

## LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

*Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (Sunday of the Genealogy),  
which falls on Eve of the Nativity of Christ;  
Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and Those with Her*

### THE FIRST ANTIPHON

It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High!

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us!

To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night. *(Refrain)*

Upright is the Lord our God; and there is no unrighteousness in Him. *(Refrain)*  
Glory...Both now...*(Refrain)*

### THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty! The Lord is clothed with strength, and He hath gird Himself!

**Refrain:** O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

For He established the world which shall not be shaken. *(Refrain)*

Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days. *(Refrain)*

Glory...Both now...Only-begotten Son...

- During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. Then, the following Entrance Hymn:

### THE ENTRANCE HYMN OF REGULAR SUNDAYS

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ! Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

- After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order:

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

### APOLYTIKION FOR THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (TONE 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### APOLYTIKION FOR THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old \* with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, \* when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. \* Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, \* but no place was found within the inn for them; \* yet the cave proved a delightful palace \* for the pure Lady and Queen of all. \* For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

### APOLYTIKION FOR ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER (TONE 4)

In truth you were revealed to your flock, as a rule of faith, a model of meekness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore, you have won the heights by humility, riches by poverty. Holy Father, Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

### KONTAKION FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 3)

The Virgin cometh today, to the cave to give birth. Ineffably to bring forth, the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice O earth, at the message. With the angels and shepherds give glory to Him. Who shall appear by His own will, as a young child, He Who is from eternity, God.

### THE EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

*For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*


*Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)*

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— of whom the world was not worthy— wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### *Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25)*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

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Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.