

ON THE FEASTS OF THE NATIVITY AND THE THEOPHANY
THE GREAT COMPLINE WITH LYTIA

*Great Compline with Lytia is celebrated on the Eves of the Nativity of our Lord, and the Theophany, as prescribed by the Typikon. In these instances, there is incensing at the beginning as at Vespers with Lytia, with Royal Doors open; the priest is vested in a bright epitrachelion. After the incensing he intones the start of the service. The Royal Doors are then closed from **Come, let us adore in worship...** to the sticheras of Lytia. The priest stands at the altar.*

Priest: Blessed be our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen. Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You.

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One, for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever and ever. Amen.

PART I

Come, let us bow in worship before the King, our God.

Come, let us bow in worship before Christ, the King, our God.

Come, let us bow in worship and fall down before the very Lord
Jesus Christ, our King and God.

Psalm 90

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High* and abide in
the shade of the Almighty.

Say to the Lord: My refuge, my stronghold,* my God in whom
I trust!

It is He who will free you from the snare of the fowler* who
seeks to destroy you;

He will conceal you with His pinions,* and under His wings
you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night* nor the arrow that flies
by day.

Nor the plague that prowls in the darkness* nor the scourge that
lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand fall at your
right,* you, it will never approach. His faithfulness is buckler and
shield.

Your eyes have only to look to see* how the wicked are repaid.

You who have said: Lord, my refuge!* and have made the Most
High your dwelling:

Upon you no evil shall fall,* no plague approach where you
dwell.

For you He has commanded His angels* to keep you in all your
ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands* lest you strike your foot
against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread* and trample the young lion and the dragon.

You set your love on Me so I will save you* and protect you for you know My name.

When you call I shall answer: I am with you,* I will save you in distress and give you glory.

With length of days I will content you,* I shall let you see My saving power.

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

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to You, O God! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest leaves the sanctuary circumambulating (walking around the holy table), through the northern door. Standing before the Royal Doors he sings the following, alternating with the people:

God is with Us!

Priest: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

People: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Priest: God is with us! Understand, all you nations!

People: And submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Priest: Give ear, all you lands afar off, for God is with us!

The people repeat after each verse: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

You mighty ones, be humbled, for God is with us!

And if any take counsel together, the Lord will destroy them, for God is with us!

And if you make resolutions, they will not stand, for God is with us!

It is the Lord whom you must hold in veneration, for God is with us!

Him you must fear, him you must dread, for God is with us!

He shall be a stone of stumbling and a rock on which they shall fall, for God is with us!

I shall confide in Him, and I shall be saved by Him, for God is with us!

Behold, I come with the children whom the Lord has given me, for God is with us!

O nation, which is walking in the darkness, expect to see a great light, for God is with us!

Upon us, who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a great light shall dawn, for God is with us!

Indeed, a Christ is born to us, the Son, and He is given to us, for God is with us!

His power is upon His shoulder, for God is with us!

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us!

Mighty God, the everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, for God is with us!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, for God is with us!

Now and for ever and ever. Amen, for God is with us!

Priest: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

People: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Priest: God is with us! Understand, all you nations!

People: And submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Then the people chant the following:

Now that the day has come to a close, I thank You, Lord, and I ask of You that my evening and my night be without sin: grant this to me, O Savior, and save me!

Glory be: Now that the day has come to a close, I glorify You, O Master, and I ask of You that my evening and my night be undisturbed: grant this to me, O Savior, and save me!

Now and for ever: Now that the day has come to a close, I praise You, Holy One, and I ask of You that my evening and my night be undisturbed: grant this to me, O Savior, and save me!

Every day I will bless You and sing to your name, always, now and ever, and unto ages and ages.

O Lord, You have been a refuge from age to age.

I said: Lord, have mercy on me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.

O Lord, to You do I come for shelter: teach me to obey your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life, and in your light we shall see light.

Extend your mercy upon those who confess You.

Deign, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers. Praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.

O Lord let your mercy rest upon us, for we have placed our trust in You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master: grant that I may understand your statutes.

Blessed are You, Holy One: enlighten me with your statutes.

Everlasting is your mercy, O Lord: turn not away from the works of your hands.

To You is due praise, to You are due songs.

To You is due glory: Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Lytia

The priest, vested in phelonion, opens the Royal Doors and incensing the church according to the Typikon, proceeds to the narthex (the back of the church) while the people sing (or chant) the sticheras.

When we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of our Lord we take the following sticheras:

Bulgarian (Tone 1): Let Heaven and earth rejoice prophetically! Let angels and mankind celebrate spiritually! For God has appeared in the flesh from the Virgin to those who sat in darkness and the shadow of death. The shepherds proclaim the miracle; the wise men bring gifts from the east, while we, with unworthy lips, render Him angelic praises: glory to God in the highest and on

earth peace! For the Hope of the nations has come to save us from hostile bondage.

Heaven and earth are united today for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth and mankind gone up to heaven. Today, for the sake of mankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify Him and cry out aloud: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by Your coming, Saviour: Glory to You!

Beholding Him who was in God's image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up His dwelling in a Virgin womb: that He might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: Glory to Your epiphany, my Saviour and God!

Glory be: Now and for ever: (*Tone 6*): Rejoice, O angels in heaven, and people exalt today, the whole creation leaps with joy, for the Saviour and Lord is born in Bethlehem! Every error of idolatry has ceased and Christ reigns forever.

The musical score is written for two bass parts, Bass I and Bass II, in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are distributed across three systems of staves.

System 1:

- Bass I:** Let Hea - ven and earth re-joice pro phe -
- Bass II:** (rest)

System 2:

- Bass I:** ti - ca - lly! Let an - gels and man - kind ce - le - brate spi -
- Bass II:** (rest)

System 3:

- Bass I:** ri - tu - al - ly! For God has ap-peared in the flesh from the
- Bass II:** (rest)

When the people have finished singing the lytia sticheras the priest chants the following prayer:

Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance. Visit Your world with Your mercy and generousities. Exalt the Christian peoples and send down upon us Your abundant mercy. Through the prayers of the most pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly incorporeal powers; of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptizer, John; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles; our holy fathers among the saints, the great ecumenical teachers and hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, Athanasius and Cyril; of our father among the saints, Nicholas, archbishop, wonderworker of Myra in Lycia; of the holy Cyril and Methodius, teachers of the Slavs; of the holy and equal to the apostles, Great Prince Volodymyr; of the holy hieromartyr Josaphat; of the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves and other venerable and godly fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint N., (*whose church it is*), and of all the saints, we beseech You, all-merciful Lord, hear us sinners praying to You and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy (12x). *At this point "God Eternal" may be sung:*

God Eternal is born today.

2. He came down from above

To redeem us with His love.

Let us all rejoice.

Priest: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, N., Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch, N., our most reverend Metropolitan, N., our God-loving Bishop, N., (*whose territory it is*); for those who serve and have served in this church, for our spiritual fathers and for all our brethren in Christ; for every Christian soul afflicted and maltreated and in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this city (*or village*) and for those who live here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world;

for the welfare of God's holy churches; for the salvation and the assistance of our fathers and brothers who, with diligence and in the fear of the Lord, labor and serve; for the absent and those who journey; for the healing of those who are infirm; for the repose, alleviation, blessed memory, and remission of sins of all our orthodox fathers and brothers, who have departed from us and are buried here and in every place; for the deliverance of captives, for all brothers, who offer their services and for all who serve and have served in this holy church, let us say.

People: Kyrie eleison (12x). *At this point "God Eternal" may be sung:*

Glory to God, now let us sing.

2. Peace on earth, hope and love

From this day be with us.

People, all rejoice.

Priest: Hear us, O God, our Savior, hope of all the people on earth and of those who are far at sea or in the air. Lord, be merciful to us with our sins, and have mercy on us, for You are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be with all.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Bow your heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ, our God. Through the intercession of our most pure Lady, the Mother of God and ever Virgin Mary, and of saint N., (*whose church it is*) and of all the saints, make our prayer acceptable. Grant us remission of our transgressions, cover us with the shadow of Your wings and drive far from us every foe and adversary. Make our life

peaceful, O Lord. Have mercy on us and on Your world, and save our souls, for You are gracious and love humankind.

People: Amen.

The priest goes from the narthex to the tetrapod while the people sing (or chant) the Aposticha:

Aposticha

*When we celebrate the feast of the **Nativity of our Lord** we take the following sticheras:*

(Tone 2): A great and glorious miracle was wrought today: the Virgin gives birth and her womb suffers no corruption. The Word is made flesh without separation from the Father. The angels and shepherds give glory, with them we cry aloud: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace.

Verse: From eternity You have been born of My womb, vows the Lord Who does not repent.

(Tone 3): Today the Virgin gives birth to the Creator of all, Eden offers a cave, a star presents Christ the Sun to those in darkness; the Magi, enlightened by faith, adore Him with gifts. The shepherds behold a miracle, while the angels exclaim: Glory to God in the highest.

Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.

(Tone 3): When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the Magi, coming from the East, adored God made man, and unfolding their treasures, they offered Him precious gifts: the purest of gold as to the eternal King; and incense as to the God of all; myrrh to the immortal, as to one dead three days. Come all you nations, let us adore Him Who is born to save our souls.

Glory be: Now and for ever: *(Tone 4):* You have come to dwell in a cave, O Christ our God, and a manger received You; the shepherds and the Magi adored You. Then the predictions of the prophets were fulfilled, and the angelic hosts stood amazed, singing and saying: Glory to Your descent, Who alone loves humankind.

Bulgarian (Tone 5): Now You dismiss Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which prepared before the face of all peoples:* a light to the revelation of the Gentiles* and the glory of Your people Israel!

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity most holy, have mercy on us. Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord; pardon our transgressions, O Master; look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One; for the sake of Your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

*When we celebrate the feast of the **Nativity of our Lord** we take the following troparion:*

Troparion (Tone 4): Your Birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge, for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient from on high: Glory be to You, O Lord. (See the notes on P. 16)