

The First Antiphon

With all my heart I will profess You, O Lord,* I will speak of your wonderful deeds.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

I will profess You, O Lord, in the company and assembly of the righteous,* for your great works are to be acclaimed in accord with your will.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Majestic is his work and worthy of praise,* and his righteousness endures for ever and ever.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

The Third Antiphon and Troparion

The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right hand,* until I put your enemies under your feet like a footstool.

Your birth, O Christ our God,* brightens the world with the light of understanding.* For those who adored the stars* were taught by a star to worship you, the sun of righteousness,* and to know you, the dayspring from on high.* O Lord, glory to You.

The Lord will send you out of Sion a scepter of power:* rule in the midst of your adversaries.

Your birth, O Christ our God,* brightens the world with the light of understanding.* For those who adored the stars* were taught by a star to worship you, the sun of righteousness,* and to know you, the dayspring from on high.* O Lord, glory to You.

Amid the splendor of your holy ones* power is yours from the very beginning.

Your birth, O Christ our God,* brightens the world with the light of understanding.* For those who adored the stars* were taught by a star to worship you, the sun of righteousness,* and to know you, the dayspring from on high.* O Lord, glory to You.

*****Entrance*****

From the womb before the dawn I begot you.* The Lord has sworn an oath he will not recant:* you are a priest forever* according to the order of Melchisedek.

Your birth, O Christ our God,* brightens the world with the light of understanding.* For those who adored the stars* were taught by a star to worship you, the sun of righteousness,* and to know you, the dayspring from on high.* O Lord, glory to You.

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

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Being who is beyond all created essences,* and the earth offers a cave to the God who is beyond our reach.* Angels join the shepherds in songs of praise.* Learned men make their way to him by following a star.* For the God who exists before the beginning of time* itself is born for us as a Child!

Instead of the Trisagion

All you who have been baptized into Christ,* you have put on Christ. Alleluia!

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Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. You have put on Christ. Alleluia!

All you who have been baptized into Christ,* you have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Apostolos

Prokimenon: Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,* sing praise to your name.

Stichon: Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth,* sing praise to the glory of his name.

Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians:

Brethren, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, that he might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So that one is no longer a slave, but a son: and if a son, an heir also of God through Jesus Christ.

Alleluia: The heavens declare God's glory,* and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

Stichon: Day pours out the word to day,* and night to night imparts knowledge.

Gospel: (Mt 2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Instead of: "It is truly right..."

Extol,* my soul,* the Christ, the King born in a cave.

Most wondrous is this strange mystery that I see.* A cave has become heaven,* a virgin- the throne of the cherubim,* a manger, a most noble place,* for in it there rest Christ, the unconfined God.* In hymns and songs of praise and joy on this day we extol him.

Kinonikon

Praise the Lord from the heavens.* Praise him in the highest.
The Lord has sent the deliverance* to his people.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.