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**DIGITAL CHANT STAND**  
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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**The Service of Matins**  
**on Thursday, December 25, 2025**

**Menaion - December 25**  
**The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Katavasias of Christmas I and II**

**Text in English**

**Links to Matins Ordinary**

**Bilingual**

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**English**

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## Sources

**GOASD** Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Fr. Seraphim Dedes. **AC** Anthony Cook. **GKD** George K. Duvall. **KW** Kallistos Ware. **RB** Richard Barrett. **SD** Fr. Seraphim Dedes.  
**TC** Thomas Carroll. **VPA** Virgil Peter Andronache. **GOA** Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. **HC** Holy Cross Orthodox Press.  
**OCA** Orthodox Church in America.

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## Books - Sources

### Menaion - December 25

The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

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## MATINS

### CHOIR

#### Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

**Verse 1:** *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His holy name.*

**Verse 2:** *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

**Verse 3:** *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

#### Apolytikion of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

#### Mode 4.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. (3) [SD]

### PRIEST

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

### PRIEST

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

### PRIEST

Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To You, O Lord.

### PRIEST

For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

#### Kathisma I.

From Menaion - - -

#### Mode 4. Joseph marveled.

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ.

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea.

[SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea.

[SD]

#### Kathisma II.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

*Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ.*

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by what was done in you? \* And she answers, “For in time I have brought forth a timeless Son. \* But I have no understanding of His conception. \* Husbandless am I: how can I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written.” \* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by what was done in you? \* And she answers, “For in time I have brought forth a timeless Son. \* But I have no understanding of His conception. \* Husbandless am I: how can I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written.” \* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \* in Bethlehem of Judea. [SD]

**Kathisma III.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

*Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ.*

He whom nothing can contain has been contained in a womb. \* He is in the Father’s bosom and His Mother’s embrace. \* How can this be, but as He knows and willed and was well pleased. \* Fleshless as He was, He willingly took flesh. \* And He Who Is became what He was not, for us. \* And while departing not from His own nature, \* He shared in our nature’s substance. \* So Christ was born with dual natures, \* wishing to replenish the world on high. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

He whom nothing can contain has been contained in a womb. \* He is in the Father’s bosom

and His Mother’s embrace. \* How can this be, but as He knows and willed and was well pleased. \* Fleshless as He was, He willingly took flesh. \* And He Who Is became what He was not, for us. \* And while departing not from His own nature, \* He shared in our nature’s substance. \* So Christ was born with dual natures, \* wishing to replenish the world on high. [SD]

**PRIEST**

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST**

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST**

Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST**

For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**CHOIR**

**Antiphon 1.**

**Mode 4.**

From my youth, many passions war against me. O my Savior, I implore You, uphold me and save me. (2) [GOASD]

You who hate Zion, be shamed by the Lord;  
for you will be withered like grass in the fire. (2)

[GOASD]

Glory.

By the Holy Spirit every soul is animated,  
and when purified, it is mystically uplifted and  
brightened by the triune Godhead. [GOASD]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit the streams of grace  
well forth; they water all creation, so that life be  
engendered. [GOASD]

**Prokeimenon. Psalm 109.**

I have begotten You from the womb before the  
morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent.  
(2)

**Verse:** *The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at  
My right hand, until I make your enemies the  
footstool of Your feet."*

I have begotten You from the womb before the  
morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent.

[SAAS]

*Stand for the Gospel reading.*

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST**

For You, our God, are holy, and You rest  
among the holy ones, and to You we offer up  
glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy  
Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**Mode 2.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.  
(2) Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

[SAAS]

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we  
may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**DEACON**

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the holy  
Gospel.

**PRIEST:** Peace be with all.

**CHOIR:** And with your spirit.

**PRIEST**

The reading is from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

**DEACON:** Let us be attentive.

**CHOIR**

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**PRIEST** (from the gate)

*Mt. 1:18 – 25*

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in  
this way. When his mother Mary had been  
betrothed to Joseph, before they came together  
she was found to be with child of the Holy  
Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a  
just man and unwilling to put her to shame,  
resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he  
considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph,  
son of David, do not fear to take Mary your  
wife, for that which is conceived in her is of  
the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you  
shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his  
people from their sins." All this took place  
to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the  
prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son, and his name shall be called

Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne her firstborn son; and he called his name Jesus. [RSV]

**CHOIR**

Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**READER**

**Psalms 50 (51).**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back

to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

From Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

Glory. **Mode 2.**

All things are filled with joy today, for Christ is born from the Virgin. [SD]

Both now.

All things are filled with joy today, for Christ is born from the Virgin. [SD]

**Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.**

**Verse:** *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.* [SAAS]

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth. Today Bethlehem receives him who is ever seated with the Father. Today Angels glorify in a manner fitting God the babe that is born. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will among men. [SD]

**PRIEST**

O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Look upon Your world with mercy

and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us Your rich mercies:

through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, heavenly, bodiless powers, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, our fathers among the saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas, bishop of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonderworkers; the holy, glorious, great martyrs George the triumphant, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the soldier, and Theodore the general; Menas the wonderworker; Charalampus and Eleutherius, the hieromartyrs; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Catherine, Kyriaki, Photini, Marina, Paraskevi and Irene; our venerable and God-bearing fathers; (local patron saint); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and all Your saints:

We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (12)

**PRIEST**

Through the mercy, compassion, and love for humankind of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, and Your all-holy,

good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

From Menaion - - -

**READER**

**Hypakoe. Mode pl. 4.**

Heaven called the Magi by a star, and thus it brought the first-fruits of the Gentiles to You, the infant lying in the manger. And they were amazed, not by scepters and thrones, but by the utter poverty. For what is more shabby than a cave? And what is more humble than swaddling clothes? But it was through these that the riches of your divinity shone forth. Lord, glory to You! <sup>[SD]</sup>

**Kontakion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 3. Automelon.**

*Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον.*

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. <sup>[SD]</sup>

**Oikos.**

Bethlehem has opened Eden. Come, let us see. We have found the hidden delight. Come, let us receive the things of Paradise inside the Cave. There, we shall see an unwatered root that blossomed forgiveness. There, we shall find an undug well, from which David of old desired to drink. There, the Virgin quenched the thirst of both Adam and David, when she gave birth to her baby. So let us go there now,



where He was born a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. [SD]

*Stand for the reading of the Synaxarion.*

**Synaxarion**

*From the Menaion.*

On December 25 is the Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

On this day we commemorate the Adoration of the Magi.

On this day we also commemorate the Shepherds who saw the Lord.

To Him be glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

**CHOIR**

**Katavasia of Christmas I and II**

**Ode i. Mode 1.**

Christ is born! Glorify Him! \* Christ is come from heaven! Go and meet Him! \* Christ is on earth! Arise to Him! \* Sing to the Lord, all you inhabitants of earth, and all you peoples, praise Him, \* and with merriment extol Him who is glorified! [GOASD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

Working signs of old, the Master saved the people \* In the wilderness, by turning the sea into dry land. \* Today, being willingly born of a Virgin, \* He lays a path to heaven for us, who therefore \* Praise Him, equal in essence to the Father and to humanity. [GOASD]

**Ode iii.**

To the Son, begotten from the Father unchangingly before the ages, \* and now becoming incarnate from the Virgin without seed; \* to Christ God let us cry aloud, \* “You have exalted the horn

of our strength. \* Only You are holy, O Lord!” [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

Incline Your ear to the hymns of us Your servants. \* Subdue the arrogant contempt of the foe. \* Exalt us who sing to You, all-seeing Benefactor, \* To be unshaken and confirmed on the foundation of the Faith, \* High above sin, and strengthened, O blessed Lord. [GOASD]

**Ode iv.**

A rod has come forth from Jesse’s root, \* and You its flower grew from it, praiseworthy Christ, now born of the Virgin, \* whom Habakkuk called Paran, shady, thickly wooded mountain. \* From her who knew no man You came incarnate, O immaterial God. \* Glory to Your strength, O Lord! [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

Of old, Habakkuk’s ode predicted the human \* Race’s remaking, for as a Prophet he was granted \* Numinous portents: God the Logos as a newborn \* Infant emerging from an overshadowed mountain, \* Namely the Virgin, to refashion humanity. [GOASD]

**Ode v.**

O God of peace and Father of mercies, \* You have sent to us the Wonderful Counselor, \* the Angel of Your great counsel, granting us peace. \* And now to light of knowledge of God we have been guided, \* and we rise from night to dawn and glorify You, O benevolent Lord. [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

Now rising to You, O Christ, from the night of sinning — \* Iniquitous misdeeds, bedarkened by error, — \* To extol You, our Benefactor, we pray that You grant us \* Your mercy, and come to us



and make the path easy, \* So that ascending by it we may attain to glory. [GOASD]

**Ode vi.**

Jonah long ago \* was hurled from the belly of the whale as he went in, like a newborn babe. \* With the Virgin now, \* when the Logos had dwelt in His Mother's womb, \* taking flesh, He then emerged, preserving her intact. \* Yielding not to changeability, \* He preserved her unaltered in childbirth. [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

Gripped in the gorges of the sea, Jonah was praying \* To rise above the peril round about and come to You. \* However, I who am wounded by the dart of the devil, \* Entreat You, O Christ the Destroyer of evil: \* Without delaying come to me, before my negligence prevails. [GOASD]

**Ode vii.**

Brought up together piously, the Servants \* with contempt regarded the impious king's decree. \* The threat of the furnace did not frighten them. \* Rather, standing in the midst of flames, they prayed and sang, \* "Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers!" [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

In Babylon, the three Servants were captivated, \* Not by fear but by longing for the King of all. \* And they disdained the angry tyrant's ungodly \* Nonsense. The inferno yielded to them as they sang \* Declaring, "O Master, You are blessed unto the ages." [GOASD]

**Ode viii.**

*We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.*

Babylon's bedewing furnace bore the image of an extraordinary wonder. \* For it did not burn the

youths it was holding, \* nor did the fire of Divinity consume the Virgin's womb wherein it went. \* And so let us songfully extol and praise, \* "Let all creation bless the Lord, sing a hymn to Him, \* and exalt Him beyond measure unto all the ages." [GOASD]

**Iambic.**

As the Young Men of old were not consumed in the furnace, \* Virgin Mary's womb was being prefigured; for it remained \* Ever sealed throughout supernatural childbearing. \* Manifestly grace, with the same miraculous power, \* Effected both alike, rousing all people to sing praise. [GOASD]

*Stand for the singing of Ode ix.*

**DEACON**

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

**CHOIR**

*From Menaion - - -*

**Ode ix.**

**Canon 1.**

**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*Μυστήριον ξένον.*

*O my soul, magnify the woman who is higher in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.*

I see here a new and paradoxical mystery. \* For the cave resembles heaven, \* the Virgin, the cherubic throne, \* the manger, a grand space, \* in which He whom nothing can contain was laid, Christ our God; \* whom we extol in song and magnify. [GOASD]

**Troparia.**

*O my soul, magnify God who was born in the flesh from the Virgin.*

Observing the extraordinary path of the peculiar nova \* that had recently appeared, \*

shining brighter than the other stars in the heavens,  
\* the Magi concluded that Christ the King \* had  
been born on earth in Bethlehem, for our salvation.

[GOASD]

*O my soul, magnify the King who was born  
in a grotto.*

The Magi came, saying, “Where is the  
newborn child King? \* For we have seen his star in  
the East, \* and we have come with precious gifts  
to worship him.” \* Then Herod was troubled. And  
that enemy of God, in a rage, \* was furiously bent  
on killing Christ. [GOASD]

*O my soul, magnify God who was  
worshiped by the Magi.*

Herod ascertained what time the star appeared.  
\* Led by it, the Magi came to Bethlehem \* with  
gifts, and they worshiped Christ. \* By Whom  
being warned \* not to return to that awful killer  
of children, who thought he was tricked, \* they  
departed by another way. [GOASD]

From Menaion - - -

**Iambic Canon.**  
**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*Στέργειν μὲν ἡμᾶς.*

*Today, the holy Virgin gives birth to the  
Master while lodging in the grotto.*

To favor being silent out of caution is for  
us \* Easy and free of risk, whereas to compose  
\* Stirring hymns is arduous, but a labor of love  
\* For you, all-holy Virgin. And so, we entreat  
you: \* O Mother, empower us to succeed in  
this endeavor. [GOASD]

*Today, our Lord and Master is born as an  
infant; His Mother is a virgin.*

To favor being silent out of caution is for  
us \* Easy and free of risk, whereas to compose

\* Stirring hymns is arduous, but a labor of love  
\* For you, all-holy Virgin. And so, we entreat  
you: \* O Mother, empower us to succeed in  
this endeavor. [GOASD]

**Troparia.**

Glory.

*O my soul, magnify the power of the  
Godhead that is three hypostases and also  
undivided.*

Realizing obscure prophetic types and  
shadows, \* Your Son, the Logos, in latter days  
emerged from you, \* O Virgin, who were called  
the gate that was closed, \* Unveiling to us the light  
of the truth. \* Mother of God, we rightly extol your  
womb. [GOASD]

Both now.

*O my soul, magnify her, through whom we  
were freed from the curse and condemnation.*

You have fulfilled our longing to merrily \*  
Keep the feast of God’s Advent, O Virgin. \* In  
earnest, we believers who have so pleased Christ  
\* Now pray to see the life-giving regeneration. \*  
Grant us the blessing to celebrate that feast day.

[GOASD]

**Katavasias**  
**Canon 1. Mode 1.**

*O my soul, magnify the woman who is  
higher in honor and in glory than the armies of  
heaven.*

I see here a new and paradoxical mystery. \*  
For the cave resembles heaven, \* the Virgin, the  
cherubic throne, \* the manger, a grand space, \*  
in which He whom nothing can contain was laid,  
Christ our God; \* whom we extol in song and  
magnify. [GOASD]

**Iambic. Mode 1.**

*O my soul, magnify her, through whom we were freed from the curse and condemnation.*

To favor being silent out of caution is for us  
\* Easy and free of risk, whereas to compose \*  
Stirring hymns is arduous, but a labor of love \* For  
you, all-holy Virgin. And so, we entreat you: \* O  
Mother, empower us to succeed in this endeavor.

[GOASD]

**PRIEST**

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST**

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST**

Remembering our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**CHOIR:** To You, O Lord.

**PRIEST**

For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You they offer up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**Exapostearion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 3. Automelon.**

*Ἐπεσκέψατο ἡμᾶς.*

Our Savior from on high \* the Orient from the East \* visited us who in the dark \* and shadow hitherto had lain; \* now we have found the truth

indeed. \* And this is so because from the Virgin the Lord is born. (3) [SD]

**Lauds. Mode 4.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God.

[SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

### **Stichera for the Feast.**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.* [SAAS]

You righteous, be glad in heart; and the heavens, be exultant. Leap for joy, O mountains, at the birth of the Messiah. Resembling the Cherubim, the Virgin Maiden is seated and holds in her embraces God the Logos incarnate. The shepherds glorify the newborn Babe; Magi bring the Master their precious gifts. Angels are singing hymns of praise, and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." [SD]

#### **Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre.* [SAAS]

The Father was well pleased; the Logos became flesh; and the Virgin gave birth to God who became man. A Star reveals Him; Magi

bow in worship; Shepherds marvel, and creation rejoices. [SD]

#### **Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute.* [SAAS]

O Virgin Theotokos who gave birth to the Savior, you reversed the curse to which Eve once was subject. For you have become the Mother of the Father's good pleasure, and you hold in your embraces God the Logos incarnate. The mystery admits no inquiry; we all glorify it by faith alone, and with you we cry aloud and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." [SD]

#### **Idiomelon. Mode 4.**

*Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord.* [SAAS]

Come, let us extol and praise the Savior's Mother, who remained a virgin even after childbirth. Animate City of our King and God, rejoice, for Christ having dwelt in you has wrought our salvation. Together with Gabriel we sing your praise, together with the shepherds we glorify you, crying out, "Theotokos, intercede with the Lord, who is incarnate from you, to save us." [SD]

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode pl. 2.**

When the time came for Your Advent on earth, the first census of the Roman world was conducted. Then it was that You began to record the names of those who would believe in Your birth. Such a decree was published by Caesar, because the timelessness of Your eternal kingdom was revealed anew. And now, we in our turn, above and beyond a monetary tax, bring to You the

wealth of Orthodox theology, O God and Savior of our souls. [SD]

*The [second] choir sings the following Idiomelon, up to the asterisk; then the first choir begins the Great Doxology, starting with the last verse of the Idiomelon: "Glory to God in the highest..."*

Both now.

From Menaion - - -

### **Mode 2.**

Today in Bethlehem, Christ is born of the Virgin. Today, the Unoriginate begins, and the Word becomes flesh. The hosts of heaven are rejoicing, and the earth and humanity are merry. The Magi bring their gifts. The Shepherds proclaim the marvel. And we unceasingly cry aloud: \*  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" [SD]

*Stand for the Great Doxology.*

### **Great Doxology**

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
have mercy on us.

**Apolytikion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused  
the light of knowledge to rise upon the world.  
For therein the worshippers of the stars were  
by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of  
Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on  
high. Glory to You, O Lord. [SD]