia Verses: The heavens declare the glory of
God, * and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day pours out the word to day, * and night to night
imparts knowledge.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 - 12

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the
reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east
arrived one day in Jerusalem inquiring, "Where is the
newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at
its rising and have come to pay him homage." At this
news King Herod became greatly disturbed and with
him all Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests
and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where
the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of
Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet
has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are
by no means least among the princes of Judah,
since from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd
my people Israel.'" Herod called the astrologers
aside and found out from them the exact time of the
star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem,
after having instructed them: "Go and get detailed
information about the child. When you have found
him, report it to me so that I may go and offer him
homage too." After their audience with the king, they
set out. The star which they had observed at its
rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill
over the place where the child was. They were
overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the
house found the child with Mary his mother. They
prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then
they opened their coffers and presented him with
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

They received a message in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Instead of 'It is truly right...': My soul, praise Christ the King * born in a cave. * Behold a strange and wonderful mystery: * the cave has become heaven, * the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim, * and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes. * Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

Communion Hymn: The Lord has sent salvation to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Where it is the custom: Instead of "Blessed is He...", "We have seen...", "May our mouths...", "Blessed be the name...": The whole universe is today filled with joy, for Christ is born of a Virgin.