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# The Service of Matins

**Saturday, December 26, 2015**

**Katavasia of Christmas II**

**Text in English**

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**CHOIR**

**Mode 4.**

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. (SAAS)

**Verse 1:** *Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His holy name.*

**Verse 2:** *All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.*

**Verse 3:** *And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.*

From Menaion - - -

**Apolytikion. For the Feast.**

**Mode 4.**

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. (3)

**DEACON**

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the

Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR**

**Kathisma I.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea. (SD)

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born.\* With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are,\* now let us follow to where the star is proceeding.\* Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there.\* Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song,\* saying: Glory in the highest be to Him who\* was born today in the grotto\* from the Virgin and Theotokos,\* in Bethlehem of Judea. (SD)

**Kathisma II.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4. Joseph marveled.**

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by what was done in you? \* And she answers, "For in time I have brought forth a timeless Son. \* But I have no understanding of His conception. \* Husbandless am I: how can I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written."

\* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \*  
in Bethlehem of Judea. (SD)

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Mary, why are you amazed and awed by  
what was done in you? \* And she answers,  
"For in time I have brought forth a timeless  
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I bear a son? \* Who has ever seen seedless  
childbirth? \* But where God wills, the order  
found in nature \* is overcome, as it is written."  
\* So Christ was born from the Virgin Maiden, \*  
in Bethlehem of Judea. (SD)

**READER**

**Psalm 50 (51).**

Have mercy on me, O God, according  
to Your great mercy; and according to the  
abundance of Your compassion, blot out my  
transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my  
lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For  
I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always  
before me. Against You only have I sinned  
and done evil in Your sight; that You may be  
justified in Your words, and overcome when  
You are judged. For behold, I was conceived  
in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore  
me. Behold, You love truth; You showed  
me the unknown and secret things of Your  
wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop,  
and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and  
I will be made whiter than snow. You shall  
make me hear joy and gladness; my bones  
that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn  
Your face from my sins, and blot out all my  
transgressions. Create in me a clean heart,  
O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence,

and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit.  
I will teach transgressors Your ways, and  
the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver  
me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of  
my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly  
rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You  
shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare  
Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I  
would give it; You will not be pleased with  
whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God  
is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled  
heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord,  
in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the  
walls of Jerusalem be built; then you will be  
pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with  
offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall  
they offer young bulls on Your altar. (SAAS)

**READER**

From Menaion - - -

**Kontakion of the Feast.**

**Mode 3. Automelon.**

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the  
Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \*  
earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing  
and with the shepherds offer up glory. \*  
Following a star the Magi are still proceeding.  
\* He was born for our salvation, a newborn  
Child, the pre-eternal God. (SD)

**Kontakion. For the Theotokos.**

**Kontakion.**

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

He who was begotten of the Father before  
the Morning Star without a mother is made  
flesh from you on earth today without a  
father. Therefore a Star announces the good  
tidings to the Magi, and Shepherds join

the Angels in extolling your immaculate birthgiving, O Maiden full of grace. <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Oikos.**

The mystical grapevine held the Cluster that she produced without natural labor in her arms as if in branches, and she spoke to Him. "You are my fruit, You are my life. You are my God, and from You I know that I am still a virgin as before. And as I see that the seal of my virginity is intact, I proclaim You to be the unchanged Logos who became flesh. I knew no insemination, but I know You the destroy of corruption. For even after You came forth from me, I am still pure; and You left my womb like You found it. For this reason all creation celebrates together and sings to me: 'Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace.'" <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Synaxarion.**

*From the Menaion.*

On December 26 is the Synaxis in honor of our all-holy Lady Theotokos.

On this day we also commemorate our father among the saints Efthymios the Confessor, Bishop of Sardis.

On this day we also commemorate our devout father Constantine who was of Jewish origin.

We also commemorate our devout father Evarestos.

We also commemorate the holy New Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian, who contested in Constantinople in the year 1743.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

**CHOIR**

**Katavasia of Christmas II**

**Ode i. Mode 1.**

Working signs of old the Master saved the people, \* replacing fluid waves of the sea with dry land. \* Now born of a Maid by His own will, He has made \* passable a way to heaven. Him, in essence \* equal to mankind and the Father, we glorify. <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Ode iii.**

Hearken, Benefactor, to the hymns of Your servants, \* and humble the arrogant contempt of the foe. \* Carry us Your musicians, all-seeing Master, \* high above all sin, immovably established \* firmly on the Faith's foundation, O Blessed One. <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Ode iv.**

Prophet Habakkuk in his ode was foretelling \* mankind's remaking, when of old he was granted \* to see its type in a manner past expression: \* From the Virgin mountain as a newborn infant \* the Logos emerged, to refashion the peoples. <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Ode v.**

Would that You come, O Christ, to us who once were darkened \* by the night of works of error, but who offer \* hymns to You wakefully now, O Benefactor. \* Grant us forgiveness, and make easy the pathway. \* Ascending this path may we also find glory. <sup>(SD)</sup>

**Ode vi.**

Jonah, as he sat in the sea's deepest caverns, \* implored to come to You and out of the tempest. \* But as for me, by the tyrant's arrows wounded, \* I pray You, O Christ, the

Destroyer of evil, \* come to me quicker than my soul's own indifference. (SD)

**Ode vii.**

As the three young men were ensnared by the longing \* for the King of all, hence they disdained the tyrant's \* impious chatter, though he was very angry. \* The infinite fire yielded to them, who uttered, \* Blessed are You, O Master, unto the ages. (SD)

**Ode viii.**

*We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.*

Standing in fire without burning, the young men \* did of old portray thus the womb of the Maiden. \* Remaining sealed, supernaturally it gave birth. \* Grace with a single miracle-working power \* did both, and rouses all the peoples to sing praise. (SD)

**DEACON**

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

From Menaion - - -

**CHOIR**

**Ode ix.**

**Canon I.**

**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.*

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. \* For, behold, the grotto is heaven; \* cherubic throne is the Virgin; \* the manger a grand space \* in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; \* Whom in extolling do we magnify. (SD)

**Troparia.**

*O my soul, magnify God who was born in the flesh from a Virgin.*

The wise men concluded from their observations of \* the extraordinary path of the peculiar nova which had lately \* appeared and was shining more brightly than anything in outer space, \* that Christ the King was born on earth, in Bethlehem to save our souls. (SD)

*O my soul, magnify the King who was born as an infant in the grotto.*

When Magi came saying: "Where is the newly born \* child King whose star has appeared? \* For we have come to adore Him \* with gold, myrrh and incense," \* then Herod, the enemy of God, was vexed, and madly incensed, \* fuming he plotted how to murder Christ. (SD)

*O my soul, magnify God who was worshiped by the Magi.*

Herod ascertained the exact time the star appeared; \* by the guidance of which the wise men \* with gifts in Bethlehem worshipped Christ; \* by Whom they were directed \* to go to their country by another way, \* abandoning that terrible, ridiculous infanticide. (SD)

From Menaion - - -

**Canon II.**

**Mode 1. Heirmos.**

*Today the holy Virgin gives birth to the Master within the cave and grotto.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \* give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. (SD)

*Today our Lord and Master is born as an infant; His Mother is a virgin.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \* give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. (SD)

Glory.

*O my soul, magnify the power of the Godhead, that is three hypostases and also undivided.*

We have clearly seen the obscure types and shadows \* fulfilled; and the light of the truth we perceive now, \* O pure Theotokos and Mother of the Logos \* who lately came forth from the gate that had been closed. \* Worthily we bless your womb, all-holy Virgin. (SD)

Both now.

*O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us.*

Having been granted the longed-for experience \* of the Advent of God, the Christ-pleasing people \* tearfully prays to see the regeneration, \* the life-giving Baptism. All-pure and holy Virgin, \* grant us the favor, to venerate that glory. (SD)

### **Katavasia. Mode 1.**

*O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us.*

Easier for us is from fear to love silence, \* free of any peril as it is, O Virgin; \* whereas to weave stirring hymns out of longing \* in earnest, is difficult. Therefore, O Mother, \* give us strength to match our volition, we pray you. (SD)

### **DEACON**

Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

### **PRIEST**

For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

### **CHOIR**

#### **Exaposteilarion**

From Menaion - - -

#### **Mode 3. Automelon.**

Our Savior from on high \* the Orient from the East \* visited us who in the dark \* and shadow hitherto had lain; \* now we have found the truth indeed. \* And this is so because from the Virgin the Lord is born. (3)

#### **Lauds. Mode 4.**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. (SAAS)

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. (SAAS)

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 4.**

*Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. (SAAS)*

You righteous, be glad in heart; and the heavens, be exultant. Leap for joy, O mountains, at the birth of the Messiah. Resembling the Cherubim, the Virgin Maiden is seated and holds in her embraces God the Logos incarnate. The shepherds glorify the newborn Babe; Magi bring the Master their precious gifts. Angels are singing hymns of praise, and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." (SD)

*Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre. (SAAS)*

The Father was well pleased; the Logos became flesh; and the Virgin gave birth to God who became man. A Star reveals Him; Magi bow in worship; Shepherds marvel, and creation rejoices. (SD)

*Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute. (SAAS)*

O Virgin Theotokos who gave birth to the Savior, you reversed the curse to which Eve once was subject. For you have become the Mother of the Father's good pleasure, and you hold in your embraces God the Logos incarnate. The mystery admits no inquiry; we all glorify it by faith alone, and with you we cry aloud and say, "O Lord incomprehensible, glory to You." (SD)

*Praise Him with resounding cymbals, praise Him with triumphant cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (SAAS)*

Come, let us extol and praise the Savior's Mother, who remained a virgin even after

childbirth. Animate City of our King and God, rejoice, for Christ having dwelt in you has wrought our salvation. Together with Gabriel we sing your praise, together with the shepherds we glorify you, crying out, "Theotokos, intercede with the Lord, who is incarnate from you, to save us." (SD)

Glory.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode pl. 2.**

Today, the invisible Nature is conjoined to humanity from a Virgin. Today, the infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem. Today, God uses a star to lead Magi to adore Him. By their gold, frankincense and myrrh, they foretell His three-day burial. For that reason we sing, "O Christ our God, who were incarnate of a Virgin, save our souls." (SD)

Both now.

From Menaion - - -

**Mode 2.**

Today in Bethlehem, Christ is born of the Virgin. Today, the Unoriginate begins, and the Word becomes flesh. The hosts of heaven are rejoicing, and the earth and humanity are merry. The Magi bring their gifts. The Shepherds proclaim the marvel. And we unceasingly cry aloud: \* "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (SD)

**GREAT DOXOLOGY**

Glory be to You who showed the light. Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on earth, His good pleasure in mankind. (SD)

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

**Apolytikion. For the Feast.**

From Menaion ---

**Mode 4.**

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. (SD)