

LITURGICAL VARIABLES – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

*Great Feast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos (transferred);
Sunday before the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

FIRST ANTIPHON

Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness. Lo, we have heard it at Ephratha. We have found it in the plains of the wood.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!
Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be shaken; God shall help her right early in the morning. *(Refrain)*
Glory...Both now...*(Refrain)*

SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not annul it. Of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy throne.

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

There will I make to spring forth a horn for David. I have prepared a lamp for My Christ. *(Refrain)*

For the Lord hath elected Zion; He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself. *(Refrain)*

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

THIRD ANTIPHON

Here will I dwell, for I have chosen her. The Most High hath hallowed His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness.

• During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Then, the following Entrance Hymn:

ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION

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 below:

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 OF NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

• Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.

KONTAKION OF NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

TRISAGION HYMN

English: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Arabic: Qudduson ullah, Qudduson ulqawi, Qudduson ullahdhi, la yamut urhamna.

Greek: Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas.

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

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17)


The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

COMMUNION HYMN OF THE FEAST (TONE 8)

I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

SYNAXARION

Today, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos. The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.



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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.