

## The Nativity of Our Lord

- Terminology:
  - Nativity
  - Theophany
  - Epiphany
  
- Historical Traditions
  - East & West
  - Arian Controversies
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council of Nicea (325)
  - Apollinarian Controversies
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431)
  - Festal Elaborations: 11-13<sup>th</sup> Centuries
  - Pascha and Nativity
  
- Service Structure: Nativity “Holy Week” when the Nativity falls Tuesday–Saturday.
  - Dec 20-24: Vespers & Compline (Kanon)
    - Kanon Parallels
      - Vigilance in Expectation
      - Herod & Judas
      - Womb & Tomb
  - Dec 24: Royal Hours & Typika
  - Dec 24: Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
    - OT Readings
  - Dec 24: Great Compline & Festal Matins
  - Dec 25: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

### Nativity: 9<sup>th</sup> Hour: *Doxastichon* Tone 6

Today He who holds the whole creation in His hands is born of a Virgin.  
He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling clothes as a mortal Man.  
God, who in the beginning fashioned the heavens, lies in a manger.  
He who rained manna on his people in the wilderness is fed on milk from His Mother’s breast.  
The Bridegroom of the Church summons the wise men.  
The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts.  
We worship your birth, O Christ.  
We worship your birth, O Christ.  
We worship your birth, O Christ.  
Show us also your holy Theophany!

### Holy Friday: 9<sup>th</sup> Hour: *Doxastichon* Tone 6

Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung on the tree.  
The King of the angels is decked with a crown of thorns.  
He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.  
He who freed Adam in the Jordan is slapped on the face.  
The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the Cross with nails.  
The Son of the Virgin is pierced by a spear.  
We worship your Passion, O Christ.  
We worship your Passion, O Christ.  
We worship your Passion, O Christ.  
Show us also your glorious Resurrection.

## HTOCNB Study Group 11.27.11

### Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Compline: Kanon, Ode 1

Irmos: Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now Thou art hidden in a manger and Herod seeks to kill Thee. But like the Magi, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified!

Refrain: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee!

Troparion: Unto Thee I sing a birthday hymn, O Lord my God, rejoicing in the vigil of the feast, for by Thy Nativity Thou hast given me divine rebirth, raising me up to my first perfection.

Refrain: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee!

Troparion: Beholding Thee upon Thy throne on high and in the manger below, the things of heaven and the things on earth trembled at Thy power; for in a manner past understanding hast Thou come to us, Savior, appearing in two natures: God and man!

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion: Wishing to fill all things with Thy glory, Thou hast come and bowed the heavens until they touched the earth! As dew upon the fleece thou hast descended into the Virgin's womb; Thou hast come forth to be born in two natures: God and man!

### Ode 9, Irmos

Do not be amazed, O Mother, seeing me now as a babe, whom the Father begat from the womb before the morning star, For I have come to restore the earth and glorify with myself the fallen nature of mortal man that magnifies you in faith and love!

### Holy Sat. Matins: Kanon, Ode 1

Irmos: Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth. But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Troparion: Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put Death and Hell to death.

Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

Troparion: Beholding Thee upon Thy throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very Source of Life, seen dead.

Refrain: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion: Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

### Ode 9, Irmos

Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing me in the tomb, the Son conceived in the womb without seed. For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.