

## Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ Holy and Just Joseph, King David, and James, Brother of the Lord in the Flesh Octoechos Tone 6

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GREAT VESPERS

*"Blessed is the man..." is sung.*

### At Psalm 140

*In Tone 6*

10. O Christ, You won the victory over Hades,  
You ascended the Cross so that You might raise up with Yourself  
all those who dwelt in the darkness of death.  
Almighty Saviour, You are free from death  
and bestow life by Your divine light.  
We, therefore, beseech You to have mercy on us.

9. Today Christ has conquered Death.  
He has risen from the grave as He foretold,  
bestowing great joy upon the world.  
Therefore, let us all lift up our voices and sing:  
O Fount of Life, O Light Whom no one can approach,  
Almighty Saviour, have mercy on us.

8. O Lord, where can we sinners flee from You,  
for You are present in all creation?  
You are present in heaven, for it is Your dwelling place.  
Your power prevails in Hades where You conquered Death.  
O Master, Your sustaining hand touches even the depths of the sea.  
Where, then, can we take refuge except in You?  
We, therefore, prostrate ourselves before You and pray:  
O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

*In Tone 2*

7. Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord  
as we tell of this present mystery.  
The middle wall of partition has been destroyed;  
the flaming sword turns back, the cherubim withdraw from the tree of life,  
and I partake of the delight of Paradise  
from which I was cast out through disobedience.  
For the express Image of the Father, the Imprint of His eternity,  
takes the form of a servant,  
and without undergoing change He came forth from a Mother who knew not wedlock.  
For what He was, He has remained, true God:  
and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself,

becoming man through love for mankind.  
Unto Him let us cry aloud:  
God born of a Virgin, have mercy on us.

6. When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin,  
all the world was enlightened.  
The shepherds watched in the fields,  
the Magi adored and the angels praised in song;  
but Herod was troubled:  
for God has appeared in the flesh,  
the Saviour of our souls.

5. Your Kingdom, O Christ our God, is a Kingdom of all the ages,  
and Your rule is from generation to generation.  
Made flesh of the Holy Spirit and made man of the ever-Virgin Mary,  
You have enlightened us by Your coming.  
Light of Light, Brightness of the Father,  
You made the whole creation shine with joy.  
All that has breath praises You, the Image of the glory of the Father.  
O God who are, and who have ever been,  
who have shone forth from a Virgin,  
have mercy on us.

4. What shall we offer You, O Christ,  
who for our sakes has appeared on the earth as man?  
Every creature made by You offers You thanks.  
The angels offer You a hymn; the heavens, a star;  
the Magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;  
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, the manger:  
and we offer You a Virgin Mother.  
O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us.

*In Tone 1*

3. Let us praise David the King, the ancestor of God,  
because from him came forth the branch who is the Virgin.  
From her bloomed the Flower, Christ,  
Who summoned Adam and Eve from corruption.  
He is compassionate towards all.

2. In his advanced years,  
Joseph clearly saw the prophecies fulfilled.  
It was truly a strange betrothal;  
and he received a revelation from the angels who cried out:  
Glory to God Who sent down peace upon the world.

1. Let all of us praise the relative of the Lord, James the Apostle,  
who bravely suffered martyrdom as a bishop.  
By his prayers, O Christ our God,  
Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave,  
save all those who extol You.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

We are commemorating the noble David and James:  
the king and prophet, the apostle and first bishop;  
because by their teachings we have been delivered from error.  
Let us sing the praises of Christ  
Who came forth from the Virgin  
and became incarnate to save our souls.

*In Tone 6, Now...*

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?  
Who would not sing a hymn of praise  
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?  
The Only-begotten Son Himself,  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
was made flesh out of you in a manner  
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!  
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature  
assumed the nature of a man.  
He is not divided into two persons;  
He is understood to have two natures  
without commixion or confusion.  
O noble and blessed Woman,  
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 6*

O Christ our Saviour,  
the angels in heaven sing the praises of Your Resurrection;  
make us on earth also worthy  
to extol You with a pure heart.

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.*

Almighty God, You destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Hades,  
and raised up fallen mankind.  
Therefore, with one accord, we cry out:  
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

*For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.*

Christ willed to renew us from our corruption of old  
by being nailed to a cross and placed in a tomb.  
When the women came to anoint His body they tearfully cried out:  
O, what sorrow afflicts us!  
O Saviour of All, how could You consent to occupy a grave?  
If you truly willed this, then why did You allow Your body to be stolen?

How were You removed?  
What place now conceals Your life-bearing body?  
O Lord, appear to us as You promised  
and put an end to our tears.  
As they were lamenting, an angel appeared and cried out to them:  
Do not weep, but tell the Apostles that the Lord is risen,  
granting sanctification and great mercy to the world.

*Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

O Christ, You were crucified of Your free will,  
and by Your burial You imprisoned Death.  
As God, You rose in glory on the third day,  
granting life and great mercy to the world.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

The remembrance of Your Nativity  
brings happiness to priests and might to kings.  
Let us also boast of it and say:  
Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy Name, O Lover of mankind.

*Now...*

Today the invisible nature is united with our visible nature through the Virgin.  
Today the infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem.  
Today God is guiding the Magi by a star  
so that they might worship Him.  
With the gold, frankincense, and myrrh,  
He is foretelling His three-day burial.  
Let us cry out to Him:  
Having become incarnate from the Virgin,  
save our souls, O Christ God.

## **Troparia**

*In Tone 6*

Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before  
Your tomb\* seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\*  
You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead,\*\* glory to You!

*In Tone 2, Glory...*

O Joseph, announce to David, the ancestor of God, the news of the miracle:\* You saw a virgin giving  
birth.\* With the shepherds, you gave praise and with the Magi you worshipped;\* they too were  
warned by an angel.\*\* Pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

*In Tone 4, Now...*

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,\* made the light of knowledge dawn on the world:\* through it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star\* to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,\* and to know You, the Dawn from on high.\* Glory to You, O Lord.

**Note:**

Texts of hymnography taken from a variety of sources.

Scripture used from the [Revised Standard Version](#).

Troparia taken from *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* ([Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University](#): Ottawa, 2004).