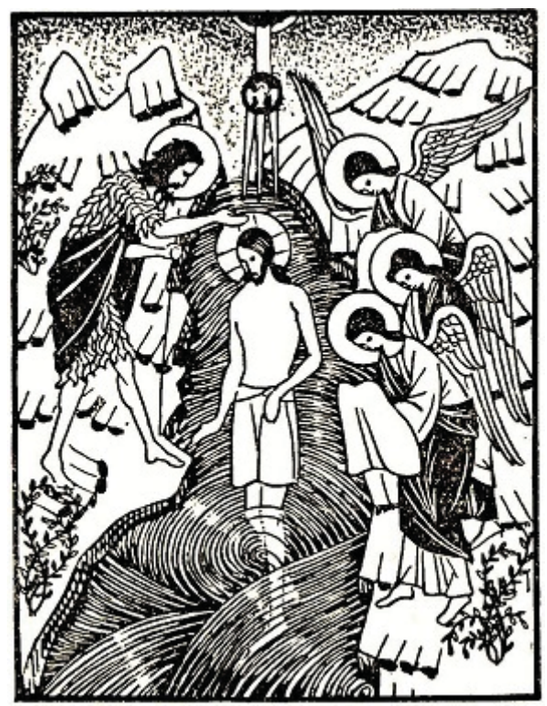
# *Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ*



Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
December 2019

## Foreword

The combination of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of Our Holy Father Basil the Great is sung four times in the Byzantine Church Year: the Eve of Christmas, the Eve of Theophany, Great and Holy Thursday, and Great and Holy Saturday.

On the eve of Theophany, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, the Great Blessing of Water is normally celebrated at this service, or at the morning Divine Liturgy, or both.

This booklet provides complete Vespers portion of this service, along with the proper hymns for the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. The hymns for the Vigil of Theophany are taken from the *Festal Menaion* of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great of Uniontown, PA. These Theophany texts are set to music in strict accord with the principles used by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Church.

The Great Blessing of Water may take place after the Ambon Prayer; because of this length, and the fact that it may be celebrated outdoors, this blessing is in a separate booklet.

The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (Rome, 1950).

We hope that this booklet will provide edification and help to God's faithful as they begin the celebration of the baptism of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.






**Kontakion of Theophany** - *Tone 4*









*Music for the responses at the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great can be found on pages 96-103 of the Divine Liturgies book. "In you, O Woman Full of Grace" is sung in place of "It is truly ptoper to glorify you."*

*The Great Blessing of Water is celebrated after the Ambon Prayer. When the blessing is complete, the Divine Liturgy comcludes with "Blessed be the name of the Lord", and the dismissal.*

*Immediately after the dismissal a candle is lit and set on a stand in the middle of the church.*

*Standing beside it, the cantor sings the troparion and kontakion of the feast:*

**Troparion of Theophany** - *Tone 1*






# Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

## GREAT VESPERS

*The faithful **STAND** when the preparatory rites are completed and the clergy quietly say the prayers before commencing the Divine Liturgy. The holy doors remain closed until the Little Entrance.*

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, give the blessing.

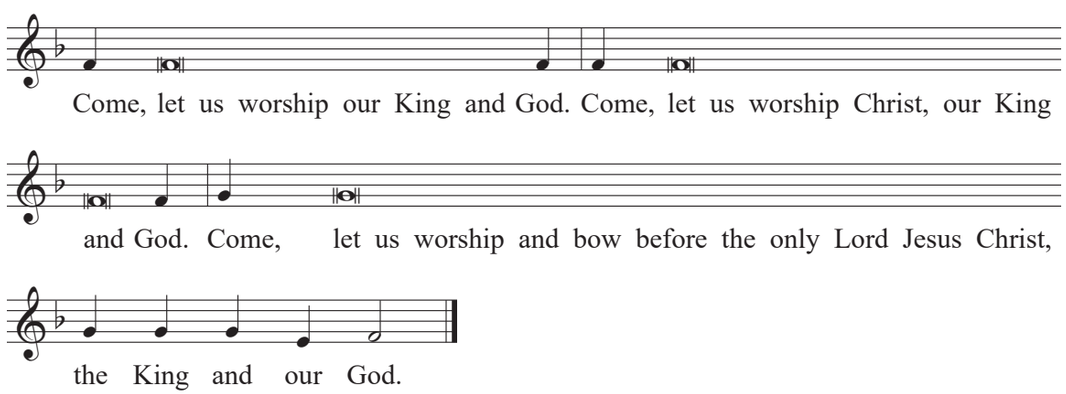
**Celebrant:** Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**




## Call to Worship

*Each time with a bow*




*The celebrant goes before the closed holy doors and quietly recites the Prayers of Light of vespers.*

## Psalm 103






**Response:**




**Celebrant:** For you are holy, our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever

**Deacon:** And forever.

**Response:**




*The faithful **STAND**.*

*The Liturgy of St. Basil is now celebrated, beginning with the Trisagion ("Holy God")..*

**Prokeimenon -** *Tone 3* (Psalm 26:1):




***Verse:*** The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?

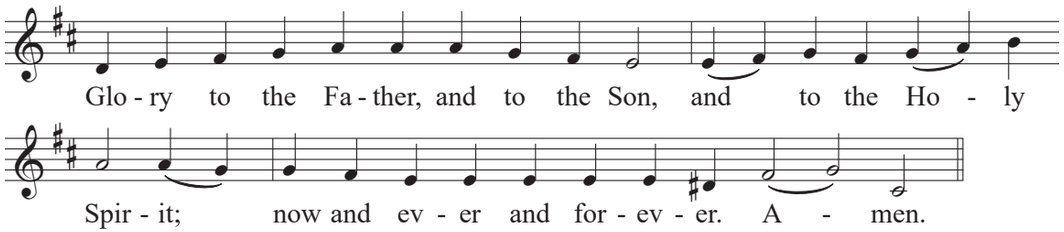
**Alleluia -** *Tone 6* (Psalm 90: 1, 2)




***Verse:*** The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

***Verse:*** He says to the Lord: You are my Protector, my Refuge, and my God in whom I trust.

**Cantor:**




*And the faithful sing the entire troparion:* O our Savior, through the greatness of your mercy, * you cleansed the sinners and publicans * and now your light shines on those who live in darkness. * O Lord, glory to you.

**Reading 7-13** *For the sake of brevity, a smaller number of readings may be chosen.)*

**Isaiah 1: 16-20**
**Genesis 32: 1-10**
**Exodus 2: 5-10**
**Judges 6: 36-40**
**I Kings 18: 30-39**
**II Kings 2: 19-22**
**Isaiah 49: 8-15** *(This reading should always be included.)*

**Small Litany**

**Deacon:** Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Response:**




**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**

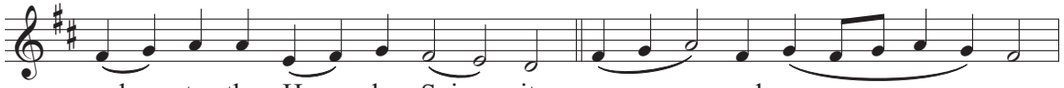



**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.





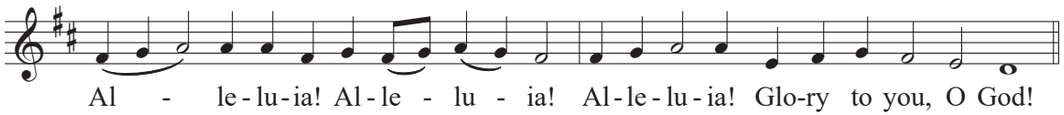






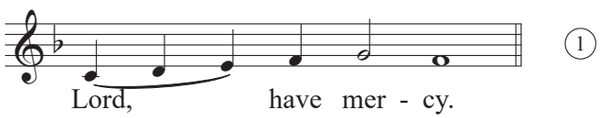
*Then three times, with a bow each time:*




*The faithful may SIT as the Litany of Peace begins:*

**Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

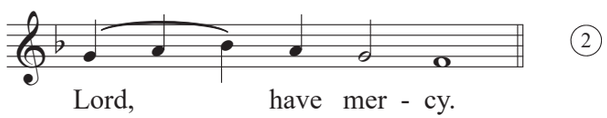
**Response:**




(1)

**Deacon:** For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**




(2)

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. (2)






**All:** And now your light shines on those who live in darkness. O Lord, glory to you.

**Cantor:**







**All:** And now your light shines on those who live in darkness. O Lord, glory to you.

**Cantor:**







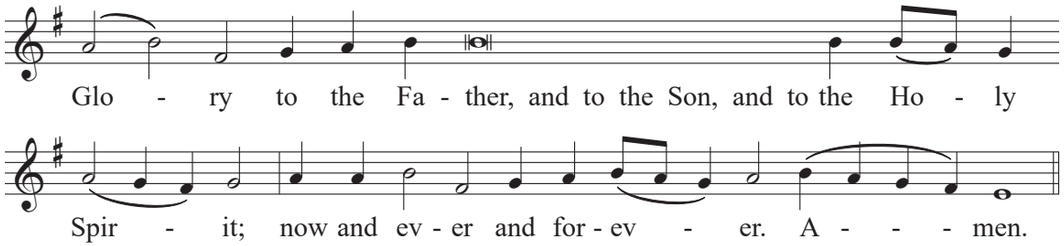
**All:** And now your light shines on those who live in darkness. O Lord, glory to you.

**Cantor:**




**All:** And now your light shines on those who live in darkness. O Lord, glory to you.

**Cantor:**




*And the faithful sing the entire troparion:* O Creator of the world, you appeared in the world * in order to shine upon those who live in darkness. * O Merciful One, glory to you.

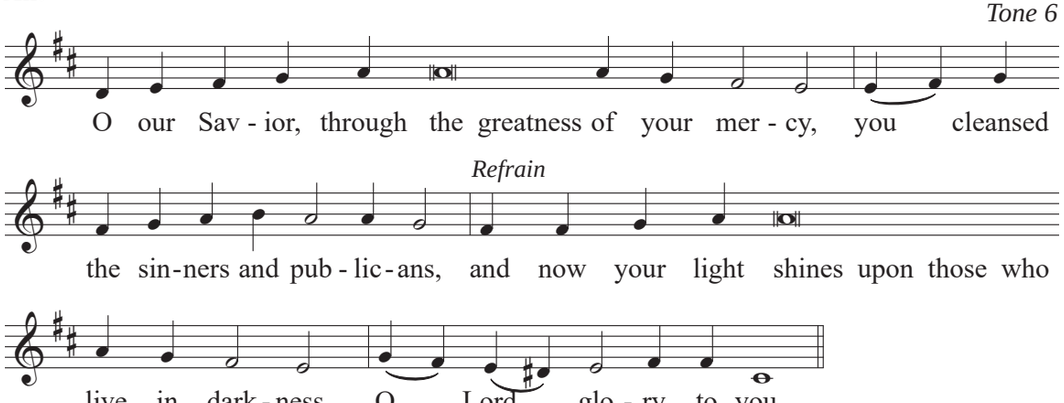
**Readings 4-6** *For the sake of brevity, one or two readings may be chosen.)*

**Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17**
**II Kings 2: 6-14**
**II Kings 5: 9-14** *(This reading should always be included)*

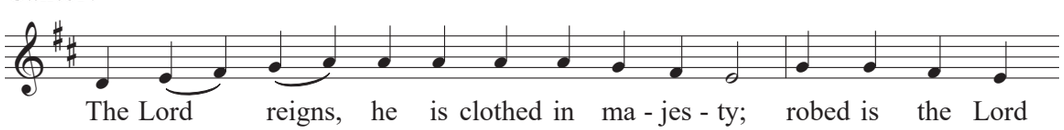
**Second Responsorial Troparion**

**All:**

*Tone 6*




**Cantor:**






For our holy father *(Name)*, pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For our most reverend metropolitan *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop *(Name)*, for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For this city *[or: For this holy monastery]*, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. (2)

*Special petitions may be inserted here.*

That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord. (1)

Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace. (2)

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:**




**Celebrant:** Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God.

For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**




## THE LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

*The faithful **STAND** for the great incensation of the church. They may **SIT** when the great incensation is complete. The opening verses of Psalm 140 with refrain are sung according to the tone of the first sticheron:*

**Psalm 140: -** *Tone 2 samohlasen*

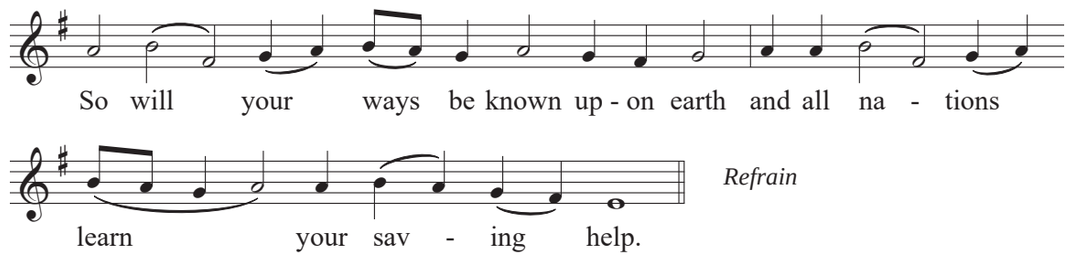





**Cantor:**



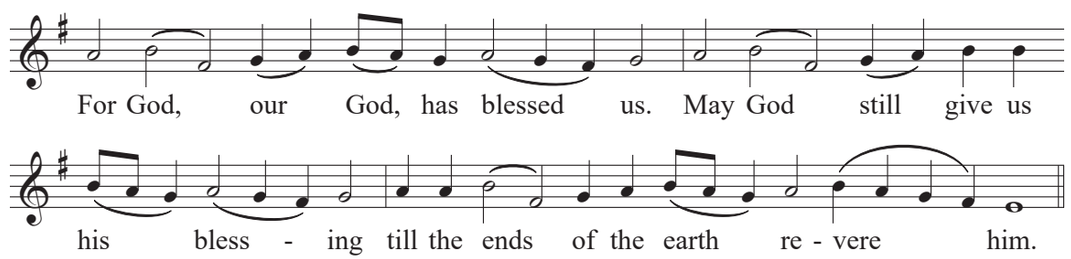

**Cantor:**



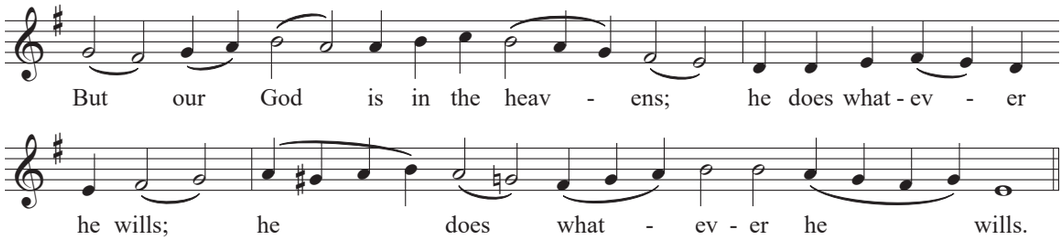

**Cantor:**




**Cantor:**



**Great Prokeimenon -** *Tone 7* (Psalm 113:11):




***Deacon:*** When Israel came forth from Egypt, Jacob's sons from an alien people,
Judah became the Lord's temple.

***Deacon:*** The sea fled at the sight; the Jordan turned back on its course.

***Deacon:*** Why was it, sea, that you fled? that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

**Readings 1-3** *(For the sake of brevity, one or two readings may be chosen.)*

**Genesis 1:1-13**
**Exodus 14: 15-18, 21-23, 27-29**
**Exodus 15: 22 through 16: 1** *(This reading should always be included)*

**First Responsorial Troparion**

**All:** *Tone 5*






O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of ***my*** lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I ***com***mit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it ***is*** kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against ***their*** malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words ***were*** kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of ***the*** grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare ***my*** soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who ***do*** evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way ***un***harmed.

**Psalm 141**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat ***the*** Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints ***with***in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to ***en***trap me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes ***my*** part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for ***my*** soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of ***the*** living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of ***dis***tress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger ***than*** I.

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

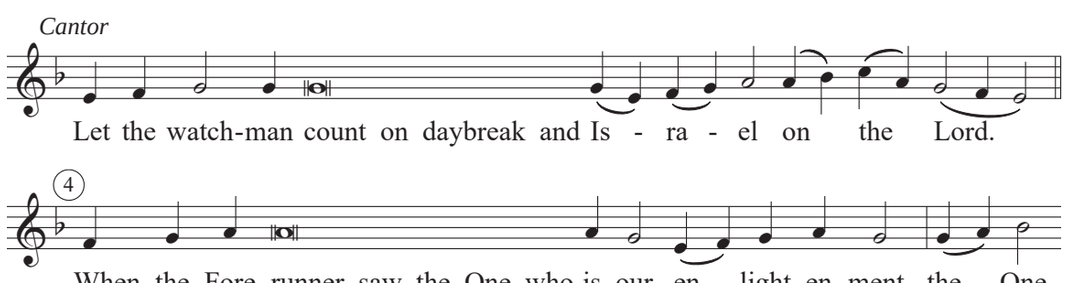
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness ***to*** me.

**Psalm 129:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear ***my*** voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of ***my*** pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we ***re***vere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman ***for*** daybreak.









**THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

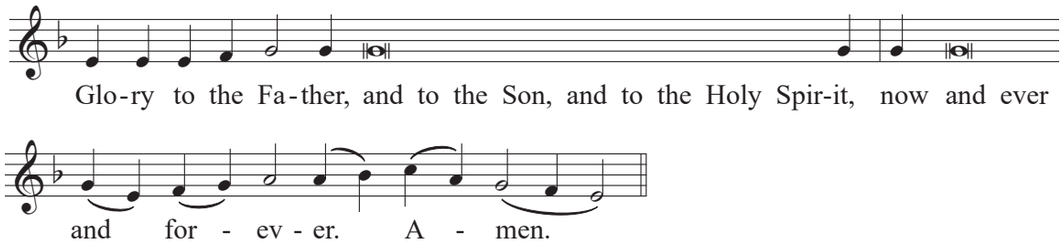
**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful sing the VESPERS PROKEIMENON of the day of the week; the deacon chants the verse. These prokeimena are on pages 118-120 of the Divine Liturgies book. But on Friday evening, we sing the Great Prokeimenon which is found on the next page:*

*The faithful **STAND** when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:*




*While the sticheron at "Glory …" is sung, the Little Entrance with the holy gospel book and censer is made through the northern door and the holy doors.*

**Doxastikon -** *Tone 2 samohlasen*




**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "**O Joyful Light**" is sung. The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.*






from heav - en: “This One up - on whom the Fore-run - ner lays his hands
is my be - lov - ed Son in whom I am well - pleased.” O Christ our
God, glo - ry to you!
Cantor
Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac-claim him all you peo - ples!
2
When the Jor - dan River re - ceived you, O Foun - tain - head, the
Com - fort - er descended in the form of a dove. Now be - hold the mar - vel:
the One who bowed the heavens bows his head to the Fore - run - ner,
and the one made of clay cries out to his Mak - er: "Why do you
com - mand me to perform what is be - yond my pow - er? It is I




who need to be bap - tized by you." O Christ our God, O Sin-less
One, glo - ry to you!
Cantor
Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful for - ev - er.
1
O God and Lord, when you resolved to save those who had strayed
from you, you con - de - scend - ed to take the form of a ser - vant,
for it was fit - ting that you assumed, for us, our hu - man na - ture.
And when you were baptized in the flesh, O our Re - deem - er,
it made us wor-thy of your for - give - ness. There-fore, we cry out to
you: O Christ our God, our Ben-e - fac - tor, glo - ry to you!