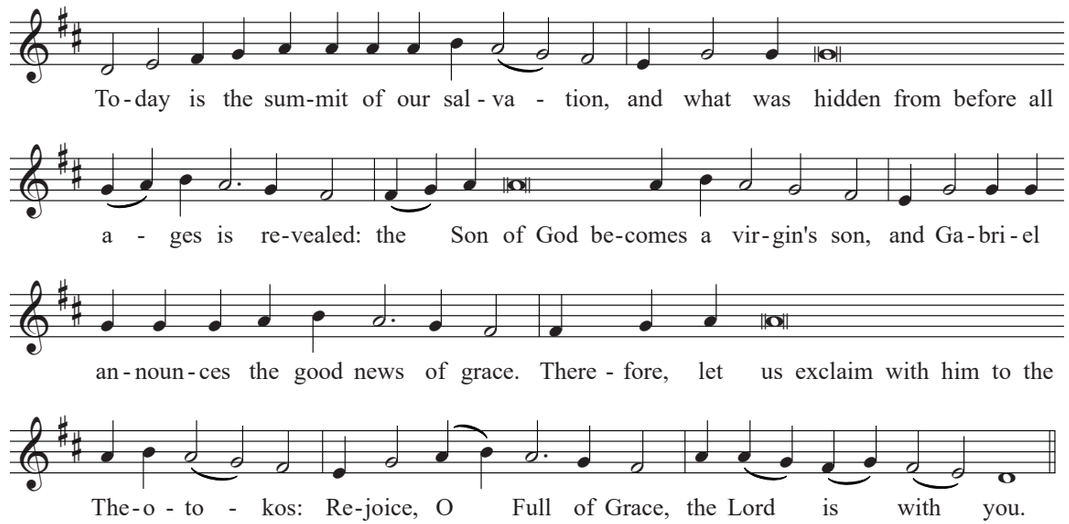
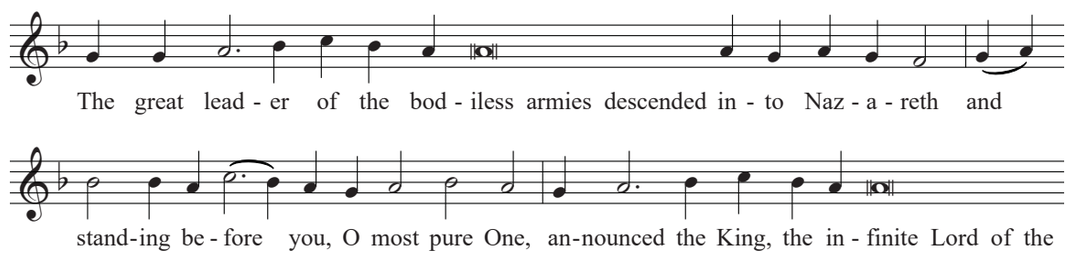
Matins propers, March 25

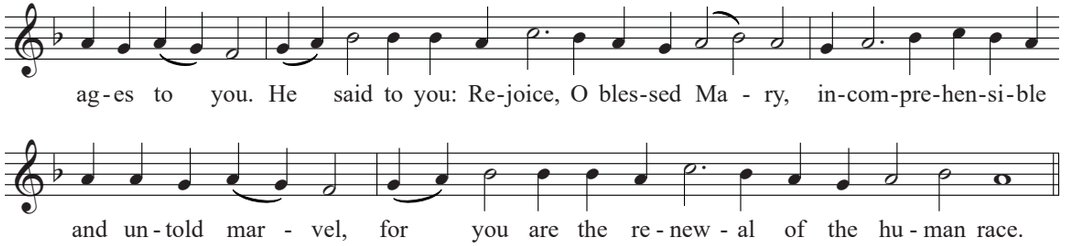
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY when, in the city of Nazareth, the angel of the Lord announced to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High." Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And thus the fullness of time was accomplished, and he who before time was the only-begotten Son of God was made flesh for our sake and for our salvation, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became human.

Troparion of the Annunciation - *Tone 4*
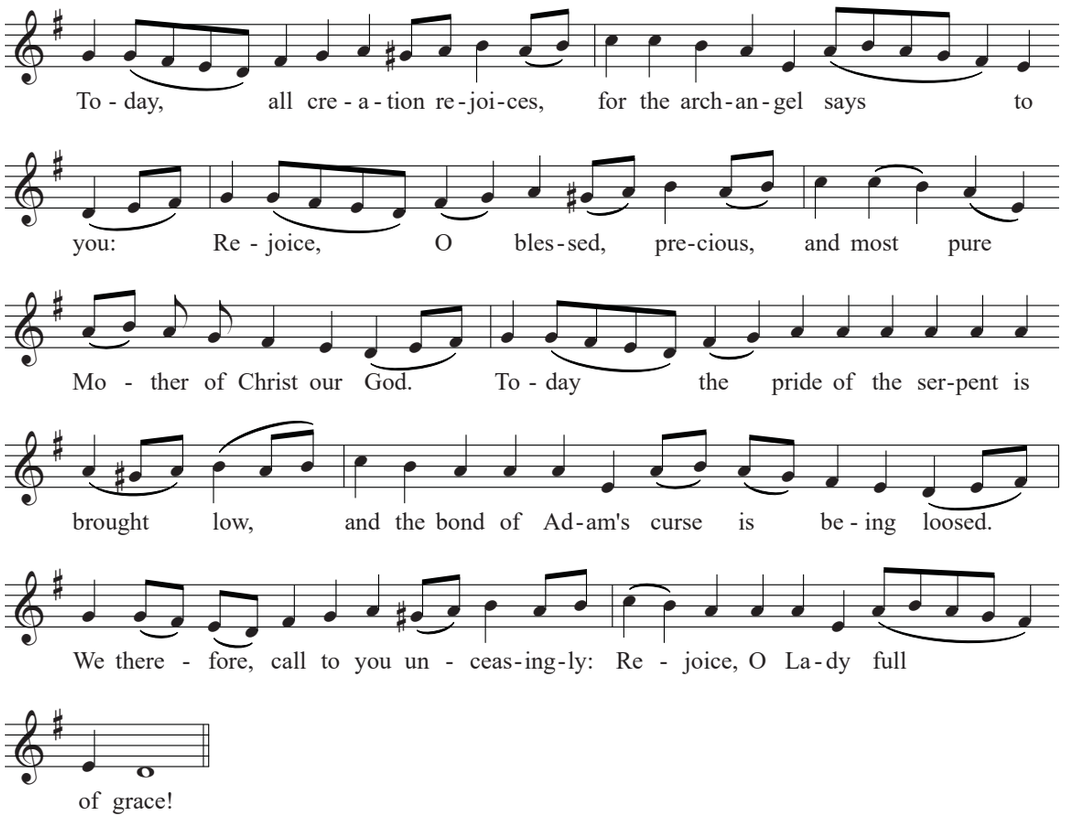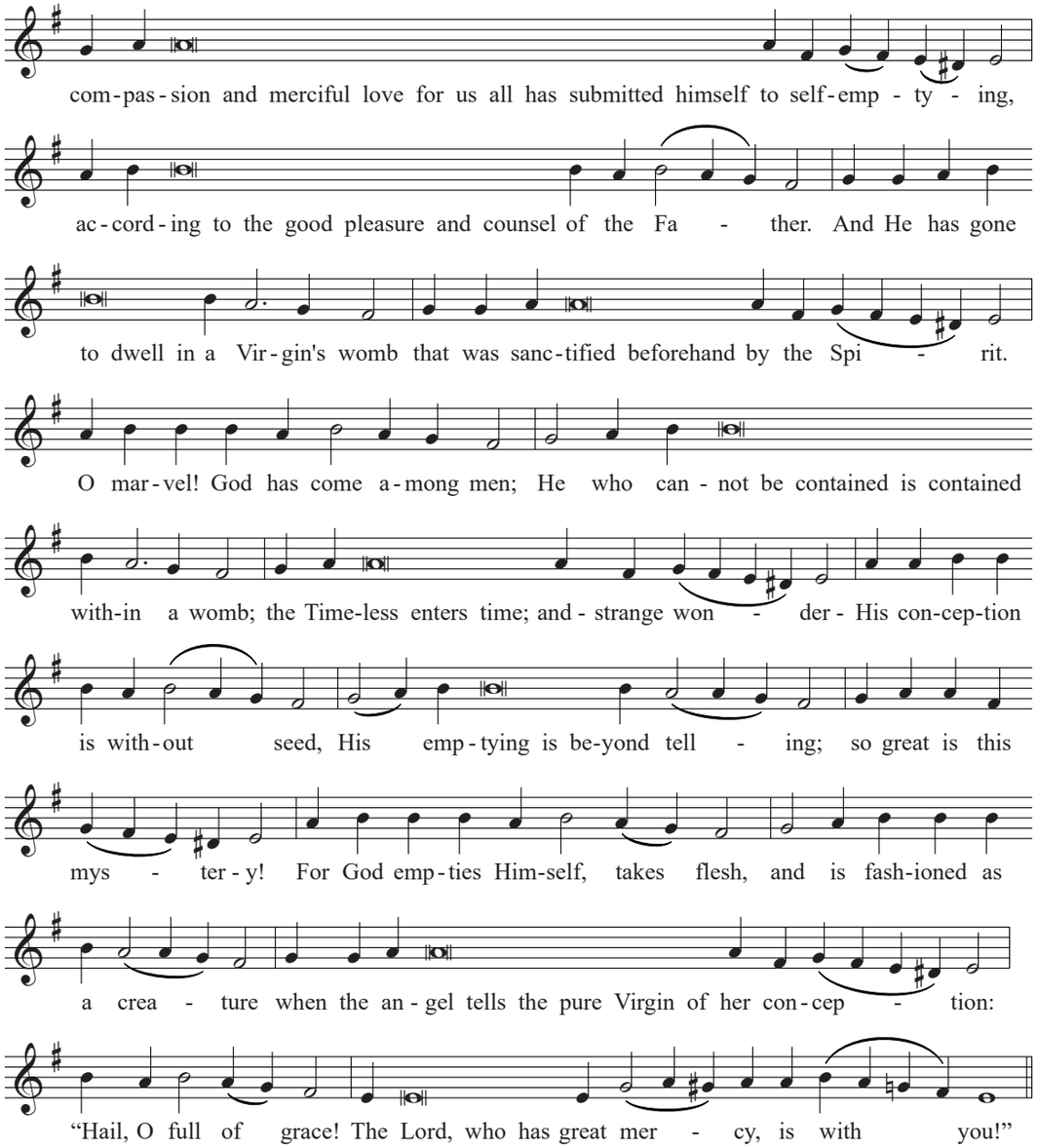


Sessional Hymn 1 - *Tone 1 podoben: Hrob tvoj*



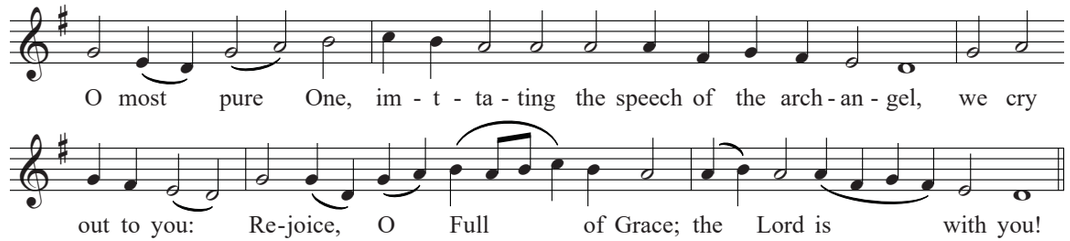


Sessional Hymn 2 - *Tone 4 podoben: Krasot'i divstva*





Exaltation after the Polyeleos: *This hymn is sung once by the priest, then once by the faithful. The priest (or reader) chants the verses, and after each verse the faithful repeat the Exaltation.*



Verse: He will descend like rain on the meadows, * like raindrops on the earth. *(Ps. 71:6)*
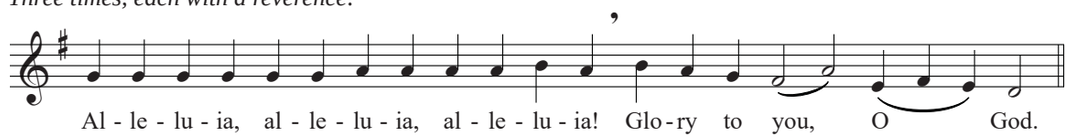
Verse: He lowered the heavens and came down, * a black cloud under his feet. *(Ps. 17:10)*

Verse: The Most High * has sanctified his dwelling place. *(Ps. 45:5)*

Verse: Let his glory fill the earth. * Amen! Amen! *(Ps. 71:19)*

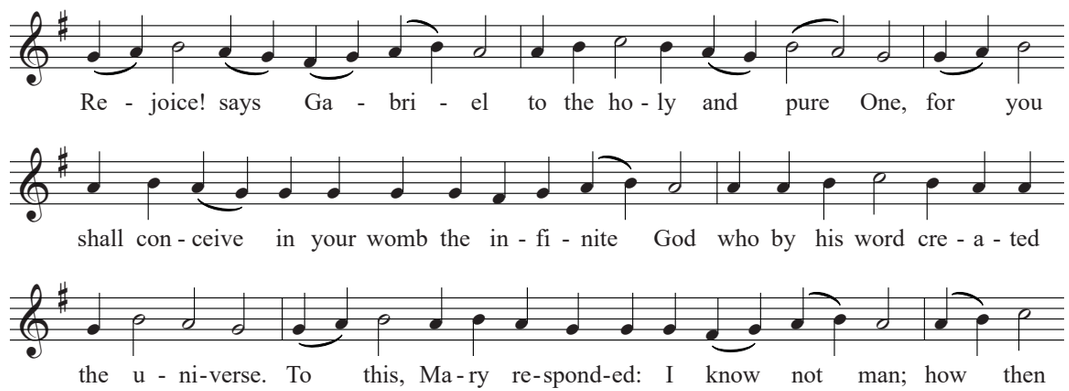
Verse: Glory…now and ever… *and repeat the Exaltation.*

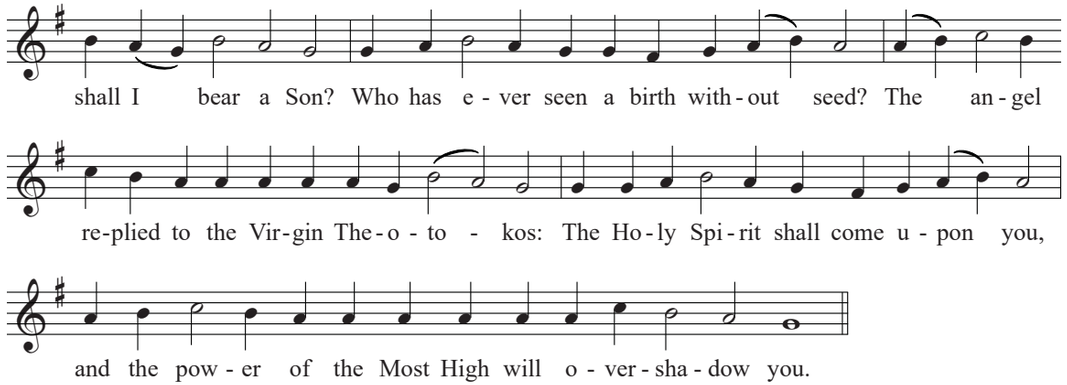
Three times, each with a reverence:
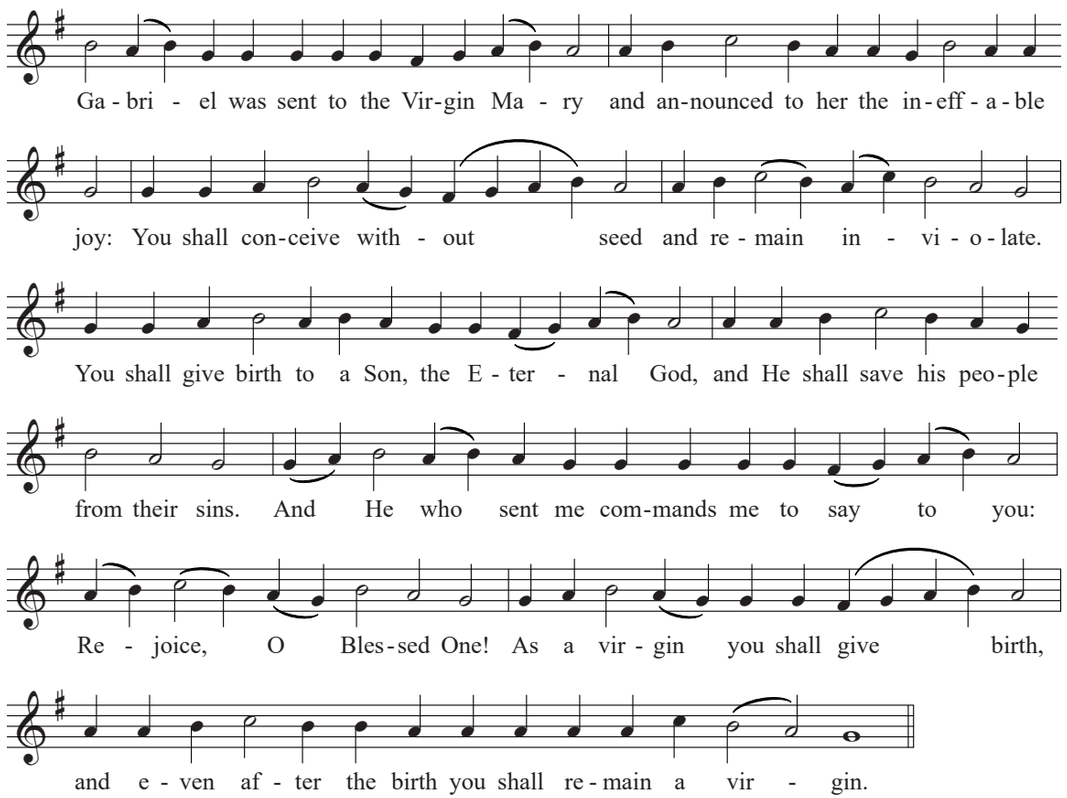


All repeat the Exaltation.
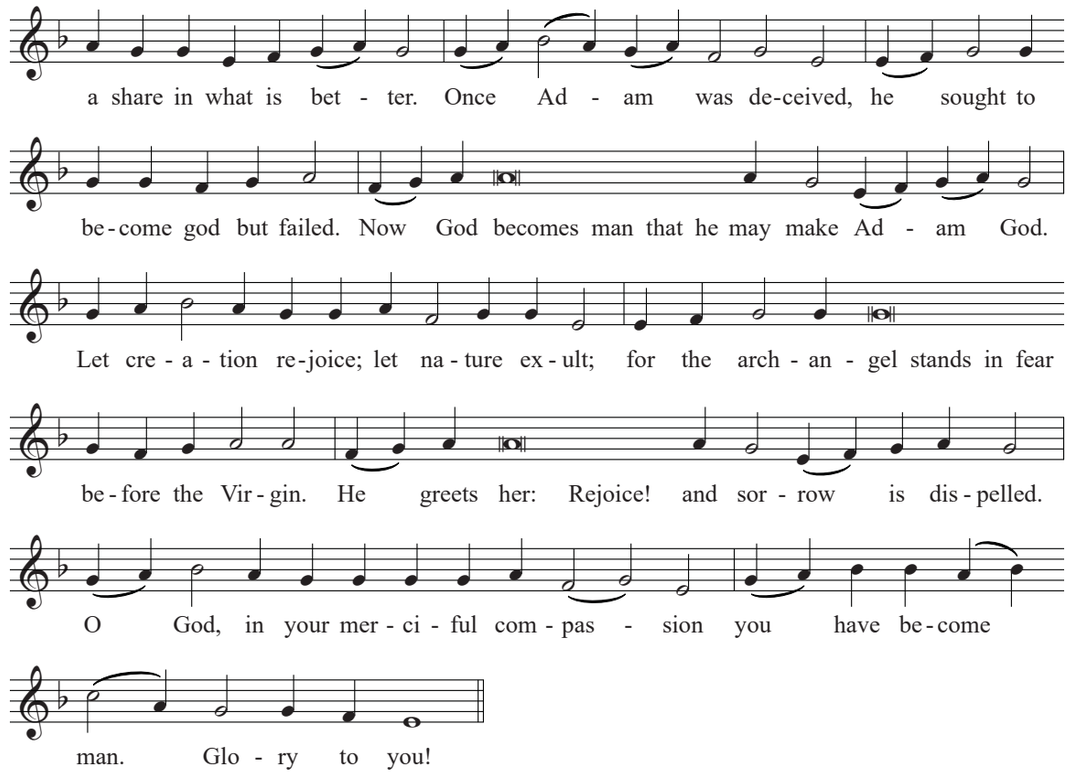
Sessional Hymn - *Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif*





Cantor: Glory... now and ever...

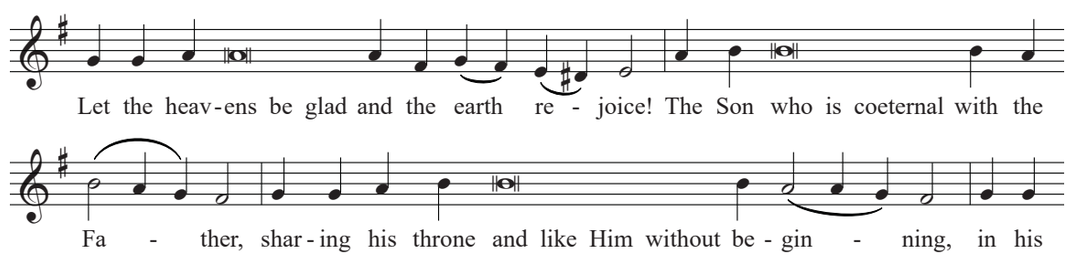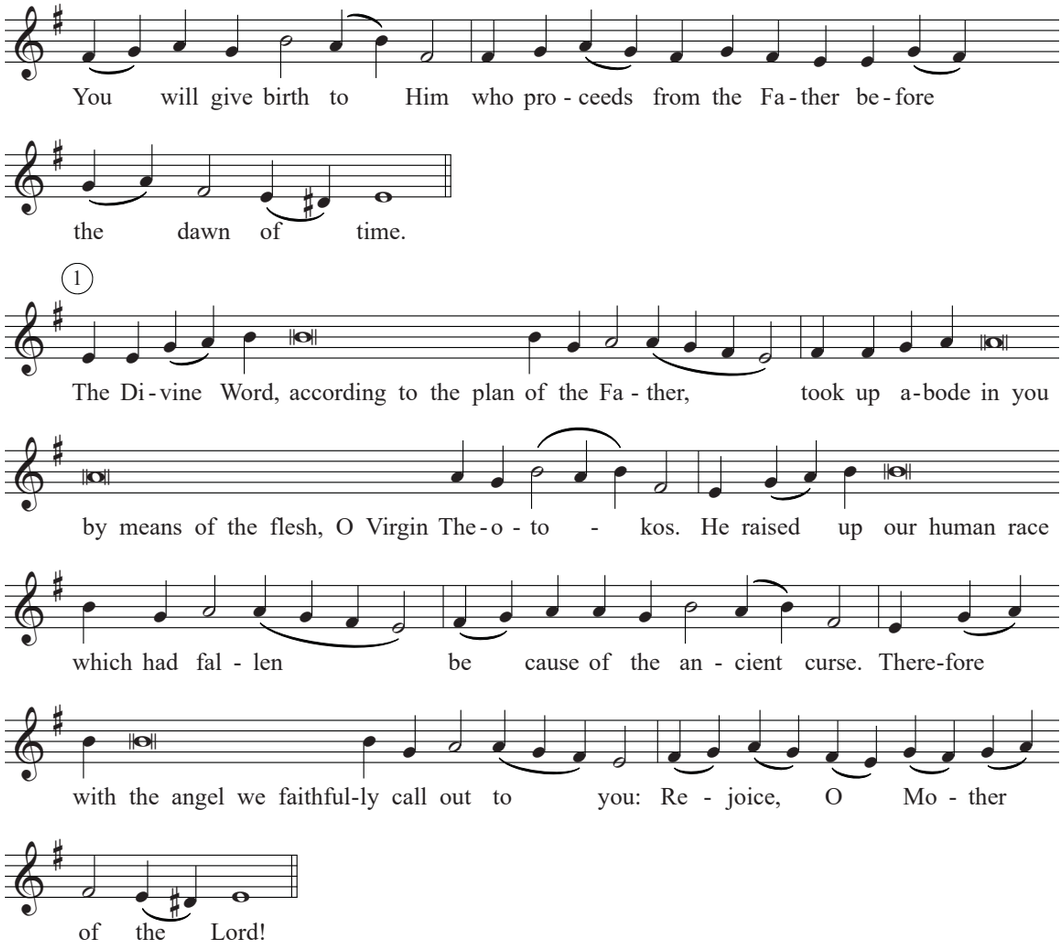




On Saturday or Sunday, continue with the Great Doxology, litanies and dismissal.

On a fast day, contine with the Small Doxology. At the Aposticha, sing the samohlasen (twice) and hymn to the martyrs for the day from the Triodion. Then:

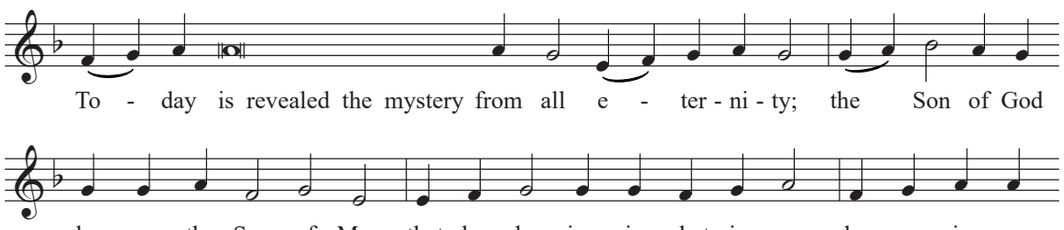
Cantor: Glory... now and ever...
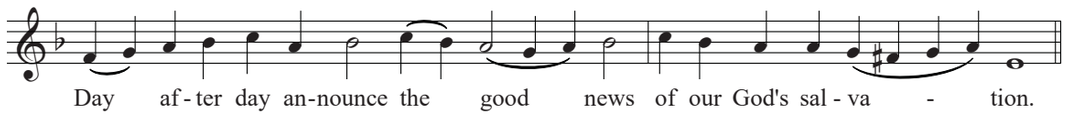




Cantor: *(Tone 2)* Glory... now and ever...

Tone 2 samohlasen



Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 95:2,1):
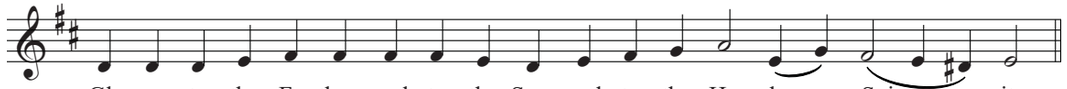


Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

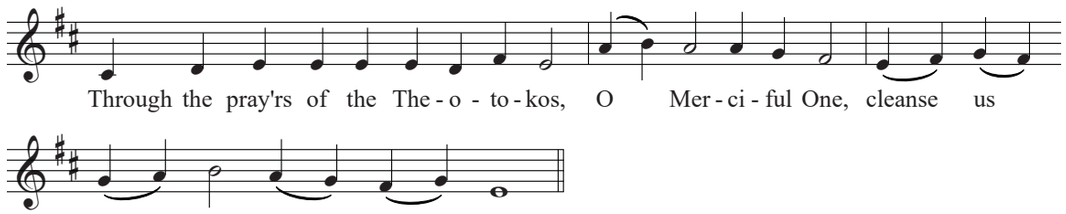
Stichera after Psalm 50

Cantor:

Tone 6 samohlasen



All:



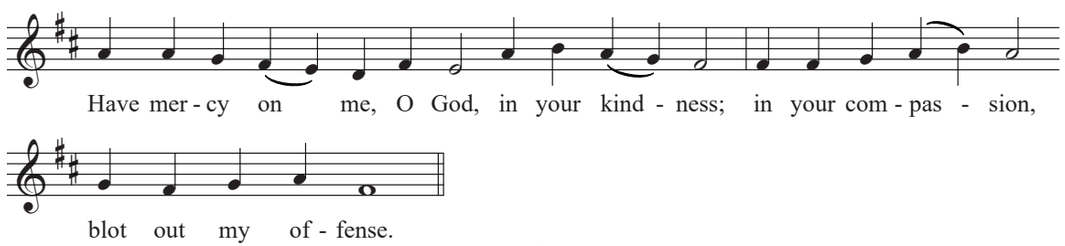
Cantor:



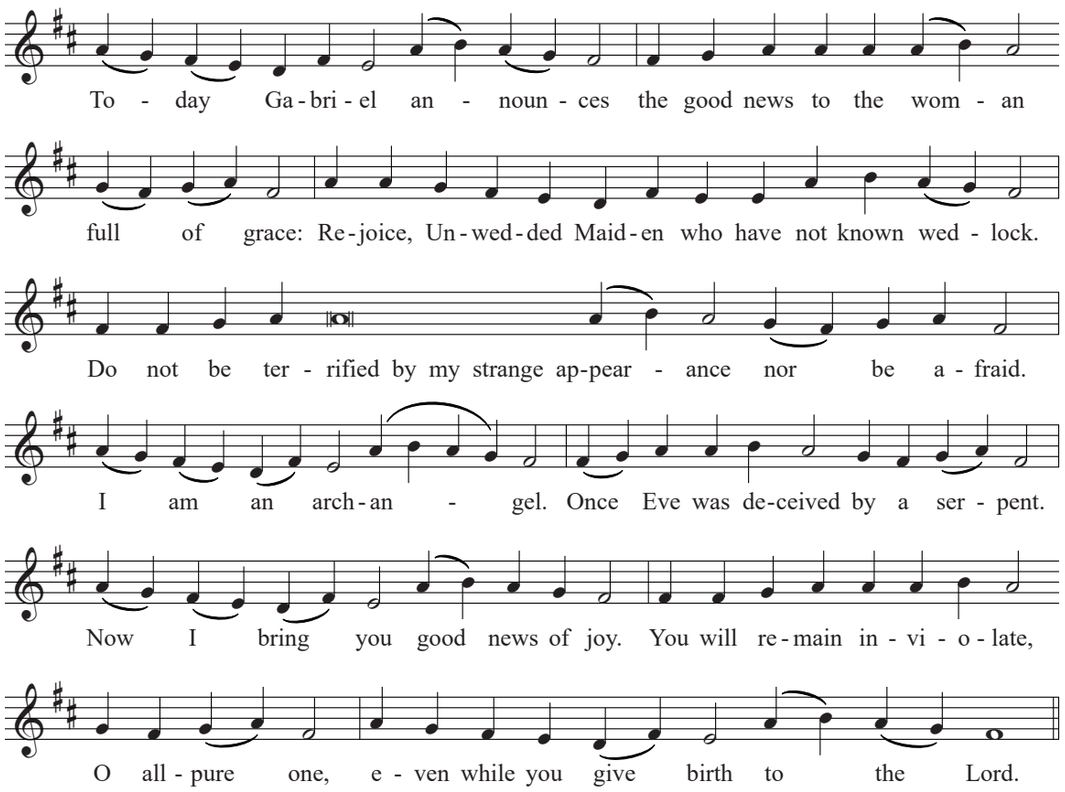
All repeat "Through the prayers of the Theotokos…"

Cantor:

Tone 2 Bolhar



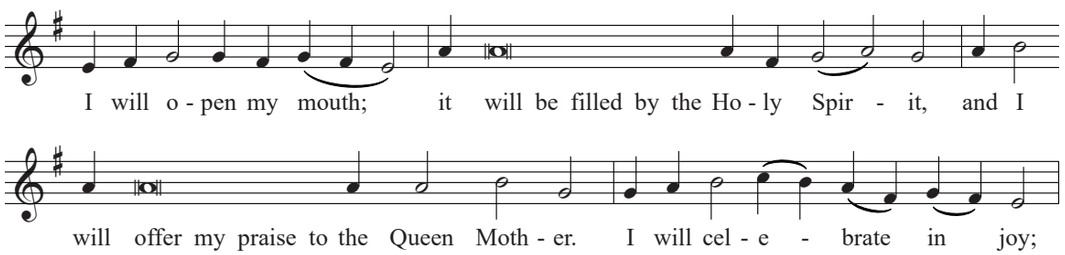
Tone 2 Bolhar
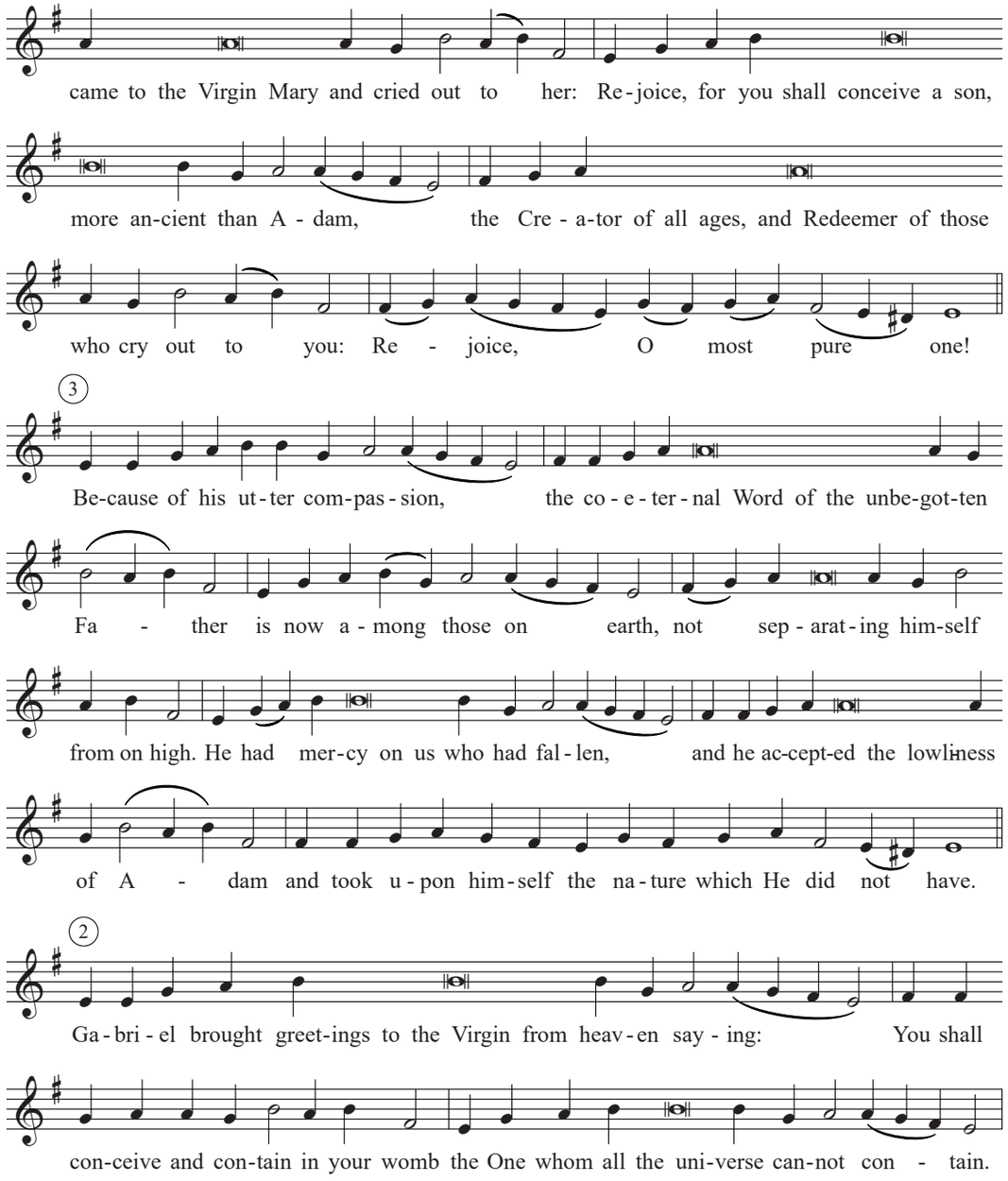


Canon

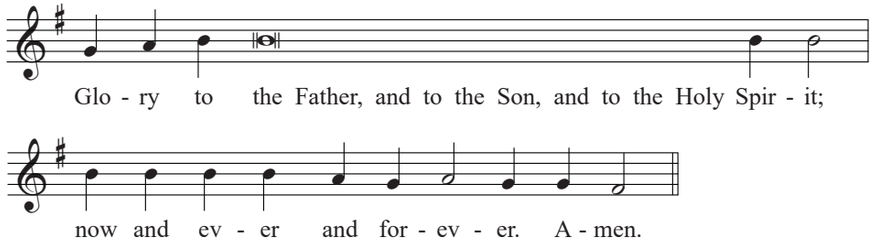
Ode 1

Irmos - *Tone 4*





The bush and the fire on Sinai revealed a marvelous wonder to Moses, the divine prophet. Seeking its fulfillment in the course of time, he said: I shall see it come to pass in the allpure Virgin when they shall greet her as the Mother of God and say: Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!



Daniel called you a spiritual mountain; Isaiah, the Mother of God; Gideon saw you as fleece, and David called you a sanctuary; another called you a gate. Gabriel now cries out to you: Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!

Hymn of Light
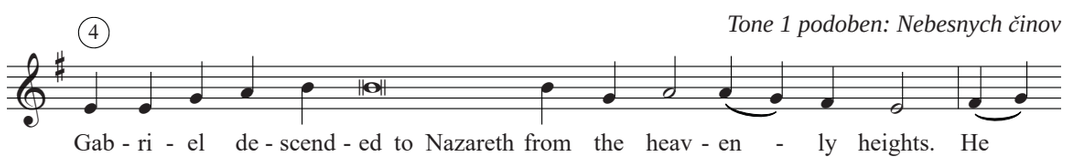
The leader of the angelic hosts was sent from God Almighty to the pure Virgin to announce the strange and ineffable miracle: the Incarnation of God and his birth from a virgin, in order to refashion the human race. Therefore, O peoples, proclaim with joy the renewal of the world.
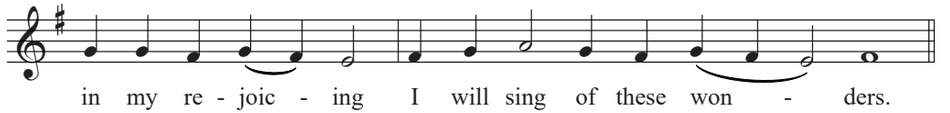
Glory be ...now and ever...

The eternal mystery of God is proclaimed today. Through his mercy, God the Word becomes the Son of the Virgin Mary. Gabriel announces the joy of the good news. With him, then, let us all joyfully sing to her: Rejoice, O Mother of the Lord!

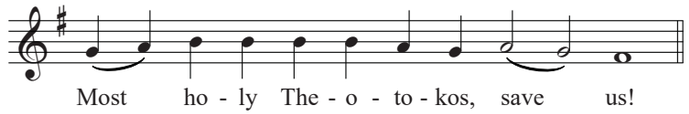
Stichera at the Praises (Psalms 148-150)

Tone 1 podoben: Nebesnych činov





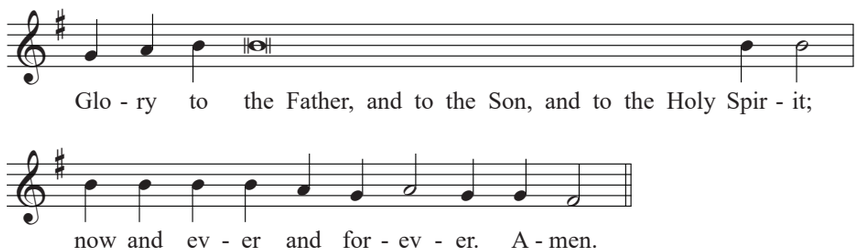
Refrain



Let David, your forefather, sing to you, O Lady, playing upon the lyre of the Spirit: Listen, O daughter, to the joyous voice of the angel, for he reveals to you a mystery beyond comprehension. *Refrain*

The Angel: With great joy I cry out to you: Incline your ear and listen to me as I tell you of the conception of God without seed. For you, O most pure One, have found favor with the Lord which is unknown to any other woman. *Refrain*

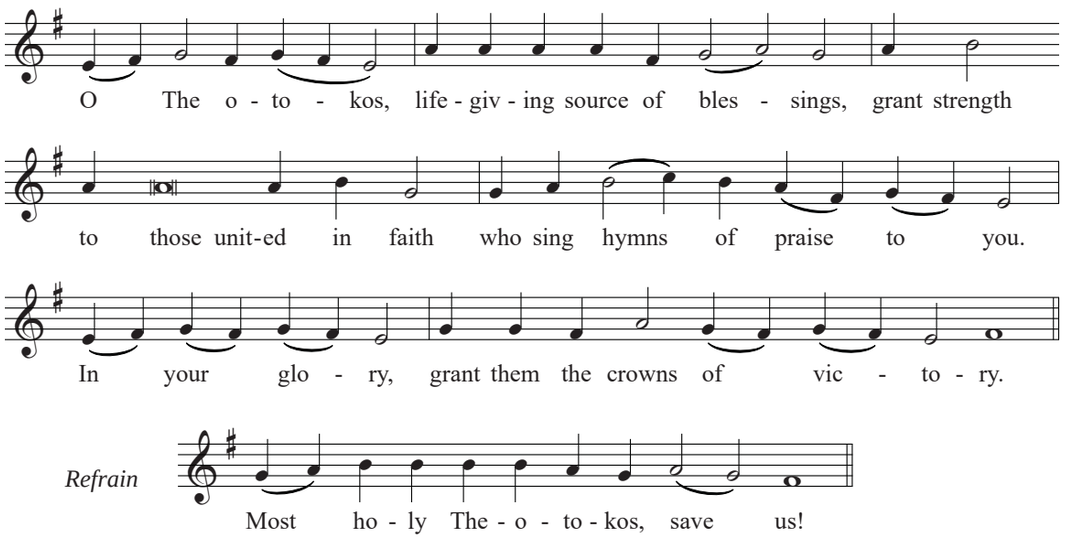
The Theotokos: Help me to understand the meaning of your words, O angel. How can what you say ever come to pass? Tell me clearly, how shall I, who am a virgin, conceive? And how shall I become the Mother of my Creator?



The Angel: It appears that you think I am deceiving you, and I rejoice to see your prudence. But take courage, O Lady, for wondrous mysteries are easily accomplished when God so wills.

Ode 3

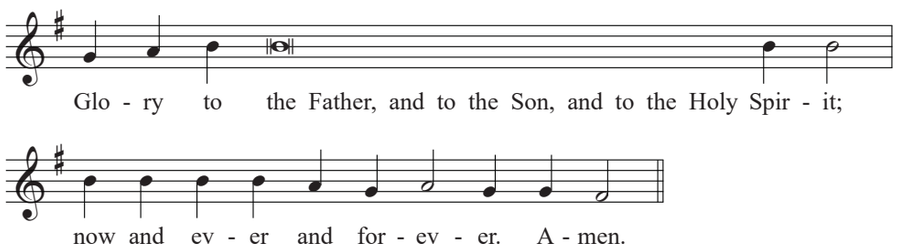
Irmos - *Tone 4*



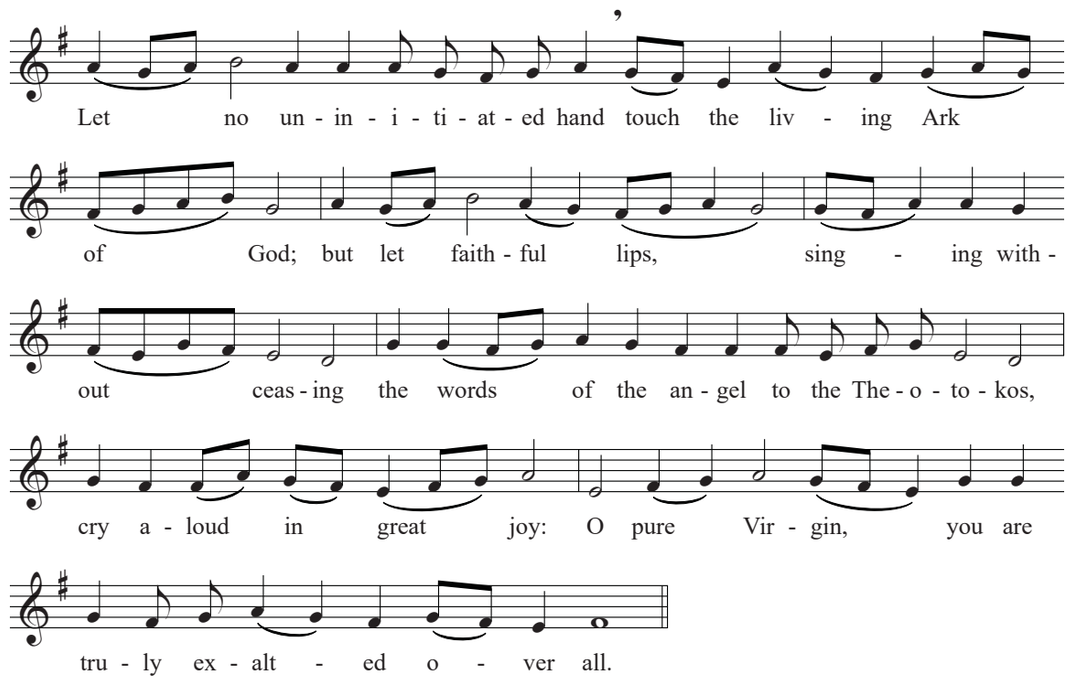
The Theotokos: No longer is there a prince from the line of Judah, but the time is at hand for Christ, the hope of the Gentiles, to appear. Do explain to me how I, a virgin, shall bear Him. *Refrain*

The Angel: O Virgin, you wish that I would tell you the manner of your conceiving, but this is beyond all comprehension. The Holy Spirit shall overshadow you, and through his power these things shall come to pass. *Refrain*

The Theotokos: When Eve, my mother, listened to the beguilement of the serpent, she was cast out of Paradise; therefore, I am afraid of your strange greeting, and I am cautious lest I should fall..



Irmos - *Tone 4*



The magnification ("O earth, proclaim the good news...") is repeated before each of the following verses:

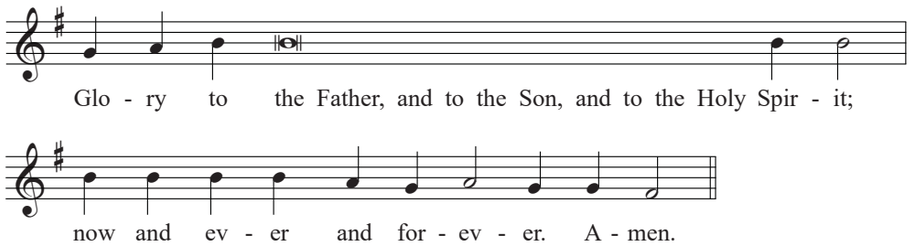
You surpassed the laws of nature, O Virgin, by conceiving God in a manner beyond understanding. Although you were mortal by nature, you were not subject to the ordinary laws of motherhood. Therefore, it is fitting that you should be greeted with: Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!

The mortal mind cannot understand how you can nourish with milk, O pure Virgin. For you manifest a mystery beyond nature which completely surpasses the usual laws of birth. Therefore, it is fitting that you should be greeted with: Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!

O Mother of God, the Holy Scriptures mystically speak of you. In ancient times Jacob saw you prefigured in the ladder and said: This is the stairway on which God shall walk. Therefore, it is fitting that you should be greeted with: Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!

The Theotokos: The Virgin, who is without reproach, answered: Childbirth comes from mutual love, such is the law God has given to the human race. I have not known the pleasure of marriage, so how can you say that I shall bear a child? I am afraid that you are deceiving me. But yet you cry out: O all you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

The Angel: You speak to me, O holy Virgin, of the usual way in which birth takes place, but I tell you of the birth of the true God. In a manner beyond comprehension and expression, in a way known only to Him, God shall take flesh from you. Therefore, I cry out in joy: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

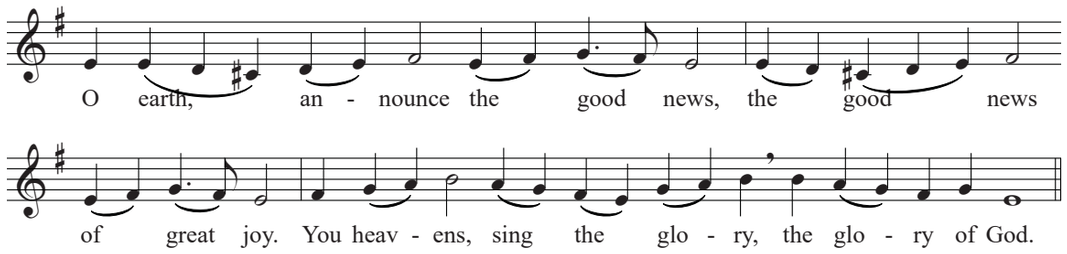


The Theotokos: It seems that you are speaking the truth to me, for you have come as a messenger bringing joy to all. Since the Holy Spirit has purified my soul and body, let it be done to me as you say; may God dwell within me. With you I cry out to Him: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

The Canticle of the Theotokos is NOT sung; instead, we continue with the ninth ode:

Ode 9

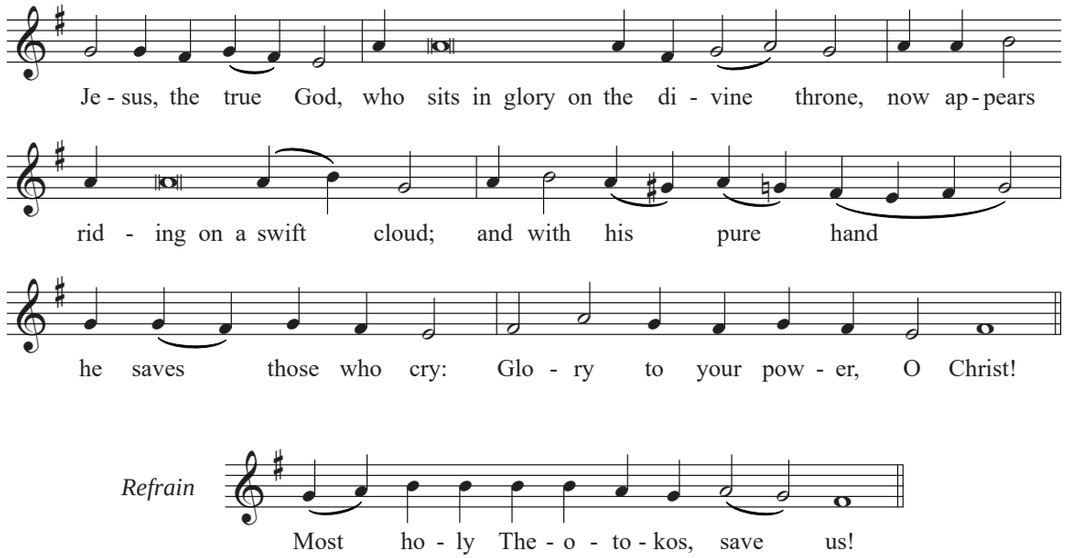
Magnification



The Angel: I was sent as the messenger of God to reveal to you the divine will. Why do you fear me, O most pure One? Rather, it is I who fear you. Why do you stand in awe of me, O Lady? It is I who stand in reverent awe of you.

Ode 4

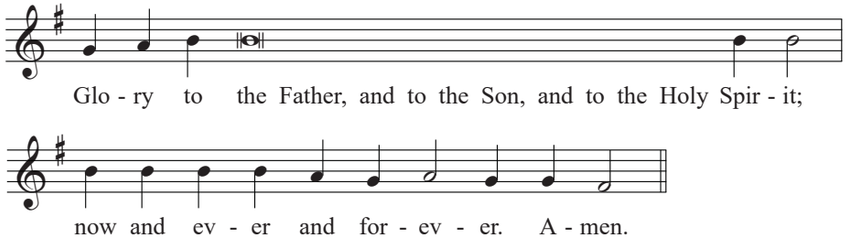
Irmos - *Tone 4*



The Theotokos: I have learned from the Prophet, who foretold in ancient times the coming of Emmanuel, that a certain holy Virgin would bear a child. But I desire to know how the human race shall be united with the Godhead. *Refrain.*

The Angel: The burning bush that remained unconsumed revealed the secret mystery that shall come to pass in you, O pure Virgin full of grace. For after childbirth you shall remain a virgin. *Refrain.*

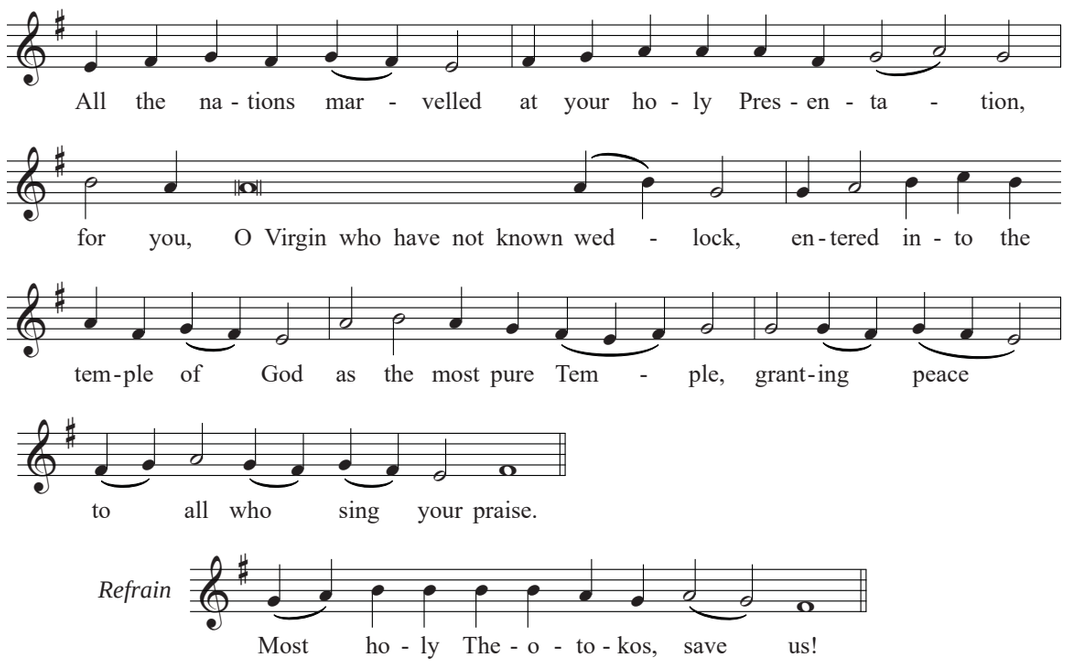
The Theotokos: O Gabriel, messenger of the truth who shines with the radiance of Almighty God, tell me in truth: How shall I, without harm to my virginity, bear in the flesh the Word who has no body?
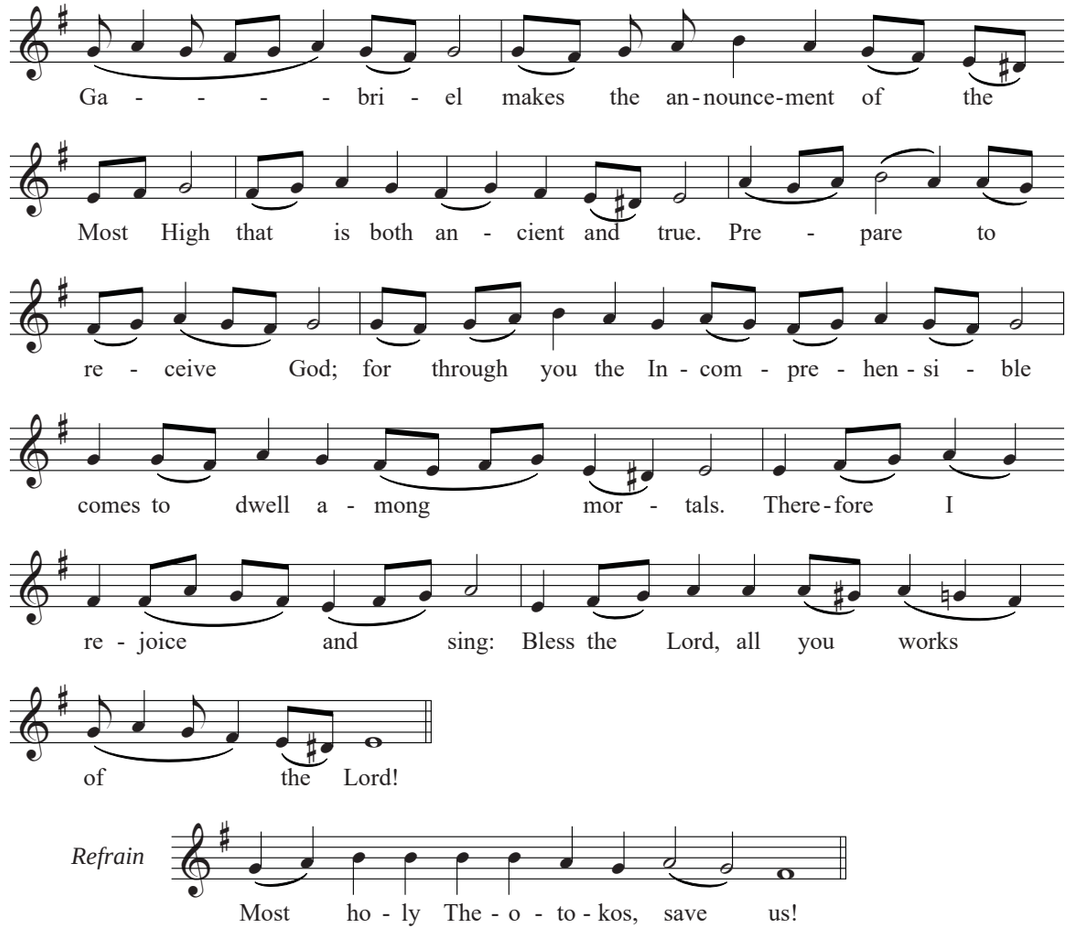


The Angel: O Virgin, I stand before you in fear as a servant before the Queen; and in awe I am afraid to raise my eyes to you. In his good pleasure, the Word of God shall descend upon you as dew upon the fleece.

Ode 5

Irmos - *Tone 4*



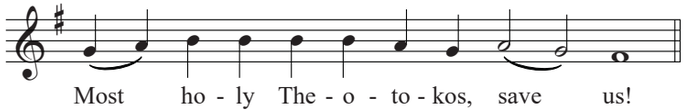
The Theotokos: I do not understand what your words mean. There have been many miracles and wonders worked by the power of God, many symbols and figures foretold in the Law, but never has a virgin given birth without seed. *Refrain*



The Theotokos: All mortal thought is astonished as it tries to comprehend the strange wonders which you tell me. Your words fill me with joy; yet I am afraid that you might deceive me, as Eve was deceived, and lead me astray. Yet behold, you cry out: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! *Refrain*

The Angel: Put your troubled mind at ease. It is true that this matter is hard to grasp. Obey, then, the words from your own lips; do not doubt as though these things I say are false, but believe in them as what is true. For I cry out, rejoicing: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord! *Refrain*

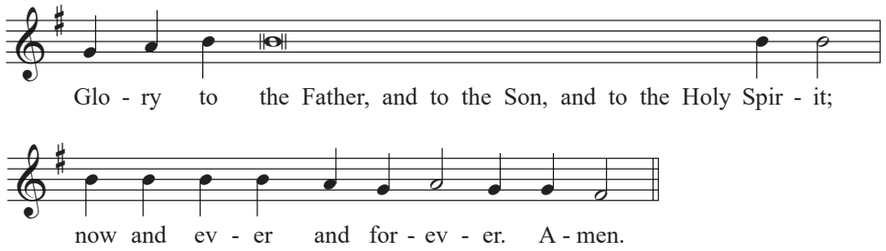
Refrain



The Theotokos: You bring me glad tidings of great joy, that in his generous compassion, the immaterial Light will assume a material body; and now you cry out to me: O all-pure Virgin, blessed is the fruit of your womb!

The Angel: Rejoice, O Lady; rejoice, O most pure Virgin; rejoice, O vessel that contains God; rejoice, O candlestick of the Light, the restoration of Adam, and the deliverance of Eve, the holy mountain, the shining sanctuary, and the bridal chamber of immortality.
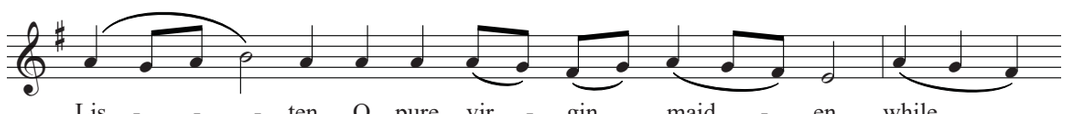
The Theotokos: The overshadowing of the Holy Spirit purified my soul and sanctified my body; through his power I have become a temple that contains God, a divinely adorned tabernacle, a living sanctuary, and the pure Mother of Life.



The Angel: O all-pure Virgin, I acknowledge you as a brightly burning lamp and as a bridal chamber made by God. Receive now, as a golden ark, the Giver of the Law who has been pleased to deliver our corrupted nature through you.

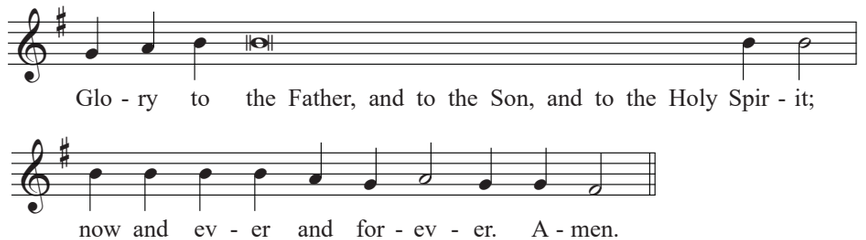
Ode 8

Irmos - *Tone 4*



The Angel: O all-pure Virgin, you are amazed, and indeed the mystery in which you participate is amazing; for you alone shall carry within your womb the King of all in the flesh. You are prefigured by the sayings of the prophets and by the symbols of the Law. *Refrain*

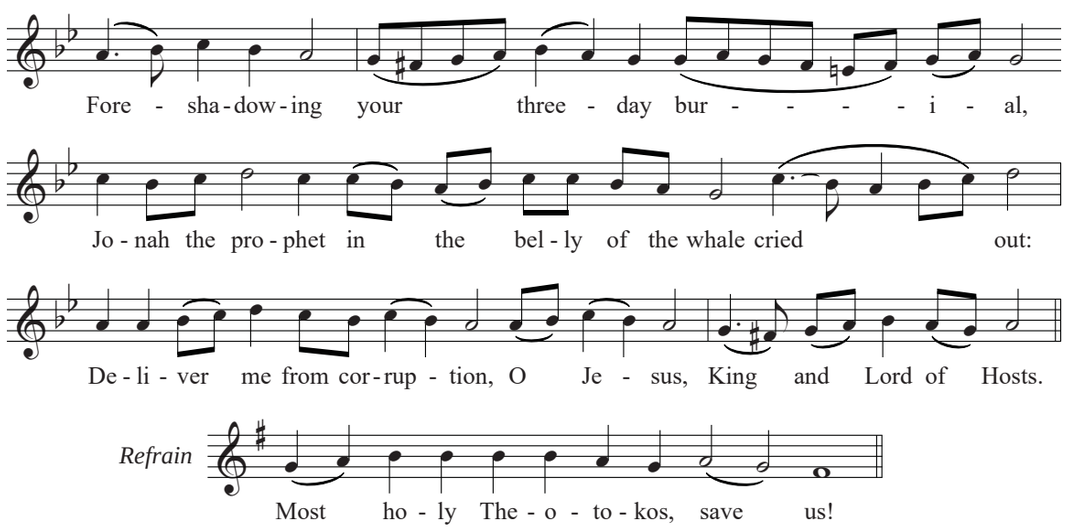
The Theotokos: How can the One whom nothing can contain and upon whom no one can gaze, dwell in the womb of a virgin whom He has created? And how shall I conceive God the Word, who is eternal with the Father and the Spirit? *Refrain*



The Angel: The One who promised David, your forefather, that the fruit of his loins would sit upon the throne of his kingdom is the One that has chosen you, the glory of Jacob, as his spiritual abode.

Ode 6

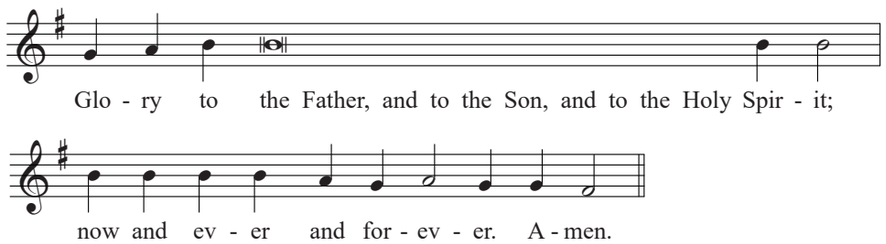
Irmos



The Theotokos: I am filled with divine joy, O Gabriel, as I hear your glad tidings; for you tell me of a joy that has no end. *Refrain*

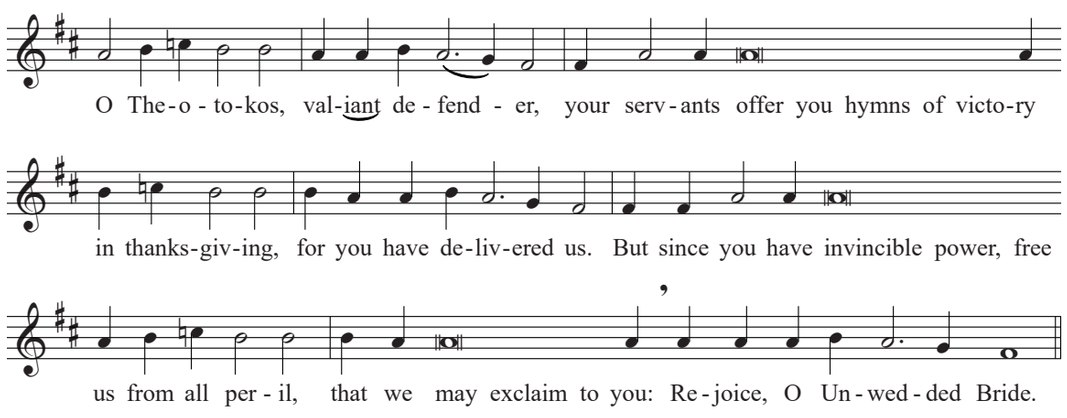
The Angel: O Mother of God, divine joy is given to you; all creation praises you. Rejoice, O Bride of God; for you alone, O pure Virgin, were chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God. *Refrain*

The Theotokos: May the curse of Eve be brought low through me, and may her debt be paid back today. May the ancient debt be completely satisfied. *Refrain*



The Angel: God promised Abraham, our forefather, that the Gentiles would be blessed through his seed, O pure Lady; today through you this promise is fulfilled.

Kontakion - *Tone 8*



Ikos: An archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Mother of God, and as he saw You assuming a body at the sound of His bodiless voice, O Lord, he stood rapt in amazement and cried to her in these word:

Rejoice, O you through whom joy will shine forth;
Rejoice, O you through whom the curse will disappear!
Rejoice, O Restoration of the fallen Adam;
Rejoice, O Redemption of the tears of Eve!
Rejoice, O Peak above the reach of human thought;
Rejoice, O Depth even beyond the sight of angels!
Rejoice, for you have become a kingly throne;
Rejoice, for you carry Him who carries all!
Rejoice, O Star who manifests the Sun;
Rejoice, O Womb of the Divine Incarnation!
Rejoice, O you through whom creation is renewed;
Rejoice, O you through whomthe Creator becomes a Babe!
Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

Ode 7

Irmos - *Tone 4*

