Vesper Propers, September 8

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY, of the seed of Abraham, born from the tribe of Judah, from the line of King David. From her, the Son of God was born in the flesh that he might free people from the ancient slavery of sin.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

Psalm 140, Tone 6, p. 82

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 6 samohlasen

Today God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven welcomes on earth the holy throne which he had prepared for himself. In his love for the human race, he who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven. From a barren stem he has brought forth for us his Mother as a branch full of life. O God of miracles and hope of those who
have no hope; O Lord, glory to you!

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(7) to the voice of my pleading.

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.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Indeed some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God; but the

nativity of Mary surpasses all nativities in honor and splendor.
as it is worthy of the majesty of God. For she was born in a miraculous way of a barren mother, and she herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of all, incarnate in her womb without human seed against the laws of nature. She alone is the door through which the only begotten Son of God has passed while leaving it sealed as he had planned in his eternal wisdom. Thus did he bring salvation to all.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. All repeat "Indeed..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak, and Israel on the Lord.
(on 4)

Today the barren gates are opened, and the Virgin, the Gate of God, comes forth.

Today grace begins to bear fruit, showing forth to the world the
The o to kos, through whom earth is unit-ed to heav-en for the
sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. All repeat "Today the barren gates..."

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations, Psalm 116
(acclaim him all you peoples.

Today glad tidings go forth to the whole world. Today sweet fra-grance is
sent forth by the pro-cla-ma-tion of sal-va-tion. Today is the end
of the barrenness of our na-ture; for the barren one be-comes a moth-er,
the moth-er of the one who will not cease to be a vir-gin, e-ven af-ter
giv-ing birth to the One who by nature is Cre-a-tor and God. He it is who took flesh by which he brought sal-va-tion to the lost; he is Christ, the Lov - er
of us all, and the Savior of our souls.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

To-day Anna, the barren one, gives birth to the maiden of God who had been chosen from all the human generations to become the dwelling place of the Creator, Christ our God and the King of all. In her he fulfilled his divine plan through which our human nature was renewed and by which we were to be transferred from corruption to eternal life.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

To-day God who dominates the spiritual thrones of heaven welcomes on earth the holy throne which he had prepared for himself. In his love for the
human race, he who established the heavens in wisdom has fashioned a living heaven. From a barren stem he has brought forth for us his Mother as a branch full of life. O God of miracles and hope of those who have no hope; O Lord, glory to you!

Hymn of the Evening, p. 12
Prokeimenon for the day of the week, pp 114-115

Readings:  Genesis 28: 10 - 17 (EOT 304-305)
Ezekiel 43: 27 - 44: 4
Proverbs 9: 1 - 11

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication, p.13

At the Litija

Today is the beginning of our salvation, O people; for behold, the Mother and Virgin who was chosen from all generations to be the habitation of God is born and comes forth from the
barren one. She is the flower from Jesse and possesses the rod from his root.

May our forefather Adam rejoice and be full of joy; for behold, she who was created from the rib of Adam declares that her daughter and descendant is blessed. She says: My deliverance has been born to me. Through her, I will be freed from the bonds of Hades.

May David rejoice, play on his harp, and bless God; for behold, the Virgin comes forth from the womb of the barren woman for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor:  
(Tone 8) Glory…now and ever…

Litija Doxastikon - Tone 8 samohlasen

Let us play the spiritual flute on this noteworthy feast, because from the seed of
David is born the Mother of the Life who dispels the darkness.

She is the renewal of Adam and the answer to Eve, the source of incorruption and the transformation of corruption. Because of her we have been divinized and delivered from death. We cry out to her with Gabriel:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Because of you, he has granted to us great mercy.

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.

Aposticha

On this day a great joy has shone upon us from the two just ones, Joachim and Anna; and this joy is the most honorable Virgin.
Because of her purity, she will become a living temple of God. She alone will be recognized as the Theotokos. Through her intercessions, O Christ our God, send down peace on the world and your great mercy on our souls.

Cantor

Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

O Virgin, today you were born a most noble child from the two just ones, Joachim and Anna, as the angel had promised in his announcement.

To God you are a heaven, a throne, and a vessel of holiness; to the whole world a herald of joy, the cause of our life, the blessing that wiped out the curse.

You are the reason for all the blessings of God. O Maiden, whom God has
chosen, on this day of your nativity, obtain peace and great mercy for our souls.

Cantor

The rich among the people will seek your favor.

Today Anna, the barren one, claps her hands for joy. The earth is bathed in light and kings sing their happiness, priests enjoy all blessings and the whole universe rejoices; for the Queen and Immaculate Bride of the Father comes forth from the root of Jesse. Behold, no woman will ever again bear a child in sorrow or anxiety, for joy has come forth in abundance and life and has filled the world. Joachim's offerings shall no more be rejected,
for the tears of Anna have now been turned into joy. And now Anna can say:

Rejoice with me, all you chosen ones of Israel, for the Lord has given me

the palace of his divine and living glory to be a place of joy and happiness for

the whole universe and for the salvation of our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Aposticha Doxastikon - Tone 8

Come all you faithful, and let us hasten to the Virgin; for long before

her conception in the womb, the one who was to be born of the root of

Jesse was destined to be the Mother of our God. The one who

is the treasury of virginity, the flow'ring rod of Aaron,

the object of the prophecies, the child of Joachim and Anna is born
today, and the world is re-newed in her. Through her birth, the Church is clothed with splen-dor. O ho-ly Temple, vessel of the God-head, mod-el of vir-gins and strength of kings, in you was realized the wondrous union of the two na-tures of Christ. We wor-ship him and glori-fy your most pure birth, and the whole world ex-tols you.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparion - Tone 4 Sung three times

Your birth, O Vir-gin The-o-to-kos, her-ald-ed joy to the u-ni-verse;

for from you arose the Sun of Jus-tice, Christ our God. Re-mov-ing the curse, he gave the bless-ing, and by de-stroy-ing Death, he grant-ed us e-ter-nal life.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119