

The Ninth 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 110

The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. The Lord will send out for you a rod of power from Zion; rule in the midst of your enemies. With you is the rule in the day of your power, in the splendors of your saints. From the womb before the morning star I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and he will not repent; you are a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedek. The Lord at your right hand shattered kings in the day of his wrath. He will judge among the nations, he will heap up corpses, he will shatter the heads of many upon the land. He will drink from the torrent in the way, therefore he will lift up his head.

PSALM 111

- I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Great are your works, O Lord, sought out according to all his wishes. Thanksgiving and majesty his work, and his justice abides to age on age. He made remembrance of his wonders; the Lord is merciful and compassionate. He gave food to those who fear him, he will remember his covenant forever. He proclaimed the strength of his works to his people, to give them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are truth and judgment, all his commandments are faithful, established to age on age, made in truth and integrity. He sent redemption to his people; he ordained his covenant for ever; holy and fearful his name.

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Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, while a good understanding is for all who do it. His praise abides to age on age

PSALM 86

Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy; O my God, save your servant who hopes in you. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I shall cry to you all the day; give joy to the soul of your servant, for I have lifted up my soul to you. For you, O Lord, are good and gentle, and full of mercy to all who call on you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplication. In the day of my trouble I called to you, for you have heard me. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord; none whose works are as yours. All the nations whom you made will come and worship before you, O Lord, and call upon your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Guide me, O Lord, in your way, and I shall walk in your truth; make my heart glad to fear your name. I shall give you thanks, O Lord, my God, with my whole heart; and I shall glorify your name for ever. For your mercy is great towards me, and you have delivered my soul from the lowest hell. O God, the lawless rose up against me, and an assembly of mighty ones sought my soul, and did not set you before them. And you, Lord, are pitying and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy and true. Look on me and have mercy on me; give your might to your servant and save the son of your maidservant. Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. And again: Make with me a sign for good, and let those who hate me see it and be shamed; for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

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

The Royal Hours of Christmas

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:

(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. / He 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.

O Loving Lord, Who for our sakes wast born of a virgin and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the resurrection: despise not the works of Thy hands, but show Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

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

Reader (Tone 7) Herod was struck with amazement when he saw the piety of the Magi, and overcome by wrath he inquired diligently the interval of time. Mothers were left childless and the unripe age of their babes was bitterly harvested. Breasts grew dry and the channels of milk were stopped. Great was the calamity! And so let us, the faithful, devoutly assembled worship Christ's Nativity.

Vs. Lord, I heard your report and was afraid..

(Tone 2) When Joseph had been wounded by sorrow, O Virgin, as he went to Bethlehem you cried out to him, 'Why are you downcast and troubled seeing me great with child? Why wholly ignorant of the dread mystery that is in me. Now cast away every fear as you understand the strange marvel: for in my womb now God descends to earth through mercy, and has taken flesh. You will see when he is born, as he has been well pleased; and filled with joy will worship him as your Creator. Him the Angels praise unceasingly with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

(Tone 6) Today is born of a Virgin, he who holds creation in the hollow of his hand. As a mortal he is wrapped in swaddling clothes, he who in his being cannot be handled. God lies in a manger, who of old established the heavens in the beginning. He is nourished with milk from the breast, he who rained Manna on the people in the desert. He summons

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Magi, the Bridegroom of the Church.
He accepts their gifts, the Son of the Virgin.
We worship your birth, O Christ,
We worship your birth, O Christ,
We worship your birth, O Christ,
Show us also your divine Theophany.

The Readings

Priest *Wisdom. Let us attend*

Reader The Prokeimenon is in the 4th Tone:

Zion is my mother, a man will say and such a man was born
in her.

Vs: His foundations are on the holy mountain.

Priest Wisdom

Reader The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (9:6-7)

Thus says the Lord: Unto us a child is born, to us a son is
given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his
name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his
government and of peace there will be no end, upon the
throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to
uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time
forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do
this.

Priest Wisdom

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Reader The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)

Brethren: He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*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: 13-23)

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

Priest Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy

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him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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

Reader For Thy holy Name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Thy covenant; do not take away Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy one

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

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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.

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

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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 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.

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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. O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who art long-suffering towards our sins and hast brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-giving cross, Thou hast opened unto the good thief the way into paradise, and destroyed death by death; be merciful to us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look at the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we pray Thee of Thy boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy mercy, and save us for Thy holy Name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passion of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for Thee, our Master and Protector; and that so, following Thine ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the place where the joyful dwell. for Thou, O Christ our God, art indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is without beginning, and Thy most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.