



Republic of Greece
Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece
The Holy Synod

Protocol No. 3469

Nativity Message for 2025

“As Thou art God of peace and Father of mercies, Thou hast sent us Thine Angel of Great Counsel, granting us peace.”

Katabasiai for the Nativity, Ode 5

Beloved Fathers and Brethren in the Incarnate Lord:

We rebelled by our disobedience toward God and found ourselves in a state of fallenness and enmity.

Our Triune God, Who is “rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4), Who loves mankind and is all-good, took the saving initiative when the seasonable time came. **T**he Son and Word became incarnate, borrowing human nature from our Lady, the Theotokos, and uniting it hypostatically in His Person with the Divine Nature. **H**e did this to restore and to grant, through His Cross and Resurrection, the blessed Peace that we had driven away.

The “God of peace” (Romans 15:33, 16:20; Hebrews 13:20), the One Who “maketh peace” (Ephesians 2:15), sent the “Angel of Great Counsel”



(Isaiah 9:6), our Lord Jesus Christ, the God-Man, in order to accomplish the “reconciliation” (Romans 5:11; II Corinthians 5:18–19) - that is, to reconcile us to God. **O**nly the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Christ—“the true Peace” (Sixth Doxastikon at Matins)—possesses and bestows Peace as a Divine attribute and hallmark, and not as a human attainment and achievement.

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Beloved Brethren:

God foretold through the Holy Prophet Ezekiel, six centuries before the Incarnation of the Son and Word, that He would send, as Shepherd, the descendant of David according to the flesh—the awaited Messiah. **Through** Him He would conclude a “covenant of peace” (Ezekiel 34:25), a New Covenant, so that an abundant and beneficent rain of blessings would come upon His people, His Church, through the Grace of the All-Holy Spirit. **Then**, the Holy Prophet triumphantly continues, the yoke of the Devil’s tyranny will be crushed and the faithful will dwell “in hope of peace” with security, without fear. **Among** them there shall be revealed a “plant of peace” —namely, the Prince of Peace, the God-Man Christ—to drive away every spiritual famine and hostile reproach. **And** the Divine assurance is full of tenderness: “Ye are My sheep and sheep of My flock, and I am the Lord your God, saith the Lord, the Lord” (Ezekiel 34:31).

Consequently, those who trample the Divine Covenant are manifestly impious and cannot find or enjoy Peace. **Apostasy** from the true God brings sorrow, distress, ruination, and despair. **By** contrast, submission to the terms of His Covenant bestows unlimited and endless peace. **Then** people are at peace with God through repentance and the keeping of His Divine commandments; they have peace within themselves, for when they are disturbed, they hasten to Holy Confession and are cleansed, and to Divine Communion and are illumined; they are also at peace with other people as true children of God, virtuous and blessed sheep of His flock.

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Beloved Fathers and Brethren:

Orthodox Holy Nativity still constitutes today the only true Feast of Peace in the world. **War** zones may blaze on earth and new ones may be ignited; irrationalities, infighting, antipathies, pettinesses, injustices, and hatreds may rage. **Yet** true Peace does exist and properly exists only where Christ reigns: in His Holy Church and in the hearts of His true worshippers, Orthodox Christians.

Where Christ does not exist and does not reign—where He is despised and persecuted—it is impossible for true and genuine Peace to exist.

Human agreements and negotiations, inasmuch as they are characterized by unacknowledged interests and pursuits, do not bring peace. **Like-**wise, the ecumenist and humanist slogans about peace, being ungodly and deceptive, are sheer vanity and futility.

Where our Saviour is glorified and hymned in a pure and Orthodox

manner — where His Holy Covenant and saving commandments are kept and lived — there Christ is born anew mystically, liturgically, and spiritually, and establishes His wondrous Peace: a Peace that conquers the passions and calms souls, that makes God our Father and other people our beloved brothers and sisters. **A**men!

Christ is Born!

Holy Nativity 2025

† Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens
and the Members of the Holy Synod of the
Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece