Byzantine Monthly Menaion

Volume Four: December

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, PA
Foreword

A Menaion is a liturgical book which contains the changeable parts of Byzantine divine services for a given month. The volume in your hands is the fourth of a series of twelve books for use in Byzantine Catholic parishes. Each day is provided with the following material:

(1) Synaxarion (brief life of the saints remembered)
(2) Troparia and Kontakia
(3) Prokeimena and Alleluiaria
(4) Communion Hymn.

On major feasts, the proper antiphons (when there are any) and the Magnification and Irmos (appointed to take the place of It is truly proper) are also included.

Texts which are contained in the Faithful’s Book published by the Byzantine Catholic Church are reproduced with their musical settings from that book. Those texts were translated by the Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission, and then set to plainchant by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission.

Many of the Troparia contained in this volume of the Menaion are, in fact, common texts (i.e., they are used on more than one feast). These texts, too, come from the work of the IELC/IEMC, as are all the Prokeimena and Alleluiaria and Communion Hymns.

The texts of the Troparia and Kontakia that are not from the above-mentioned source are almost always taken from the Order of Matins published by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, and we acknowledge these texts with gratitude.

This volume is intended to be used annually. Because of this, cantors must use the Typikon of the Metropolitan Church to discern how materials from the Menaion are to be combined with the Sunday Ochtoechos. The Typikon will also explain how Prokeimena and Alleluiaria are to be combined.

May this series of volumes be a blessing for all who attend daily celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, as well as for those who, unable to be at church each day, still wish to pray with the Church and honor the Lord and his saints.

August 28, 2005

Our venerable father Moses the Ethiopian and
Our holy father Augustine, bishop of Hippo
1 The holy prophet Nahum, who preached that God rules the course of times and judges the people with justice. The righteous Philaret the Almsgiver, who paupered himself that the poor of the Lord might be taken care of. (797)

Troparion - Tone 8

By the radiance of the vivifying Trinity and the enlightenment of the Spirit, you warned the idolatrous Ninevites of impending doom. You reaped the reward in martyrdom. Now that you stand amid angels before the Light of triple splendor and have come to possess the full sway of a prophet, pray for us who honor your memory.

Kontakion - Tone 4

Your pure heart was enlightened by the Spirit and became a vessel of radiant prophecy. Because you saw as present the events yet to come
we honor you, O blessed and glorious Prophet Nahum.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 109:4,1):

You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Alleluia - Tone 5 (Psalm 98:6; 96:11):

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called upon his name.

Verse: Light dawns for the just, and gladness for the upright of heart.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia!
2 The holy prophet Habakkuk, who, in the face of the iniquity and violence of the people, announced not only the judgment of the Lord, but also his mercy, saying, "But the just will live by his own faith."

The holy bishop and confessor John Sleziuk. Born in Galicia in 1896, he was ordained priest in 1923. In 1945, he was ordained bishop coadjutor to Bl. Gregory Khomyshn. As it turns out, Bishop Sleziuk was arrested first in 1945 and deported for ten years' hard labor in Siberia. When released in 1954, he returned to Ivano-Frankivsk. He was arrested again in 1968, and thereafter was forced to report regularly to the KGB. (1973)

Troparion - Tone 2:

As we celebrate the memory of your prophet Habakkuk, O Lord, we implore you to save our souls through his prayers.

Kontakion - Tone 8

O divinely inspired Habakkuk, you told the world that God would come out of the south and from a virgin. Attending to the words of the glittering guardian angel, you proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ.

This is why we sing so joyfully to you: Rejoice, O radiant goodness of the prophets.
You are a priest for ever according to the order of Melchizdek.

Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Alleluia - Tone 5 (Psalm 98:6; 96:11):

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among his priests;
Samuel was among those who called upon his name.

Verse: Light dawns for the just, and gladness for the upright of heart.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remem bered for ever;
e vil news he will not fear; e vil news he will not fear.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
3 The holy prophet Zephaniah, who in the days of Josiah, king of Judah, announced the destruction of the ungodly on the day of the wrath of the Lord and strengthened the host of poor and needy people in the hope of salvation.

Troparion - Tone 2:

As we celebrate the memory of your prophet Zephaniah, O Lord, we implore you to save our souls through his prayers.

Kontakion - Tone 4

You have been enflamed by the Holy Spirit, O prophet, and you have trumpeted the coming of God, O Zephaniah. Leap for joy, O daughter of Zion, O Jerusalem; I tell you your king comes bearing salvation.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 109:4,1):

You are a priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.
Alleluia - Tone 5 (Psalm 98:6; 96:11):

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called upon his name.
Verse: Light dawns for the just, and gladness for the upright of heart.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

4 The holy great martyr Barbara who, it is said, was a virgin and martyr of Nicomedia. (306)
Our venerable father John of Damascus, a priest celebrated for his holiness and learning, He strove diligently by his word and writings in favor of the veneration of Holy Images against the Emperor Leo III, the Isaurian. Having been made a monk in the monastery of St. Sabbas near Jerusalem, he composed sacred hymns and there reposed in the Lord. His body was buried on this day. (749)

Troparion of Barbara - Tone 8

Let us praise the honorable Barbara. She has thwarted the power of the enemy and through the might and the strength
of the cross, she was made free in her flight to God.

Troparion of John of Damascus - Tone 8

Guide to Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness,

luminary for the world, inspired

a - dornment of bishops, O wise John, harp of the

Spirit, you enlightened all by your teachings;

intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion of Barbara - Tone 4

O honorable and triumphant Barbara, you believed in the Holy

Trinity and renounced the multiplicity of pagan deities. You fought
for your faith with great courage and were not fright-ened by the threats of your perse-cutors, but de-clared in stead in a clear voice: I a-dore one God in three Di-vine Per-sons.

Kontakion of John of Damascus - Tone 4

Let us praise John the hym-no-graph-er with song. He is an effective preacher and a teach-er for the Church. Be-hind the ar-mor of the cross he ex-posed the lies of her-e-sy, and stand-ing before God he ob-tains re-mis-sion of sins for us.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

God is won-drous in his saints, the God of Is-ra-el,

the God of Is-ra-el.

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.
Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

5 Our venerable and God-bearing father Sabbas the Consecrated, who, born in Cappadocia, arrived at the desert of Judea, and instituted a new sort of eremetical life in seven monasteries, which were called "laurae." He gathered solitaries under one overseer (hegumen). In the great laura, which afterwards was adorned with his name, he dwelt for many years, a shining example of sanctity. He strove assiduously for the faith taught at the Council of Chalcedon. (532)

Troparion - Tone 8

Your abundant tears made the wilderness bloom, and your
sufferings made your labors fruitful a hundred-fold; you became

a shining torch over the world. Venerable father Sabbas, pray to Christ our God that he may save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 4

From your youth, O glorious Sabbas, you have been like an offering of incense in God's presence. You were called the adornment of hermits and a true ascetic. Therefore, we cry out to you: Joy to you, O father, worthy of all praise.
Pre- cious in the eyes, in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faith-ful.

Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be re-mem-bered for e-ver;
Refrain
Evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

11
6 OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN Lycia, THE WONDERWORKER. A native of Lycia, he became a monk at the New Sion monastery. When his parents died, he gave his entire inheritance to the poor. Ordained a priest in Patara, he was famous for his almsgiving. He was chosen as archbishop of Myra, and was a model shepherd in his care for the people of his flock. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council (Nicea, 325). Full of years, he entered into rest. (343)

Troparion - Tone 4:

Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness through humility, and wealth through poverty. O father and archbishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 3:

You were renowned as a priest in Myra, O holy Nicholas; for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O venerable Father. You risked your life for your people and saved the innocent from death. Therefore you have been
initiated into the mysteries of the grace of God.

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 63:11,2):

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 131:9; 111:1):

Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness; and your saints will rejoice.
Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.

Cherubic Hymn

on the hymn, "O kto, kto"

Let us, who mystically represent the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating, life-creating Trinity,

now set aside all earthly cares. Amen.
That we may receive the King of All, invisibly escorted by angelic hosts. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

Anamnesis Acclamation

We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, thank you, O Lord,

and we pray to you, our God, and we pray to you, our God,

and we pray to you, our God.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remembered for ever; evil news he will not fear.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

14
Our holy father Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, who on April 4th, on the holy night of Pascha, fell asleep in the Lord. His memory is celebrated today, on which (while still a catechumen) he undertook ruling the famous See of Milan in 373, while he was exercising the office of prefect of the city. A true pastor and teacher of the faithful, he exercised great charity toward all, defended strenuously the freedom of the Church and the doctrine of orthodox faith against the Arians. By his commentaries and his musical hymns, he piously catechized the people. (397)

Prefestive Day of the Maternity of the Holy Anna

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4:

Today the beginning of our salvation is conceived in a barren womb;

and Anna rejoices with Joachim, Adam rejoices to be freed,

and, with them, we also begin our hymn: Rejoice, O woman full of grace,

the Lord is with you.

Troparion of Ambrose - Tone 4

Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image

of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness

through humility and wealth through poverty. O father
and bishop Am-brose, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Prefeast - Tone 3

Today the Virgin Mary, the The-o-tokos, is born from a barren womb according to the divine plan. She is the inviolate bridal chamber of the heavenly bridegroom. The chariot of the Word is made ready, for this is why she was preordained to be the gateway of God and truly the Mother of Life.

Kontakion of Ambrose - Tone 3

O Ambrose, shepherd and priest of the mysteries, enlightened with the true faith, you overcame Arius. You openly worked wonders and cured by the Spirit's pow'r. O venerable father, beg Christ our God to save
our souls.

Prokeimenon - Tone 1 (Psalm 48:4,2):

My lips will speak words of wisdom;

understanding will be the theme of my heart.

Verse: Hear this, all you peoples; give heed, all who dwell in the world.

Alleluia - Tone 2 (Psalm 36:30,31):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: The just man's mouth utters wisdom and his lips speak what is right.
Verse: The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remembered, remembered for ever

Refrain
evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
8 FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA, MOTHER OF OUR BLESSED LADY, THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

According to tradition, Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age, they were promised that a daughter would be born to them. After nine months, St. Anna bore a daughter, blessed by God and by all subsequent generations of humanity: the most holy Theotokos, the ever-virgin Mary.

Troparion - Tone 4:

Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed, for God has heard the pray'rs of Jo-achim and An-na. He prom-is-ed, beyond hope, the birth of their god-ly daugh-ter. The In-describable, himself, born of her as a mor-tal, com-mand-ed us through the an-gel to sing to her: Re-joice, O wo-man full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Kontakion - Tone 4:

Today the whole world cel-ebrates how Anna becomes a moth-er by the pow-er of God. She con-ceived the wo-man whose conception of the
Word is beyond our words.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 36:39,40):

Verse: The salvation of the just is from the Lord; he is their protector in time of distress.
Verse: The Lord will help them and deliver them and rescue them from sinners and save them, for they have hoped in him.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

19
Let us, the faithful, ex-tol the The-o-tokos, the ev-er-flow-ing Foun-tain of Life,
ra-dient Bea-con of Grace, Liv-ing Tem-ple, and most pure Tab-er-na-cle,
more spa-cious than earth and heav-en.

Or this melody:

Let us, the faith-ful, ex-tol the The-o-tokos,
the ev-er-flow-ing Foun-tain of Life, ra-dient Bea-con of
Grace, Liv-ing Tem-ple, and most pure Tab-er-na-cle,
more spa-cious than earth and heav-en.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise from the upright, the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Refrain

9 Our venerable father Patapius, anchorite, who, having come from the Thebaid, was converted at Constantinople near Blachernae and was buried in a monastery of Egyptians. (7th century)
The holy Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, was the wife of Elkanah (cf I Samuel 1). She had no child, and was in reproach for barrenness. God took pity on her, and opened her womb; she bore Samuel, and dedicated him to God from his birth. Her canticle of thanksgiving is sung at the Office of Matins.

In you, O father, the divine image was strictly preserved;

taking up your cross, you followed Christ. You taught us by example how to spurn the flesh, for it passes away, and how to care for the soul, which is immortal. Therefore, O venerable
Pa - ta - pi - us, your soul re - joic - es with the an - gels.

Kontakion - Tone 3

O ho - ly Pa - ta - pius, nations have found a source of spiritual heal - ing
at your shrine. All, there - fore, come to you, seeking welfare of bod - y
and spir - it; for you are a help - er to all the af - flict - ed.

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 115:6,3):

Pre - cious in the eyes, in the eyes of the Lord is the death
of his faith - ful, is the death of his faith - - - ful.

Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - - le - lu - - ia!

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.
The just man will be re-membered for ever;

Evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Alleluia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

10 The holy martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugraphus. Menas and Hermogenes were born in Athens and moved to Constantinople. Both were pagans. Menas was sent by the Emperor Maximian to calm the strife between pagans and Christians in Alexandria. While there, he became a Christian. The emperor sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to punish Menas. After a miracle that happened during Menas' trial, Hermogenes became a Christian. Then the emperor himself came to Egypt and put both men to harsh torture. Upon seeing their valor, Eugraphus, who was Menas' secretary, denounced himself to the emperor. He had all three beheaded. (4th century)

Troparion - Tone 8

Through mortification and penance, the holy martyrs of Christ have overcome the disorder of their burning passions.

During their lifetime they received the grace of healing the sick.

After their death they have the pow'r of performing miracles.
It is indeed a great marvel that healing should come forth from mere bones.

Glory to the Creator, to God alone.

Kontakion - Tone 1

Let us sing holy hymns of praise in honor of the glorious martyrs; for they have honored the Lord and fought for his glory, thus deserving to be counted among the angels in heaven. Now they show er us with their miracles.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 15:3,8):

To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

On the Sunday from December 11 to 17
SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Forefathers

Troparion - Prescribed Resurrection Tone

Troparion - Tone 2:

By faith, you, O Christ, justified the forefathers. Through them you betrothed yourself to a Church from all nations. The saints rejoice in glory because a glorious offspring has blossomed from their seed:

the Mother who bore you without seed. Through their pray'rs, O Christ our
God, have mercy on us.

Kontakion - Tone 6:

You did not worship a man-made image, O thrice-bless'd youths. You armed yourselves with uncreated divinity. You were glorified in the trial by fire. Withstanding the flames, you stood and called out:

Has ten, O compassionate God, and hurry to help us in your mercy.

For you can do whatever you will.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Daniel 3:26,27):

Bless-ed are you and praise-wor-thy, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and glo ri ous for ev er is your name.

Verse: For you are just in all that you have done for us.
Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 98:6):

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called upon his name.
Verse: They called upon the Lord and he answered them.

For Sunday, the usual Communion Hymn is (Psalm 148:1):

And for the righteous ones, the Communion Hymn is (Psalm 32:1):
Our venerable father Spiridon the Wonder-worker, bishop of Tremithus on the island of Cyprus, bishop, a true shepherd of his sheep, whose marvelous deeds were celebrated by the mouths of all. The date of his death is December 12; his feast is transferred because of the feast of the Icon of the Mother of God of Guadalupe. (348)

Our venerable father Daniel the Stylite, priest of Constantinople who, after a life led in a monastery, undertook many labors. Transported by the manner and example of St. Simeon, he stood on a column, not subdued by force of cold or heat or wind, for thirty-three years and three months, until the time of his death. (489)

Troparion of Daniel - Tone 1

You became a column of endurance and rivaled the forefathers, O holy one,
becoming like Job in your sufferings and like Joseph in your trials,
and like the bodiless angels though you lived in the flesh. O Daniel,
our holy father, intercede with Christ our God that he may save our souls.

Troparion of Spiridon - Tone 1

You showed yourself a defender of the First Council and a worker of miracles.
You summoned the woman back from the grave and turned the snake into gold.
Angels came to minister beside you, O priestly father, when you offered
your ardent pray'rs. Glory to him who strengthened you! Glory to him who chose you! Glory to him who heals us through you!

Kontakion of Daniel - Tone 8

You ascended your pillar like a star in the sky, and you gave the light of good works to the world. You dispersed the darkness of lies, O father, and thus we now have recourse to you. Make the unwaning light of understanding dawn in our hearts, O blessed saint.

Kontakion of Spiridon - Tone 2

O all holy father, enraptured by the love of Christ, you soared on the wings of the Spirit to pure contemplation which inspired your apostolic life, and you became an altar of sacrifice,
be-seeking the Lord that he may enlighten all of us.

Prokeimenon - Tone 1 (Psalm 48:4,2):
My lips will speak words of wisdom;
understanding will be the theme of my heart.

Verse: Hear this, all you peoples; give heed, all who dwell in the world.

Alleluia - Tone 2 (Psalm 36:30,31):
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: The just man’s mouth utters wisdom and his lips speak what is right.
Verse: The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):
The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia!
12 The Theotokos of Guadalupe, who first appeared on Dec. 9, 1591 in Mexico to St. Juan Diego, bestowing on him an icon “not made with human hands,” requesting that a church be built in her honor on that mountain. Her shrine there is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in the Americas. Pope John Paul II named her the Patroness of the Americas.

Troparion - Tone 4

When you appeared in the New World, O The-o-to-kos, you fixed your image on Juan Diego's rose-laden tilma. All the poor, hungry, and oppressed seek you, Lady of Guadalupe. We gaze up on your miraculous icon and find hope, crying out to your Son concealed in your womb:

Hear our plea for justice, O most merciful Lord.

Kontakion - Tone 7

No longer shall the New World lie wounded in useless blood sacrifice, for she who is clothed with the sun has revealed the Son to us. O Mother of the Americas,
imprint his name upon our hearts, just as you wove your image into the cactus cloth.

Teach your children to cry out: O Christ God, our hope, glory to you!

**Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Luke 1:46-48):**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

*Verse:* For he has looked with favor on the humility of his servant; from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.

**Alleluia - Tone 8 (Psalm 44:11,13):**

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

*Verse:* Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

*Verse:* The rich among the people will seek your favor.

**Communion Hymn (Psalm 115:4):**

I shall take the chalice, the chalice of salvation, and call upon the name, the name of the Lord.
Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

13 The holy martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, who gave their lives for Christ in Armenia. The holy virgin martyr Lucy, who as long as she lived kept guard over her enkindled lamp for the coming of her Spouse. Led from Syracuse to Sicily to a death for Christ, she was worthy to enter marriage with him and to possess light unfailing. (304)

Troparion of the Martyrs - Tone 4

Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Kontakion of Eustratius - Tone 2

O victorious one, you have been like a bright star, enlightening those who stand in the darkness of ignorance. Your faith, as a lance in your hand,
armed you with courage against the haughtiness of your enemies.

O Eustratus, you were the most eloquent of orators.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 15:3,8):

To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

Rejoice in the Lord, rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones;
praise from the upright, the upright is fitting, is fitting.

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

You showed the violence of the enemy in public after you spat upon the barbarian torturer. You upheld the holiness of the faith, finding your strength in the help of Christ. Now pray for us, all you martyrs.
To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):
15 The holy martyr Eleutherius. Born of noble and eminent parents in Rome, Eleutherius was the fruit of people who heard the Gospel from the apostles. He became bishop in Illyria, and was a model shepherd. He was arrested and martyred by the emperor Hadrian. (120)

Our venerable father Paul of Latra. Born in Pergamum, he lived the ascetic life on a mountain called Latros in Asia Minor. He worked many miracles, and our Lord took him in his old age. (950)

Our holy father Stephen, bishop of Surozh. Born in Cappadocia and educated by St. Germanus the Patriarch, he was taken from his hermitage and made bishop of Surozh (now Sudak in the Crimea). Stephen suffered a great deal from the emperor Leo the Armenian. After the emperor’s demise, Stephen was returned to his flock, which he governed with grace and truth. (late 8th century)

Troparion of Eleutherius - Tone 4

You shared in the apostles’ way of life and succeeded to their throne, di vine-ly in-spired bish - op. You found ac cess to contemplation in the act - ive life. There fore, you right - ly taught the word of truth and strug gled for the faith to the shed ding of your blood. O priest-mar-tyr El - eu-the - ri - us, pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Troparion of Paul - Tone 4

You were num bered among the monks and a com pan - ion of an gels,
and so we raise this song to you, O glorious Paul. Pray that we may find mercy for our souls.

Kontakion of Eleutherius - Tone 2

We all sing a hymn of praise to you, O holy one, splendor of bishops and an example of victory. We beseech you, O priest-martyr, to deliver from danger all those who celebrate your memory with fervor.

Intercede unceasingly for all of us.

Kontakion of Paul - Tone 8

You acted maturely from your childhood and spurned the goods of the world.

You became a temple of the Trinity in your quest for the divine life.

You enlighten those who come to you, and so we sing: Rejoice, O
Prokeimenon of a Bishop-Martyr - Tone 7 (Psalm 149:5,1):

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song of praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Prokeimenon of a Venerable - Tone 7 (Psalm 115:6,3):

Verse: What can I return to the Lord for all he has given me?

Alleluia for a Bishop-Martyr - Tone 2 (Psalm 131:9,13):

Verse: Your priests will be clothed with righteousness and your saints will rejoice.

Verse: The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.
Alleluia - Tone 6 (Psalm 111:1,2):

Verse: Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
Verse: His posterity will be mighty upon the earth.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

16 The holy prophet Haggai, who in the time of Zerubbabel governor of Judah, warned the people to rebuild the house of the Lord, into which would come the treasures of all the nations.

Troparion - Tone 2

As we celebrate the memory of your prophet Haggai, O Lord,
we implore you to save our souls through his prayers.
Your mind was enlightened with the fire of the Spirit; you proclaimed the hidden things of God, O prophet. You revealed what was to come, pointing to the mysteries of what was to happen.

Beg Christ our God to have mercy on us.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 109:4,1):

You are a priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Alleluia - Tone 5 (Psalm 98:6; 96:11):

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among his priests; Samuel was among those who called upon his name.

Verse: Light dawns for the just, and gladness for the upright of heart.
Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):

The just man will be remembered, be remembered forever

Refrain

evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

17 The holy prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children: Hannaniah, Azariah, and Mishael. The story of the Three Young Men is related in the book of the Prophet Daniel. All four of these young men were members of the tribe of Judah, deported to Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem. Daniel is (with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) counted as one of the four major prophets.

Troparion - Tone 2

Great are the deeds performed with faith: three youths rejoiced in the flaming furnace as if they stood in refreshing waters;

and Daniel the prophet faced lions as though they were sheep.

Through their pray'rs. O Christ our God, save our souls.
Your pure heart was enlightened by the Holy Spirit so that it could become an instrument of prophecy; you perceived distant events as if they were present. When you were thrown into the pit, you stopped the lions’ mouths. Therefore, we honor you, O blessed and glorious prophet Daniel.

Kontakion of the Holy Youths - Tone 6 (music found on page 26):
You did not worship a man–made image, O thrice-bless’d youths. You armed yourselves with uncreated divinity. You were glorified in the trial by fire. Withstanding the flames, you stood and called out: Hasten, O compassionate God, and hurry to help us in your mercy. For you can do whatever you will.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):
God is wondrous in his saints, the God of Israel, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.
Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

On the Sunday from December 18 to 24
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Ancestors

Troparion - Prescribed Resurrection Tone

Troparion - Tone 2:

Great are the accomplishments of faith: the three holy youths rejoiced in the streams of fire as if in refreshing waters; and Daniel the prophet shepherded lions like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O Christ our God, save our souls.
On December 20 through 23:
Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4

Bethlehem, make ready, Eden has been opened for all.

Ephra-thah, prepare your self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual paradise in which divinity was planted. If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Only on December 24:
Troparion of the Vigil - Tone 4

At that time, Mary registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph, who was of the house of David. She had conceived without seed and was with child, and her time to give birth had come. They found no room at the inn.
but the cave became a pleasant palace for the Queen. Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

On December 18 and 19:
Kontakion of the Holy Youths - Tone 6 (music found on page 26):
You did not worship a man-made image, O thrice-bless'd youths. You armed yourselves with uncreated divinity. You were glorified in the trial by fire. Withstanding the flames, you stood and called out: Hasten, O compassionate God, and hurry to help us in your mercy. For you can do whatever you will.

On December 20 and 24:
Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 3

Today the Virgin is coming to the cave to give birth to the eternal Word in a manner beyond expression.

Let the world dance when it hears the news; with the angels and shepherds glorify the eternal God who chose to appear as a new-born child.
As we see the One who holds the world in his hands now wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem, let us offer our hymns in anticipation to the one who gave him birth; for with a mother's joy she cradles the Son of God.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Daniel 3:26,27):

Blessed are you and praise-worthy, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

Verse: For you are just in all that you have done for us.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 43:2,8):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: O God, we have heard with our own ears; our fathers have told us the deed you did in their days.

Verse: You saved us from those who oppressed us; and those who hated us you put to shame.
Praise the Lord, the Lord from the heavens, praise him,
praise him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Refrain

And for the righteous ones, the Communion Hymn is (Psalm 32:1):

Rejoice in the Lord you righteous ones; praise from the upright,
the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia!

18 The holy martyr Sebastian and his companions. Born in Italy and brought up in the city of Milan, he intended to be a soldier. The emperor Diocletian made him captain of the imperial guard. During this time, Sebastian professed the Faith and was a great help to those persecuted for it. After many of his converts were martyred, the emperor called Sebastian and rebuked him for his betrayal, and he replied, “I always pray to my Christ for your health and for the peace of the Roman Empire.” The emperor ordered him stripped and shot with arrows. Since this did not kill him, he was beaten to death with staves. (287)
Your holy martyrs, O Lord our God, in their struggles, received incorruptible crowns from you. With your strength, they brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

O Sebastian, by the shedding of your blood you were robed in martyrdom, being arrayed in a robe of precious purple. You took up your abode with Christ in his kingdom on high, and with those who suffered by your side, you received the crown of glory. O wise Sebastian, as you sing with them, remember us.
To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):
The holy martyr Boniface was a servant to a wealthy and wicked woman in Rome, and was her paramour. His mistress decided that she wanted to have some relics of a Christian martyr in her house to use as an amulet to ward off evil, and dispatched Boniface to Asia to buy what she desired. In the city of Tarsus, Boniface witnessed the deaths of many for the sake of Christ, and was converted. He denounced himself to the authorities and said, “I too am a Christian.” He was then tortured and beheaded. Slaves took his body back to Rome, and an angel appeared to his former mistress, saying, “Take him who was once your servant, but who is now our brother---he is the guardian of your soul.” She repented and built a church where Boniface’s relics were buried. (290)

Troparion - Tone 4

Your martyr Boniface, O Lord our God, in his struggle, received an incorruptible crown from you. With your strength, he brought down the tyrants and broke the cowardly valor of demons. Through his prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 4

O triumphant and wise Boniface, you willingly offered yourself as an immaculate sacrifice to the One who is about to be born
Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 63:11,2)

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 91:13,14):

Verse: The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 111:6,7):
20 The holy martyr Ignatius the God-bearer, a bishop and a disciple of St. John the Apostle. He ruled the Church of Antioch second after St. Peter and, condemned to the beasts under the Emperor Trajan, he was sent to Rome and there was crowned with a glorious martyrdom. On his trip, while under guard and experiencing their ferocity as if of leopards, he wrote seven letters to various Churches, by which he beseeched his brothers to serve God in unity with the bishops and not to keep him from being sacrificed as a victim for Christ. (107)

Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4: (music found on page 45)
Bethlehem, make ready, * Eden has been opened for all. * Ephrathah, prepare yourself, * for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. * Her womb has become a spiritual paradise * in which divinity was planted. * If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. * Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Troparion of Ignatius - Tone 4

You sat on the chair of the apostles and exercised their powers.

You are the inspiration of prelates and the glory of martyrs.

You faced savage beasts, fire, and sword all for the sake of the faith.

You made the course of truth straight, even at the price of your own blood.

O priest-martyr Ignatius, beg Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 3: (music found on page 46)
Today the Virgin is coming to the cave * to give birth to the eternal Word * in a manner beyond expression. * Let the world dance when it hears the news; * with the angels and shepherds glorify the eternal God * who chose to appear as a newborn child.
The moving celebration of your successful fight is like an announcement of the One who is to be born of the Virgin. Because of your eagerness to possess him forever, you have tended to be devoured by ferocious beasts. Therefore, O glorious Ignatius, you were called the God-bearer.

Kontakion of Ignatius - Tone 3

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you. Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 91:13,14):

Verse: The just man will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Verse: Planted in the house of the Lord, he will flourish in the courts of our God.

Prokeimenon - Tone 7 (Psalm 63:11,2)

Verse: The just man will rejoice in the Lord, rejoice in the Lord and will put his trust in him.
21 The holy martyr Juliana of Nicodemia. Born to pagan parents, she was at a young age converted to the Faith. She refused to marry the man chosen for her by her parents because he was not a Christian. She was arrested, beaten, and then beheaded, and with her many others who saw her witness and were converted by it. (304)

Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4: (music found on page 45)
Bethlehem, make ready, * Eden has been opened for all. * Ephrathah, prepare yourself, * for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. * Her womb has become a spiritual paradise * in which divinity was planted. * If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. * Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Troparion of Juliana - Tone 4
Your lamb Ju - li - a - na, O Jesus, cries out in a loud voice: I love you, my Bridegroom; I seek you with painful long - ing; I am cru - cified with you; in your baptism, I am bur - ied with you; I suf - fer for you that I may...
reign with you; and I die for you that I may live with you. Receive me
as a spotless sacrifice immolated with love for you. By her pray'rs, O mer-ciful
One, save our souls.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 2: (music found on page 47)
As we see the One who holds the world in his hands * now wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem, * let us offer our hymns in anticipation to the one who gave him birth; * for with a mother’s joy she cradles the Son of God.

Kontakion of Juliana - Tone 3
Because you were purified by perfect vir-gin-i-ty, you have put on the
crown of martyrdom, O Ju-li-a-na. You heal the sick and the
need-y and bring sal-va-tion to those who ap-proach your re-l-ics.

Christ gives us di-vine grace and e-ter-nal life through you.
Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
22 The holy great martyr Anastasia. Born into a senatorial family in Rome, she was a Christian from a tender age. Forced by her father to marry a pagan landowner, she refused to have marital relations with him. For this, her husband had her tortured and imprisoned. When her husband drowned during a business trip, she began to openly minister to Christians and to all the poor who needed her help. She was arrested again, starved to death, and finally was bound to a wheel over an open fire and killed. (304)

Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4: (music found on page 45)
Bethlehem, make ready, * Eden has been opened for all. * Ephrathah, prepare yourself, * for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. * Her womb has become a spiritual paradise * in which divinity was planted. * If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. * Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Troparion of Anastasia - Tone 4

How well named are you for the triumph of Resurrection. By enduring pain you gained the victory of Christ your spouse, whom you love dearly.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 2: (music found on page 47)
As we see the One who holds the world in his hands * now wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem, * let us offer our hymns in anticipation to the one who gave him birth; * for with a mother’s joy she cradles the Son of God.

Kontakion of Anastasia - Tone 2

Those in trouble and affliction come to your church, and there they receive rich gifts, the divine favors which are entrusted to you,

58
Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):
23 The holy ten martyrs of Crete of Gortyna, who, in the persecution of the Emperor Decius, publicly refused to sacrifice when ordered to do so during the dedication of the temple of the goddess Fortuna. They suffered tortures and were beheaded. (250)
The commemoration of the dedication of the Church of Holy Wisdom in Constantinople.

Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4: (music found on page 45)
Bethlehem, make ready, * Eden has been opened for all. * Ephrathah, prepare yourself, * for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Virgin in the cave. * Her womb has become a spiritual paradise * in which divinity was planted. * If we partake of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. * Christ is born to raise up the likeness that had fallen.

Troparion of the Martyrs - Tone 3
Let us express our great admiration for Crete which brought forth these precious Christians, pearls of Christ and offspring of martyrs, and in particular,
these blessed Ten. Although they were few, they overcame all the guiles of powerful demons. Therefore, these valiant martyrs of Christ have been crowned.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 2: (music found on page 47)
As we see the One who holds the world in his hands * now wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem, * let us offer our hymns in anticipation to the one who gave him birth; * for with a mother’s joy she cradles the Son of God.

Kontakion of the Martyrs - Tone 4
The noble struggle of the martyrs shines forth like the morning star
and sheds brilliant light for us on the One who was born in the cave, to whom the Virgin has given birth without human seed.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 15:3,8):

To all the saints in his land, the Lord has shown all the wonders of his will.

Verse: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 33:18,20):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: When the righteous cried out, the Lord heard; and from all distress he saved them.
Verse: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

Re-joice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise from the up-right,

Refrain the up-right is fit-ting. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia!

61
In you, O mother, the divine image was strictly preserved; taking up your cross, you followed Christ. You taught us by example how to spurn the flesh, for it passes away, and how to care for the soul, which is immortal. Therefore, venerable Eugenia, your soul rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 3: (music found on page 46) Today the Virgin is coming to the cave * to give birth to the eternal Word * in a manner beyond expression. * Let the world dance when it hears the news; * with the angels and shepherds glorify the eternal God * who chose to appear as a newborn child.
You left the Passing glory of the world to follow Christ,
and you kept immaculate the brilliance of your soul. O inspired martyr Eugenia, you are worthy of all praise.

God is wondrous in his saints, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.
The just woman will be remembered forever; evil news she will not fear, evil news she will not fear. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

“When the fullness of time was come, God sent his only-begotten Son” (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. Nine months after his conception in the womb of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity was born in a stable in Bethlehem of Judea. To him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2):

I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1):

Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you:

Al - le - lu - ia!
Third Antiphon - Tone 4 Troparion (Psalm 109:1):

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Troparion - Tone 4:

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Entrance Hymn - Tone 4 Troparion (Psalm 109:3,4):

From the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and he will not repent: You are a priest forever according to the
Troparion - Tone 4: (music found on page 65)
Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!

Kontakion - Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star.

The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Instead of “Holy God. . .” (Galatians 3:27) – Not sung on the post-festive days:
All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Alleluia! (Three times)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Have been clothed with Christ. Alleluia!
All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Alleluia!
Prokeimenon - Tone 8 (Psalm 65:4,1,2):

Let all the earth worship you and sing praise to you; let everyone sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Verse: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; sing praise to his name, give to him glorious praise.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 18:2,3):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Verse: Day unto day pours out the word and night unto night imparts knowledge.

Cherubic Hymn on the hymn, "Divnaja novina"

Let us, who mystically represent the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn, thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating, life-creating Trinity, now set aside all earthly cares, all earthly cares.
Amen. That we may receive, may receive the King of All, invisibly escorted by angelic hosts. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Anamnesis Acclamation

We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, O Lord, and we pray to you, our God, pray to you, our God.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

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

Irmos: 

I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave;
the cherubic throne, a virgin; the manager has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and exalt him.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 110:9):

The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia!

On the Saturday from December 26 to 31
SATURDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you:

Al-le-lu-ia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6):

Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. O Son of God,

born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Al-le-lu-ia!

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4:
Your birth, O Christ our God,* has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!

Troparion of the Saint of the Day

Kontakion of the Saint of the Day

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)
Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth of fers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.
I shall make your name remembered in all generations.

Verse: Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

Alleluia - Tone 8 (Psalm 131:8,11):

Verse: Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your holy ark.
Verse: The Lord swore a true oath to David; he will not go back on his word.

Instead of “It is truly proper...”

Magnification: (music found on page 68)

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

Irmos: I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

Communion Hymn of the Nativity (Psalm 110:9) (music found on page 69)

The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Communion Hymn (Psalm 115:4):
On the Sunday from December 26 to 31
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed,
David the King, and James the Brother of God

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): *(music found on page 64)*
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): *(music found on page 64)*
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Third Antiphon (Psalm 94:1): *(music found on page 70)*
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6): *(music found on page 70)*
Come, let us worship and bow before Christ.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Troparion - Prescribed Resurrection Tone

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4: *(music found on page 65)*
Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!

Troparion - Tone 2:

Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!
been instructed by the angel. Ask Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion - Tone 3:

Today the godly David is filled with joy; Joseph offers hymns of praise with James. Rejoicing, they take up the garland of relationship with Christ. They sing praise to him whose birth on earth defies description and they cry out: Merciful Lord, save those who honor you.

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.
God is wondrous in his saints, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.

Verse: Lord, remember David and all his humility.
Verse: How he swore to the Lord and vowed to the God of Jacob.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification: (music found on page 68)
Extol, O my soul, Christ the King, born in a cave.

Irmos: I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

For Sunday, the usual Communion Hymn is (Psalm 148:1):

Refrain:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest. Alleluia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones, praise from the upright is fitting. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones, praise from the upright is fitting. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones, praise from the upright is fitting.

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

26 THE SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. On the second day of the Christmas feast, the Church gives glory and praise to the most holy Theotokos, who bore our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ. The holy martyr Euthymius, bishop of Sardis in Lydia, who on account of his veneration of the Holy Images was forced into exile by the iconoclast Emperor Michael. Finally, when Theophilus was emperor, he was brutally beaten with leather thongs, and he fulfilled his martyrdom. (840)

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Third Antiphon (Psalm 94:1): (music found on page 70) 
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6): (music found on page 70)
Come, let us worship and bow before Christ.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4: (music found on page 65)
Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!
Kontakion of the Synaxis - Tone 6:

Before the morning star, he was born of the Father without a mother; today, on earth, he has become man from you without a father. A star announces the good news to the wise men. The angels join with the shepherds to sing the glory of your marvelous child-bearing, O Woman Full of Grace.

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth of hers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Prokeimenon - Tone 3 (Luke 1:46-48):

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has looked with favor on the humility of his servant; from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.

Alleluia - Tone 8 (Psalm 131:8,11):

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Verse: Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your holy ark.
Verse: The Lord swore a true oath to David; he will not go back on his word.
Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

Or this melody:

Or this melody:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:

Magnification:
of devotion. O Mother, give us the

strength to do what we intend.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 110:9): (music found on page 69)
The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

27 THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR, AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN, a
man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. First of seven deacons, whom the Apostles chose to
be fellow-laborers in the ministry, he was also the first of the disciples of the Lord to pour
out his blood at Jerusalem. He provided testimony for Christ Jesus, whom he saw
standing in glory at the right hand of the Father. He was covered over by stones while
praying for his persecutors.
Our venerable father and confessor Theodore of Apamea in Bithynia, a monk of the
l aura of St. Sabbas in Palestine, priest and martyr. In Constantinople with his brother St.
Theophane (the Hymnographer) he endured much in the defense of the Holy Images. He
endured scourging, prisons, exile, and even brands on his forehead, for which reason he
was called Graptus. He expired in prison. (845)

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Third Antiphon (Psalm 94:1): (music found on page 70)
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6): (music found on page 70)
Come, let us worship and bow before Christ.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!
First martyr and apostle of Christ, you fought the good fight.

You convicted the tyrants of their wickedness. When you were killed by stoning at the hands of sinners, you received a crown from God’s right hand while you cried out: Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

Guide to Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness,

luminary for the world, inspired

a remnant of bishops, Wise Theodore, harp of the

Spirit, you enlightened all by your teachings;
Troparion of Stephen - Tone 3

Yes-ter-day, in hu-man flesh the Mas-ter came to us; to-day, from
the flesh, his serv-ant de-parts. Yes-ter-day, the King was born in the flesh;
to-day, his serv-ant is killed by ston-ing. Thus the ho-ly
Ste-phen, the first mar-tyr, is brought to per-fec-tion.

Troparion of Theodore - Tone 3

Your lips were ev-er sure, and you shrewdly vanquished your foe by your
en-dur-ance. Your face was griev-ously wound-ed for Christ's i-con,
and you taught us to hon-or and ven-er-ate all things. O The-o-dore,
ob-tain mer-cy for us.
Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)
Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth of fers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Prokeimenon - Tone 8 (Psalm 18:5,2):

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 88:6,8):

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”
Magnification: (music found on page 68)
Extol, O my soul, Christ the King, born in a cave.
Irmos: I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

Communion Hymn of the Nativity (Psalm 110:9): (music found on page 69)
The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
And for the Holy Martyr Stephen, the Communion Hymn is (Psalm 18:5):

Through all the earth their voice re-sounds; their mes-sage reach-es to the ends of the world. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia!

28 The Twenty Thousand Martyrs of Nicomedia. During the reign of emperor Maximian Hercules, the Christian faith was brutally persecuted in Nicomedia. When the local Christians had gathered in the church to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, he ordered his soldiers to surround the church and set it on fire. Those inside were offered free passage out, as long as they betrayed Christ. They refused, men, women and children, and were martyred. (302)

The holy priest-martyr Gregory Khomyshyn, bishop. He was born in Galicia in 1867. After graduation from the seminary, he was ordained priest. He was sent for further studies, and in 1902 Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky appointed him rector of the seminary in Lviv. In 1904, he was ordained bishop for Ivano-Frankivsk. He was arrested twice by the Soviets, first in 1939 and again in 1945. He died in prison. (1947)

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Third Antiphon (Psalm 94:1): (music found on page 70)
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6): (music found on page 70)
Come, let us worship and bow before Christ.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!
Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4: (music found on page 65)
Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!

Troparion of the Martyrs - Tone 2
O victorious martyrs of the Lord, blessed is the earth that received your blood, and holy are the heavenly places that opened to your souls.
You have vanquished the enemy in battle and proclaimed Christ with courage.
We beg you to intercede with him, the all-good One, that he may save our souls.

Kontakion of the Martyrs - Tone 2
Thousands of saints stood firm in their faith and endured martyrdom in a blaze.
They cry to him who was born of the Virgin: O God eternal,
accept our offering as you accepted the gold, frankincense, and
myrrh of the Persian kings.

**Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3** *(music found on page 66)*
Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth of fers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

**Prokeimenon of the Nativity - Tone 4** *(Psalm 44:18,11): (music found on page 71)*
I shall make your name remembered in all generations.
*Verse:* Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

**Alleluia of the Nativity - Tone 8** *(Psalm 131:8,11): (music found on page 71)*
*Verse:* Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your holy ark.
*Verse:* The Lord swore a true oath to David; he will not go back on his word.

*Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”*

**Magnification:** *(music found on page 68)*
Extol, O my soul, Christ the King, born in a cave.

**Irmos:** I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

Communion Hymn of the Nativity *(Psalm 110:9) (music found on page 69_:
The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**29 The holy innocents killed by Herod in Bethlehem of Judea.** The impious king did this in the expectation that, with them, the infant Jesus would perish. They have been honored as martyrs from the first ages of the Church, the first-fruits of all who would pour out their blood for God and the Lamb.

**Our venerable father Marcellus,** hegumen of the Akimetes (the “non-sleeping ones”) on the Bosporus in Constantinople. Day and night, without any interruption ever, he carried out the singing of the Psalms. (486)

**First Antiphon** *(Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)*
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

**Second Antiphon** *(Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)*
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!
We be-seek you, O Lord and Lov-er of us all, and im-plore you through all the sufferings your saints endured for you; heal all our pain and suf-fer-ing.

In you, O fa-ther, the di-vene im-age was strict-ly pre-served; tak-ing up your cross, you fol-lowed Christ. You taught us by ex-am-ple how to spurn the flesh, for it pass-es a-way, and how to care for the soul, which is im-mor-tal. There-fore, O ven-er-a-ble
Marcellus, your soul rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion of the Innocents - Tone 6

When the King was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East and brought him gifts. They had been led by a star on high. As for Herod, he became exceedingly angry and had the infants harvested like lamenting wheat; for he sees his power coming to an end.

Kontakion of Marcellus - Tone 2

You rose in the East like a glittering star, and you thundered with virtuous deeds, O blessed Marcellus. You were a standard for a community of monks, and you have become a light for the capitol, O venerable father.

This is why we sing to you: Rejoice, O most blessed father.
Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)
Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth of fers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Prokeimenon of the Nativity - Tone 4 (Psalm 44:18,11): (music found on page 71)
I shall make your name remembered in all generations.
Verse: Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

Alleluia of the Nativity - Tone 8 (Psalm 131:8,11): (music found on page 71)
Verse: Go up, Lord, to your rest, you and your holy ark.
Verse: The Lord swore a true oath to David; he will not go back on his word.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”...
Magnification: (music found on page 68)
Extol, O my soul, Christ the King, born in a cave.
Irmos: I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

Communion Hymn of the Nativity (Psalm 110:9) (music found on page 69)
The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

30 The holy woman martyr Anysia was arrested at Thessalonica when she entered that city to attend the synaxis of the faithful, and was put to death in 304 during the reign of Maximian Galerius.
The venerable Zoticus, a holy priest of Rome who went to Constantinople where he established hospitals and havens of refuge for the poor (344).

Transferred from December 31:
Our venerable mother Melanie the Younger of Rome, who, with her husband St. Pinianus, left the city of Rome and set out for the Holy City of Jerusalem. There, she among the women consecrated to God and her husband among the monks, they practiced the religious life and both rested in a holy death. (438)

First Antiphon (Psalm 9:2): (music found on page 64)
I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 111:1): (music found on page 64)
Happy the man who fears the Lord and greatly delights in his commands.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!
Post-festive Third Antiphon (Psalm 94:1): *(music found on page 70)*
Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Post-festive Entrance Hymn (Psalm 94:6): *(music found on page 70)*
Come, let us worship and bow before Christ.
O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to you: Alleluia!

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4: *(music found on page 65)*
Your birth, O Christ our God, * has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; * for through it, those who worshiped the stars * have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, * and to know you, the dawn from on high. * Glory to you, O Lord!

Troparion of Anysia - Tone 4

Your lamb A - ny - sia, O Jesus, cries out in a loud voice: I love you,
my Bridegroom; I seek you with pain-ful long - ing; I am cru - cified with you;
in your baptism, I am bur - ied with you; I suf -fer for you that I may reign with you; and I die for you that I may live with you. Re-ceive me as a spotless sacrifice im-mo-lat-ed with love for you. By her pray'rs, O mer-ci - ful
One, save our souls.
You loved the purity of virginity and supplieed your Beloved with gracious words. You spent your fortunes for the monks and nuns, and you even built them monasteries, O blessed Melanie. Now that you have retired to a heavenly monastery, do not forget us.

To-day this martyr smashes the demon by her steadfast faith and grinds to bits the enemy of holiness by martyrdom. The angels bring her crowns and gifts. O God on high and Savior of the world, save us.
Your soul shone with light from the One born for us of the Virgin,

and you sparkled with all the virtues, for you are worthy of all praise.

You shared your worldly wealth with those on earth and stored for yourself treasures in heaven, becoming a marvelous example of ascetic life.

Therefore, O holy Melanie, we honor you with love.

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3 (music found on page 66)
Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star. The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 67:36,27):

God is wondrous in his saints, the God of Israel, the God of Israel.

Verse: In the churches bless God; from Israel’s wellsprings bless the Lord.
Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 39:2,3):

Verse: I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
Verse: He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the filthy clay.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”
Magnification: (music found on page 68)
Extol, O my soul, Christ the King, born in a cave.
Irmos: I see a strange and marvelous mystery: heaven is a cave; the cherubic throne a virgin; the manger has become the place in which Christ the incomprehensible God lies down. Let us praise him and extol him.

Communion Hymn of the Nativity (Psalm 110:9) (music found on page 69)
The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Communion Hymn (Psalm 32:1):

31 Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity.

All as on the feast, beginning on page 64, except:

1 Post-festive 3rd Antiphon (music found on page 70)
2. Post-festive Entrance Hymn (music found on page 70)