

**Wednesday, December 25, 2020**  
**Nativity of Christ**

Troparion:

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:

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 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 God, all the earth! Sing of His name! Give glory to His praise!

Epistle:

The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. (Gal. 4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

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!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." But when King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and so was all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and Scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And you, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah are by no means least among the princes of Judah; for from you shall come forth a leader who shall shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly, and carefully ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared to them. And sending them to Bethlehem he said, "Go and make careful inquiry concerning the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship him." Now they, having heard the king, went their way. And behold, the star they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the child was. And when they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly. And entering the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down they worshipped him. And opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.