

# Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Christmas



*Priest:* Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*People:* Come, let us worship and bow down before God, our King.  
Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, our King and our God.  
Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ himself, our King and our God.

## **Psalm 104**

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,

and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.

People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works —

who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

*(and again)*

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works; in wisdom you have made them all!

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to you, O God. *(3 times)*

Our hope, O Lord, glory to you.

## **The Great Ektenia**

*Deacon:* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For the peace of God and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For this holy house, and for those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Priest:* For our Archbishop and Father (Name), the honorable Presbyters, the Deacons in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For our country, the president, and all those in public service and the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For this parish and this city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For travelers by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* Help, save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by your grace.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Deacon:* Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

*People:* **To you, O Lord**

*Priest:* For to you belong all glory, honor, and worship to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*People:* **Amen**

## Psalm 140

*(O Lord, I have cried unto you)*

*Chanters:*

Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you.

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer rise like incense before you. And let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

*Verse 1:* Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your name.

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord as we tell of this great mystery. The middle wall of partition has been destroyed; the flaming sword turns back, the Cherubim withdraw from the tree of life, and I partake of the delight of Paradise from which I was cast out through disobedience. For the express image of the Father, the imprint of his eternity, takes the form of a servant, and without undergoing change he comes forth from a mother who knew not wedlock. For what he was, he has remained, true God: and what he was not, he has taken upon himself, becoming human through love for all. Unto him let us cry aloud: God born of a Virgin, have mercy upon us.

*Verse 2:* The righteous shall wait for me until you recompense me.

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

*Verse 3:* Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Your kingdom, O Christ our God, is a kingdom of all the ages, and your rule is from generation to generation. Made flesh of the Holy Spirit and made human of the ever-Virgin Mary, you have enlightened us by your coming. Light of Light, Brightness of the Father, you have made the whole creation shine with joy. All that has breath praises you, the image of the glory of the Father. O God who is, and who has ever been, who has shone forth from a Virgin, have mercy upon us.

*Verse 4:* Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

When Augustus reigned alone upon earth, the many kingdoms came to end: and when you became a human of the pure Virgin, the many gods of idolatry were destroyed. The cities of the world passed under one single rule; and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead. The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar; and we, the faithful, were enrolled in the name of the Godhead, when you, our God, was made human. Great is your mercy: glory to you.

*Deacon:* Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

## O Radiant Light

O ra-diant light of ho-ly glo - ry, the im - mortal  
Fa - ther, heav - en - ly and ho - ly,  
bless-ed Je - sus Christ. And now that we have come to the  
set - ting of the sun with all the light of e-ven-tide, we  
praise you the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef in common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O ra-diant light of ho-ly glo - ry, the im - mortal Fa - ther, heav - en - ly and ho - ly, bless-ed Je - sus Christ. And now that we have come to the set - ting of the sun with all the light of e-ven-tide, we praise you the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly".

Spir - it, One God. It is wor - thy at all times to  
 praise you, with voi - ces of ho - ly song, O Son of  
 God and giv - er of life, of life. The world  
 does glo - ri - fy, glo - ri - fy you.

## First Scriptural Reading

*Genesis 1:1-13*

*Reader:* The reading is from the book of Genesis.

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”

And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

### Christmas Prophecy Troparion, Stanza 1

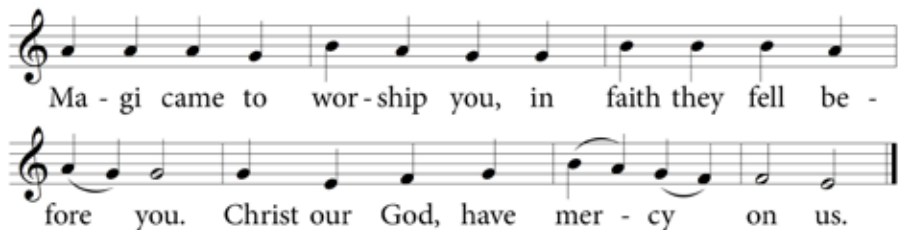
You were born se-cret-ly in a cave. But to all the  
 world the hea - vens did pro-claim and spoke through a  
 star that you are in - deed the Sa - vior.  
 Ma-gi came to wor-ship you, in faith they fell be - fore you.  
 Christ our God, have mer - cy on us.

*Chanters:* His foundations are in the holy mountains: the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Ma - gi came to wor-ship you, in faith they fell be -  
 fore you. Christ our God, have mer - cy on us.



*Chanters:* Glorious things are spoken of you, city of God. I will make mention of Rahab the Babylon to them that know me. Behold Philistia and Tyre and the people of Ethiopia.



Ma - gi came to wor - ship you, in faith they fell be -  
fore you. Christ our God, have mer - cy on us.

*Chanters:* This and that man were born there. Zion is our mother, a man shall say, and such a man was born in her; and the Most High himself has established her. The Lord shall recount, when He writes up the people and the princes born in her. All rejoice to have their dwelling in you.



You were born se - cret - ly in a cave. But to all the  
world the hea - vens did pro - claim and spoke through a  
star that you are in - deed the Sa - vior.  
Ma - gi came to wor - ship you, in faith they fell be - fore you.  
Christ our God, have mer - cy on us.

## Second Scriptural Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

*Reader:* The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

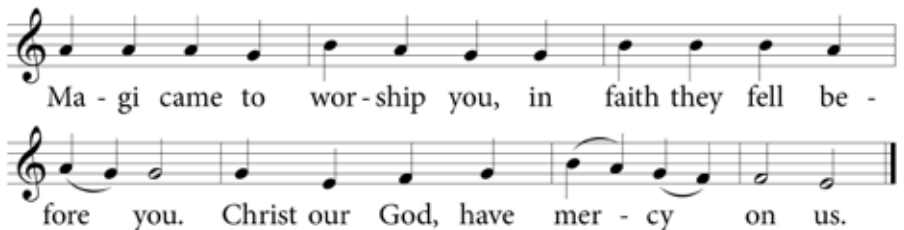
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Christmas Prophecy Troparion, Stanza 2



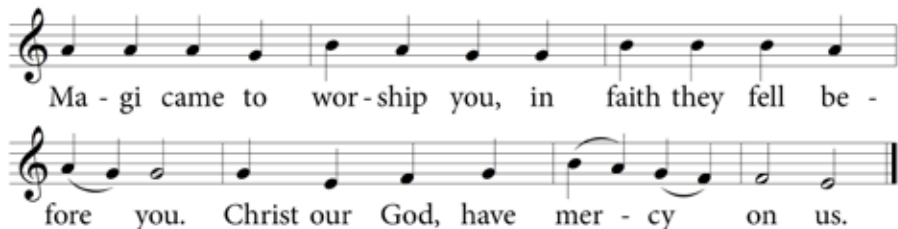
You have shown forth, O Christ, from a Vir-gin.  
O you, the spi-ri-tual Son of righ - teous-ness, and through a  
star you were re-vealed. You, the un-con-tain-a-ble, con-  
tained in a cave. Ma-gi came to wor-ship you, in  
faith they fell be-fore you, Life-giv-er, Glo-ry to you.

*Chanters:* The Lord is King, and has put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.

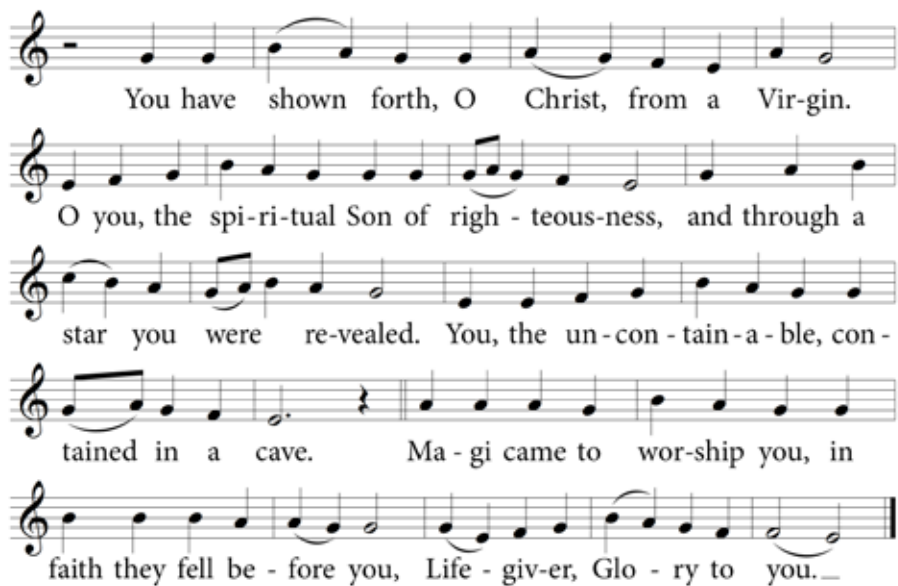


Ma-gi came to wor-ship you, in faith they fell be -  
fore you. Christ our God, have mer - cy on us.

*Chanters:* He has made the world so sure, that it cannot be moved. Your throne is prepared of old: You are from everlasting.



*Chanters:* Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Your testimonies are very sure.



### Third Scriptural Reading

*Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10*

*Reader:* The reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

*Deacon:* Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals,

that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Then the LORD said to me, Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, “Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz,” and have it attested for me by reliable witnesses, the priest Uriah and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to call “My father” or “My mother,” the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria.

Band together, you peoples, and be dismayed; listen, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed! Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.



*We continue with the Trisagion Hymn and the remainder of the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.*

*Christ is born!*



*Glorify him!*

***St. Mary's Christmas decorations have been made possible  
through the generosity of the following:***

- The Family of Andy, Libby, Krissa, George, and Joanne Atsidakos in memory of Bill K. Nicklow
- Rosanna and Bob Baffa in memory of Ana, Rob, Rose, Victor, Ronald, Richard, Angie, John, Renato, Perceda, George, Ted
- Matheos Balafas in memory of Kostadinou Balafas, Maria Balafas, Sotirios Balafas, Kostoula Balafas, Vasilios Balafas, Dolores Balafas, Zaharias Pakirtzis
- Nick T. & Katherine Boosalis and Family in memory of Theodore and Theodora Boosalis
- Tessie Bourdamis in memory of Irene, Manuel, and George Bourdamis
- Mary Cavouras in memory of Betty Cavouras
- Chris & Angela Dillon in memory of John, Eugenia, and Tom Checheris
- Christine Doukas and Family in memory of Rena Doukas, Peter J. Boosalis, Katherine Boosalis, Christ Parthenios, Stamata Parthenios, Iereus Peter Doukas, Katherine Doukas
- Ben & Julie Frothingham in memory of John & Jenny Maganas, Roy & Etta Frothingham, Clifford & Effie Carlson
- The Hanna Family
- Mary Kafkas and Fifi Kafkas in memory of Tom, Mary, Athanasios, Evangeline, John, George, Peter, Hazel, Ione, Ted, George, Ronald
- Theodora Karakatsanis in memory of Stamatis & Mimika Karakatsanis, John Karas, John & Eugenia Checheris, Tom Checheris, George & Helen Speliopoulos, George & Helen Yoshino
- Kastanos Family in memory of Joanne Kastanos
- Connie & George Kouzes in memory of Nicholas, Aphrodite, Christina, Dena
- Thomas N. & Bette Limberis in memory of Nicholas & Dimetra Limberis
- Darlene Manzavrakos in memory of husband Jack
- Tia Muchulas and Family in memory of John Muchulas, Christ & Stamata Parthenios, George & Athanasia Grammas, Parul & Alexandria Muchulas, Jim Muchulas
- Bea Murdakes in memory of Jim and Jimmy, Sophia, and Sammy
- Louis, Mary, Katherine, and Kristina Pappas in memory of George Zarifis; Kathy, Chris, and Nick Pappas; Katherine & Richard D'Ambrogio; Anna Jensen

The V. Possis Family in memory of Milt, Christ, Theano, Zinon, Mary, Emmel, Della, Constandinos, Thalia, George, Paul, Carol, Robert, Virginia, Cleo, Linnea, John, JoAnn

Margaret Psychogios in memory of Peter Psychogios; Judy Psychogios

Steve & Popie Rakes in memory of Pota & Mike Rakes; George & Emily Regas; John, Jim, and Peter Regas

Sam, Georgia, and Sophia Rouman in memory of Michael G. and Panayiota (Bea) Dovolos

Elaine Smith in memory of George Smith, Mary Ann Hofstad, Gus & Mary Boosalis, George Boosalis, Bill Boosalis, John Boosalis

Joan Chresand Spell in memory of Peter William Spell, William & Angeline Speliopoulos and Family, George & Stathoula Chresand and Family

Elaine Theis in memory of Socrates & Evangeline Stoyanoglow (mother & dad), Christos & Panagoula Mouroutsos; John & Helen Stoyanoglow (grandparents)

Arlene Theros

Effy Triantafyllou in memory of Koula, Epaminondas "Peter," Betty, Andy, Triantafylos, Athena, Efthimia, George, John, Vasiliki, John, George, Violetta, Andreas, Maria, Mary, Kyriakos, Iowanna, Gianitsa, Panagiotis, Maria, Efsthathios, Asimoula, Peter, Pearl, Daisy, Effie, Helen, and John

Luke & Mary Kay Twito in memory of our Twito and Pantages Families

Harry & Georgia Wiebe in memory of George & Aspasia Kosmas and Baby James; Peter & Marguerite Kosmas and Georgie; Tony & Elaine Kallas

Gregory & Harriet Witt in memory of Helen N. Hasselstrom, Richard P. Hasselstrom, Donald Witt, and Steve Witt

Stephen Zis in memory of Spiro & Helen Zis

Mike & Dana Zoupas in memory of John & Carol Pondelis



*The traditional Orthodox greeting for the Feast of Christmas and the Twelve Days afterwards is:*

**“Christ is born!”**  
**“Glorify him!”**

**“Christos yennáte!”**  
**“Dhoksásate!”**

*From the Christmas Liturgy through January 4, there is no fasting as we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity.*

