

## Sunday, December 26 Sunday after the 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...

They are sought \* in order to accomplish his will.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God...

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

**Third Antiphon:** *Regular 3rd Antiphon but with the following response:*

Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

**Nativity 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!

**Tropar of St. Joseph, tone 2:** O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, \* the good news of these wonders you have seen: \* a Virgin giving birth to a Child; \* with the shepherds you have glorified Him; \* with the wise men you have worshipped Him; \* and an angel appeared to you. \* Ask Christ to save our souls.

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

**Kondak of the Nativity, 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.

**Prokimen, tone 4:** God is wonderful in His saints; \* the God of Israel.

*Verse: Bless God in your choirs, \* bless the Lord, you who spring from Israel!*

**Epistle:** Galatians 1: 11-19

Brothers and Sisters! I assure you, the gospel I proclaimed to you is no mere human invention. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I schooled in it. It came by revelation from Jesus Christ. You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and tried to destroy it; I made progress in Jewish observance far beyond most of my contemporaries, in my excess of zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors. But the time came when he who had set me apart before I was born and called me by his favor chose to reveal his Son to me, that I might spread among the Gentiles the good tidings concerning him. Immediately, without seeking human advisers or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia; later I returned to Damascus. Three years after that I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, with whom I stayed fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostles except James, the brother of the Lord.

**Alleluia Verses:** Remember, O Lord, for David all his anxious care.

How he swore to the Lord, vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob.

**Gospel:** Matthew 2: 13-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my son." Once Herod realized that he had been deceived by the wise men, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem and its

environs, making his calculations on the basis of the date he had learned from the wise men. What was said through Jeremiah the prophet was then fulfilled: "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentations: Rachel bewailing her children; no comfort for her, since they are no more." But after Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead." He got up, took the child and his mother, and returned to the land of Israel. He heard however, that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, and he was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received in a dream, Joseph went to the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way what was said through the prophet was fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazorean."

**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:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.  
Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!