

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE DORMITION

OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Парафія Успіння Пресв. Богородиці

A PARISH OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF EDMONTON

Address:

15608 -104 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5P 4G5

**Please register
online or by
phone to attend
services.**

Services:

Sunday Divine Liturgy
(Ukr & Eng) at 10 am
if needed: (English) at 12 noon
& Melkite (Arabic) D.L. at 2 pm

Parish Website:

<http://dormition.eeparchy.com>

Twitter:

@dormitionparish

<https://twitter.com/dormitionparish>

Eparchial Website:

www.eeparchy.com

Pastor:

Fr. Bo Nahachewsky

Fr. Bo's cell phone:

780-340-FR.BO (3726)

Fr. Bo's Emails:

fr.nahachewsky@eeparchy.com

December 20, 2020

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers,
Tone 4; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the God bearer (IIIO)

Welcome to Dormition Parish. We are glad to have you with us.



CHRISTMAS 2020

This Christmas Eve will look a different than many other Christmases due to Covid.

At Dormition parish we take very seriously our many precautions so as to ensure that we can gather as safely as possible in prayer.

For those who wish to come we will be celebrating three services on Christmas Eve (complies with Liturgy) with a limit of **20** people (14 in pews, 5 in the loft, and 1 priest), all while being socially distanced and all wearing masks. This complies with the 15% AHS mandate.

All these services will be spoken (no singing) as is mandated by the Bishop and the AHS.

Our Christmas Eve services (Thursday, Dec. 24) will take place at:

- **6 pm in English;**
- **8 pm in English; and**
- **10 pm in both Ukrainian & English**

Everyone who would like to come should register for these services as soon as possible. First registered, first served.

In addition to these three services for our parish, on Christmas day there will be 4 Divine Liturgies for the Melkite Parish of St. Nicholas. These liturgies will take place at 12 noon, 1:30 pm, 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm.



Let us prepare ourselves to greet Christ in His Nativity, and also be prepared for His return as He foretold.

If you are looking to receive the Sacrament of Confession:

Fr. Bo is also available in the Church after the 10 am Sunday Service, and also before the 2pm Melkite Sunday Service. And sometimes everything in between... unless he goes for lunch.

Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). Saint Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, and successor to Bishop Euodius, Apostle of the Seventy (September 7).

Tradition suggests that when Saint Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

Saint Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with Saint Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Saint Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. Saint Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. Saint Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. Saint Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied Saint Ignatius from Antioch to Rome. On the way to Rome, the ship sailed from Seleucia stopped at Smyrna, where Saint Ignatius met with his friend Bishop Polycarp. Clergy and believers from other cities and towns thronged to see Saint Ignatius. He exhorted everyone not to fear death and not to grieve for him. In his Epistle to the Roman Christians, he asked them to assist him with their prayers, and to

pray that God would strengthen him in his impending martyrdom for Christ: "I seek Him Who died for us; I desire Him Who rose for our salvation... In me, desire has been nailed to the cross, and no flame of material longing is left. Only the living water speaks within me, saying, 'Hasten to the Father.'"

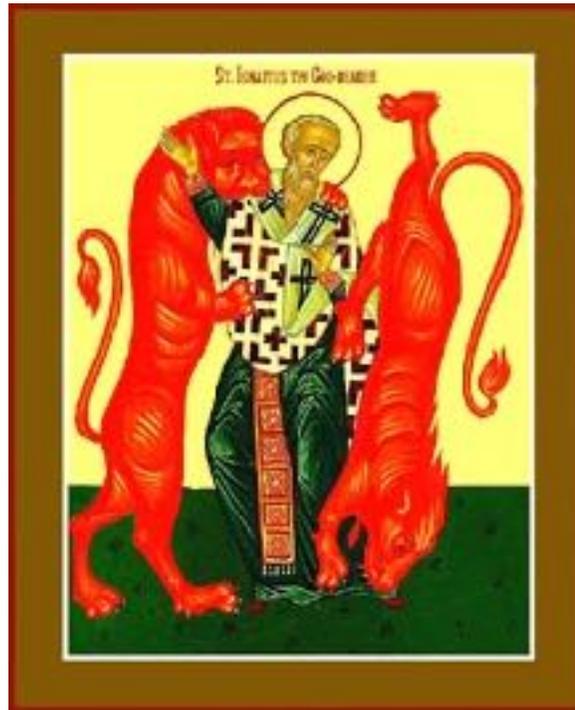
From Smyrna, Saint Ignatius went to Troas. Here he heard the happy news of the end of the persecution against Christians in Antioch. From Troas, Saint Ignatius sailed to Neapolis (in Macedonia) and then to Philippi.

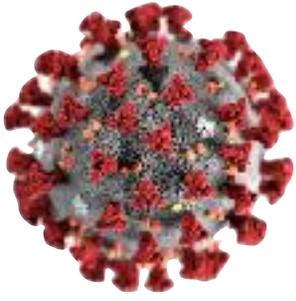
On the way to Rome Saint Ignatius visited several churches, teaching and guiding the Christians there. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to Saint Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of Saint Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). Saint Irenaeus of

Lyons quotes from Saint Ignatius's letter to the Romans (AGAINST HERESIES 5:28:4). All these letters have survived to the present day. The Roman Christians met Saint Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but Saint Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led Saint Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf,

made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts." After this the lions were released and tore him to pieces, leaving only his heart and a few bones. Tradition says that on his way to execution, Saint Ignatius unceasingly repeated the name of Jesus Christ. When they asked him why he was doing this, Saint Ignatius answered that this Name was written in his heart, and that he confessed with his lips Him Whom he always carried within. When the saint was devoured by the lions, his heart was not touched. When they cut open the heart, the pagans saw an inscription in gold letters: "Jesus Christ." After his execution Saint Ignatius appeared to many of the faithful in their sleep to comfort them, and some saw him at prayer for the city of Rome. Hearing of the saint's great courage, Trajan thought well of him and stopped the persecution against the Christians. The relics of Saint Ignatius were transferred to Antioch (January 29), and on February 1, 637 were returned to Rome and placed in the church of San Clemente.





At Dormition everyone is welcome....

...unless you are feeling sick.

We will continue to be vigilant and to do our best to follow all the covid directives as strictly as possible for everyone's sake. Thanks for your cooperation.

In Dormition Parish:

We are following all the rules strictly to ensure we can have the safest possible church while still remaining open with public services.

Some of our current restrictions that we are imposing are:

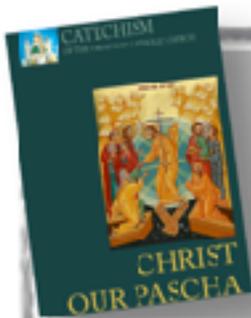
- All people attending services must wear masks,
- All people must maintain a social distance from other households of at least 2 meters (if not, more)
- **NEW:** Only 15 people are allowed in the Church Nave, and 5 additional people can be in the Church Choir Loft. This follows the 15% occupancy rate that we are permitted by the AHS.

- Everyone is to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting the church
- No singing is permitted. All liturgies will be recited till further notice.
- Eucharist is distributed using one time use spoons which are respectfully incinerated after use. This allows for the safest possible distribution of Communion and fully complies with Eparchial Covid policies.
- All people entering are to answer covid screening questions, and to provide contact information that can be used for contact tracing.
- The building and furniture is regularly sanitized.
- We are also recording weekly and special Divine Liturgies so that people can participate from the safety of their homes. The video's are available here: [Liturgy Videos](#).



The UCWLC of our Eparchy has put together an Art Contest for young people from grades I through I2.

For all the details please see the bulletins of the past few weeks, that can be found on our parish bulletin.



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

Humankind – the Crown of Creation

Based on the above, Gregory of Nyssa teaches that the dignity of the human being lies in the fact that by its very nature humanity is higher than all creation, since it was created in the royal image of its creator and freely and with full authority rules over its desires. The dignity of humankind is in the image of God. The Lord himself preserves human dignity as inviolable and cares for the human being:

Who else is there that ministers to you more faithfully than I? All creation I created to serve you; the heaven and the earth serve you; the one with its moisture, the other with its fruits. For your sake the sun serves with its light and with its warmth, and the moon and the stars lighten the night. For your sake the clouds nourish the earth with rain, and the earth brings forth all manner of grasses with their seeds and the trees with their fruits to serve you. For your sake the rivers bear fish and the wastes rear beasts. (#120)



We thank you for your support.

The **Annual Bishop's Appeal Collection** "What Gift Have I, Worthy of a King?" takes place on Sunday, **December 6**. The Appeal coincides with the Feast of Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra. Saint Nicholas is uniquely tied to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. Early stories about Saint Nicholas carry with them the Nativity themes of love and justice. He is characterized as a generous and pious servant of God, caring for children and families, and providing gifts for their spiritual and physical well-being.

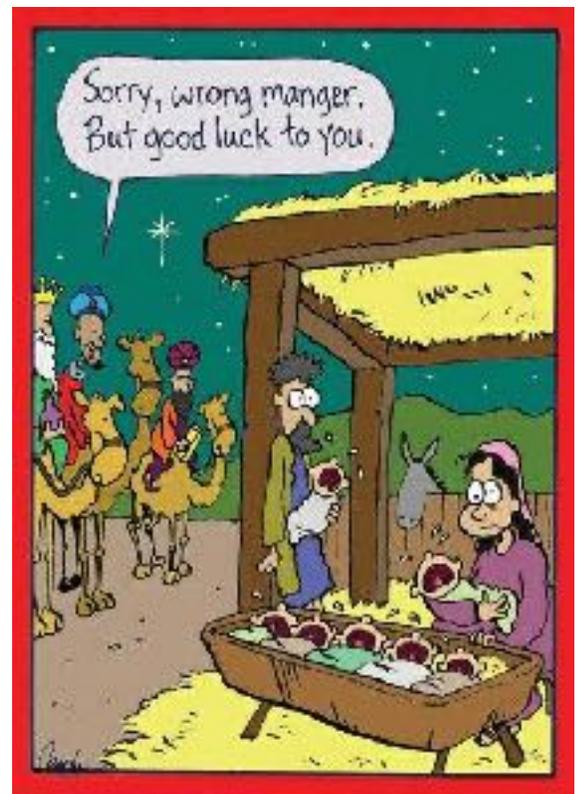
And that's what the Ukrainian Catholic Church is all about. Caring and providing for the faithful throughout the Province of Alberta.

Help Bishop David in spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by supporting our Eparchial ministries and offices, including: Youth Ministry, Family Life Ministries, Religious Education, Liturgy Office, Vocations, Ecumenism, Social Outreach, and Marriage Tribunal.

With Christmas on our doorstep, one of the holiest times of the year, and in the spirit of Saint Nicholas, what gift do you bring now to the infant Jesus, who lays quietly and peacefully in a manger?

Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you and your families!

- Register for one of the Christmas Eve services on our website. Your choices are: 6 pm in English, 8 pm in English, or 10 pm Bilingual (Ukrainian & English). Those who do not register might not be allowed in if we have reached the covid safety limit.
- Please pray for several of our parishioners and family members including (but not limited to): Cory & Family, Ross, Ron, Peter, Anne, Katie, Jean, Fr. Josaphat, Edward, Verna, Miranda, Sarah, Marge, Ann, Louis & Rosa Maria.
- The First Solemn Communion of Gabby will be postponed till the new year due to covid.
- Happy birthday to Jesus who celebrates His birthday this week. May His Father and Spirit, grant Him... many happy eternities?!?...ummm... We love you Jesus.
- Please send Fr. Bo a selfie, so that he can put together a Parish Photo Directory. Include your name, and... don't wear a mask. The photo does not need to look all fancy. We love you as you are.
- Special thank you to those who volunteered their time, and effort to make our Liturgical Space extra festive for this season of the Nativity Fast. The church looks lovely.



The Nativity Fast

Week 6: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

1. Read the material on this Week's Feast (see below) slowly and meditatively to yourself. Recall that we remember the Holy Prophets and Prophetesses as they spoke God's Word in the world and prophesied the coming of the Messiah.

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day, the Church commemorates all those who were well pleasing to God from all ages — from Adam to St. Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths.

Micah 5:2-4

Bethlehem Ephrath, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah. But the LORD will choose one of your people to rule the nation - someone whose family goes back to ancient times. The LORD will abandon Israel only until this ruler is born, and the rest of his family returns to Israel. Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness,

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin

will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6-7

A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace. His power will never end; peace will last forever. He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong. He will always rule with honesty and justice. The LORD All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

2. Read and reflect on the following Bible passages Story of the Call of David: I Samuel 16:1-13, noting what kind of person does God chose, and 3 of the Prophecies of the Messiah's Birth (from Royal Hours for Nativity: Micah 5:2-4; Isaiah 7:10-14; Isaiah 9:6- 7.)

3. Pray/sing the Tropar and Kondak of the Week (see below) with your family.

Tropar - Tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flames, the Three Holy Youths rejoiced as by the water of rest, and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls!

Kondak – Tone 6

Armed by the Being that defies description, You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blesses youth. In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God: "In Your mercy o gracious One, hasten and come to our aid," for You can do whatever You will.

4. Read the material on the Feast aloud, slowly and meditatively with your family.

5. Discuss with your family who God chooses and the Prophecies about Christ.

6. Ask your family the following questions:

- Does God like better those who are biggest, strongest?
- How did Samuel show David was chosen King?
- In Greek and Hebrew, what is that word for "chosen King?"
- What happens at Baptism?
- In the Micah reading: Was a big city chosen? How will people live?
- In Isaiah 7: What is the Sign? What does Immanuel mean?
- In Isaiah 9: Who will save the World? How will He rule and over what?

7. Conclude with the antiphon of St. Philip's Fast.

Antiphon of St. Philip's Fast.

O Bethlehem, be prepared; Eden is opened to all; O Ephratha, be made ready; for in the cave the tree of life has blossomed forth from the Virgin; for her womb has been shown to be a spiritual paradise, in which is the divine plant, from which having eaten, we will live and not die as Adam did. Christ is born to raise the image that had fallen.

Dormition Parish December 2020 - January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>20 Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Tone 4; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the Godbearer (110);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 11:9-10,17-23,32-40; • Matthew 1:1-25; <p>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English</p> <p>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</p>	<p>21  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (284-305);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 8:7-13; • Mark 8:11-21; 	<p>22  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Great-Martyr Anastasia (305);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23; • Mark 8:22-26; 	<p>23  Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ; The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete (249-51);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 10:1-18; • Mark 8:30-34 	<p>24  Eve of the Nativity of Christ; The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 1:1-12; • Luke 2:1-20; <p>6 pm, 8 pm & 10 pm Services for Dormition</p>	<p>25 The Nativity in the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ Christmas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galatians 4:4-7; • Matthew 2:1-12; <p>12 noon, 2 pm & 4 pm Services for Melkites</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Son of God's Birthday</p>	<p>26 Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God; The Holy Priest-Martyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (824);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Timothy 6:11-16; • Hebrews 2:11-18; • Matthew 12:15-21; • Matthew 2:13-23
<p>27 Sunday after the Nativity of Christ Commemoration of the Holy and Rigueous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, Brother of the Lord, Tone 5; the Holy Apostle, First Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen; Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore the Branded One (844);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galatians 1:11-19; • Matthew 2:13-23; <p>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English</p> <p>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</p>	<p>28 Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Two Thousand Martyrs Who Were Burned in Nicomedia (303); Passing into eternal life (1945) of Blessed Hryhoriy (Gregory) Khomyshyn, Bishop of Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk) and martyr;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31; • Mark 9:42-10:1; 	<p>29 The Holy Children who were murdered by Herod in Bethlehem; Our Venerable Father Marcellus, Hegumen of the Monastery of the Sleepless Ones (c. 470);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 12:25-26; 13:22-25; • Mark 10:2-12 	<p>30 Post-feast of the Nativity of Christ; the Holy Martyr Anysia (286-305); Holy Martyr and Presbyter, Zoticus, Protector of Orphans (4th c.);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James 1:1-18; • Mark 10:11-16; 	<p>31 The Leave-taking of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, Christmas; Our Venerable Mother Melania the Roman (439);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James 1:19-27; • Mark 10:17-27; 	<p>January 1 The Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colossians 2:8-12; • Hebrews 7:26-8:2; • Luke 2:20-21, 40-52; • Luke 6:17-23 	<p>2 Saturday before Theophany; Our Holy Father Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; • Matthew 3:1-11
<p>3 Sunday before Theophany</p> <p>10 am D.L. Bilingual Ukrainian / English With the Blessing of Water.</p> <p>2 pm D.L. Bilingual Arabic / English</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Theophany Eve</p>	<p>6 The Great Feast of Theophany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To be celebrated with Water Blessing on the Sunday before</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Tone 4; the Holy Priest-Martyr Ignatius the Godbearer (II)

Reflection for the Sixth Week of St. Philip's Fast:

Sunday before the Nativity - The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Reader: The Virgin now comes to Bethlehem to give birth to Christ, who has become an infant in the flesh. Christ has voluntarily become poor. Christ has become visible. Let heaven and earth rejoice. (from the Matins of the feast)

Priest: Today on this sixth and last Sunday of our journey towards the birth of our Saviour, we remember the Jesus' ancestors in the flesh. These holy people waited and prayed with hope in their hearts that God send the promised Saviour to the world. They reminded the people to watch, to hope and to pray. In our liturgical prayers we also focus on Mary, the Mother of our God, who is on her way to Bethlehem to give birth to the Saviour.

All Together:

Behold the time of salvation is at hand. Prepare yourself, O cavern, for the Virgin approaches to give birth to Her Son. Be glad and rejoice, O Bethlehem, land of Judah, for from you the Lord shines forth.

O holy ancestors of Christ, help us to learn from God's servant, Mary, whom we call Mother of God. May we journey with her in hope to the source of light and faith, and recognize in Jesus, our Saviour and Master. Amen.

Priest: Let us light a candle for hope-filled prayers.

All Together:

Nations shall walk by your light. All gather and come to you. For the brightness of God's light is shining through you. No longer shall the sun nor the moon be your light, for the Lord, the God of Glory, will be your eternal light.

Troparion: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* "Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy."

Troparion: Great are the achievements of faith!* In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest,* and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep.* Through their intercession, O Christ God,* save our souls.

Troparion: Bethlehem, make ready, for Eden has been opened for all. * Ephrathah, be alert, for the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. * Her womb has become a spiritual paradise * wherein 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.

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

Kontakion: Armed by the Being that defies description* You defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth.* In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God:* "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid,"* for You can do whatever You will.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion: Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding* to the Word Who is in all eternity.* Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded.* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe** while remaining God in all eternity.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers,* and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

verse: For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. (Daniel 3:26,27)

Epistle: Hebrews II:9-10,17-23,32-40 (NRSV)

Brothers and Sisters, By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, "bowing in worship over the top of his staff." By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Alleluia verses: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days.

You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 (NRSV)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the

father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (*Psalm 148:1*).* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;* praise befits the righteous (*Psalm 32:1*).* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.