

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**  
**29th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 4**  
**Sunday After the Nativity of Christ**

Troparion:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy

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

O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, the good news of the wonders you have seen: A Virgin giving birth to a Child. With the shepherds you have glorified Him; with the wise men you have worshipped Him; and an Angel appeared to you. Ask Christ our God to save our souls.

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!

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!"

Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.  
(Vs.) Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

Tone 4 (Righteous Ones):

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. ( Gal. 1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Alleluia Verses:

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.  
(Vs.) You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

Tone 4 (Righteous Ones):

Remember O Lord, David, and all his meekness.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 2:13-23)

When the Magi had left, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell you. For Herod will seek the child to destroy him." So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod, so that what the Lord said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, seeing he had been tricked by the Magi, was furious; and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and all its neighborhood who were two years old or under, according to the time he had carefully ascertained from the Magi. Then was fulfilled what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, "A voice was heard in Rama, weeping moaning and a loud complaint; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." So he arose and took the child and his mother, and went into the land of Israel. But hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and being warned in a dream he withdrew into the region of Galilee. And he went and settled in a town called Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

