

September 8

Nativity of our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Great Vespers

At Psalm 140

In Tone 6

8. Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven
welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared for Himself.
In His love for mankind,
He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven.
From a barren stem He has brought forth for us His Mother
as a branch full of life.
O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope;
O Lord, glory to You!

7. This is the day of the Lord:
Rejoice, therefore, O nations!
Behold, the chamber of Light and the scroll of the living Word
has come forth from the womb.
The gate that opens to the Rising Sun
and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest, is here today.
She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into the world
for the salvation of souls.

6. Indeed some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God;
but the nativity of Mary surpasses all nativities
in honour and splendour
as it is worthy of the majesty of God.
For she was born in a miraculous way of a barren mother,
and she herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of all,
incarnate in her womb without human seed
against the laws of nature.
She alone is the door through which the only-begotten Son of God
has passed while leaving it sealed
as He had planned in His eternal wisdom.
Thus did He bring salvation to all.

5. Indeed some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God;
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4. Today the barren gates are opened,
and the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth.
Today grace begins to bear fruit,
showing forth to the world the Mother of God
through whom earth is united to heaven
for the salvation of our souls.

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and the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth.
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2. Today glad tidings go forth to the whole world.
Today sweet fragrance is sent forth
by the proclamation of salvation.
Today is the end of the barrenness of our nature;
for the barren one becomes a mother,
the mother of the one who will not cease to be a virgin,
even after giving birth to the One who by nature is Creator and God.
He it is who took flesh by which He brought salvation to the lost;
He is Christ, the Lover of Mankind,
and the Saviour of our souls.

1. Today Anne, the barren one, gives birth to the maiden of God
who had been chosen from all the human generations
to become the dwelling place of the Creator,
Christ our God and King of all.
In her He fulfilled His divine plan
through which our human nature was renewed,
and by which we were to be transferred from corruption to eternal life.

Glory... Now...

Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven
welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared for Himself.
In His love for mankind,
He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven.
From a barren stem He has brought forth for us His Mother
as a branch full of life.
O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope;
O Lord, glory to You!

Readings

Genesis 28:10-17

Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

Proverbs 9:1-11

Lytia

In Tone 1

Today is the beginning of our salvation, O people;
for behold, the Mother and Virgin who was chosen from all generations
to be the habitation of God
is born and comes forth from the barren one.
She is the flower from Jesse and possesses the rod from his root.
May our forefather Adam rejoice and be full of joy;
for behold, she who was created from the rib of Adam
declares that her daughter and descendant is blessed.
She says: "My deliverance has been born to me.
Through her, I will be freed from the bonds of Hades."
May David rejoice, play on his harp, and bless God;
for behold, the Virgin comes forth
from the womb of the barren woman
for the salvation of our souls.

In Tone 2

Come all you lovers of virginity and chastity,
lovingly hold aloft the boast of virginity,
the fountain of life springing up from the solid stone.
She is the bush which grows from the barren land,
the bush of the non-material fire,
who cleanses and illumines our souls.

What is the festive hymn that is heard today?
Joachim and Anne are mystically observing this day with honour, saying:
"Adam and Eve, rejoice with us today!
Through their transgression of old, Paradise was closed.
Now, Mary the maiden of God is being given to us as a blessed fruit.
She opens up the entrance of Paradise to all of us."

The chosen one of the King of All,
the abode of God and divine dwelling of the ever-existing One,
comes forth today from the barren and glorious Anne.
It is through her that the shameless Hades is crushed,
and the first Eve is lead into a faithful life.
Let us worthily cry out to her:
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

Let us play the spiritual flute on this noteworthy feast,
because from the seed of David
is born the Mother of the Life who dispels the darkness.
She is the renewal of Adam and the answer to Eve,
the source of incorruption and the transformation of corruption.
Because of her, we have been divinized and delivered from death.
We cry out to her with Gabriel:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.
Because of you, He has granted us great mercy.”

Aposticha

In Tone 4

On this day a great joy has shone upon us
from the two just ones, Joachim and Anne;
and this joy is the most honourable Virgin.
Because of her purity, she will become a living temple of God.
She alone will be recognized as the Mother of God.
Through her intercessions, O Christ our God,
send down peace upon the world
and your great mercy upon our souls.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.

O Virgin, today you were born a most noble child
from the two just ones, Joachim and Anne,
as the angel had promised in his announcement.
To God you are a heaven, a throne, and a vessel of holiness;
to the whole world, a herald of joy,
the cause of our life, the blessing that wiped out the curse.
You are the reason for all the blessings of God.
O Maiden who God has chosen,
on this day of your nativity
obtain peace and great mercy for our souls.

The richest of people shall seek your favour.

Today Anne, the barren one, claps her hands for joy.
The earth is bathed in light and kings sing their happiness,
priests enjoy all blessings and the whole universe rejoices;
for the Queen and immaculate Bride of the Father
comes forth from the root of Jesse.
Behold, no woman will ever bear again a child in sorrow or anxiety,
for joy has come forth in abundance and life has filled the world.
Joachim's offerings shall no more be rejected,
for the tears of Anne have now been turned into joy.
And now Anne can say:
Rejoice with me, all you chosen ones of Israel,
for the Lord has given me the palace of His divine and living glory
to be a place of joy and happiness for the whole universe
and for the salvation of our souls.

In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

Come all you faithful, and let us hasten to the Virgin;
for long before her conception in the womb,
the one who was to be born of the root of Jesse
was destined to be the Mother of God.

The one who is the treasury of virginity,
the flowering rod of Aaron, the object of prophecies,
the child of Joachim and Anne is born today,
and the world is renewed in her.
Through her birth, the Church is clothed with splendour
O holy Temple, vessel of the Godhead,
model of virgins and strength of kings,
in you the wondrous union of the two natures of Christ was realized.
We worship Him and glorify your most pure birth,
and the whole world extols you.

Troparion

In Tone 4

Your nativity, O Virgin Mother of God,* has made joy known to all the world,* for from you dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.* He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;* and by making death of no effect He bestowed on us eternal life. (3)