

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James,
the Brother of the Lord
Typika (Reader's Service)**

When a priest is not present in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy

NOTE: Choose one person to be the Reader.

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

O heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere and fill all things;
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life,
come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity,//
and save our souls, O Good One!

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **(3x)**

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Lord have mercy. **(3x)**

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

All: 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 trespasses against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord have mercy. **(12x)**

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

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

The First Antiphon (Ps. 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Longsuffering and of great goodness!

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.

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

The Second Antiphon (Ps. 146)

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live,

I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Put not your trust in princes,

In sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs, he returns to his earth;

On that very day his plans perish.

The Lord will reign forever, Your God O Zion to all generations.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Hymn of St. Justinian

Only-begotten Son and Immortal Word of God,
Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate
Of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary,
Who without change became man and were crucified,
Who are one of the Holy Trinity,
Glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
O Christ, our God, trampling down death by death, Save us.

Third Antiphon (*Matthew 5*)

In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Tone 6 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2 Troparion of the Righteous Ones

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,
to David, the ancestor of God;
you saw a Virgin great with child;
you gave glory with the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi;
you received the news from the Angel.
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

Tone 3 Kontakion *(of the Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;
Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,
and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"
.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;
The wise men journey with the star,//
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

Trisagion Hymn

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

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

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone
O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! (Ps 27/28:9)

All: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Reader: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

All: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Reader: In the 4th Tone:
God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. (Ps 67/68:35)

All: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians—
Galatians 1:11-19

Reader: In the 6th **Tone:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly
God. (Ps 90/91:1)

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust.”
(Ps 90/91:2)

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the 4th Tone: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps 131/132:1)

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Gospel

Reader: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

Reader: Matthew 2:13-23

All: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

The Creed *(Read Together)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages;
Light of Light, true God of true God;
begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father;
by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;
And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father;
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
Who spoke by the prophets.
In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Reader: Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

All: 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 the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. **(12x)**

All: One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Hymn to the Theotokos

(Instead of "It is truly meet," we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven—the cave;
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay—
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

Litanies (optional) – Lead by Reader

General:

O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, in Your mercies and loving-kindness, You regard the humble prayers of all who call upon You with their whole heart. Incline Your ear and hear now our prayer, offered to You in humility.

Be mindful, O Lord, of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Confirm and strengthen it. Increase it and keep it in peace, and preserve it unconquerable forever.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our Father, Archbishop Irénée, and of every bishop of the Orthodox; the priests and deacons and all the clergy of the Church; which You have established to feed the flock of Your Word; and by their prayers have mercy on us sinners.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all civil authorities, of our armed forces, of this city in which we dwell, and of every city and country; grant them peaceful times that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and holiness.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel by land, by sea, and by air; of the old and the young; the orphans and widows; the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, the afflicted, the captives, and the needy poor; and send down Your mercies on all of them, especially ___N___ for You are the Giver of all good things.

Be mindful of us, O Lord, Your humble servants; and grant us Your grace, that we may be diligent and faithful, avoiding evil company and influence resisting temptation ; that we may lead a godly and righteous life, blameless and peaceful, ever serving You; that we may be accounted worthy to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal, especially, _____N____; pardon all their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, whether in word, or deed, or thought. Shelter them in a place of brightness, a place of green pastures, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away, and where the sight of Your countenance rejoices all Your saints from all the ages. Grant them Your heavenly Kingdom and a portion in Your ineffable blessings, and the enjoyment of Your unending Life.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for You are merciful and compassionate, and love mankind, and to You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen

For the Sick

O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, Who have sent Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: Visit and heal Your servant(s) _____N____, granting him/her/them release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he/she/they may give thanks unto You and bless Your holy Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. **(3x)**

All: O Lord, Bless.

Reader (Facing the Main Icons):

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

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**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James,
the Brother of the Lord**



The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity

season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.