

Order of Services for Sunday, December 22, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost (14th of Luke)

Sunday before the Nativity

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

[Greatmartyr Anastasia, "Deliverer from Bonds"] (*sung whenever the Superior wishes*)

NOTE: The rubrics presented below are the commonly accepted order. However, practices may vary with local practices or dioceses. The ruling bishop should be consulted for any specific questions regarding the accepted order of services.

NOTE: Bracketed items are commonly omitted in parish practice.

Vigil

(Great Vespers at a Vigil)

(If Great Vespers is served alone, not at a Vigil, begin with the Typical Beginning, which can be found at <https://www.oca.org/liturgics/rubrics/horologion>.)

Priest: "Glory to the holy consubstantial..."

"Amen. Come, let us worship..."

Psalm 103/104

Great Litany

[First Kathisma, or] "Blessed is the Man..."

Little Litany

Lord, I Call, Tone 1 (Ps. 140/141)

4 stichera of the Resurrection, Tone 1

3 stichera of the Forefeast, Tone 6

3 stichera of the Fathers, Tone 6

Glory... Fathers, Tone 6

Now and ever... Forefeast, Tone 6

Gladsome Light

Saturday Evening Prokeimenon, "The Lord is King..."

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Augmented Litany

"Vouchsafe, O Lord..."

Evening Litany

[Litya]

[Stichera of the Forefeast, from the Aposticha in the Menaion for December 22, Tone 2]

[Sticheron of the Fathers, Tone 1]

[Glory... Fathers, Tone 3]

[Now and ever... Forefeast, Tone 3]

Aposticha

Resurrectional Stichera, Tone 1

Glory... Fathers, Tone 2

Now and ever... Forefeast, Tone 2

"Lord, Now Lettest..."

Trisagion Prayers

Concluding Troparia and Dismissal:

If a Vigil is Served:

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos..." (2x)

Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 2

[Blessing of the Loaves]

"Blessed be the Name..." (3x)

[Psalm 33/34:1-10]

Priest: "The blessing of the Lord..."

"Amen." *And begin Matins with the Six Psalms, as outlined below.*

Or, if Great Vespers alone is served:

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 1

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 2

Now and ever... Troparion of the Forefeast, Tone 4

Vespers Dismissal

(Sunday Matins at a Vigil)

(If Matins is served alone, begin with the Typical Beginning, which can be found at <https://www.oca.org/liturgics/rubrics/horologion.>)

Six Psalms

Great Litany

"God is the Lord..." Tone 1

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 1 [(2x)]

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 2

Now and ever... Troparion of the Forefeast, Tone 4

[Kathisma 2]

[Little Litany]

[Kathisma Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 1]

[Kathisma 3]
[Little Litany]
[Kathisma Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 1]
Polyeleos
Evlogitaria: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord..."
Little Litany

[Ypakoe]
Kathisma Hymns of the Fathers, Tone 8]
[Hymn of Degrees, Tone 1]
Prokeimenon, Tone 1: "'I will now arise,' says the Lord..."
"Let everything that breathes..."
Gospel: (112) Luke 24:1-12
"Having Beheld the Resurrection..."
Psalm 50
Post-Gospel Stichera
Prayer of Intercession, "O God, save Thy people..."

Canons *(NOTE: in common parish practice, after the Irmos, only two troparia from each Canon are used. Before the final troparion, "Glory... now and ever..." is used as the refrain.)*

Irmos: Resurrection, Tone 1

Refrain: "Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord!"

3 additional troparia from the Canon of the Resurrection, Tone 1

Refrain: "Glory to Thy holy Resurrection, O Lord!"

4 troparia from the Canon of the Forefeast, Tone 1

Refrain: "Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee!"

6 troparia from the Canon of the Fathers (omitting the first two troparia, which are for the Resurrection), Tone 6

Refrain: "O holy Fathers, pray to God for us!"

Katavasia: "Christ is born...", Tone 1

[After the Third Ode:]

[Little Litany]
[Ypakoe of the Fathers, Tone 8]

After the Sixth Ode:

[Little Litany]
Kontakion of the Fathers, Tone 1
Ikos of the Fathers

After the Eighth Ode:
The Magnificat is sung

After the Magnificat, continue with the Ninth Ode.

Little Litany
“Holy is the Lord...”, Tone 1

Exapostilaria:
4th Resurrectional Exapostilarion, Tone 2
Glory... Fathers, Tone 2
Now and ever... Forefeast, Tone 2

Psalms 148-150: “Let everything that breathes...” Tone 1
4 stichera of the Resurrection, Tone 1
4 stichera of the Fathers, with verses, Tone 5
Glory... Fathers, Tone 8
Now and ever... “Thou art most blessed...”, Tone 2

Great Doxology
“Today salvation...”

Augmented Litany

Morning Litany

Matins Dismissal

[Glory... now and ever... 4th Gospel Sticheron, Tone 4]

*NOTE: The First Hour follows immediately. A small dismissal concludes the First Hour.
See below for the Troparion and Kontakion.*

The Hours

Troparia: Resurrection; Glory... Forefeast (1st and 6th Hours) or Fathers (3rd and 9th Hours)

Kontakion: Forefeast (1st and 6th Hours) or Fathers (3rd and 9th Hours)

Divine Liturgy

NOTE: Listed below are only the variable portions of the Liturgy

At the Beatitudes:

4 troparia of the Resurrection, Tone 1

4 troparia from Ode 3 of the Canon of the Fathers, Tone 6
4 troparia from Ode 6 of the Canon of the Forefeast, Tone 1

Troparia and Kontakia:

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 1
Troparion of the Fathers, Tone 2
Troparion of the Forefeast, Tone 4
Glory... Kontakion of the Fathers, Tone 1
Now and ever... Kontakion of the Forefeast, Tone 3

Trisagion

Prokeimenon: Fathers, Tone 4: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers..."

Epistle: (328) Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Alleluia: Fathers, Tone 4

Gospel: (1) Matthew 1:1-25

Communion Hymn: "Praise the Lord from the heavens..." and "Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous..."

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America.