On "God is the Lord," sing the Troparia as at Vespers on pages 96-99a of this book.

**If this Sunday falls on December 18th or 19th**, sing only the Kathismata of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week.

**If the Sunday falls on December 20th - 24th**, first sing the Kathismata of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week, and replace the "Both now and ever" of each Kathisma with the following:

For the first Kathisma, sing this: (Tone 6) "The sayings of the Prophets have now been fulfilled. For on the morrow, our God is born of the Virgin Mary in a manner surpassing speech, and remaineth as He was before His birth. The Magi gather, bearing gifts; the shepherds abide in the field; and we also sing: O Thou Who wast born of a Virgin, Lord, glory be to Thee."

For the second Kathisma, sing this: (Tone 8) "The song the shepherds played on their reed-pipes was stayed by a great angelic host, which called out to them, saying: Tarry not in the field now, O ye that shepherd the nurslings of the flocks; cry aloud singing praises, that Christ the Lord hath been born in Bethlehem, He that in truth hath been well pleased, as God, to save the race of mankind."

Then the Benedictions (Evlogetaria), unless this Sunday falls on December 24th, when they shall be omitted.

The Hypakoe, Anabathmoi and the Prokeimenon are for the Resurrection in the Tone of the week, and the Resurrectional Gospel will follow the Eothinon of the Sunday, on whichever date this Sunday falls. **Sunday falls.**

The Katabasiae are from the Canon of the Nativity: "Christ is born, glorify him," and "More honorable" is done after the 8th Ode, on whichever date this Sunday falls. **Sunday falls.**

For the Exaposteilaria:

**If this Sunday falls on December 18th or 19th**, sing the Exaposteilarion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week, followed by the one for the Fathers, "Verily, the chiefs of the Patriarchs," as on page 101 of this book, and conclude with the Theotokion in the Tone of the week.

**If this Sunday falls on December 20th - 24th**, sing the Exaposteilarion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the week, followed by the one for the Fathers, "Verily, the chiefs of the Patriarchs" and the one for the Preparation, "Rejoice, O Bethlehem," as on pages 101-102 of this book.

For the Praises, on whichever date this Sunday falls, sing four (4) for the Resurrection in the Tone of the week, and four for the Fathers in Special Tone 5, as on pages 103 to 107. Then sing "Glory" and "Verily, the collection...", in Tone 8, on Page 108, and "Both Now" and "Most blessed" as on page 109 of this book.

Now sing the "Great Doxology" in Tone 8 as on pages 235 - 238 in the Byzantine Matins Project by Kazan, and conclude with the Troparion "Today is salvation come unto the world," as on page 109 of this book.
Verily, the chiefs of the Patriarchs and the fathers before the law did go before, gleaming with faith like the stars, namely Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; for all the Prophets and righteous ones were illuminated by them, since they were shining lamps, and by the rays of their venerat ed proph e cy il luminat ed the whole of dark creation.
Rejoice, O Bethlehem, and thou, Ephraatha, make ready; for the Theotokos shall come to the cave and the man to give birth in an ineffable manner to God. O what a terrible mystery, the mystery of him who cometh before Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Patriarchs, and all the Prophets; and mankind with the angels shall celebrate his Nativity with divine rejoicing.
The Praises
Tone 5

First sing 4 for the Resurrection, and then the following 4 Prosomia for the Fathers.

Verse 5

Praise him with the timbrel and dance,
praise him with the stringed instruments and organs.

Prosomion 5 - Special Melody: Rejoice

In truth raise thy voice, O Zion,
divine city of God, and
preach the divine memory of the fathers, honouring with Abraham,

Iaac, and Jacob him of everlasting memory.

For lo! with Judah and Levi we magnify

Moses the great, and Aaron the wonderful; and with

David we celebrate the memory of

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Joshua and Samuel, inviting all with divine songs and divine praise to the preparation of the Nativity of Christ, praying to receive his goodness; for he it is that granteth the world the Great Mercy.

Verse 6 Fast
Praise him upon the loud cymbals,

Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals; let ev'rything that hath breath praise the Lord.

After singing Verse 6, repeat Prosomion 5.
A rise, O my God, lift up thine hand,
and forget not the humble.

Come, O Elijah, who didst ascend of old the divine fiery chariot, and O El-

isha of divine mind, and re-

joice together with Ezekiel and Josiah. Yea, exchange glad tidings with them,

O venerated rank of the twelve Proph-

ets inspired of God, on the Nativity of the Saviour. And all ye
righteous ones, sing hymns. And ye all-beatified youths

who quench the flames of the furnace with the dew of the Spirit, pray for us, pleading with Christ to grant our souls the Great Mercy.

Verse 8 Fast

I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show all thy marvelous works.

Prosomion 8

Verily, she hath appeared on earth, the Theotokos, who was proclaimed from the ages by the words of the Prophets, and whom the wise Patriarchs and the rank of righteous ones
did foretell, with whom the comeliness of women,

Sarah, Rebecca, with glorious Anne, and

Mary, the sister of Moses,

shall exchange glad tidings, and with them

shall rejoice the ends of the earth, and

all creation; for God shall

come to be born in the flesh and

grant the world the Great Mercy.

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

Ver - i - ly, the col - lec - tion of Mo - sa - ic teach - ings
mak - eth plain the di - vine Na - tiv - i - ty of Christ in the flesh
to those to whom was preached the grace be - fore the law,

hav - ing tran - scend - ed the law by faith.

Where - fore, since the Na - tiv - i - ty was the cause of sal - va - tion from cor - ru - p - tion, they fore - told thy Res - ur - rec - tion
to the souls im - pris - - oned in Ha - des, O Lord,

glo - - - ry to thee.
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled,

Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void,

Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life.

Therefore, in hymns of praise we cry aloud: Blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who is thus well pleased, glory to thee.

Now sing the "Great Doxology" in Tone 8 as on pages 235 - 238 in the Byzantine Matin Project by Kazan, and conclude with the Troparion as below in Tone 8.

Today is salvation come unto the world. Let us sing praises to him that arose from the grave; the author of our life; for having by death destroyed death, he hath given us victory and Great Mercy.