

## December 26

### Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God

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VESPERS

#### At Psalm 140

*In Tone 2*

6. Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord  
as we tell of this present mystery!  
The dividing wall 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 comes forth from an unwedded mother.  
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.  
To Him, let us cry aloud:  
O God born of a virgin, have mercy on us!

5. Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord  
as we tell of this present mystery!  
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To Him, let us cry aloud:  
O God born of a virgin, have mercy on us!

4. 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!

3. 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!

2. What shall we offer you, O Christ,  
who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a 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.  
Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

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who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?  
Every creature made by You offers You thanks,  
the angels offer you a hymn; the heavens a star;  
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and we offer you a Virgin Mother.  
Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

*In Tone 6, Glory... Now...*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!  
Today Bethlehem receives Him who ever sits with the Father.  
Today angels glorify with holy hymns the Babe that is born.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men!

### **Great Prokeimenon**

Who is so great a God as our God?\* Thou art the God who doest wonders!  
verse: Amongst the people hast Thou made Thy power known!  
verse: And I said: now have I made a beginning: this change has been wrought by the right hand of  
the Most High.  
verse: I have remembered the works of the Lord, and called to mind Thy wonders from of old.

## **Aposticha**

*In Tone 8*

A great miracle has come to pass this day:  
nature is made new and God becomes man!  
That which He was, He has remained,  
and that which He was not, He has taken on Himself  
while suffering neither confusion nor division.

*The Lord said to my lord: sit at my right hand!*

Lord, you have come to Bethlehem  
and have made Your dwelling in the cave.  
You have heaven as Your throne,  
yet You are laid in a manger!  
The hosts of angels attend on every side  
yet You have come down among shepherds,  
that in Your compassion You might save mankind. Glory to You!

*From the womb before the morning star have I begotten you!*

How shall I tell of this great mystery?  
He who is without flesh becomes incarnate;  
the word puts on a body; the invisible is seen;  
He whom no hand can touch is handled;  
and He who knows no beginning now begins to be!  
The Son of God becomes the Son of Man:  
Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and for ever!

*Glory... Now...*

The shepherds hasten to Bethlehem, revealing the true shepherd,  
seated upon the cherubim and lying in a manger!  
For our sakes He has taken upon Himself the form of a child.  
O Lord, glory to You!

## **Troparion**

*In Tone 4*

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).