

LITTLE COMPLINE
WITH THE
AKATHIST HYMN FOR THE NATIVITY
OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR



“O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!”

THE SERVICE OF LITTLE COMPLINE WITH THE AKATHIST HYMN FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

The priest, vested in exorasson and holding his blue epitachelion in his left hand, stands on the solea before the closed curtain and holy doors, facing east, and makes three metanias, saying each time:

PRIEST: O God, be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. [3x]

Then he blesses the epitachelion, kisses the neck-cross and puts it on, saying:

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy. Blessed is God, who poureth out His grace upon his priests, as oil of myrrh upon the head, which runneth down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runneth down the fringe of his raiment, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Now standing before the icon of the Nativity placed on a stand in the middle of the solea, he blesses himself, and says in a loud voice:

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, our God, Glory to thee.

O Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things, treasury of good things and giver of life: come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

ALL: 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: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, 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: both 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 the evil one.

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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

ALL: Lord have mercy. [12x]

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 50

READER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy: and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out mine iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sins did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth: the unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness: the bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and steady me with a guiding spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways: and the impious shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it Thee: Thou delightest not in burnt offerings. Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit: a contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion: that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole-burnt offerings: then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

PSALM 69

READER: O God, be attentive unto helping me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be shamed and confounded that seek after my soul. Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me. Let them be turned back straightway in shame that say unto me: Well done! Well done! Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee all that seek after Thee, O God, and let them that love Thy salvation say continually: The Lord be magnified. But as for me, I am poor and needy; O God, come unto mine aid. My helper and my deliverer art Thou, O Lord; make no long tarrying.

PSALM 142

READER: O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy Name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

THE LITTLE DOXOLOGY

- ALL: + Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

The Akathist Hymn for the Nativity of Christ

- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will,
for Thou art my God.
- + **For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see
light.**
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + **Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.**
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised
and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + **Let Thy mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope
in Thee.**
- + Blessed art thou, O Lord; teach me thy statutes.
- + **Blessed art thou, O Master; make me to understand thy
commandments.**
- + Blessed art thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with thy precepts.
- + **Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the
works of Thy hands.**
- + To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to
Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets; And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

THEOTOKION

READER: It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, who art ever-blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.



KATAVASIAS FROM THE FIRST & SECOND CANONS OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Mode 1

ODE ONE

First Canon



Christ is born, give ye glo - ry. Christ is



come from Heav - en, re - ceive ye Him. Christ is on



earth, be ye ex - alt - ed. Sing un - to the Lord



all the earth and sing prais - es in glad - ness, O ye



peo - ples; for He hath been glo - ri - fied.

ODE ONE
Second Canon



Work-ing a great won-der the Mas-ter saved the peo -



ple of old when He made dry the sea's swell-ing



wa - ter. And now He is born of His own will



from a Maid - en, mak-ing us a path that lead-eth



un - to Heav - en: Him we glo - ri - fy, e - qual in



es - sence with the Fa - ther and with mor - tals.

ODE THREE

First Canon



To the Son Who was be - got - ten of the



Fa - ther be - fore the ag - es with - out



change, and in these last days was with-out seed made



flesh of the Vir - gin, to Christ our God let us



cry a - loud: Thou Who hast raised up our horn,



ho - ly art Thou, O Lord.

ODE THREE

Second Canon



To Thy ser - vants' hymns in - cline, O Ben - e -



fac - tor; bring low the haugh - ty pride of the ad - ver -



sar - y. O Bless - ed One, that look - est down and



se - est all; keep us a - bove sin, who ev - er



sing Thy prais - es, stead - fast and un - moved on the foun -



da - tion of faith.

ODE FOUR

First Canon



Rod of the root of Jes - se, and flow - er that



blos - somed from his stem, O Christ, Thou hast sprung



from the Vir - gin; from the moun - tain dense - ly o - ver -



shad owed hast Thou come, O Praised One, made



flesh of her that knew not wed - lock. O Thou



Who art im - ma - ter - i - ate and God, glo - ry to Thy



pow - er, O Lord.

ODE FOUR

Second Canon



In his song of old, Proph - et Ab - ba - cum fore -



told of the res - to - ra - tion of all the race of



mor - tals, hav - ing been vouch - safed to see its type



past all tell - ing; for as a young babe from the



moun - tain of the Vir - gin did the Word come



forth to re - fash - ion the peo - ples.

ODE FIVE

First Canon



Since Thou art the God of peace and the Fa -



ther of mer - cies, Thou hast sent un-to us Thine



An - gel of Great Coun - sel grant - ing us peace.



Where - fore, hav - ing been guid - ed to the light of



di - vine knowl - edge, and watch - ing by night, we



glo - ri - fy Thee, O Friend of man.

ODE FIVE
Second Canon



As we now keep watch in the night to



sing Thy prais - es as our Ben - e - fac - tor, O



Christ, grant us for - give - ness of what we have



done in be - night - ed de - lu - sion; come pro - vide a



path that is eas - y to jour - ney, that we



may as - cend up - on it and find glo - ry.

ODE SIX
First Canon



The sea - mon - ster spat forth Jo - nah



as it had re - ceived him like a babe from the



womb; while the Word, hav - ing dwelt in the



Vir - gin and tak - en flesh, came forth from her yet



kept her in - cor - rupt. For be - ing Him - self not



sub - ject to cor - rup - tion, He pre - served His moth - er



free from harm.

ODE SIX
Second Canon



Dwell - ing in the deeps of the sea's



low - est re - gions, Jo - nah prayed to come un - to



Thee and calm the tem - pest. But I, that am



pierced by the ar - rows of the ty - rant, call on



Thee, O Christ, the A - bol - ish - er of e - -



vil: come an - tic - i - pate my sloth - ful - ness



speed - i - ly.

ODE SEVEN

First Canon

Hard Chromatic



Scorn - ing the im - pi - - ous de - cree, the



Chil - dren brought up in god - li - ness feared



not the threat of fire, but stand - ing in the midst



of the flames, they chant - ed: O God of our



Fa - thers, bless - ed art Thou.

ODE SEVEN

Second Canon



For the King of all, long - ing held



fast the chil - dren, who de - spised as nought the



base un - god - ly bab - blings of the ty - rant who



raged with fu - - ry in - sen - sate; and the



bound - less fire then gave way as they cried



out to the Sov - 'reign Lord: Bless - ed art



Thou to the a - ges.

ODE EIGHT

First Canon



The fur-nace moist with dew was the im -



age and fig - ure of a won - der past na -



ture; for it burned not the Youths whom it had re -



ceived, e - ven as the fire of the God - head con -



sumed not the Vir - gin's womb in - to which it



had de - scend - ed. Where - fore in praise let us



sing: Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, and su -



preme - ly ex - alt Him, un - to all the ag - es.

ODE EIGHT

Second Canon



Midst the flames un - burnt, the Old Cov - e - nant



chil - dren fig - ure forth the womb of the vir -



gin - al Maid - en, which, re - main - ing sealed, doth con -



ceive be - yond na - ture. For in work - ing both



by the same won - drous pow - er, grace doth wise -



ly rouse the peo - ples un - to prais - es.

ODE NINE

First Canon



Mag - ni - fy, O my soul her that is more hon-'ra -



ble and more glo - ri - ous than the hosts on high.



A strange and mar - vel - lous mys - ter - y do



I be hold; the cave is a Heav - en; the



Vir - gin a che - ru - bic throne; the man - ger a



space where - in Christ God the Un - con - tain - a - ble



One hath re - clined Him do we praise and



mag - ni - - fy.

ODE NINE

Second Canon



Mag - ni - fy, O my soul, her that hath de -



liv - ered us from the curse.



Be - ing well con - tent, out of fear, to be



si - lent would be eas - i - er, since si - lence hath no



dan - ger; O Vir - gin, it is hard to com - pose



hymns with love framed in har - mon - y, but we pray



thee, O Moth - er: Do thou grant us strength as



great as our vo - li - tion.

KONTAKION

Mode Plagal 4 / Tone 8



O Christ our God, who didst choose the most
pure Vir - gin from a - mong all gen - er -
a - tions and was born of her in the flesh, we Thy
ser - vants of - fer hymns of thanks - giv - ing un - to
Thee. Since Thou art pos - sessed of in - ef - fa - ble
lov - ing kind - ness, O Mas - ter, from all
man - ner of mis - for - tune free us who cry: O Je - sus
Son of God who be - came in - car - nate for our
sakes glor - y be to Thee.



WEEK	TURN TO PAGE	SECTION
1	28	First Stasis
2	34	Second Stasis
3	40	Third Stasis
4	46	Fourth Stasis

FIRST STASIS: OIKOS 1

PRIEST: A multitude of angels assembled in Bethlehem to behold the unapproachable Nativity; and seeing their Creator lying in the manger as a babe, they were filled with awe. And offering homage with fear, they honored the godliness of Him Who was born and of her who bore Him, chanting such things as these:

**+ Glory to Thee, O Son of God, Who wast begotten
of the Father before time began!**

Glory to Thee Who with the Father and the Spirit
didst create all things!

+ Glory to Thee Who earnest to save the perishing!

Glory to Thee Who did condescend even to assume
the form of a servant!

+ Glory to Thee Who wast ineffably born of the Virgin!

Glory to Thee Who searchest for the lost!

+ Glory to Thee, O Saviour of the perishing!

Glory to Thee Who hast demolished the wall of separation!

**+ Glory to Thee Who again hast opened paradise,
which was shut by disobedience!**

Glory to Thee Who ineffably lovest the human race!

**+ Glory to Thee Who didst show the cave to be heaven
on earth!**

Glory to Thee Who hast shown the Virgin,
who gave Thee birth, to be the throne of the cherubim!

**+ O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

FIRST STĀSIS: KONTAKION 2

PRIEST: Seeing that their Master had received flesh from the pure Virgin, the incorporeal angels were filled with awe and said one to another: “This is an all-glorious mystery past understanding!” And marveling at His ineffable condescension, they chanted with fear: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al-le-lu - - - ia, Al-le-lu - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

FIRST STĀSIS: OIKOS 2

PRIEST: All of noetic creation is filled with awe and with thanksgiving hymneth the mystery of Thy nativity, O Master. The hosts of heaven rejoice, chanting: “Glory to God in the highest!”; earth and men are filled with gladness; and we unceasingly cry out:

+Glory to Thee, O God, Who art glorified in the highest!

Glory to Thee Who didst reveal Thyself to us on earth!

+Glory to Thee Who hast reconciled Thyself with us!

Glory to Thee Who didst appear to us on earth!

+Glory to Thee Who wast ineffably incarnate of the Virgin!

Glory to Thee Who didst cause the star to shine forth!

+Glory to Thee Who by it summoned the Magi to worship Thee!

Glory to Thee Who didst mercifully accept their gifts!

+Glory to Thee Who hast taught all creation to minister unto Thee!

Glory to Thee Who hast given us the understanding to hymn Thee!

+Glory to Thee Who hast united Thyself with us!

Glory to Thee Who Thyself hast saved, us!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo-ry be to Thee.

FIRST STASIS: KONTAKION 3

PRIEST: The God of peace and Father of compassion, Who is mighty in strength, came to earth to save the world which is perishing; and in Bethlehem He is now born as a babe of the Virgin, whom He hath shown to be a Mother and Mediatress of salvation for all who glorify His incarnation and chant: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

FIRST STĀSIS: OIKOS 3

PRIEST: Having her who gave Thee birth in an all-pure manner praying unceasingly for us, rejoicing, we hymn the mystery of Thy becoming man: O Master; and glorifying Thy nativity from the God-pleasing Virgin, we cry:

+ **Glory to Thee O Son of God!**

Glory to Thee, O Son of the Virgin!

+ **Glory to Thee Who upon us hast shown forth the abyss of Thy love for mankind!**

Glory to Thee Who hast ineffably loved us!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast sought out the lost sheep!**

Glory to Thee Who hast told the angels to rejoice in its finding!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast taken it upon Thy shoulders!**

Glory to Thee Who hast led it to the Father!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast united men and angels in a single flock!**

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered the world from delusion!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast shown us great and ineffable mercy!**

Glory to Thee Who lovest us more than all other creatures!

+ **O Jesus Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake, glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo-ry be to Thee.

FIRST STĀSIS: KONTAKION 4

PRIEST: The chaste-minded Joseph, who before had within him a storm of doubting thoughts, now beholdeth all-glorious things within the divine cave; for even though he beheld as a man Him Who was born of the Virgin, yet did he understand from things revealed to him that He is the true God. Wherefore, doing homage to His divinity, He chanted with joy: Alleluia!

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

TURN TO PAGE 52

SECOND STASIS: OIKOS 4

PRIEST: The shepherds heard the angel proclaiming to them that the Saviour of the world was born in the city of David, and running swiftly, they beheld Him lying in the manger, like an unblemished lamb which had been tended in the womb of the Virgin, and her who had given birth to Him reverently ministering unto Him, and Joseph standing by with fear. And they spake of what they had been told, and, bowing down before the newborn babe, they said:

+Glory to Thee, O Lamb of God, Saviour of the world!

Glory to Thee, O Son of God, Who hast revealed to us
an ineffable miracle!

+Glory to Thee Who hast caused us to hear the song of angels!

Glory to Thee Who hast taught us to glorify Thee with them!

+Glory to Thee Who hast moved angels and men to hymn Thee!

Glory to Thee Who hast brought joy to earth and heaven!

+Glory to Thee in Whom those in heaven rejoice with those on earth!

Glory to Thee, for by Thee are those on earth united
with those in heaven!

**+Glory to Thee Who hast shown the power of the devil
to be impotent!**

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from His tyranny!


Glory to Thee, O ineffable joy of those who believe in Thee!

Glory to Thee, O unspeakable delight of those who love Thee!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:




O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

SECOND STASIS: KONTAKION 5

PRIEST: Beholding the divinely guided star which pointed beforehand to the nativity of Christ, the Magi observed it; and by its guidance they reached the Unapproachable One and beheld Him Who is invisible. And they rejoice, crying out to Him: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - - ia.

SECOND STASIS: OIKOS 5

PRIEST: Seeing the King of kings sitting on the arm of the Virgin as upon the throne of the cherubim, and understanding Him to be the Master, even though He had assumed the form of a servant, the Magi, hastened to offer Him gifts: gold, as to the King of all; frankincense, as to God; and myrrh, as to One immortal; and making obeisance, they chanted:

+Glory to Thee Who hast shone forth light upon all!

Glory to Thee Who by a star hast summoned us to do Thee homage!

+Glory to Thee Who didst reprove the malice of cruel Herod!

Glory to Thee Who didst show his plotting to be in vain!

+Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from his deception!

Glory to Thee Who hast taught us to worship Thee,
the Sun of righteousness!

+Glory to Thee Who hast enlightened all with the light of understanding!

Glory to Thee Who by Thy nativity hast abolished the delusion of polytheism!

+Glory to Thee Who hast laid low the dominion of the enemy!

Glory to Thee Who hast taught us to worship Thee
with the Father and the Spirit!


+Glory to Thee Who hast crushed the head of the serpent who beguiled us!

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from everlasting death!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

SECOND STASIS: KONTAKION 6

PRIEST: Fulfilling the prophecies concerning Thee, which were uttered by the God-bearing heralds, Thou hast revealed Thyself on earth, O Saviour, being born now of the pure Virgin in a wretched cave; and though rich, Thou didst willingly impoverish Thyself for our sake, that Thou mightest enrich men, who chant to Thee with faith: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - - ia.

SECOND STASIS: OIKOS 6

PRIEST: Thou didst shine forth from the Virgin, Thy Mother who knew not man, shining like the sun and driving away the darkness of falsehood; for all the demons trembled, unable to withstand Thy might, and hades, beholding the miracle, was filled with terror. And we cry out to Thee in thanksgiving:

+Glory to Thee, O Saviour of men!

Glory to Thee, O Destroyer of the demons!

+Glory to Thee Who by Thy birth did fill the prince of lies with dread!

Glory to Thee Who hast abolished the delusion of the idols!

**+Glory to Thee Who hast illumined all with the light
of the knowledge of God!**

Glory to Thee Who hast driven away the darkness of ignorance!

**+Glory to Thee, O Rock Who hast poured forth the water
of salvation upon all!**

Glory to Thee Who hast quenched the thirst of Adam and David!

+Glory to Thee Who like the sun hast enlightened all by Thy nativity!

Glory to Thee Who hast made the whole world radiant
with beams of grace!

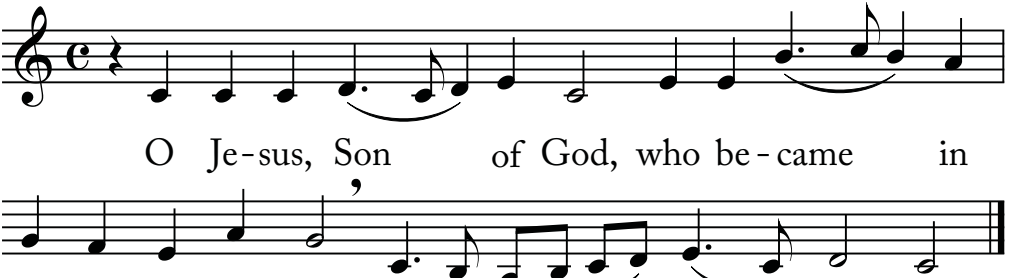
+Glory to Thee Who hast shown us the promised land!

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from the curse
of our whole race!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

SECOND STASIS: KONTAKION 7

PRIEST: Desiring to reveal to us the mystery hidden from before time began, Thou didst show the mystery to servants from all creation, O Saviour: to Gabriel from among the angels, to the Virgin from among men, to the star from among the heavens, and from earth to the cave wherein it was Thy good pleasure to be born. Wherefore, marveling at Thine ineffable wisdom, we cry out: Alleluia!

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - - ia.

TURN TO PAGE 52

THIRD STASIS: OIKOS 7

PRIEST: The Creator of all showed forth a new creation, revealing Himself in flesh, springing forth from a seedless womb, which He preserved incorrupt; and He showed it to be the mediation of salvation for those who chant:

**+Glory to Thee, O Son of God, Who hast shown her
who bore Thee to be a Mother of lovingkindness!**

Glory to Thee Who didst preserve her a virgin even after she gave birth!

+Glory to Thee Who earnest to save Adam!

Glory to Thee Who hast comforted the tears of Eve!

+Glory to Thee Who camest to save all men!

Glory to Thee Who hast shone forth an image of the resurrection!

+Glory to Thee Who hast rent asunder the record of our sins!

Glory to Thee Who has given us a model of humility!

+Glory to Thee Who didst impoverish Thyself for our sake!

Glory to Thee Who hast enriched us with Thy poverty!

+Glory to Thee Who hast clothed us in the raiment of salvation!

Glory to Thee Who hast delighted us by Thy love!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censures the icon 9x.

ALL:



O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in



car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

THIRD STĀSIS: KONTAKION 8

PRIEST: Seeing Thy strange and all-glorious nativity which took place in the cave, let us all the more spurn the vanities of the world, for the Divine Mind appeared on earth as a humble man, that He might lead up to the heavens those who cry out to Him: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,

Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

THIRD STĀSIS: OIKOS 8

PRIEST: Thou art all desire, all delight for those who love Thee and glorify Thy divine condescension, O Christ God; for, having been born of the pure Virgin on earth, Thou ledest up into the heavens those who chant:

+Glory to Thee, O Son of God, Who wast born on earth!

Glory to Thee Who wast ineffably incarnate of the Virgin!

+Glory to Thee Who hast shown Thyself to us!

Glory to Thee Who summoned to Thee those afar off!

+Glory to Thee, our ineffable Joy!

Glory to Thee, O delight of our hearts!

+Glory to Thee Who in Thy nativity hast shone forth the light of salvation!

Glory to Thee Who didst shed tears for our salvation!

+Glory to Thee Who hast thereby quenched the flame of our passions!

Glory to Thee Who hast cleansed us of the defilement of sin!

+Glory to Thee Who hast set at nought our transgression!

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from corruption!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censens the icon 9x.

ALL:

O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

THIRD STASIS: KONTAKION 9

PRIEST: No mind or understanding of angels or men is able to comprehend the mystery of Thine unapproachable nativity, O Master; yet do Thou accept our love and faith, O good Master, and save us who chant unto Thee: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,

Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

THIRD STASIS: OIKOS 9

PRIEST: We see the most eloquent of orators mute as fish when confronted by Thine incarnation, O Master; for they are at a loss how, being perfect God, thou didst appear as a perfect man, and how Thou wast born of the Virgin who knew not wedlock. But we, refusing to delve into these mysteries, glorify Thee with faith alone, crying:

+Glory to Thee, O hypostatic Wisdom of God!

Glory to Thee, O ineffable Joy of all!

**+Glory to Thee Who didst show those lacking in wisdom
to be lovers of wisdom!**

Glory to Thee Who hast given understanding
even to the simple!

+Glory to Thee Who didst put to shame those who tested Thee!

Glory to Thee Who didst break the webs of all
who devise myths!

**+Glory to Thee Who hast shone forth the light of divine
knowledge upon all!**

Glory to Thee Who didst pour forth wisdom in Thy works!

+Glory to Thee Who hast enlightened the minds of many!

Glory to Thee Who hast shown us the path to salvation!


+Glory to Thee, O unfathomable abyss of loving kindness!

Glory to Thee, O depth of compassions and love for mankind!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censures the icon 9x.

ALL:



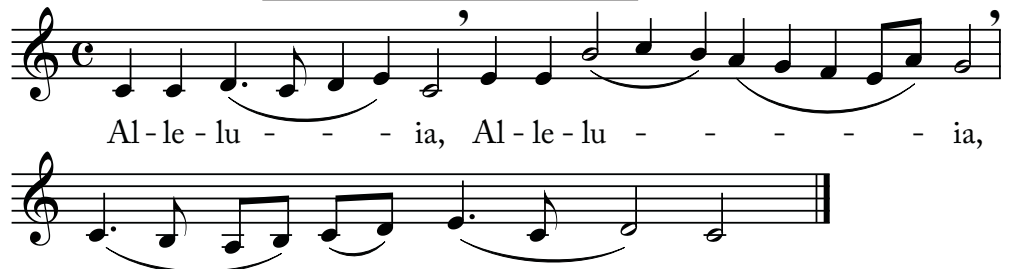
O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

THIRD STĀSIS: KONTAKION 10

PRIEST: Desiring to save the world which is perishing, the Adorner of all is born of the Virgin as a babe; He Who looseth the intricate bonds of transgressions is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger; and being the Son of God, He becometh the Son of the Virgin, and wisely arrangeth all things, that He might save those who chant unto Him: **Alleluia!**

The priest censures the icon 9x.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

TURN TO PAGE 52

FOURTH STĀSIS: OIKOS 10

PRIEST: Herod, the enemy of God, showed himself to be a pillar and wall of God-opposing malice and a spawn of great iniquity, who tried to slay Him Who giveth life unto all, and at his command innocent babes were reaped by the sword, like unripe grain; wherefore, having driven all malice from our hearts, let us glorify Him Who came to save us, crying:

+Glory to Thee Who didst show Herod's intention to be in vain!

Glory to Thee Who hast numbered with the angels
the babes he slew!

+Glory to Thee, O Destroyer of malice!

Glory to Thee, O Instructor in humility and Lover of mortals!

+Glory to Thee Who hast broken the horn of pride!

Glory to Thee Who hast shone the light of righteousness upon all!

**+Glory to Thee Who Thyself hast taught meekness
and humility to all!**

Glory to Thee Who hast brought all to acknowledge Thee!

**+Glory to Thee Who by Thy nativity didst sanctify the
womb of her who bore Thee!**

Glory to Thee Who didst accept the shepherds' wonder
and the gifts of the Magi!

**+Glory to Thee Who did teach even irrational creatures to
serve Thee!**

Glory to Thee Who hast sanctified all creation!

**+O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

O Je-sus, Son of God, who be - came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

The musical notation is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a quarter rest followed by a series of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The second staff continues with quarter notes: D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. There are various slurs and accents throughout the piece.

FOURTH STASIS: KONTAKION 11

PRIEST: All laudation of Thine incarnation for our sake falleth short, and for those who wish to offer fitting praise, silence is better. For even were we to offer Thee hymns as numerous as the sands of the sea, O all- holy King, we would accomplish nought that is meet; wherefore, we chant with fear: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

The musical notation is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a quarter rest followed by quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The second staff continues with quarter notes: D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. There are various slurs and accents throughout the piece.

FOURTH STASIS: OIKOS 11

PRIEST: They who sat in darkness and the shadow of death, beholding Thee the never-waning Light Who shone forth from the Virgin, were illumined by the fire of Thy divinity, and hymned Thee, the Bestower of wisdom and understanding, crying out such things as these:

+ **Glory to Thee, O Son of God, ineffable Light!**

Glory to Thee, O Sun of righteousness, Who hast enlightened all by Thy nativity!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast shone forth most radiant enlightenment!**

Glory to Thee Who hast poured forth upon us a most torrential river of grace!

+ **Glory to Thee Who has richly provided the water of salvation as drink!**

Glory to Thee Who hast shown to those who love Thee that Thy yoke is easy and Thy burden is light!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast lifted from us the weight of sin!**

Glory to Thee Who hast delivered us from slavery to the enemy!

+ **Glory to Thee Who hast filled all with gladness by Thine appearance on earth!**

Glory to Thee Who hast given us consolation through rebirth!

+ **Glory to Thee Who has shown Thyself to us as our utmost Desire!**

Glory to Thee Who hast reconciled with the Father us who are His enemies!

+ **O Jesus, Son of God, Who became incarnate for our sake, glory be to Thee!**

FOURTH STĀSIS: KONTAKION 12

PRIEST: O our Saviour, Who didst come to give grace unto all and to loose the debts of men by Thine incarnation, loose also our debts and rend asunder the record of our sins, that we may glorify Thine ineffable nativity and chant without ceasing: **Alleluia!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:

Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,

Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

FOURTH STASIS: OIKOS 12

PRIEST: Hymning Thy becoming man, we praise, bless and worship Thee, O our Saviour; and we believe that Thou art the Lord and God Who saveth all who hope on Thee, who glorify Thine ineffable nativity from the Virgin, and chant such things as these:

**+ Glory to Thee, O Son of God, Who art worshiped
in the highest with the Father and the Spirit!**

Glory to Thee Who art glorified by all the ranks of
heaven and earth!

**+ Glory to Thee Who hast disclosed the mystery hidden
from before time began!**

Glory to Thee Who hast revealed Thine ineffable love for us!

+ Glory to Thee, O Adorner of all creation!

Glory to Thee, O our most merciful Saviour!

**+ Glory to Thee Who makest firm the scepters of those
who reign with piety on the earth!**

Glory to Thee Who adornest devout hierarchs and priests
with wisdom and majesty!

+ Glory to Thee, O foundation and confirmation of the Church!

Glory to Thee, O salvation and adornment of all the faithful!


+ Glory to Thee, O Physician and Healing of our bodies!

Glory to Thee, O Adorner and Saviour of our souls!

**+ O Jesus, Son of God, Who becomest incarnate for our sake,
glory be to Thee!**

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



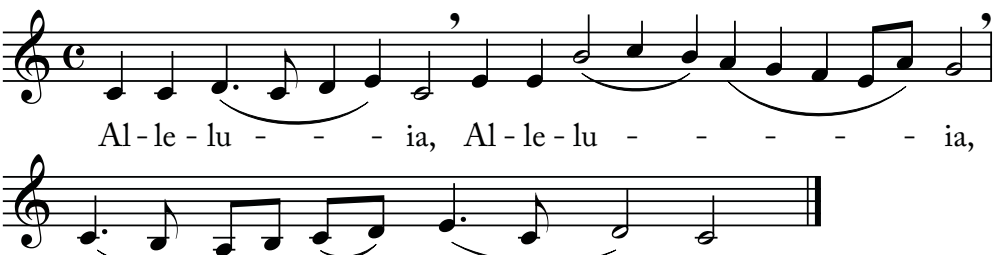
O Je-sus, Son of God, who be-came in
car-nate for our sake, glo - ry be to Thee.

FOURTH STASIS: KONTAKION 13

PRIEST: Jesus all-sweet and most compassionate, our Saviour, Creator and Master! Accept this, our meager supplication, thanksgiving and glorification, as Thou didst accept the gifts and worship of the Magi; and preserve us, Thy servants, from all perils. Grant us the forgiveness of sins, and from everlasting torment deliver those who with faith glorify Thy nativity from the pure Virgin, and who cry out to Thee: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The priest censes the icon 9x.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - - - ia, Al - le - lu - - - - - ia,
Al - - - le - lu - - - ia.

KONTAKION

Mode Plagal 4 / Tone 8



O Christ our God, who didst choose the most
pure Vir - gin from a - mong all gen - er -
a - tions and was born of her in the flesh, we Thy
ser - vants of - fer hymns of thanks - giv - ing un - to
Thee. Since Thou art pos - sessed of in - ef - fa - ble
lov - ing kind - ness, O Mas - ter, from all
man - ner of mis - for - tune free us who cry: O Je - sus
Son of God who be - came in - car - nate for our
sakes glor - y be to Thee.

The Priest stands before the Holy Doors, facing east.

All: 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:
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord cleanse us from our
sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, 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:
both 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE FORFEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Mode 4 - Joseph was Amazed

READER: Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all.* Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life* hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin.* Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise,* wherein the divine and saving Tree is found,* and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam.* For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Lord, have mercy. [40x]

O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

READER: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious
beyond compare than the Seraphim. Thou who without
corruption bearest God the Word; and art truly Theotokos:
we magnify thee.

Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to
shine upon us, and be merciful unto us.

READER: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. [12x]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Facing the icon of the Theotokos on the iconostasis, the priest says:

PRIEST: O Lady, Bride of God, spotless, blameless, pure and immaculate
Virgin, thou who without corruption, by thy glorious birth-
giving, hast united God the Word to man, and joined the fallen
nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone art the hope of
the hopeless, the help to those who do battle; the ready help of
those who flee unto thee, and the refuge of all Christians: Despise
me not, an accursed sinner, though I have rendered myself
unworthy by my shameful thoughts, words and deeds, and
through indolence have become a slave to the pleasure of life;

but as the Mother of the God who lovest mankind, mercifully have compassion upon me, a sinner and a prodigal, and receive my prayer, though it be offered unto thee by unworthy lips; and using thy boldness as a mother, entreat thy Son, our Lord and Master, that he may open to me also the tender compassions of his goodness, so as to overlook my numberless transgressions and turn me to repentance and show me forth as a zealous doer of his commandments. And because thou art merciful, compassionate and full of lovingkindness, be thou ever near me in this present life as an ardent help and protection, defending me from the assaults of adversaries and leading me to salvation. And at the time of my departure from this life, care for my miserable soul and drive far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the fearful day of judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment, and present me as an inheritor of the ineffable glory of thy Son, our God. May this be my lot, O Lady, most holy Theotokos, through thy mediation and help, through the grace and love toward mankind of thine only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom are due all glory, honor and worship, with his unoriginated Father and his all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Facing the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, the priest says:

PRIEST: And grant unto us, O Master, when we depart to sleep, repose of body and soul; and protect us from the murky sleep of sin and from all the dark pleasures of the night.

Calm the impulses of passions, and quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily thrown against us; check the turbulence of our flesh, and still all earthly and material thoughts. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, a prudent reason, a vigilant heart, a tranquil sleep free from all the fantasies of Satan. Raise us up again at the time of prayer strengthened in thy commandments, holding steadfastly within us the remembrance of thy judgments. Grant us grace to glorify thee all through the night, that we may praise and bless and glorify thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Facing the icon of the Theotokos on the iconostasis, the priest says:

PRIEST: O most glorious, ever-virgin, blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to thy Son our God, and intercede with him that through thee he may save our souls.

Standing before the holy doors, facing east, the priest says:

PRIEST: The Father is my Hope; the Son is my Refuge; the Holy Spirit is my Protection; O Holy Trinity: Glory to thee.

In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope: keep me under thy protection.

~ THE DISMISSAL ~

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of (*saints of the day*) and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Standing before the holy doors, facing east, the priest makes three metanias, saying:

PRIEST: O God be gracious unto me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. [3x]

Turning then to the west, he bows to the people, saying:

Forgive me a sinner.

PEOPLE: God forgive thee, holy father.

*Still facing west, the priest says the following petitions.
The people respond saying or singing Lord have mercy.*

PRIEST: + Let us pray for peace of the world

+And for pious and Orthodox Christians:

+ And for our [*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*] and all our brotherhood in Christ:

+ And for the civil authorities of this land:

+ And for the welfare of our armed forces:

+ And for our fathers and brethren absent from among us:

+ And for those who hate us and those who love us:

+ And for those who are kind to us and minister unto us:

+And for those who have requested our prayers, unworthy though we be:

+ And for the deliverance of captives:

+ And for travelers by land and sea and air:

+ And for those who lie in sickness:

+ And let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth:

+ And for the soul of every Orthodox Christian:

+ Let us bless God-fearing leaders, Orthodox bishops, the founders of this holy church and our parents and teachers, and all our fathers and brethren gone before us, the Orthodox who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord:

+ Let us also say for ourselves:

ALL: *Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

The faithful now come forward to venerate the icon of the Christ and receive a blessing from the priest, while the following hymn is sung.

KONTAKION

Mode 3. *On this day the Virgin.*

On this day the Vir - gin com - eth to the
cave to give birth to God the Word in
ef - fa - bly, Who was be - fore all the ag - - -
es. Dance for joy O earth on hear - - - ing the
glad - some tid - - - ings with the An - gels
and the shep - herds now glo - ri - fy Him

The Akathist Hymn for the Nativity of Christ



Who is will - ing to be gazed on as a young Child



Who be - fore the ag - es is God.

After all have passed, the Priest faces the icon of Christ and says:

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

