



THE DIVINE LITURGY OF

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Sunday before the Nativity

The Holy Fathers

~ Please Stand

Priest: Blessed be the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

~ Please be Seated

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God's holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For our most holy universal Pontiff *Francis*, Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For our beatitude Patriarch *Sviatoslav*, our most reverend Metropolitan *Lawrence*, our God loving Bishop *Bryan*, the reverend priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For our nation under God, for our government, and for all those engaged in the service and protection of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For this city, for every city and country and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For the seafarers and travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for those held captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

[Special petitions may be inserted at this point.]

Priest: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most Holy and Immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For all glory, honor, and worship befit You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON:

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Say unto God, “How awesome are your works! Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You.”

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You, let it sing to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

~ Please Stand

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Only begotten Son and Word of God, You are immortal, and You willed for our salvation to be made flesh of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and without change you became man. You were crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled death by death. You are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

Priest: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy and immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good and loving God, and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE THIRD ANTIPHON:

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.

Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright!

All: Come let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

Sunday Tropar, tone 4: 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."

Tropar of the Holy Fathers, tone 2: The three young men who are the great guides of the faith,* rejoiced in the pit of flame as if they were in a water of rest;* and the prophet Daniel appeared

as a shepherd to the lions.* O Christ God, save our souls for their sake.

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

Christmas Pre-festive Kondak, tone 3: 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.

Priest: For You, our God, are holy, and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

+ 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 forever and ever. Amen. Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

+ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

Priest: Let us be attentive! +Peace be with all. Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

****PROKIMENON****

All: Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

For you are just in all you have done.
Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our
fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews. (11:9-10; 17-23; 32-40)

Priest: Let us be attentive!

~ Please be Seated

Reader: Brothers and Sisters! By faith Abraham sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations whose designer and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac; he who had received the promises was ready to sacrifice his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be called." He reasoned that God was able to raise from the dead, and so he received Isaac back as a symbol. By faith Isaac invoked for Jacob and Esau blessings that were still to be. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped God, leaning on the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, near the end of his life spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites, and gave instructions about his burial. By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after his birth, thereby disregarding the king's edict because they saw that he was a beautiful child. What more shall I recount? I

have no time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; though weak they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect.

Priest: + Peace be with you. Wisdom! Let us be attentive!!

~ Please Stand

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verses: O God, our ears have heard, our fathers have declared to us.

But you have saved us from our foes, and those who hated us you put to shame.

Priest: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. +
Peace be with all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Saint Matthew**
1: 1 - 25.

All: + **Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.**

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reading of the GOSPEL:

A family record of Jesus Christ, Son of David, son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac the father of Jacob. Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of King David, David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehosaphat, Jehosaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manesseh, Manesseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the

Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary. It was of her that Jesus who is called the Messiah was born. Thus the total number of generations is: from Abraham to David, fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian captivity, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian captivity to the Messiah, fourteen generations. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son. and they shall call him Emmanuel," a name which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord had directed him and received her into

his home as his wife. He had no relations with her at any time before she bore a son, whom he named Jesus.

All: +Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

~ Please be Seated

****HOMILY****

Priest: Let us all say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Almighty Lord, God of our Fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, in the greatness of Your compassion, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: We also pray for our most holy universal Pontiff, *Francis*, Pope of Rome; for our most beatitude Patriarch *Sviatoslav*; our most reverend Metropolitan, *Lawrence*; our God-loving Bishop, *Bryan*, for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers and mothers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: We also pray for our nation under God, for our government, and all those engaged in the service and protection of our country.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

[Special petitions may be inserted at this point.]

Priest: We also pray for the people here present who await Your great and bountiful mercies, for those who have been kind to us, and for all orthodox Christians.

All: **Lord, have mercy. (3x)**

Priest: 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.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Again and again in peace let the faithful pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Wisdom! So that always protected by Your might, we may give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

~ Please Stand

All: **Amen. Let us who mystically represent the cherubim and sing the Thrice-holy Hymn to the lifegiving Trinity, now lay aside all cares of life.**

Priest: May the Lord God remember in His kingdom our most holy universal Pontiff, *Francis*, Pope of Rome; our most blessed

Patriarch, *Sviatoslav*, our most reverend Metropolitan, *Lawrence*, our God loving Bishop, *Bryan*, all the priestly, diaconal and religious orders; our nation under God, our government, and all those engaged in the service and protection of our country; the noble and ever-to-be remembered founders and benefactors of this holy church; and all you, orthodox Christians, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen. That we may receive the king of all, escorted invisibly by ranks of angels, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the precious gifts that have been presented, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: Through the mercies of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: + Peace be with all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us love one another so that we may be of one mind in confessing.

All: **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in being and undivided.**

SIGN OF PEACE:

Greeting: ***Christ is Among Us!***

Response: ***He is and will be!***

Priest: The doors, the doors! In wisdom let us be attentive!

All: **I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has**

spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Priest: Let us stand well, let us stand with awe; let us be attentive to offer in peace the holy oblation.

All: **The mercy of peace, the sacrifice of praise.**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit + be with all of you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us lift up our hearts.

All: **We have lifted them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

All: **It is right and just to worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in being and undivided.**

Priest: Singing, crying, exclaiming, and saying the triumphal hymn.

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Priest: Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you for the forgiveness of sins.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Drink of it, all of you. This is my blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all.

All: **We sing of You, we bless You, we thank You, O Lord, and we pray to You, our God.**

Priest: Especially, for our most Holy and Immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary.

All: It is truly right to bless you, O God-bearing One, as the ever-blessed and immaculate Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and by far more glorious than the seraphim; ever a virgin, you gave birth to God the Word, O true Mother of God, we magnify you.

Priest: Among the first, remember, O Lord, our most holy universal Pontiff, *Francis*, Pope of Rome; our most blessed Patriarch *Sviatoslav*; our most reverend Metropolitan, *Lawrence*, our God-loving Bishop *Bryan*. For the sake of Your holy churches grant that they may live in peace, safety, honor and health for many years, and rightly impart the word of Your truth.

All: **And remember all men and all women.**

Priest: And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and sing the praises of Your most honored and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may the mercies of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, + be with all of you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

~ Please be Seated

Priest: Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For the precious Gifts which have been presented and consecrated, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: That our loving God, Who has received them as a spiritual fragrance upon His holy, heavenly and mystical altar, may send down on us in return His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and misfortune, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: That we may spend the rest of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For a Christian end to our lives, one that is painless, unashamed, and peaceful; and for a good defense at the awesome tribunal of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Having asked for unity of faith and for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

~ Please Stand

Priest: Make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without condemnation to dare call You, the heavenly God, Father, and say:

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 evil.**

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

All: **Amen.**

Priest: + Peace be with all.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: Through the grace, mercies and loving-kindness of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed together with

Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Let us be attentive! The holy Things for the holy!

All: One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

****COMMUNION VERSE****

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise Him in the highest. Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

All: Alleluia (3x).

I believe, O Lord, and confess that You are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first.

Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not tell the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief, I confess to You:

**Remember me, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.
Remember me, O Master, when You come into Your kingdom.**

Remember me, O Holy One, when You come into Your kingdom.

May the partaking of Your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be unto me not for judgment or condemnation but for the healing of soul and body.

**God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
I have sinned without number, forgive me, O Lord.**

Priest: Approach with the fear of God and with faith.

All: **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, God the Lord has appeared to us.**

The servant of God, "N", partakes of the precious, most holy Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ; for the forgiveness of his/her sins and life everlasting. Amen.

Priest: + Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance.

All: **We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.**

Priest: Always, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen. May our mouths be filled with your praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory. For You made us worthy to partake of Your holy, divine, immortal and life-giving Mysteries. Preserve us in Your holiness that we may meditate all day upon Your justice.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: Stand aright! Having received the divine, holy, immaculate, immortal, heavenly, and life-giving awesome Mysteries of Christ, let us rightly give thanks to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Help and save, have mercy and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Having asked that this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us commend ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

All: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are our sanctification and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

All: **In the name of the Lord.**

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: You bless those who bless You, O Lord, and sanctify those who trust in You. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the fullness of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house and glorify them by Your divine power. Do not forsake us who hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the priests, to our nation under God, to our government, and to all Your people. For all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights. And we give glory, thanks, and worship to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for ever. (3x)

Priest: + The blessing of the Lord be upon you with His grace and love for mankind, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God, our hope, glory be to You.

All: + **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.**

Priest: Christ our true God, Risen from the dead, through the prayers of His Immaculate Mother, of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, of saint N (*whose church it is*), and of saint “N” (*whose day it is*), and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: **Amen.**