

September 10

**Third day of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos;
Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Menodora,
Metrodora and Nymphodora
(5th Class)**

GREAT VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

10. O Christ, conqueror of Hades, You went up on the Cross to raise up with You those who stood in the shadow of death. O You the only One to be free among the dead, O Giver of Life out of Your own light, O Savior almighty, have mercy on us!
9. Today Christ has crushed Death and is risen as He had foretold. He has bestowed joy upon the world so that we may all sing the hymn of praise and say: "O Source of Life, O Unapproachable Light, almighty Savior of All, have mercy on us!"
8. O Lord everywhere present, where could we poor sinners flee to escape You? To Heaven? That is where You dwell! To Hades? That is where You crushed Death! Your powerful hand is there, O Lord. We run to You, we seek refuge in You, worshiping and beseeching You: "O You who are risen from the dead, have mercy on us!"

Stichera of Anatolios the Patriarch (Tone 6)

7. We pride ourselves in Your Cross! We sing a hymn of praise and glory to Your Resurrection, for You are our God, and we confess no other.

6. Glory to Your power, O Lord, for You have destroyed the power of Death, renewed our nature by Your Cross and bestowed life and incorruption upon us.
5. We bless the Lord at all times and we sing a hymn of praise to His Resurrection, for by suffering crucifixion for our sake, He crushed Death by His death.

For the Feast (Tone 6)

4. Today, God who dominates the Spiritual Thrones of heaven, welcomes on earth the holy throne which He prepared for Himself. In His love for mankind, He who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven. From a barren stem He has brought forth for us His Mother as a branch full of life. O God of miracles, and hope of those who have no hope, Lord, glory to You!
3. This is the day of the Lord: Rejoice, therefore, O nations! Behold: the Chamber of Light, the scroll of the Living Word, has come forth from the womb. The gate that opens to the Rising Sun and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest is here today. She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into this world for the salvation of our souls.
2. Indeed, some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God. But the nativity of Mary surpasses all nativities in honor and splendor, as it is worthy of the majesty of God, for she was born in a miraculous way of a barren mother, and she herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of all, incarnate in her womb without human seed, against the laws of nature. She alone is the door through which the only-begotten Son of God has passed

while leaving it sealed, as He had planned in His eternal wisdom. Thus did He bring salvation to all mankind!

1. Today the barren gates are opened and the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth. Today grace begins to bear fruit, showing forth to the world the Mother of God, through whom earth is united to heaven for the salvation of our souls.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Doxastikon - Feast (Tone 6)

Today, God who dominates the Spiritual Thrones of heaven, welcomes on earth the holy throne which He had prepared from Himself. In His love for mankind, He who established the heavens in wisdom had fashioned a living heaven. From a barren stem He has brought forth for us His Mother as a branch full of life. O God of miracles, and hope of those who have no hope, Lord, glory to You!

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Theotokion (Tone 6)

Who would not call you blessed? Who would not sing a hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail, O Virgin most holy? The Only-begotten Son Himself, begotten of the Father before all ages, was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure! And for our sake, He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man. He is not divided into two persons; He is understood to have two natures without commixture or confusion. O noble and blessed Woman, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Saturday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 6*)

1. The angels in Heaven sing a hymn of praise to Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior. Deem us also, who live on earth, worthy to glorify You with a pure heart.
- v. The Lord has reigned and He is clothed in splendor. The Lord is robed, He is girt about with might.
2. Being God almighty, You destroyed the bronze gates of Hades. You broke its bronze fetters and raised up the fallen human race. Therefore, we also cry out to You in harmonious melodies: "O You who are risen from the dead, Lord, glory to You!"
- v. For he has settled the earth: it shall remain unmoved.
3. When Christ God willed of old to save us from the flood, He delivered Himself to the Cross and was laid in the tomb. The ointment-bearing women sought Him, lamenting with tears and saying: "Woe to us, O Savior of all! How did You accept of Your own free will to dwell in the tomb? How were You stolen? How were You taken away and what place is hiding Your body full of life? But appear to us, O Lord, as You promised, and wipe out the tears of lamentation." While they were sighing, behold, an angel cried out to them and said: "Enough weeping! Go and tell the disciples that the Lord is risen and has bestowed forgiveness and great mercy upon the world."
- v. Righteousness is fitting for your house, O Lord, throughout eternity.

4. You accepted crucifixion by Your own free will. You despoiled Death by Your burial, and on the third day You rose in glory, for You are God, bestowing eternal life and great mercy upon the world.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

For the Feast (Tone 8)

Come, all you faithful, let us hasten to the Virgin: for long before her conception in the womb, the one who was destined to be born from the stem of Jesse was destined to be the Mother of our God. The one who is the treasury of virginity, the flowering Rod of Aaron, the object of the prophecies, the child of Joachim and Anne, is born today and the world is renewed in her. Through her birth, she floods the Church with her splendor. O holy Temple, Vessel of the Godhead, Model of virgins and Strength of kings: in you the wondrous union of the two natures of Christ was realized. We worship Him and glorify your most pure birth, and we magnify you!

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 6*)

The angelic Powers were around Your tomb, and the guards became as dead; and Mary stood at the tomb seeking Your spotless body. Then You despoiled Hades without being tried by it, and You met the Virgin, O Bestower of Life! O Lord who rose from the dead, glory to You!

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (*Tone 4*)

Your Nativity, O Mother of God, heralded joy to the whole universe, for from you rose the Sun of Justice Christ our God, Christ our God; taking away the curse, He imparted the blessings, and by abolishing Death, He gave us everlasting life.