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*St. Nikolai Velimirović*

# The Prologue of Ohrid

By St. Nikolai Velimirović

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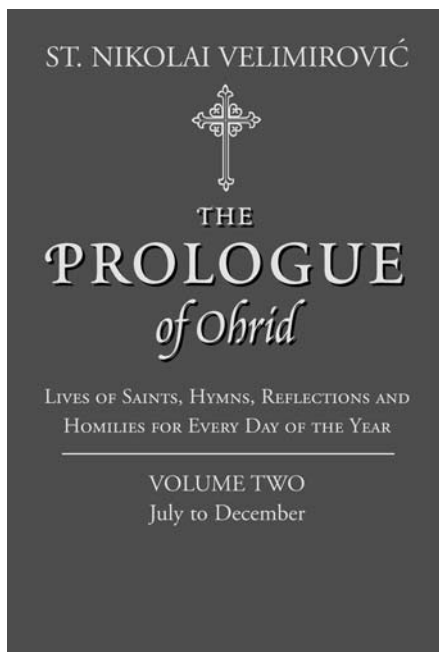
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December 25—The Nativity of Our Lord,  
God and Savior Jesus Christ

Out of burning love, Thou didst come down from  
heaven;  
From eternal beauty, Thou didst descend into  
monstrous pain;  
From eternal light, Thou didst descend into the thick  
darkness of evil.  
Thou didst extend Thy holy hand to those choked in  
sin.  
Heaven was amazed, the earth quaked.  
Welcome, O Christ! O ye peoples, rejoice!

Out of burning love, by which Thou didst create the  
world,  
As a slave Thou didst debase Thyself to loose the  
enslaved,  
To restore the house that Adam destroyed,  
To enlighten the darkened, to unloose sinners.  
Love that knows not fear or humiliation—  
Welcome, O Christ! The Master of Salvation!

Out of burning love, O King of all beauty,  
Thou didst leave the radiance of the beautiful  
Cherubim,  
Thou didst descend into the cave of human life,  
To despairing men, with a torch and peace.  
How to contain Thee?—The earth became frightened.  
Welcome, O Christ! Heaven bears Thee up!

The most beautiful Virgin for a long time hoped in  
Thee.  
The earth raised her to Thee, that through her Thou  
wouldst descend  
From the lofty throne, from the heavenly city,  
To bring health, to release man from sin.  
O Holy Virgin, Golden Censer—  
To thee be glory and praise, O Mother full of grace!