

# December 21

**Second day of the Forefeast;  
Commemoration of the Holy Martyr  
Juliana of Nicomedia  
(5th Class)**

## VESPERS

*Stichera for the Forefeast (Tone 4)*

6. "Such is our God, and we have no other," declared the Prophet in the Spirit. He has opened up for us the way to salvation; before Him will gather all human beings in the flesh; for He will be born from the Virgin handmaid of God, to come close even to me, He who is by nature the inaccessible God.
5. Your womb, O all-pure Mother of God, has become a mill for the wheat, the Sheaf of Wheat which you carry without labor in a manner surpassing our understanding and our ability to express it. You will give birth in the cave of Bethlehem to Him who is able to nourish all creation through the grace and knowledge of God. He will save the human race from the deadly famine.
4. The spotless Virgin Ewe, carrying the Lamb in her womb, is coming to the cave in Bethlehem, to give birth in a wondrous manner; she will wrap Him in swaddling clothes as a mortal and place Him in the manger like an infant. All creation celebrates this before the feast, joyfully magnifying the author of such wonders here below.

*For Juliana (Tone 4)*

3. Having dyed the robe of salvation with the flow of your own blood, resplendent in the radiance of your spirit, O illustrious martyr Juliana, you have chosen as your Bridegroom the Lord, the Immortal King, who keeps you as a most beautiful virgin in the purest integrity throughout all the ages in the heavenly dwellings.
2. In the midst of your torments in the fire, you withstood the breaking of your body, courageously enduring the boiling water from the cauldrons. You did not turn aside from your determination, nor did you sacrifice to the idols. Rather, bowing down your head to the true God, you were beheaded by the sword. You went up with your crown into the heavens.
1. As a precious wedding dowry, O illustrious martyr Juliana, you offered your Bridegroom a holy people won by the wonders you worked in faith. You yourself accomplished this by your faithfulness, showing yourself superior to all torments, the burning wheel, the twisting of your body. You did this in Christ, O holy virgin, who as God granted you the victory from on high from Heaven.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Dogmatikon (Tone 6)*

Triumph, Sion! Make glad, O Jerusalem, city of Christ our God! Receive the Creator who is to be contained in the manger in a cave. Open your gates to me, that I may enter and see a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes, Him who upholds all creation in the hollow of His hand, whose praises the angels sing with unceasing voice, the Lord and Giver of Life who saves mankind.

*“O Joyful Light...” Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.*

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 2*)

1. The sayings of all the Prophets have now been fulfilled, for Christ will be born in the village of Bethlehem from the pure handmaid of God.

All: God comes from Teman; the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

2. Glory of mortals, their pride and glory, O Bethlehem, precious city of God, the Creator of all things is coming to you.

All: O Lord, I have heard Your renown and feared, O Lord, Your work.

3. The Word of the Father, through whom the universe exists, is revealed before our sight from the Virgin as one Person having two natures.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Dogmatikon*

O City of Bethlehem, prepare the cave, the manger and the swaddling clothes for your Creator, for the Lord is coming to be born in you.

**TROPARION OF THE FOREFEAST** (*Tone 4*)

Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all. Ephrata, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb has become a spiritual Paradise wherein the divine Fruit was planted-and if we eat of it, we shall live and not die like Adam. Christ is coming forth to bring back to life the likeness that had been lost in the beginning.

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

**TROPARION OF JULIANA** (*Tone 4*)

Your ewe-lamb, O Jesus, cries out to You in a loud voice: "O my Bridegroom, I long for You and I struggle in my quest for You. I am crucified with you and buried with You in Your Baptism. I suffer for Your sake in order to reign with You. I die for You in order to live with You." Accept her as an immaculate victim, since she is immolated for Your love. Through her intercession, O Merciful One, save our souls!

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

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