





What is the Nativity?




- The Feast of the Nativity is the Feast of the **WHOLE HUMANITY!!**
- **WHY?!**
 - Isn't it just the birth of Christ?
 - We had sinned in this nature so God rejected it
 - But what we lost as a result of sin was transformed in this Feast to a nature that can stand once more in the presence of God

So it's a Joyous Occasion Correct?




- Yes!!
 - GOD, the LOGOS, took flesh from the Virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit!!
 - Isn't that a joyous occasion?
 - Isn't that what the human race has been waiting for all this time?

On to ΣΕΝΕΘΛΙΟΝ




- Translation:
 - "A wonderful birth, a great birth, the carpenter saw an Incarnate LORD"
- So who's point of view is this hymn sung in??
-The Carpenter....

First thing we Notice?



- That this hymn is one of the longest hymns sung on the Feast of Nativity
- Why?
- Did some Mualim decide it would be a funny joke to make a 13min hymn to make the liturgy long and boring and everyone goes home later?...
- Of Course.....

NOT!!!!!!



- The hymn is really looooooonggggg for a very very important reason...
- This symbolizes the wait that the human race had to endure for the Logos to finally come and save us from Adam's sin

Let's Break it Down...



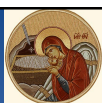
- It starts off in the 2nd part of ΠΡΑΞΕΩΝΤΩΝ tune
- So it starts off in a sad tune... Why????
- Isn't it Joyous??
 - The hymn ΠΡΑΞΕΩΝΤΩΝ is set for the Acts reading and it represents the trial of Judas
 - He is the apostle put on trial for "his" act

So what trial is done during Nativity?

- Here Joseph while looking into Christ, he thinks within himself that the whole human race is put on trial because of their sin
 - That's why this hymn starts off with this tune



After the trial...



- After the trial tune it switches to the joyous tune...
- Joseph then sees that yes it is sad that the human race is put on trial but in the end the savior has come to fix what is broken

"A Wonderful Birth, A Great Birth"



- Recap:
 - Starts off in a sad tune
 - Merges into a joyous tune
 - Then What?...
 - Πεντηκωστή??? WHY??
 - Why is this hymn so confusing?

Because our church is AMAZING




- Everything said in our church is said or sung for a reason
- Nothing is done by accident
- So why go into a tune for the Pentecost and Epiphany?
 - They represent the descent of the Holy Spirit on baptism and on the day of Pentecost

So are we catching the drift?



- This hymn is a prophetic hymn told from the perspective of Joseph
- So as Joseph is looking at Christ in Mary's arms, he, in a way, is seeing the future that Christ will go through
- So the hymn represents the different, most important parts of Christ's life


Πεντηκоста



- So when we start this part of the hymn, it is a foretelling of what is to come on Epiphany and the Feast of Pentecost
- Again these hymns are sung for the dissention of the Holy Spirit
 - So this part of the hymn is a joyous part



A Complete turnover



- **Δυσικός** in the SAD TUNE???
- This tune is not only in **Δυσικός** elhasany but a very common hasany tune used during the Holy Week
- So again the hymn takes a turn into the sad tune, and it is the saddest of tunes
- In this way, Joseph again is seeing the suffering that Christ has come for



A Reminder



- The hymn is trying to tell you that even though this is a joyous occasion, that we all have to remember why God sent down his only begotten Son

The Finale



- After this sad tune is played out, the hymn switches back to its joyous tune
- And WHAT A TUNE!!
- It's as if Joseph and the hymn is trying to tell us that this is it! This is God!
- We need to all Rejoice!!!

