

Sunday, December 31, 2023
30th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 5
Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

Troparion:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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!

O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, the good news of the 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 our God to save our souls.

Kontakion:

Today the godly David is filled with gladness and Joseph offers praise with James. Having received the crown of their kinship with Christ, they rejoice, praising in song Him Who is inexpressibly born on earth, crying out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels, with 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 8th Tone:

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy name, O Most High!
(Vs.) Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise!

Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

God is wonderous 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.

Alleluia Verses:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!
(Vs.) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge!

Tone 4:

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."