

# The Sixth Hour

Amen. Come let us worship God our King. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

## PSALM 72

Give the king thy justice, O God, and thy righteousness to the royal son! May he judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with justice! Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor! May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight. Long may he live, may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may men blossom forth from the cities like the grass of the field! May his name endure for ever his fame continue as long as the sun! May men bless themselves by him, all nations call him blessed! Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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things. Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth! Amen and Amen! The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended

### PSALM 132

O Lord remember David and all his meekness; how he swore to the Lord, made a vow to the God of Jacob: If I enter the shelter of my house, if I climb into my bed, If I give sleep to my eyes, slumber to my eyelids and rest to my temples, Until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the God of Jacob. See, we heard of it in Ephrata, we found it in the woodland fields. We shall enter his dwellings; we shall worship towards the place where his feet have stood. Arise, Lord, into your rest, you and the ark of your holiness. Your priests will be clothed with justice, and your holy ones will rejoice. For David, your servant's sake, do not turn away the face of your Christ. The Lord has sworn truth to David and he will not annul it: Of the fruit of your womb I shall place on your throne; If your sons keep my covenant and these testimonies of mine which I shall teach them, Their sons too will sit on your throne forever. For the Lord has elected Zion, has chosen her as a dwelling for himself: This is my dwelling-place forever and ever, here I shall dwell, for I have chosen her. Her door I shall bless abundantly, her poor I shall fill with bread. Her priests I shall clothe with salvation, and her holy ones will rejoice with great joy. There I shall make the horn of David flourish; I have prepared a lamp for my Christ. I shall clothe his enemies in shame, my holiness will flower upon him.

### PSALM 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

---

pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

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

***THE TROPARION may be read or sung (see appendix for music)***

(Tone 4) Mary was of David's Seed / So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. / She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man. / The time for the birth was at hand. / Since there was no room at the inn, / The cave became a beautiful palace for the queen. // Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

*When Christmas Day fall on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22 or 23, the Troparion at all hours is as follows:*

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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(Tone 4) Prepare, O Bethlehem, / For Eden has been opened to all. / Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, / For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the virgin in the cave. / Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Fruit Divine; / If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. // Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Reader Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Because we have no boldness because of our many sins, entreat the One born of you, O Virgin Mother of God; for a Mother's plea has great force for the kindness of the Master. Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O all-holy, for he is merciful, and able to save, he who even accepted to suffer for us.

*The following **STICHERA** may be read or sung (see appendix for music)*

Reader (Tone 1) Come, you faithful, let us arise and behold the divine condescension from above, made manifest for us in Bethlehem; and having cleansed our minds, let us by our lives offer virtues instead of myrrh, as we faithfully prepare the entry of the Nativity with treasures of the soul, crying, 'In the highest, glory to God in Trinity, through whom his good pleasure has appeared among men to rescue Adam from the ancestral curse, for he loves mankind.'

Vs. God will come from Teman, and the Holy One from a dark and shady mountain.

(Tone 4) Listen, O heaven and give ear, O earth. Let the foundations be shaken, let trembling seize the regions

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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beneath the earth; because God and the Creator has put on the matter of flesh, and he who created creation with his mighty hand appears in the womb of a creature he fashioned. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments, and unsearchable his ways.!

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

(Tone 5) Come, peoples, bearers of Christ, let us behold a wonder that amazes and holds fast every mind, and as we devoutly worship let us with faith sing its praise. Today a Maiden great with child is coming to Bethlehem to give birth to the Lord; choirs of Angels run before her. And seeing this Joseph, the Betrothed, cries out, 'What is the strange mystery in you, O Virgin? And how will you bring forth a child, you who have never known the yoke?'

### The Readings

*Priest*      *Wisdom. Let us attend*

*Reader*      The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone:

Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind.  
Vs: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

*Priest*      Wisdom

*Reader*      The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 10)

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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Thus says the Lord: The Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; in the depth or in the height.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it a little thing for you to contend with men, and how do you contend with the Lord? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel. He shall eat butter and honey before he knows how to prefer evil or choose good. For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses the evil to choose the good. Then the Lord said to me, 'Take for yourself a large new volume and write upon it in with a man's pen, Of making a rapid plunder of spoils; for it is at hand. And get me witnesses, reliable men, Uriah the priest and Zachary the son of Barachiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, 'Call his name Despoil-quickly-plunder-rapidly; for before the child knows how to cry 'Father' or 'Mother,' he will take the power of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of the Assyrians.' Know you nations and be dismayed; give ear, as far as the extremity of the earth; for if again you have become strong, again you will be worsted. And whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it; and whatever word you speak, it will not remain in you, for God is with us.'

Priest      Wisdom

Reader     The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (1:10-2:3)

Brethren: Thou, O Lord, founded the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end.' But to what angel has he ever said, 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken by angels was sure and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

*Priest*      *Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.  
Peace be unto all.*

*Choir*      And to Thy spirit

*Priest*      The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St.  
Matthew. (Mt. 2:1-12)

*Choir*      Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

*Priest*      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

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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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

Choir      Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

Reader    Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, come quickly to our aid, for we are utterly poor; help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of thy name. O Lord, deliver us, and have mercy on our sins, for Thy name's sake.

Let Thy face shine on Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise, O Lord, that I may hymn Thy glory and honor all day long.

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

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

---

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

Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us, Lord cleanse us from our  
sins, Master, pardon our transgressions, Holy One visit and  
heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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.*

Reader Amen

**THE KONTAKION** can either be read or sung (see appendix for music)

(Tone 3) Today the virgin comes to the cave / Where she will give birth  
to the Eternal Word. / Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe. /  
With the angels and shepherds glorify Him who reveals Himself. // The  
eternal God, a little child.

Reader Lord have mercy (12x)

Thou who at every season and in every hour, in heaven and

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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on earth art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, merciful and compassionate: who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil and distress. Surround us with Thy holy angels, that guided and guarded by them we may attain the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

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

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement You gave birth to God the Word: true Theotokos we magnify You.

In the name of the Lord, bless Father.

*Priest*      *God be bountiful unto us and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.*

*Reader*      Amen. God and Lord of powers, and Maker of all creation, who through the compassion of your incomprehensible mercy sent down your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our race, and through his precious Cross tore up the record of our sins,

## The Royal Hours of Christmas

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and by it triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness; do you yourself, O Master who loves mankind, accept also our supplications of thanksgiving and entreaty; and deliver us from destroying and dark transgression, and from all our foes, visible and invisible, who seek to harm us. Nail down our flesh through fear of you, and do not let our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but wound our souls with longing for you; that ever gazing upon you and guided by the light that comes from you, seeing you the unapproachable and everlasting light, we may give thanks to you, the Father without beginning, with your only-begotten Son and your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen