

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**  
**27th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2**  
**Sunday After the Nativity of Christ**

Troparion:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Kontakion:

The Virgin today gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels, and shepherds, glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star! Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

Prokeimenon in the 2nd Tone:

The Lord is my strength and my song, He is become my salvation.  
(vs.) The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.

Tone 4: (Righteous Ones)

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. ( Gal. 1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. (Eph 6:10-17)

Alleluia Verses:

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!.  
(Vs.) Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee!

Tone 4 (Righteous Ones):

Remember David O Lord, and all his meekness.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 2:13-23)

When the Magi had left, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell you. For Herod will seek the child to destroy him." So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod, so that what the Lord said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, seeing he had been tricked by the Magi, was furious; and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and all its neighborhood who were two years old or under, according to the time he had carefully ascertained from the Magi. Then was fulfilled what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, "A voice was heard in Rama, weeping moaning and a loud complaint; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." So he arose and took the child and his mother, and went into the land of Israel. But hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and being warned in a dream he withdrew into the region of Galilee. And he went and settled in a town called Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked Him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?" But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments; 'Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thy father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept ever since I was a child." But when Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, "With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" He said to them, "Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God's help."  
(Luke 18:18-28)