Matins Propers, September 8
Nativity of the Theotokos

All page references are to The Order of Matins: Sundays and Feasts, 2006
"The Lord is God" is sung in Tone 4, page 162

Troparion - Tone 4

Your birth, O Virgin Theotokos, heralded joy to the universe;

for from you arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. Removing the curse, he gave the blessing, and by destroying Death, he granted us eternal life.

Sung three times

Sessional Hymn 1 - Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif

O David, proclaim the oath that the Lord our God has sworn to you.

What he swore to me, I now see fulfilled, he said: for the Virgin, who has come forth as the fruit of my loins, now gives birth to the Creator, Christ the New Adam. He is the King who sits upon my throne.
Behold, he now reigns and his kingdom shall have no end. The barren one bears the Theotokos and the sustainer of our life.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... Repeat "O David, proclaim the oath..."

Sessional Hymn 2 - Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif

From the root of Jesse and the loins of David, Mary the servant of God is born for us today. The entire universe is renewed and now exalts; earth and heaven rejoice to gather. Praise her, O family of nations. Anna cries out and Joachim rejoices on this feast: The barren one bears the Theotokos and the sustainer of our life.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... Repeat "From the root of Jesse..."

The service continues with the Polyeleos, found on page 16.
We ex - tol you, O most ho - ly Vir - gin, and we ven - er - ate

the ho - ly an - ces - tors of God, and we cel - e - brate your

ho - ly Na - tiv - i - ty.

Verse: O Lord, remember David and all the many hardships he endured.

Verse: Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your strength.

Verse: The Lord swore an oath to David; he will not go back on his word.

Verse: May the peoples praise you from age to age.

Verse: For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling.

Verse: Glory...now and ever...

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God.

Sessional Hymn 3 - Tone 8 podoben: Povelinnoje Tajno

Let heav - en re - joice and let the earth ex - alt,
for the firmament of our God comes into the world; according to the promise, the Divine Bride is now born. The barren one now nurses Mary, her child; and Joachim rejoices in this birth and says: Behold, the rod is now born to me, from which Christ shall blossom from the root of David.

Indeed, this is a wondrous marvel!

The Festal Gradual Hymn is found on page 312.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4

I will make your name remembered from generation to generation.

Verse: My heart overflows with noble words. To the king I must speak the song I have made.
"Let everything that lives" is sung in Tone 4, found on page 171. The service continues on page 24.

Stichera after Psalm 50

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

Through the prayers of the The-o-to-kos, O Merciful One, cleanse us of our many sins.

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen. Repeat "Through the prayers..."

Cantor: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

Tone 6 samohlasen

This is the day of the Lord: Rejoice, therefore, O nations!

Behold, the chamber of Light and the scroll of the living Word has come forth from the womb. The gate that opens to the Rising Sun and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest, is here today.
She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into the world for the salvation of our souls.

The service continues on page 29

Canon

with Katavasiai of the Holy Cross

Ode 1

Irmos - Tone 2 samopodoben

Come, O ye people, and let us sing to Christ our God, who divided the sea and through it led his people whom he had brought forth from the bondage of Egypt: for he has been glorified.

Refrain

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

Let all creation dance for joy, and let David also rejoice. From his seed has come forth the One who gave birth to a flower, the Lord and Deliverer of all. Refrain
The Holy of Holies was brought as an infant to the holy temple where she was cared for by the hands of an angel. Let us all joyfully celebrate her nativity today. *Refrain*

The barren and sterile Anna did not appear so before God, for she was predestined from the ages to become the mother of the pure Virgin who would give birth to the Creator in the form of a servant.

I glorify and sing praises to the Holy Trinity, coeternal yet one in essence, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting*

Moses took his staff and marked a straight line before him and divided the sea, thereby opening a path for Israel, who walked across dry-shod.

Then he marked a second line over the waters and united them again, thereby overwhelming the chariots of Pharaoh. Thus Moses inscribed the
inscribed the invincible weapon of the Cross upon the waters. Therefore, let us praise Christ our God, for he has been glorified.

Ode 3
Irmos - Tone 2 samopoden

Establish us in you, O Lord, who has destroyed sin through the tree, and graft your fear in our hearts, as we sing your praise.

Refrain

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

The fruit of virginity came forth from your blessed womb, O holy Anna. She is the one who, without seed, gave birth to Jesus, the Nourishment and Deliverer of all creation.

Refrain

All creation calls you blessed, O ever-Virgin. We celebrate your birth today from Anna; you are the spotless branch of the root of Jesse who gave birth to the flower, Christ. Refrain

All people are filled with joy on this day, O undefiled Theotokos, for your Son has placed you above all creation. We extol your birth from Anna.
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

We worship the unbegotten Father, we sing hymns to the begotten Son, and we venerate the coeternal Spirit; for the Trinity is one and undivided.


O undeiled Theotokos, you have borne the Light-giver and the Source of Life for all. You are manifested as the Treasure of our life and the Gateway of the Light which no one can approach.

Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting

When the rod of Aa - ron bud - ded, it was an im - age of this mys - t'ry;

it made known who was to be priest. Like wise, in the Church that formerly

was bar - ren, the wood of the Cross has now blos-somed, en - dow - ing

her with stead - fast - ness and might.

The Small Litany is found on page 32
I have heard, O Lord, the tid-ings of your dis-pen-sa - tion,

and I have glo - ri - fied you, who a - lone love us all.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us!

With psalms and hymns let all the faithful sing the praises of the all-holy birth of the Theotokos. In faith we worship the God of Truth, who promised to give David the fruit of his loins. Refrain

O Lord, you opened the womb of Sarah and gave her Isaac as fruit in her old age. Today, O Savior, you have likewise blessed the God-fearing Anna with fruit from her womb; it is your own all-pure Mother. Refrain

All peoples of the earth rejoice with you today, O holy Anna, for you have given birth to the Mother of our Redeemer. She is the one who gave birth to our Strength; she blossomed forth Christ as a flower from the root of Jesse.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

I glorify you, O eternal Trinity, one in essence, and with my earthly tongue I cry aloud as the Cherubim: Holy, holy, holy is he, who remains the one eternal God forever.

The prophecies of those inspired by God are now fulfilled in your birth, O immaculate One. In faith the prophets called you Tabernacle and Gate, spiritual Mountain, the unconsumed Bush, and the Rod of Aaron which blossomed from the root of David.

Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting

I have received the mystery of your Law, O Lord; I have meditated upon your works; and I have glorified your divinity.

Ode 5

Irmos - Tone 2 samopodoben

You have scattered the dim shades of dark sayings in the Scriptures, and have illuminated the hearts of the faithful by the coming of the truth through the Child of God: guide us by your light, O Christ, guide us.
Refrain

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

O ever-Virgin, your conception was ineffable; your birth was all-holy; O unwedded Bride, your child-bearing was beyond our understanding, for the God of all became flesh in you. Refrain

Let the angels in heaven rejoice today; let the children of Adam dance and sing; for this day is born the One who gave birth to Christ, the only deliverer of Adam. Refrain

At your nativity today, O undefiled Maiden, Eve is loosed from her condemnation. Adam is also freed from the ancient curse, and he sings: Through you we have been delivered from corruption

O undivided Trinity, without beginning, uncreated, coeternal, one in nature, we worship you and proclaim to all that you are one essence in three Persons.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

You have remained a virgin before and after childbirth, O Lady; your womb has become a holy table. Like a bridegroom coming forth from his chamber, Christ the Sun has come forth from you.

Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting

O Cross, triple blest Tree on which Christ the King and Lord was crucified,
it was through you that the Evil One, who tempted our first parents with the tree,
was destroyed. He was ensnared by the trap set by God, who was crucified upon you in the flesh. Through this mystery, peace has been granted to our souls.

Ode 6
Irmos - Tone 2 samopodoben

From the belly of the whale Jonah cried out to the Lord:

Do thou lead me up from the bottom of hell, I pray,
that with a voice of praise and in the spirit of truth I may sacrifice to thee as my Deliverer.
Refrain

Most ho-ly The-o-to-kos, save us!

The angelic powers and all the holy ones dance for joy as we sing the praises of your holy birth and venerate your conception without seed, O ever-Virgin and Bride of God. Refrain

O undefiled One, your righteous parents brought you, the Holy of Holies, as an offering to the Lord in the temple where you were brought up in holiness and prepared to become his mother. Refrain

Of old David sang to you: Virgins shall be brought after you; they shall be brought into the temple of the King. I join with him in singing your praises, O daughter of the King.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

The mystery of the Trinity is praised and glorified in you, O Mary ever-pure, for you so pleased the Father that he sent the Son to dwell in you by the overshadowing of the Spirit that made you Theotokos.


You are a golden censer, for by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Fire who is the Word made your womb his tabernacle, and he became man through you, O pure Theotokos.

Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting

Clear-ly pre-fig-ur-ing the re-deem-ing pas-sion, Jo-nah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross when he was in the bel-ly of the whale.
When he was cast forth after three days, he prefigured the glorious resurrection of Christ our God, who was crucified in the flesh and granted life to the world by his resurrection on the third day.

The Small Litany is found on page 33

Kontakion - Tone 4

At your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. Your people, delivered from the guilt of their faults, celebrate your birth and cry out: The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos and Sustainer of our Life.
Ikos  Joachim and Anna beseeched the Lord to remove their childlessness. He heard their prayers, and the just couple gave birth to the one who brought Life to the world. Joachim offered his prayer in the mountain while Anna accepted her reproach in the garden. With joy, the barren Anna gave birth to the Theotokos who sustains our life.

Ode 7

Irmos - Tone 2 samopodoben

The bush on the mountain that was not consumed by fire,

and the Chaldean furnace that refreshed like dew

plainly prefigured you, O Bride of God, for

in a material womb, unconsumed, you have received

the divine and immaterial fire. Therefore we cry

a-loud to him who was born of you:

Blessed are you, O God of our fathers.
Most holy Theotokos, save us!

O most pure One, we celebrate and honor with faith your holy nativity according to the promise. By Christ's appearance though you, we have been delivered from the ancient curse of Adam. **Refrain**

Today Anna rejoices and cries aloud in praise: Although I was barren, I have given birth to the Theotokos through whom Eve has been loosed from her condemnation. **Refrain**

Adam is set free and Eve dances for joy. Together they sing to you in spirit, O Theotokos: By Christ's appearance through you, we have been delivered from the ancient curse of Adam.

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

Let us praise the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in the unity of the Godhead, undivided, coeternal, and one in essence.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Mary, you have renewed our nature through your giving birth to God and still remaining a virgin. You have delivered Eve from the ancestral curse, O pure Theotokos.

**Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting**

The evil command of the wicked tyrant bewildered the nations;

he uttered threats and blasphemy hateful to God. Yet neither
the raging beasts nor the roar-ing fire could fright-en the three youths. They stood
to-geth-er in the fire, re-freshed by the wind as though it were dew, and they
sang: You are praised and blessed a-bove all, O God of out fa-thers.

Ode 8
Irmos - Tone 2 samopodoben

Long a-go in the fur-nace of the Chil-dren, you have
pre-fi-gured your own Moth-er, O Lord.
For this im-age de-liv-ered them from the fire and they walked in the
midst of it un-con-sumed. You have man-i-fest-ed
her to-day to the ends of the earth, and we ex-alt
her a-bove all for-ev-er.
Most holy Theotokos, save us!

O holy God, you worked wonders in the barren womb of Anna by giving her a child. You are the Son of the Virgin from whom you have taken flesh, the ever-pure Virgin and Theotokos. Refrain

O merciful Lord, you have loosed the unbreakable bonds of childlessness; you have given the barren woman a fertile offspring and a glorious fruit. You chose that offspring to be your Mother according to the flesh when you came to dwell among us. Refrain

Through your power, you have made the barren earth fertile. As gardener of our thoughts and of our souls, you turned the once parched land into a fruitful field, yielding much corn and fruit. You caused the holy Anna to give birth to the all-pure Theotokos.

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Lord.

We bless the undivided eternal Trinity while the hosts of angels sing your praises and bow down before you. The heavens, the earth, and the depths of the earth worship you in awe; fire serves you, and all creation obeys you in fear, O Holy Trinity.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

What a glorious marvel! God has become the Son of a woman who knew not wedlock. She bore, without seed, the Child who is God. What a strange mystery, that the Virgin conceives! The birth is beyond expression. Indeed, all these things are incomprehensible.

Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and highly exalting him above all forever.
O you children, equal in number to the Trinity, O bless the Father and Creator of all; sing the praises of the Word who came to earth and changed the flames to dew; and exalt above all forever the most Holy Spirit who gives life to all.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is not sung.

Ode 9

The Priest (or deacon) sings the Exaltation:

Extol, extol, O my soul, O my soul,

the Virgin Mary born of the barren woman.

All sing the Irmos:  Tone 2 samopodoben

Virginity is something foreign
to mothers, and childbearing
is strange for vir - - - - gins. But in you,

O The - o - to - - - - kos, both the one and the

oth - er have come to pass. There - fore,

we, the peo - - - - ples of the earth, un - - - -

ceas - - - - - ing-ly ex - - - - tol you.

All repeat "Extol..."

We join all the nations of the earth to unceasingly praise you, O Theotokos; for you inherited, according to the promise, a birth worthy of your purity. You were given to the sterile one as a divine gift.

All repeat "Extol..."

Today the prophecy is fulfilled: I will raise up the fallen tabernacle of the holy David. These words prefigured you, O most pure One. Thorugh you, human nature has been refashioned in the body of our God.

All repeat "Extol..."

O Theotokos, we glorify the Lord who gave you as a fruit to the barren Anna; we venerate your swaddling clothes. The almighty God, who can do whatever he pleases, miraculously opened the barren womb of Anna.
Glo - ry to the  Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

It is unheard of that the unjust would glorify the eternal Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the uncreated and sovereign Power who created the world by a mighty act.


O Virgin Mother, you bore within your womb Christ the King, one of the Trinity whom all creation praises and before whom all the heavenly hosts bow down. O all-holy Lady, beseech him to save our souls.

Katavasia - Tone 6 simple setting

You are a mystical paradise, O The-o-to-kos; Christ has blossomed forth from you without till-ing. He plant-ed the life–bearing Tree of the Cross up-on the earth.

As we now ex-alt the cross and bow be-fore it, we pro-claim your great-ness.

The Small Litany is found on page 36.
Hymn of Light

Today all the ends of the earth rejoice on the feast of your nativity, O all-holy and spouseless Bride and Virgin Mary; for you have taken away the shame and reproach of those who gave you birth. You have overcome their sterility, the cause of their pains, and you have removed the curse of our first mother.

Glory...now and ever...

Adam and Eve, be clothed with a new glory; O Prophets, together with the company of the divine Apostles, sing and rejoice with all the just ones. For the joy of all angels and people, the Mother of our God, is born of the just Joachim and Anna on this festive day.

Stichera at the Praises

The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 1, beginning on page page 92

Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

Tone 1 podoben: O divnoje cudo

O mar - vel - ous won - - der! The Source of life is born of the bar - ren one and grace be - gins to bear its glo - ri - ous fruit. Re-joice, O Jo - a - chim at the birth of the The - o - to - kos. No earth - ly fa - ther is the same as you, for through di - vine...
O marvelous wonder! The fruit of the barren one has shone forth as a sign from the almighty Creator of the universe. She delivers the world from its sterility in good works. All mothers, rejoice with the ancestors of God and say:
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you,
and through you has granted great mercy to the world.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.
mercy to all the faithful.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

This is the day of the Lord: Rejoice, therefore, O nations!

Be hold, the chamber of Light and the scroll of the living Word has come forth from the womb. The gate that opens to the Rising Sun and is ready for the entrance of the High Priest, is here today.

She is the only one who introduced Christ, and Christ alone, into the world for the salvation of our souls.

The service continues with the Great Doxology, page 41. After the Great Doxology, the Troparion of the Feast is sung, found on page 1 of this supplement. The service continues on page 45.