

# December 26

Second day of the Nativity;  
Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos;  
Commemoration of the holy hieromartyr  
Euthymios, Archbishop of Sardica  
(2nd Class)

## GREAT VESPERS

*There is no reading from the Psalter.*

*Stichera for the Nativity (Tone 2)*

6. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us proclaim the present mystery by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword withheld: now shall the Cherubim let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Paradise whence I had been driven by the original disobedience. Behold, the Image of the Father and His immutable Eternity has taken the form of a servant! He has come down to us from a Mother all-pure, and yet He has remained unchanged: He has remained true God as He was before, and has taken on Himself what He had not been, becoming Man out of His love for man. Wherefore, let us raise our voices in hymns and sing: "O God who was born of the Virgin, O our God, have mercy on us!"
5. Come, let us rejoice ... (*Repeat*)
4. When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: the shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh.
3. When the Lord Jesus ... (*Repeat*)
2. O Christ our God, Your Kingdom is eternal and Your dominion from generation to generation. You have

become incarnate of the Holy Spirit, being made Man through the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed upon us a great light, O You Light of Light and Radiance of the Father! You have illumined the whole creation. Wherefore everything that breathes sings to You a hymn of praise, O Image of the Father's glory, eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin! O Lord, glory to You!

1. O Christ, what shall we offer You for Your coming on earth as a Man for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; wise men present their gifts, and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert a manger. As for us, we offer You a Mother, a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us!
- 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)*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Today Bethlehem receives Him who at all times always sits on the throne with the Father. Today angels glorify with holy hymns the Babe that is born. Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will to men.

*Entrance. "O Joyful Light..."*

**GREAT PROKIMENON** (Tone 7)

Who is so great a god as our God? You are the God who alone work wonders.

- v. You have made known Your power to the nations and saved Your people by Your might!
- v. I said, "Now I begin, and this is the will of the Most High!"
- v. Remember the Lord's deeds. I do remember all Your wonders from the first one.

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 8*)

1. Today a great and wonderful event occurs: nature is made new as God becomes man. He has remained what he was, and He has become that which He was not; and He has suffered neither confusion nor division.

All: The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand."

2. O Lord, You have come to Bethlehem and have taken up Your dwelling in a cave. You who have Heaven as Your throne are laid in a manger. You who are attended by the angel hosts have come down among the shepherds, that in Your compassion You might save our race. Glory to You!

All: Before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten You.

3. How shall I speak of this great mystery? He who is without flesh becomes incarnate; the Word assumes a body; the invisible One is seen; He whom no hand can touch is handled; and He who has no beginning now begins to be. The Son of God becomes the Son of man; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

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*

The shepherds hasten to Bethlehem, revealing the true Shepherd, seated upon the Cherubim and lying in a manger. For our sakes, He has taken upon Himself the form of a Child. O Lord, glory to You!

**TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY** (*Tone 4*) [3 times]

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world. Through it, those who had been star-worshippers learned through a star to worship You, O Sun of Justice, and recognize in You the One who rises from on high! O Lord, glory to You!