**DECEMBER 22**

**Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ**

**Greatmartyr Anastasia, “Deliverer from Bonds”**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 1** *(for the Forefeast)* *(O all-praised martyrs)*

“Beholding the condescension of God,

all the earth is glad;

the Magi bring Me gifts;

the sky proclaims it from on high with a star;

the Angels render glory;

the shepherds watch and are amazed;

the manger holds Me like a fiery throne.//

Seeing these things, O Mother, rejoice!”

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

“O my Son without beginning,

ineffable Offspring of the all-unoriginate Father,

clothed in the likeness of my matter,

You have come, the Light of revelation to the nations.

For You came to enrich impoverished humanity

through the poverty in which You are clothed.//

I praise Your loving-kindness, O Lord.”

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

“Rejoice, O Mother,

beholding Me as a Babe and resting in your arms;

for I have come to take away all the pain of Adam,

which he suffered because of the evil counsel of the serpent.

Tasting of the tree, he found himself removed from the sweetness of Paradise//

and subject to corruption.”

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 8** *(for St. Anastasia) (What shall we call you)*

Disdaining the beautiful things of the world,

and not sparing your flesh for them, O honored one,

you committed yourself to minister to the saints in a godly manner,

patiently serving them amid their sufferings,

and encouraging them with wise words to be courageous.//

Pray that our souls may be saved!

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

You distributed your wealth to those in need, O honored one,

fervently seeking those things that are eternal,

and following the divine steps of Christ with undaunted faith;

and you cried out, saying:

“I have been wounded with desire for You, O Immortal One.

Show me to be a partaker of the divine glory of Your sufferings,//

as You are compassionate and love mankind!”

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Having endured a blessed suffering, O Anastasia,

you truly cleanse our sufferings with the outpouring of your healings.

Therefore, as is right, we call you blessed;

with love we celebrate your memory,

and bow down before your relics, from which we draw forth holiness.//

Pray that our souls may be saved!

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

**Tone 2** *(for St. Anastasia)*

Having suffered at your tribunal, O all-praised Anastasia,

you received the gift of resurrection.

You directed a multitude of demons to the sea of their destruction,//

O wondrous athlete and martyr.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** *(for the Forefeast)*

Adorn yourself, O Bethlehem!

Sing praises, O city of Zion, and rejoice, O wilderness!

For the star shall come to Bethlehem, and announce the birth of Christ;

the cave shall receive Him Whom nothing can contain;

and the manger is ready to accept Life everlasting.

Let us sing to Him and cry aloud:

“Save our souls, O Jesus our God,//

Who has become incarnate for our sake!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(for the Forefeast) (O House of Ephratha)*

Christ is born on earth

to crush the power of evil,

to enlighten those in darkness,

and to free the captives.//

Let us go forth to meet Him.

V. *God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain. (Habakkuk 3:3)*

Dance, O Zion!

Adorn yourself, O cavern!

Prepare, O Bethlehem!

For the Virgin comes//

to give birth to Christ.

V. *O Lord, I have heard what You have done, and am filled with awe. (Habakkuk 3:2)*

The families of nations

offer glory and praise.

The Magi come with gifts;

the shepherds watch in the fields,//

joyfully preparing the way.

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

**Tone 4** *(for St. Anastasia, by the Studite)*

As the namesake of the life-bearing Resurrection of Christ,

You fulfilled your calling with an honorable life and strong character.

You acquired courage through wisdom,

weaving for yourself a robe dyed purple in your blood;

bearing the Cross, you reigned with God the Savior.//

Entreat Him, O most blessed Anastasia, that He illumine us with His

 divine glory!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** *(for the Forefeast)*

Rejoice, O Isaiah, and receive the Word of God:

prophesy to the Maiden Mary

that she is the bush that burned with fire

yet was not consumed by the nature of the Divinity.

Adorn yourself well, O Bethlehem!

Open wide your gates, O Eden!

You Magi, come and see Salvation wrapped and laid in a manger!//

The star of the life-giving Lord Who saves our race has shone

upon the roof of the cave.

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(St. Anastasia)*

Your lamb Anastasia calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice:

“I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You, I endure suffering.

In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,

and I died so that I might live with You.

Accept me as a pure sacrifice,

for I have offered myself in love.”//

Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

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

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the

 Virgin in the cave!

Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;

if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

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**Tone 2**  **Kontakion** *(St. Anastasia)*

Those in trials and tribulations hasten to your temple

and receive the revered gifts of the divine grace which dwells in you, O

 Anastasia;//

for you ever pour out healings for the world.

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**  *(Forefeast)*

Today the Virgin comes to the cave

to give birth to the Eternal Word.

Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!

Glorify with the angels and the shepherds

the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. *(Ps. 63:11a)*

V. *Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to You! (Ps. 63:1a)*

**Epistle**

 (310) Hebrews 4:1-13

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in*

*Lebanon.* *(Ps. 91:11)*

V. *They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts*

 *of our God. (Ps. 91:12)*

 **Gospel**

 (43) Mark 10:2-12

**Communion Hymn**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil

tidings. *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.