

# The Royal Hours For the Holy Nativity Of Our Lord

## --The First Hour--

**Pr:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever  
and forever.

**R:** Amen.

Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.  
Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You  
are everywhere present and fill all things.  
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come  
and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and  
save our souls, O gracious Lord.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immor-  
tal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master,  
forgive us our transgressions; O Holy One,  
come to us and heal our infirmities for Your  
Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father.....

**Pr:** For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever.

**R:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Come, let us adore the King, our God.

Come, let us adore Christ, the King and our  
God.

Come, let us adore and bow down to the only  
Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

### Psalm 5

(SIT)

Listen to my words, O Lord,  
attend to my complaint;  
Be attentive to the voice of my appeal, O my  
King and my God!  
For to You will I pray, O Lord.

At dawn, You shall listen to my voice,  
at dawn I will stand at Your service and  
look up.  
For You are not a God pleased with iniquity  
neither shall the evil-doer dwell with You.

Nor shall transgressors stand before Your sight:  
You loathe all those who work iniquity.  
You will destroy all those who speak lies:  
The Lord abhors all men of blood  
and deceit.

But I, in the abundance of Your love,  
will have access to Your dwelling place.  
Before Your holy temple I will worship  
in the fear of You.



O Lord, be my guide in Your justice;  
because of my foes, clear my path  
before You.

Indeed, in their mouth there is no truth,  
their heart is vain.

Their throat is but a gaping tomb,  
their words deceive.

Judge them, O God;  
let them founder in their evil plots.

Because of their many crimes, cast them out,  
for they have risen against You, the Lord.  
And all those who trust in You shall rejoice:  
they shall feast forevermore.

And You shall dwell among them  
and all who love Your Name shall be glad.  
For You bless the just man, O Lord;  
You have covered us as with a shield of  
grace.

#### **Psalm 44**

My heart overflows with noble words,  
To the king I must speak the song I have  
made.  
My tongue is as nimble,  
as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest among the children of men  
and graciousness is poured upon your lips;  
because God has blessed you forevermore.  
O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh;  
In splendor and state, ride on in triumph  
for the cause of truth and goodness  
and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right  
hand. Your arrows are sharp. Peoples fall  
beneath you.  
The foes of the king fall down and  
lose heart.

Your throne O God, shall endure forever.  
A scepter of justice is the scepter of your  
kingdom.

Your love is for justice;  
your hatred for evil.

Therefore, God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above other kings:  
your robes are fragrant with aloes  
and myrrh.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with  
music. The daughters of kings are among your  
loved ones.

On your right stands the queen in gold  
of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your  
father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts,  
the richest of the people shall seek  
your favor.

The daughter of the king is clothed  
with splendor,  
her robes embroidered with pearls  
set in gold.

She is led to the king with her  
maiden companions.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers:  
you will make them princes over  
all the earth.

May this song make your name forever  
remembered.  
May the peoples praise you from  
age to age.

#### **Psalm 45**

God is for us a refuge and strength,  
a helper close at hand in time of  
distress.

So we shall not fear though the earth  
should rock,  
though the mountains fall into the depths  
of the sea,



forth unto me in the flesh \* a governor of nations, \* Christ our God, born of a Virgin Maiden, \* and as a shepherd He shall tend His people, the new Israel.” \* So, let us all now give to Him great glory!

*v. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

(Tone 8):

Joseph spoke in this way to the Virgin: \* “What is this doing, O Mary, that I see in you? \* I fail to understand, in amazement, and my mind is struck with dismay. \* Go, therefore, from my sight with all speed. \* What is this doing, O Mary, that I see in you? \* Instead of honor, you have brought me shame; \* Instead of gladness, sorrow, instead of praise, reproof. \* No further shall I bear the reproach of men. \* I received you from the priests of the Temple, as one blameless before the Lord. \* And so what now is this that I see?”

**(STAND)**

**Pr:** Let us be attentive! Peace be with all!  
Wisdom, be attentive!

**Prokimenon Tone 4:**

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son. This day I have begotten You.”

*v. Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations.*

**Pr:** Wisdom!

**READER:** A Reading from the Prophecy of Micah.

**Pr:** Let us be attentive!  
(Micah 5: 1-3)

**(SIT)**

**Pr:** Wisdom!

**READER:** A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews.

**Pr:** Let us be attentive!  
(Heb. 1: 1-2)

*(Then the priest gives the usually introduction to the Holy Gospel, as all **STAND**--  
Matt. 1: 18-25)*

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**ALL:** Let my way be straight according to Your word; let no sin overcome me. Save me from the wickedness of men and I will keep Your commandments. Let Your face shine upon Your servants and teach me Your laws. Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord, and let me sing of Your glory and magnificence all the day long.

Holy God...(3)  
Glory be....

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive us our transgressions; O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)  
Glory be...

Our Father Who art in heaven.....

**Pr:** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**R:** Amen.

**Kontakion Tone 3:**

Today, the Virgin is on her way to the cave \* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding \* to the Word, Who is in all eternity. \* Rejoice, therefore universe, when you see it proclaimed; \* with the angels and the shepherds \* glorify Him Who chose to be



even though its waters rage and foam,  
even though the mountains be shaken by  
its waves.

The Lord of Hosts is with us:  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells  
God is within, it cannot be shaken;  
God will help it at the dawning of the day.  
Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken;  
He lifts His voice, the earth shrinks away.

The Lord of Hosts is with us:  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord  
the redoubtable deeds he has done on  
the earth.

He puts an end to wars over all the earth;  
the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps, he  
burns the shields with fire.

"Be still and know that I am God,  
supreme among the nations, supreme on  
the earth!"

The Lord of Hosts is with us:  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**(STAND)**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit.  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Glory be to You, O God! (3)

Lord have mercy. (3)

**(Tropar Tone 4)**

At that time, since Mary was of the house of  
David \* she registered with the Venerable

Joseph in Bethlehem. \* She was with child,  
having conceived though a virgin. \* Her time  
was come and they could not find room in the  
inn. \* But the cave seemed like a joyful palace  
to the Queen. \* Christ is born to renew the  
likeness \* that had been lost of old.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit, \* now and ever, \* and forever.  
Amen.

What shall we call you, O Full of Grace? \*  
A Heaven; for you have borne the Sun of  
Justice? \* A Paradise; for you have brought  
forth the Flower of Immortality? \* A Virgin;  
for you have remained undefiled? \* A Mother;  
holding in her arms the Son Who is the God of  
all? \* Intercede with Him for the salvation of  
our souls.

**(SIT)**

**(Stichery):**

Tone 8:

Make ready, O Bethlehem, let the manger be  
prepared. \* Let the cave show its welcome. \*  
The truth has come, the shadow has passed  
away. \* Born of a virgin, God has appeared to  
man, \* formed as we are and making godlike  
the garment He has put on. \* Therefore Adam  
is renewed with Eve, \* and they call out: "Your  
good pleasure \* has appeared on earth to save  
mankind."

*v. God comes from Teman, the Holy One from  
Mount Paran. / O Lord, I have heard of Your  
fame and I have been afraid.*

(Tone 3:)

Now the prophecy draws near to its  
fulfillment, \* which mystically said: "And you,  
O Bethlehem, \* in the land of Judah, where the  
cave was prepared, \* you are not the least  
among princes. \* For out of you shall come



seen as a new-born Baby \* while still remaining God in all eternity.

Lord, have mercy. (40)

**Pr:** O Christ, our God, in all times and places You are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in Your mercy to the sinner, calling all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set right our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with Your holy Angels, so that guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of Your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed forever and ever.

**R:** Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)  
Glory be to the Father.....

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, You a virgin, gave birth to God the Word. You truly the Mother of God, we magnify.

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

**Pr:** May God be merciful to us and bless us; may he cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy on us.

**R:** Amen.

**Pr:** O Christ our Lord and our God, You did not think equality with God something to be grasped at, but You emptied Yourself, took the form of a slave and were born in the likeness of man. Enlighten us as we prepare to celebrate

the feast of Your holy birth. Make us worthy to see the mystery of Your becoming man for us, while remaining God in eternity. Fill our minds with understanding, that we may see You even in the least of our brothers and sisters. You have given us the gift of Your Holy Spirit, You have loved even to the point of Your saving death and glorious resurrection, grant us also a faith that cannot be confounded, a love that does not pretend, and a wisdom that is complete.

You have said, "Unless you become like little children, You cannot enter the kingdom of heaven," grant that this feast we may gain experience the rebirth we were given in baptism, that we may sing out with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests." You have humbled Yourself, O Christ our God, may Your Name be exalted, together with the Name of Your Father and the Name of Your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**R:** Amen.