The Service of Great Vespers for the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

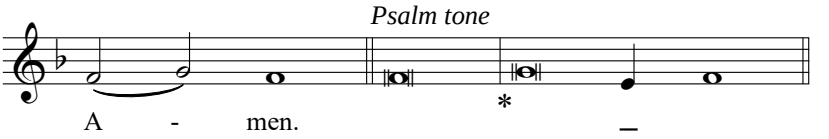
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST in which Christ Jesus, beloved only-begotten Son of the eternal Father, manifested his glory in the presence of the holy Apostles Peter, James, and John, with the Law and the prophets bearing witness in the persons of Moses and Elijah. This was done so that, while sharing the servile humility of our state he might intimate our glorious restoration through grace. Thus it might be announced to the ends of the earth that the image of God, in which humanity was created, even as it was corrupted in Adam, would be restored in Christ.

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
July, 2018

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Glory to you, our God,* glory ***to*** you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,
come and dwell within us,
cleanse us from all stain, *
and save our souls, O gra***cious*** One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, *
Holy and Immortal, have mercy ***on*** us. *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions; *
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for ***your*** name's sake.
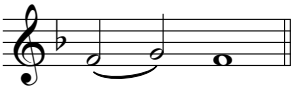
Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,*
but deliver us ***from*** evil.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
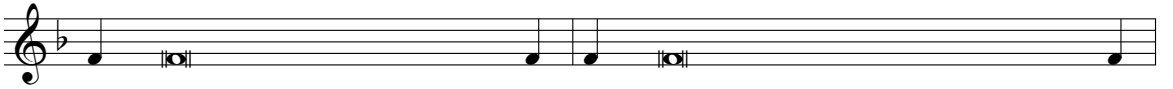


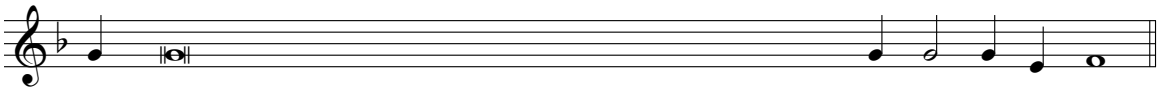
Lord, have mercy. *(twelve times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.
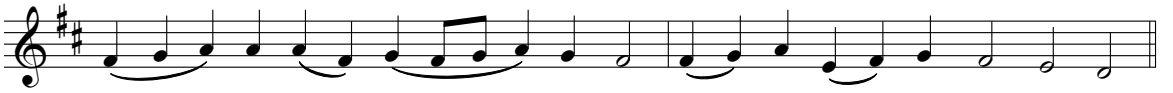
Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence
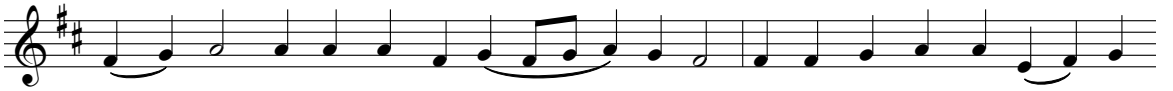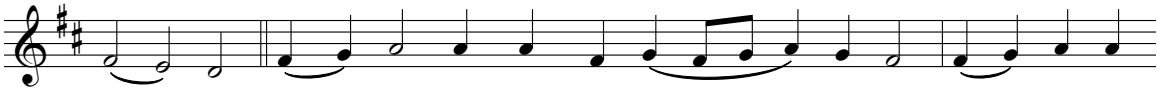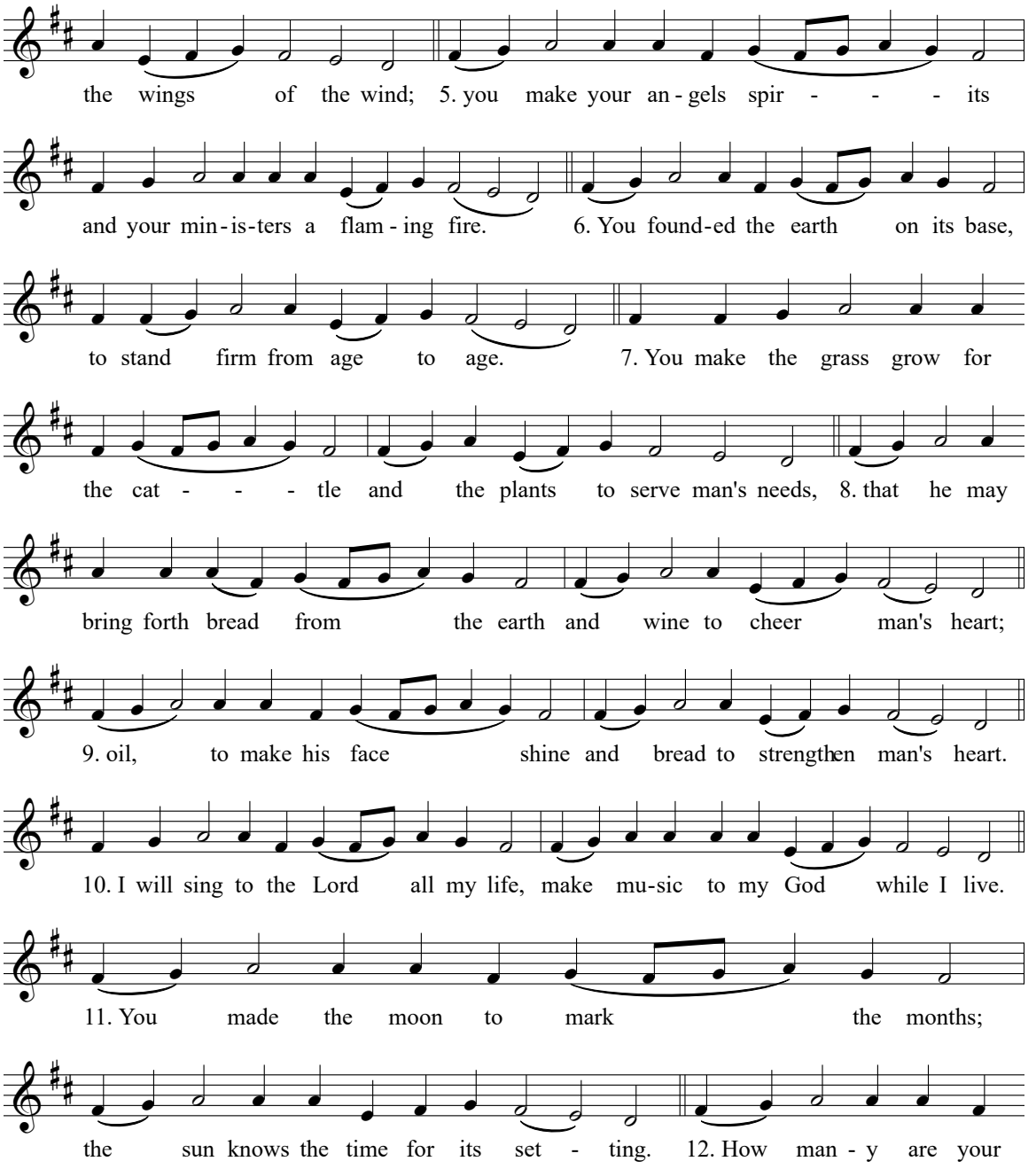




Psalm 103

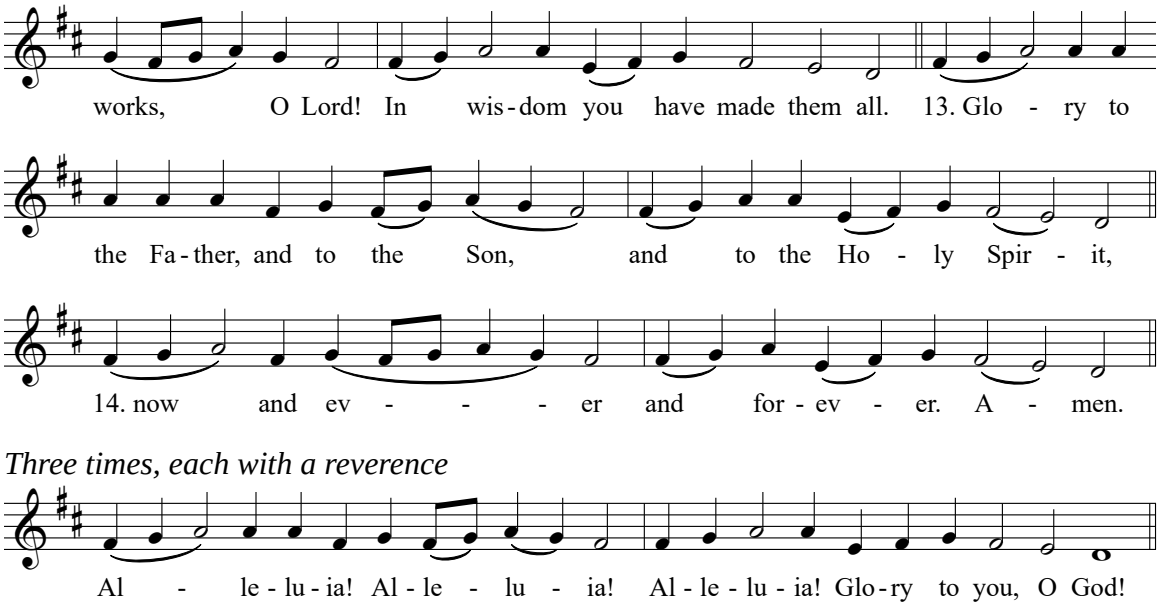









the wings of the wind; 5. you make your an - gels spir - - - its
and your min - is-ters a flam - ing fire. 6. You found-ed the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age. 7. You make the grass grow for
the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, 8. that he may
bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;
9. oil, to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.
10. I will sing to the Lord all my life, make mu-sic to my God while I live.
11. You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for its set - ting. 12. How man - y are your
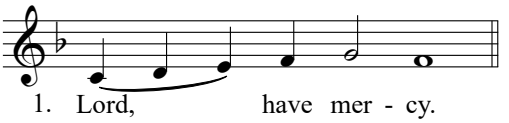


Three times, each with a reverence

Litany of Peace
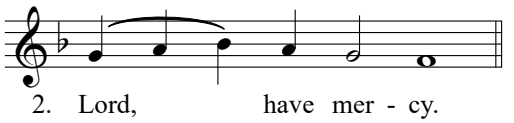
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



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

Response:



Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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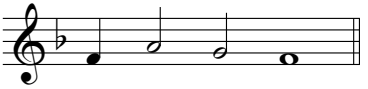
Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)
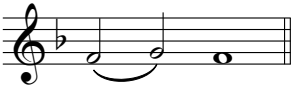
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:



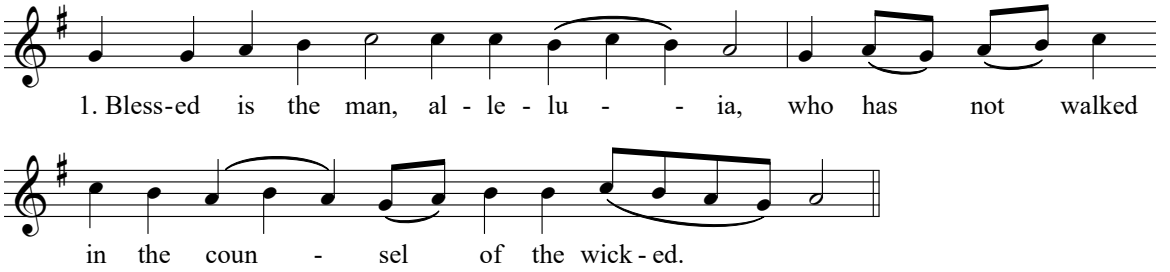
Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, 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:
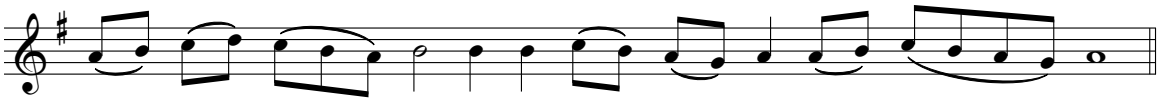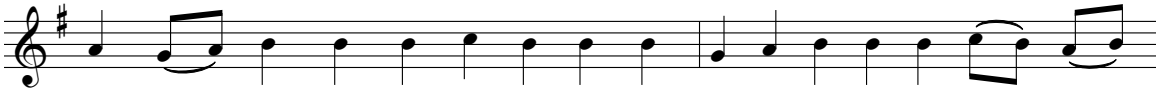


The First Kathisma
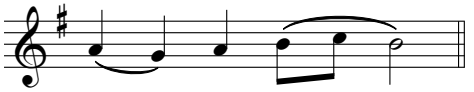
The Cantor sings the verses; the faithful sing the refrain
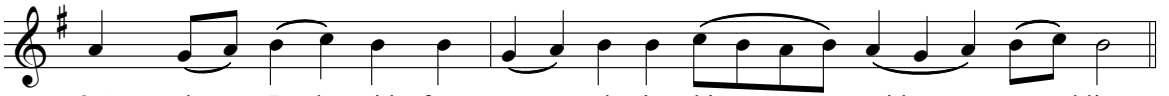


Refrain:
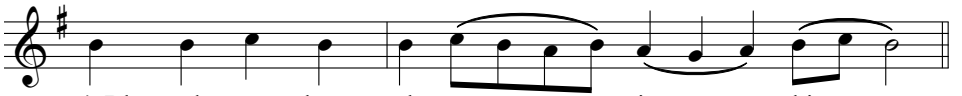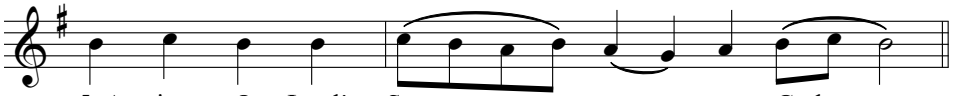






Refrain
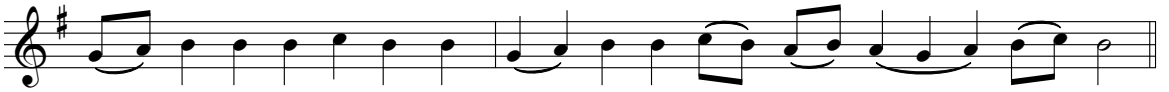


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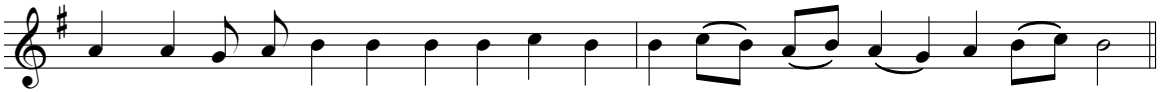


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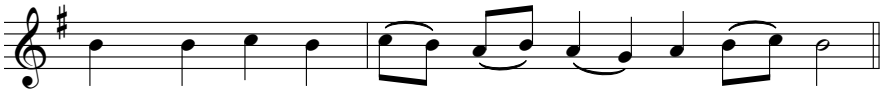


Refrain



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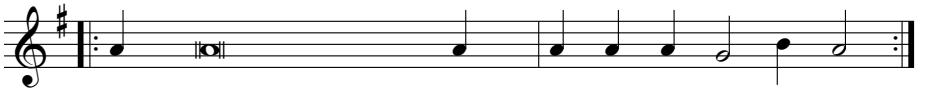


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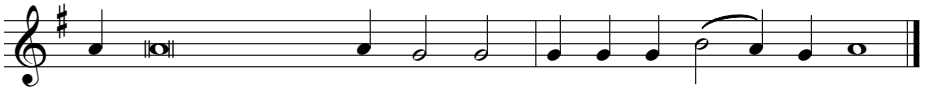


Refrain

Two times, each with a reverence:

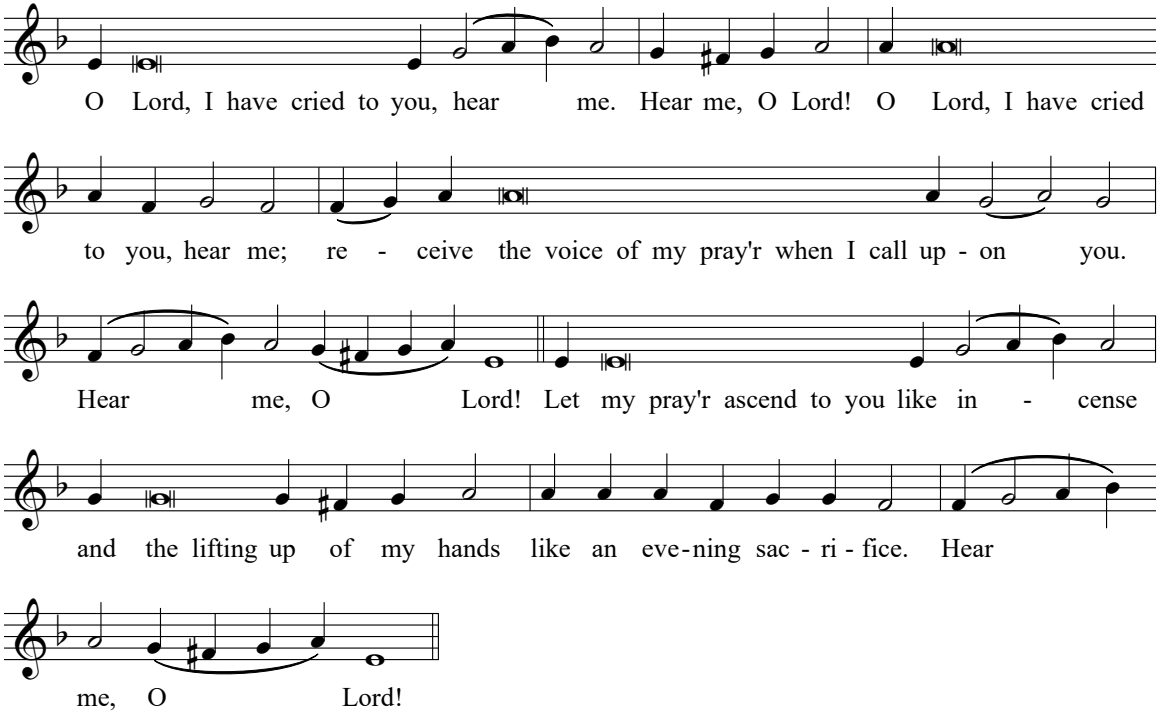


Last time, with a reverence:



The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140 *Tone 4 samohlasen*



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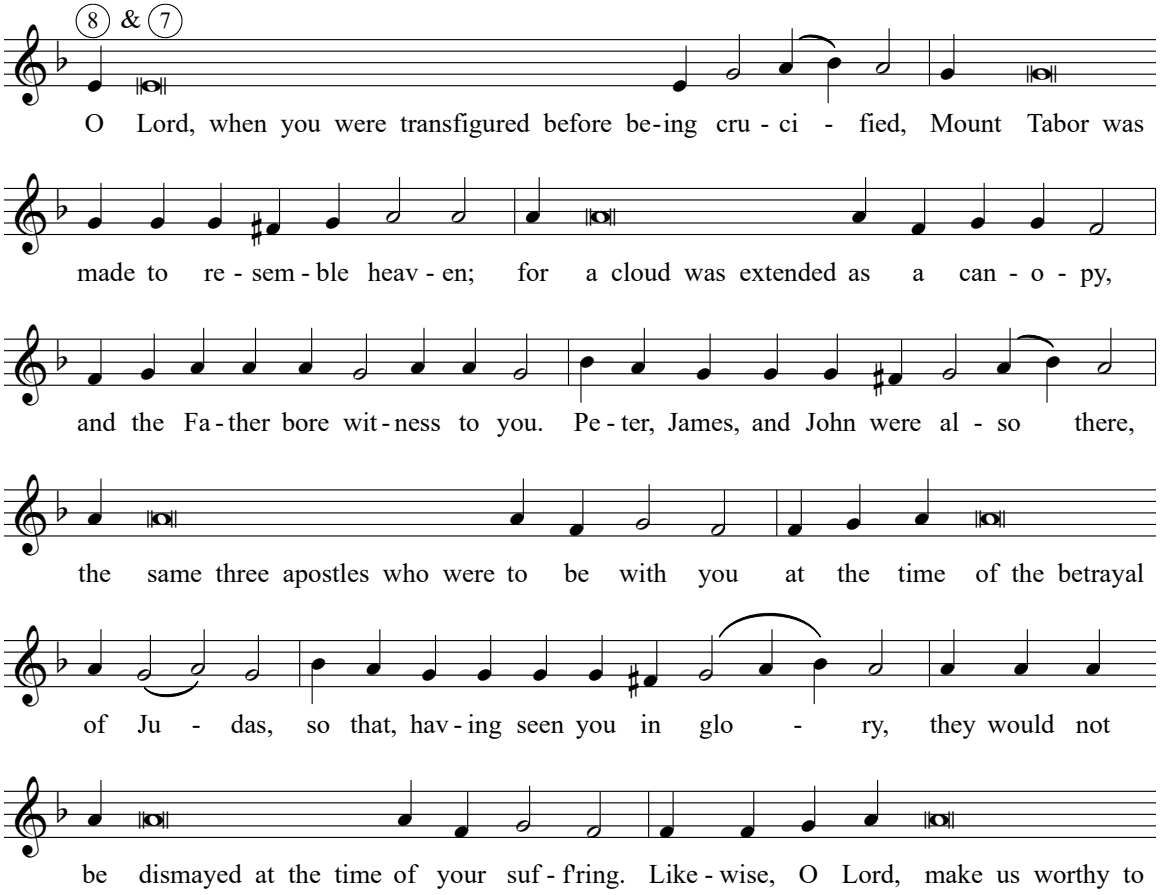
Rescue me from those who pursue me *
for they are stronger ***than*** I.

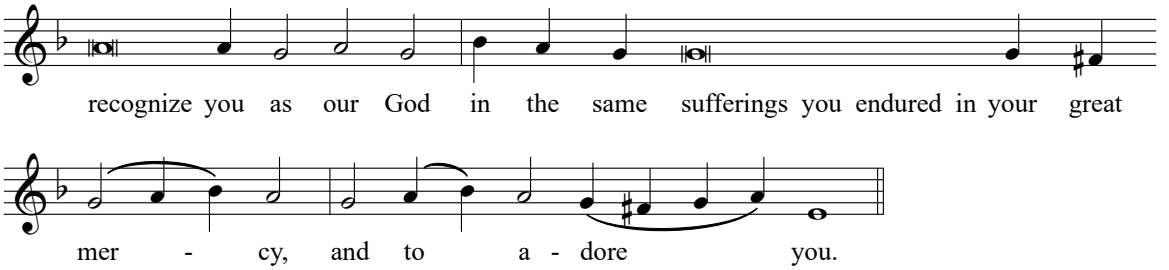
Bring my soul out of this prison *
and then I shall praise ***your*** name.

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

Cantor: *(on 8)* Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! **Psalm 129**
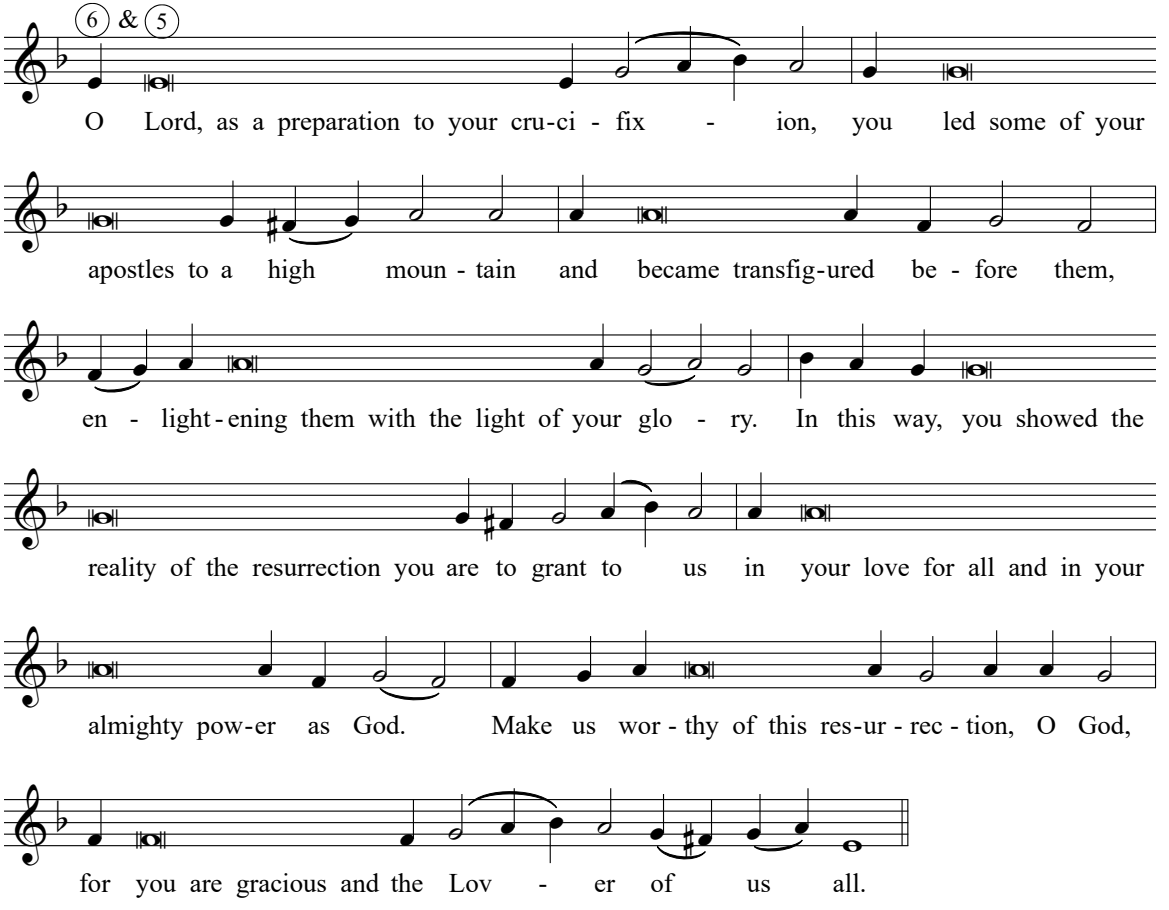
Stichera of the Transfiguration - *Tone 4 samohlasen*
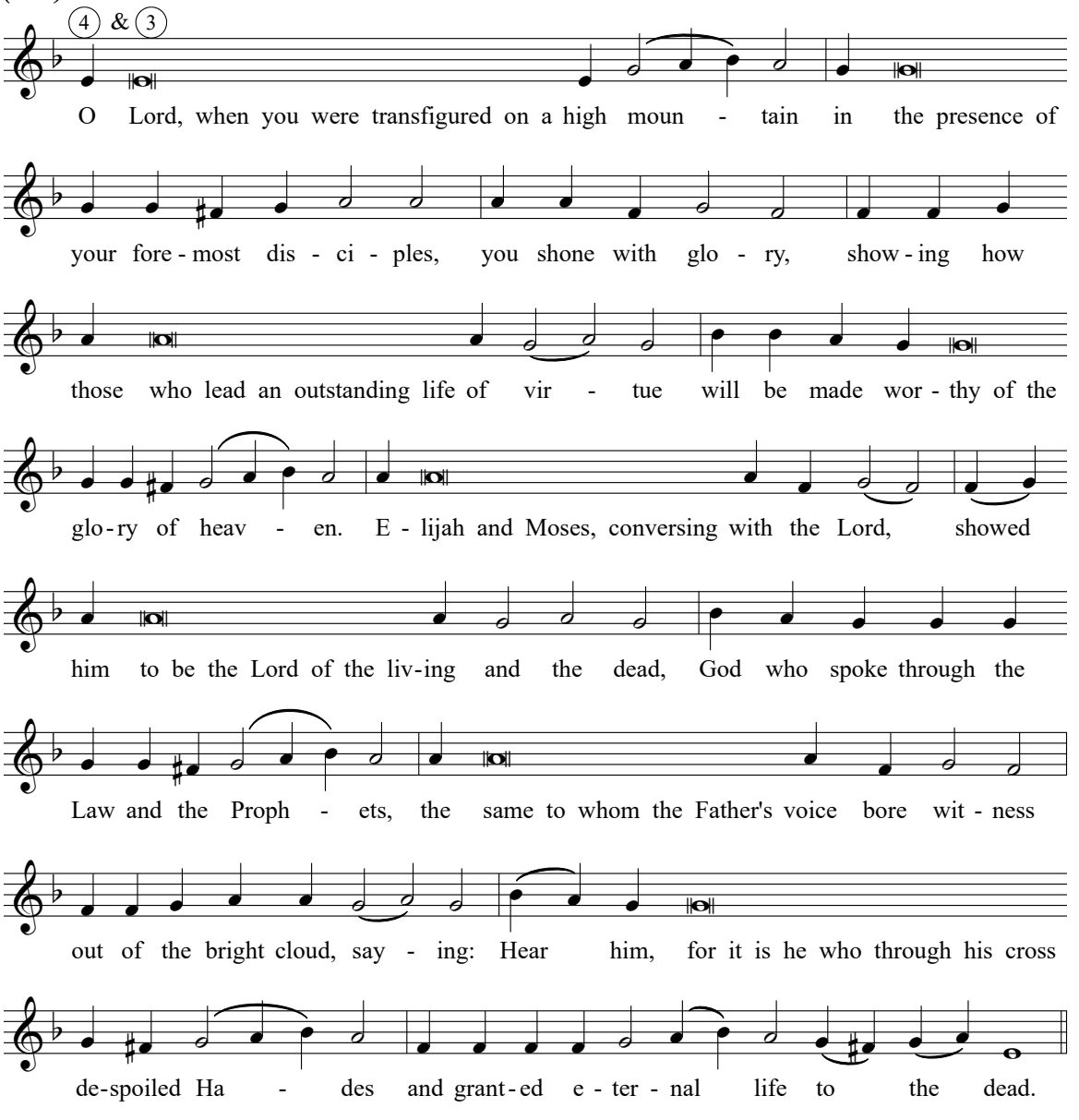




Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.
(on 7) *All repeat "O Lord, when you were transfigured..."*

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.
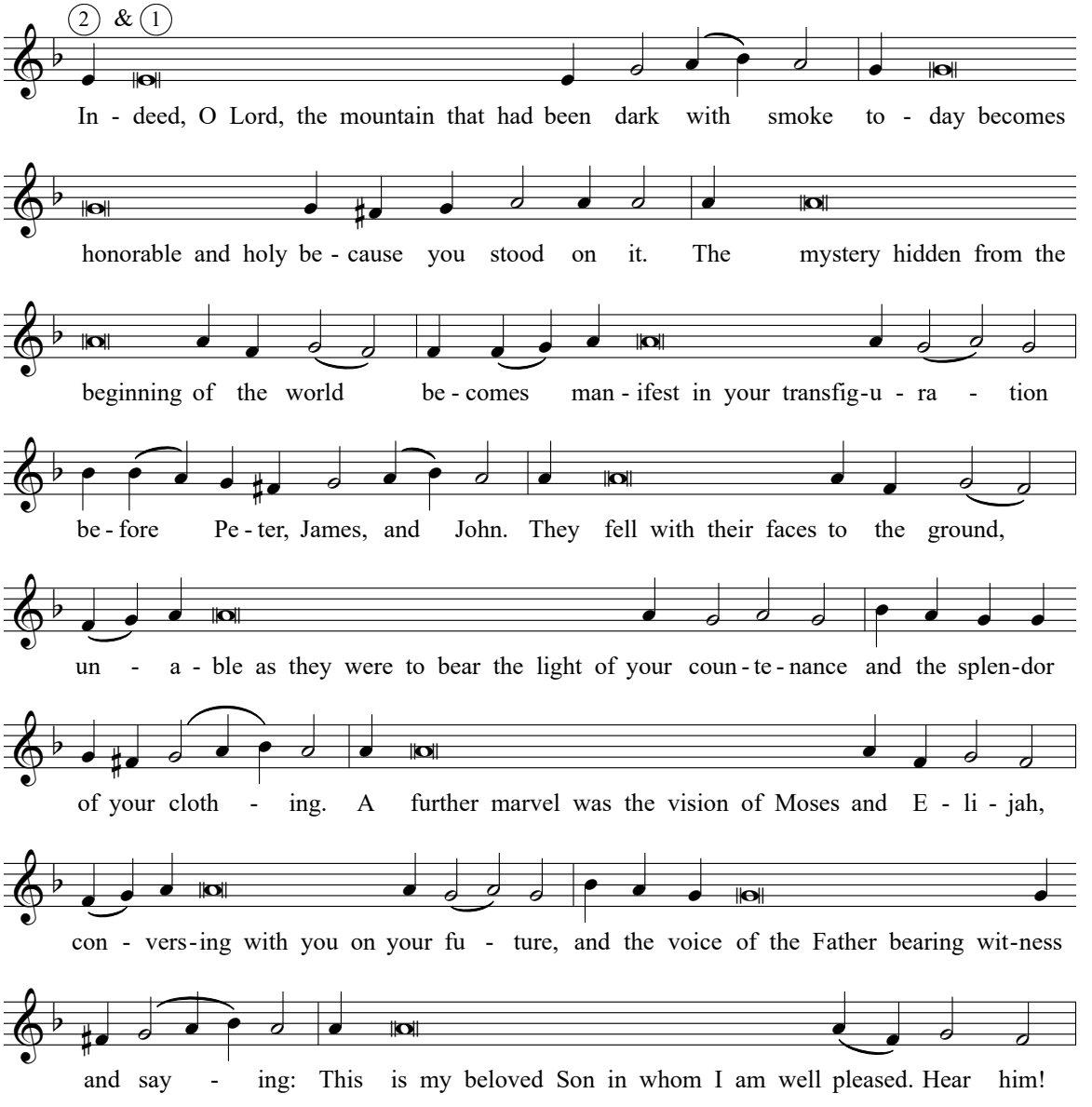


Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
All repeat "O Lord, as a preparation…"
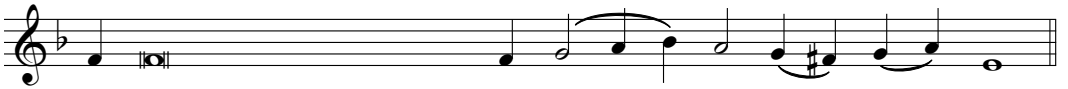
Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.
(on 4)



Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
All repeat: "O Lord, when you were transfigured…"

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! **Psalm 116**
(on 2)
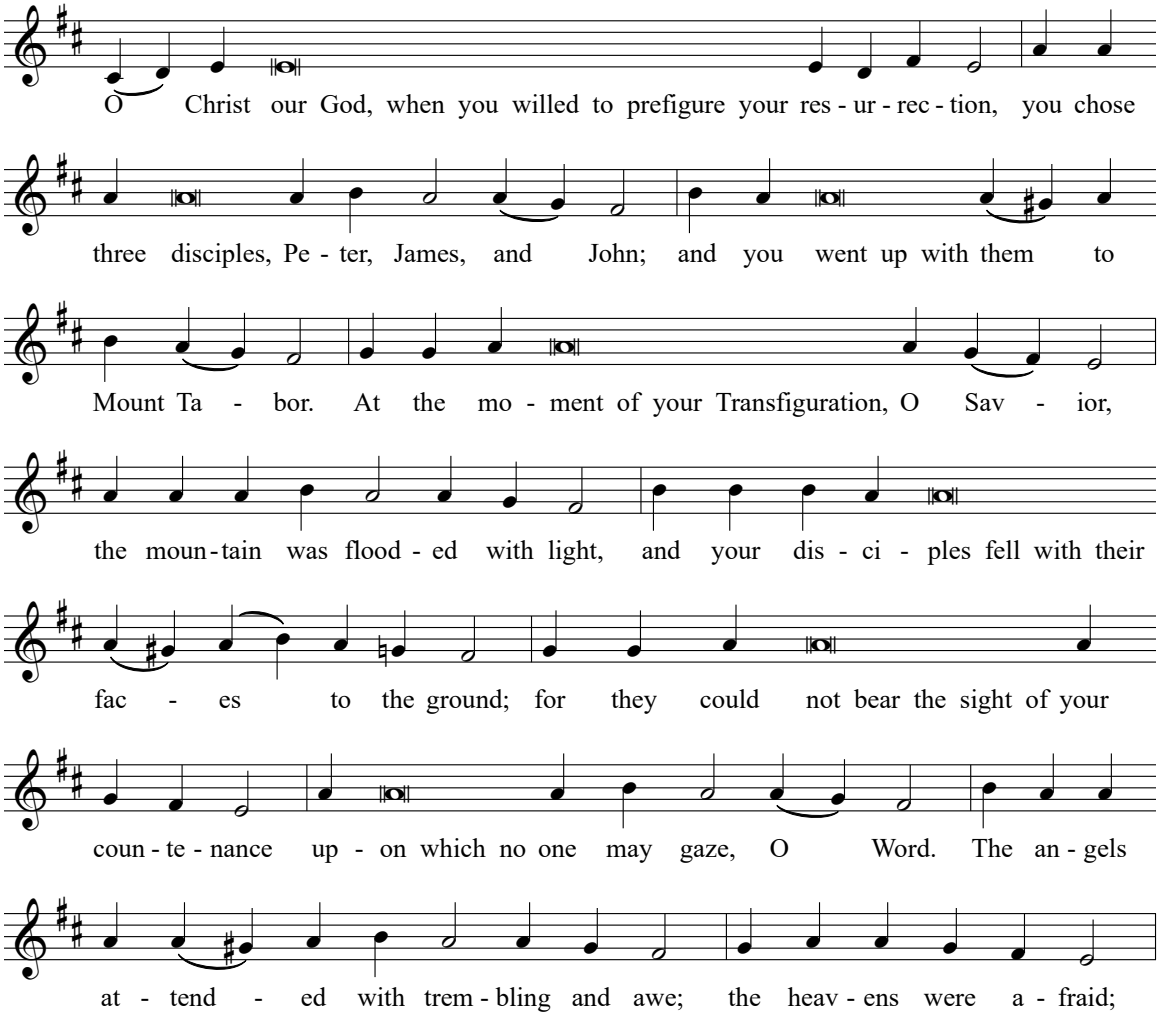


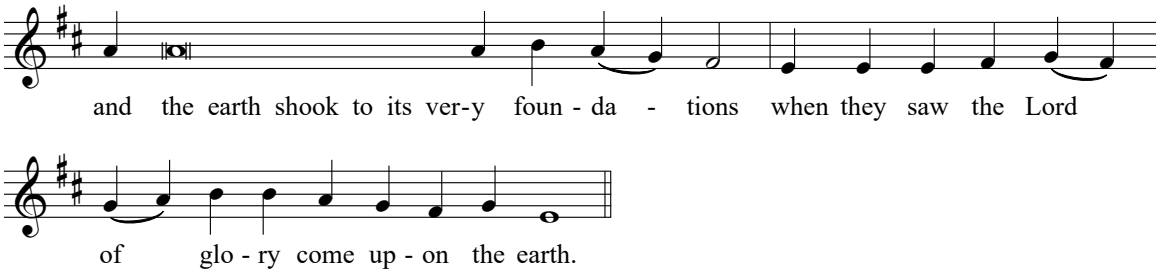


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.
(on 1) *All repeat: "Indeed, O Lord…"*

Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory…now and ever…

Doxastikon - *Tone 6*
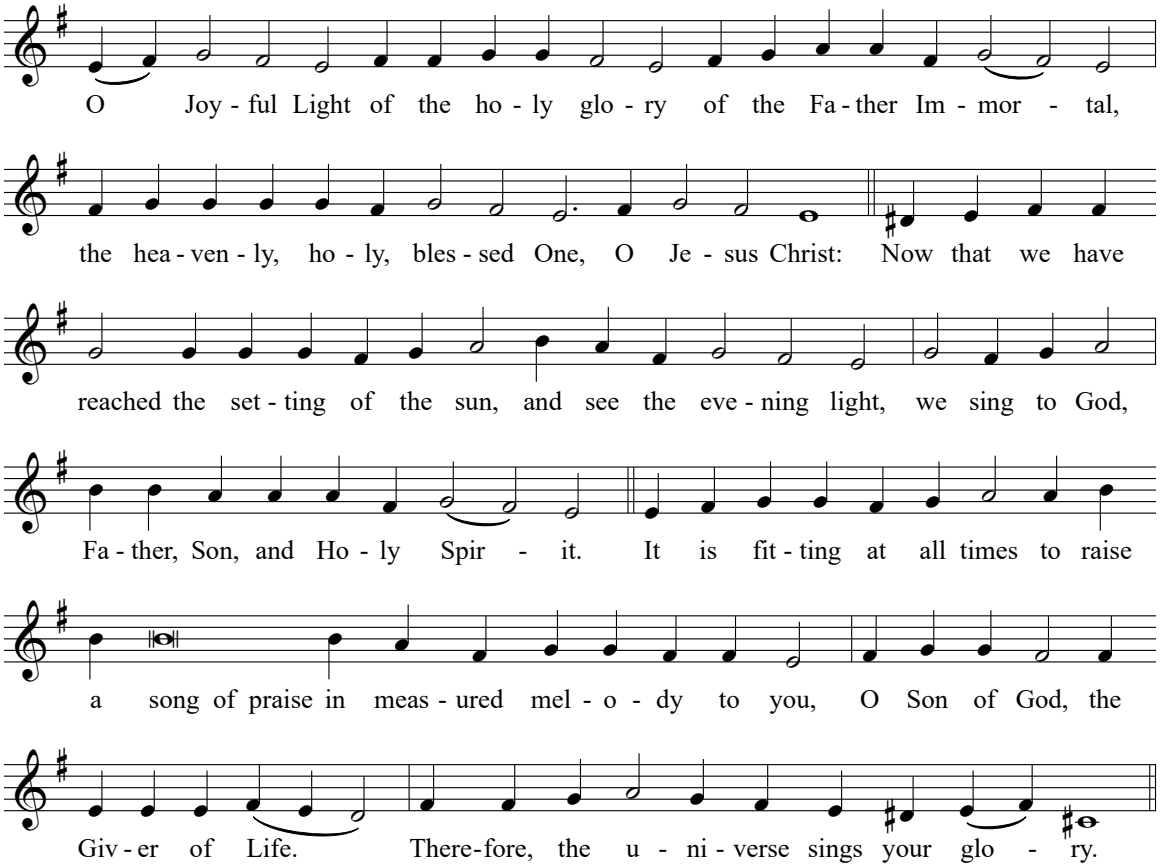




The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening



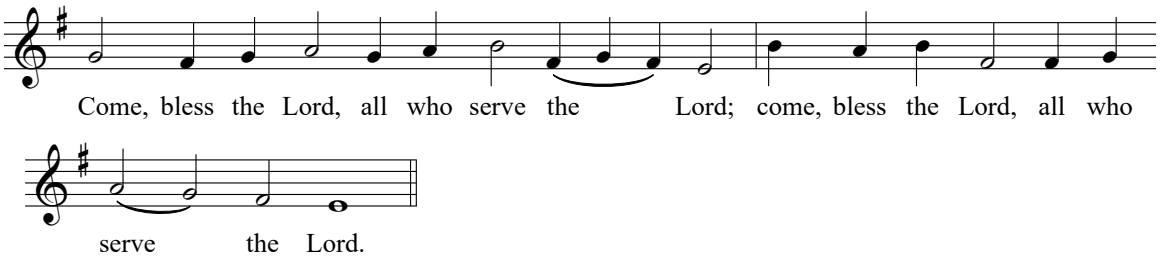
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!
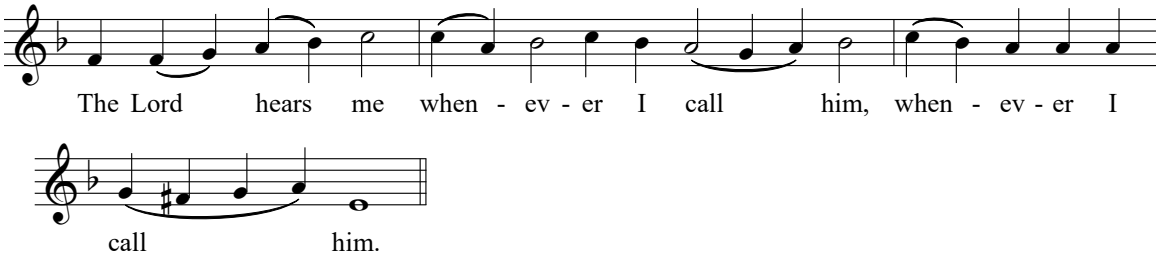
Prokeimena for Weekday Vespers

Sunday evening, Tone 8 *Psalm 133:1; 2*



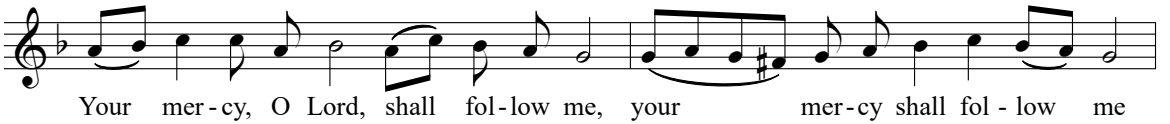
Deacon: Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

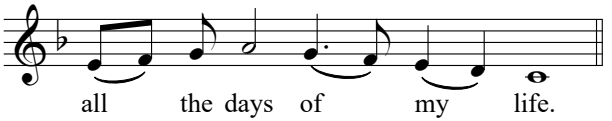
Monday evening, Tone 4 *Psalm 4:4;2*



Deacon: When I call, answer me, O God of justice.

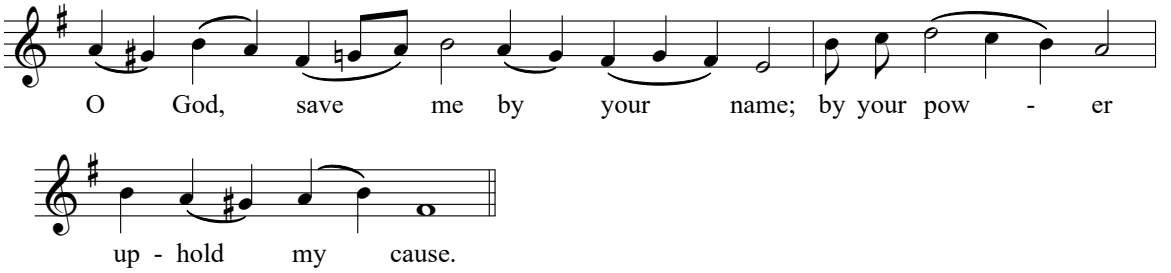
Tuesday evening, Tone 1 *Psalm 22:6; 1, 2*





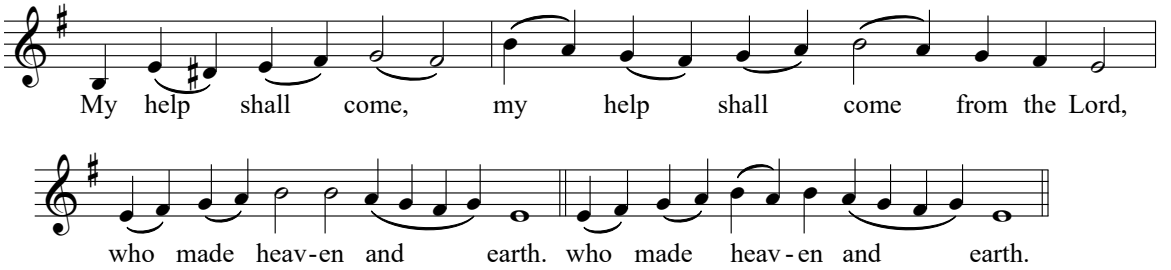
Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;
fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Wednesday evening, Tone 5 *Psalm 53:3; 4*



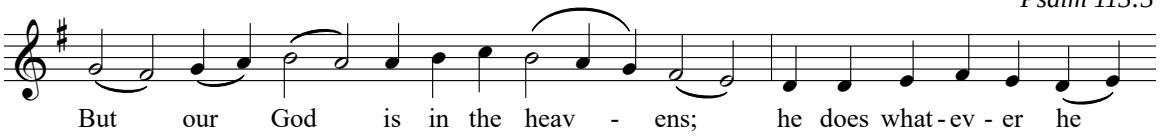
Deacon: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.
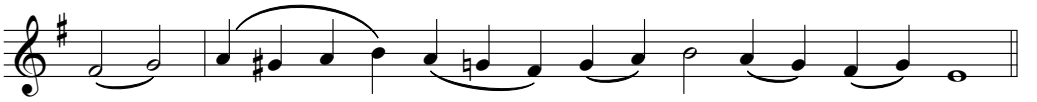
Thursday evening, Tone 6 *Psalm 120:2; 1*



Deacon: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

Friday, Great Prokeimenon *Psalm 113:3*





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.

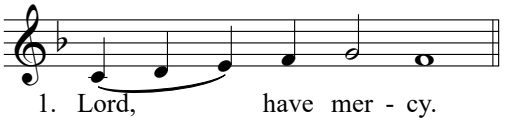
Deacon: Why was it, sea, that you fled, that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?88

Readings: Exodus 24:12-18
Exodus 33:11-23 and 34:4-6, 8
1 Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16

Litany of Supplication

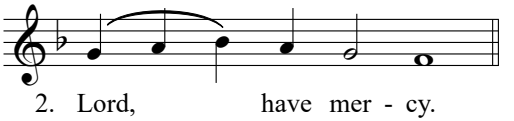
Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response:



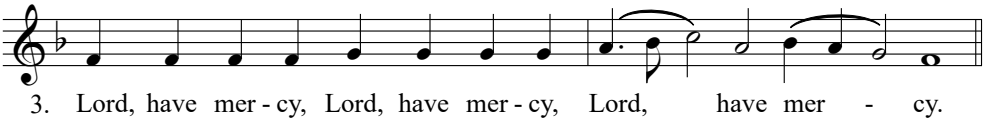
Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:
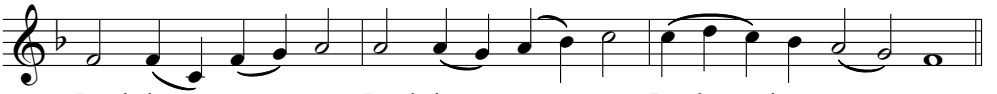


Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy,
we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:



Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, *(Name),* Pope of Rome, and for our most reverend Metropolitan, *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop, *(Name),* for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response:



Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.
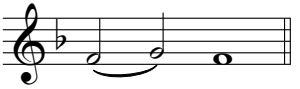
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times , using response 4.)*

Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

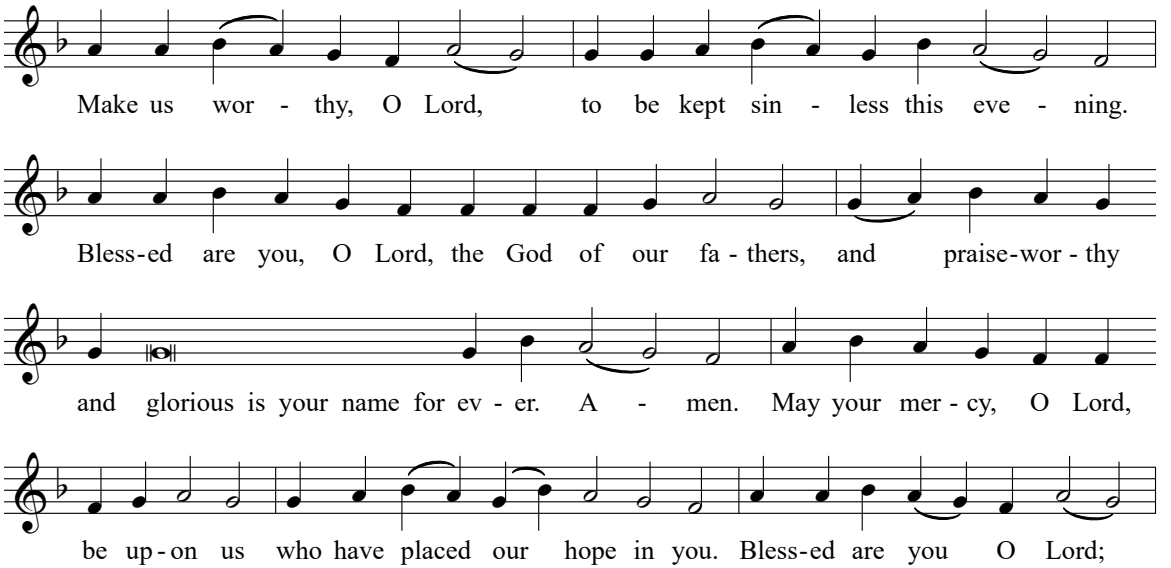
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times , using response 3.)*

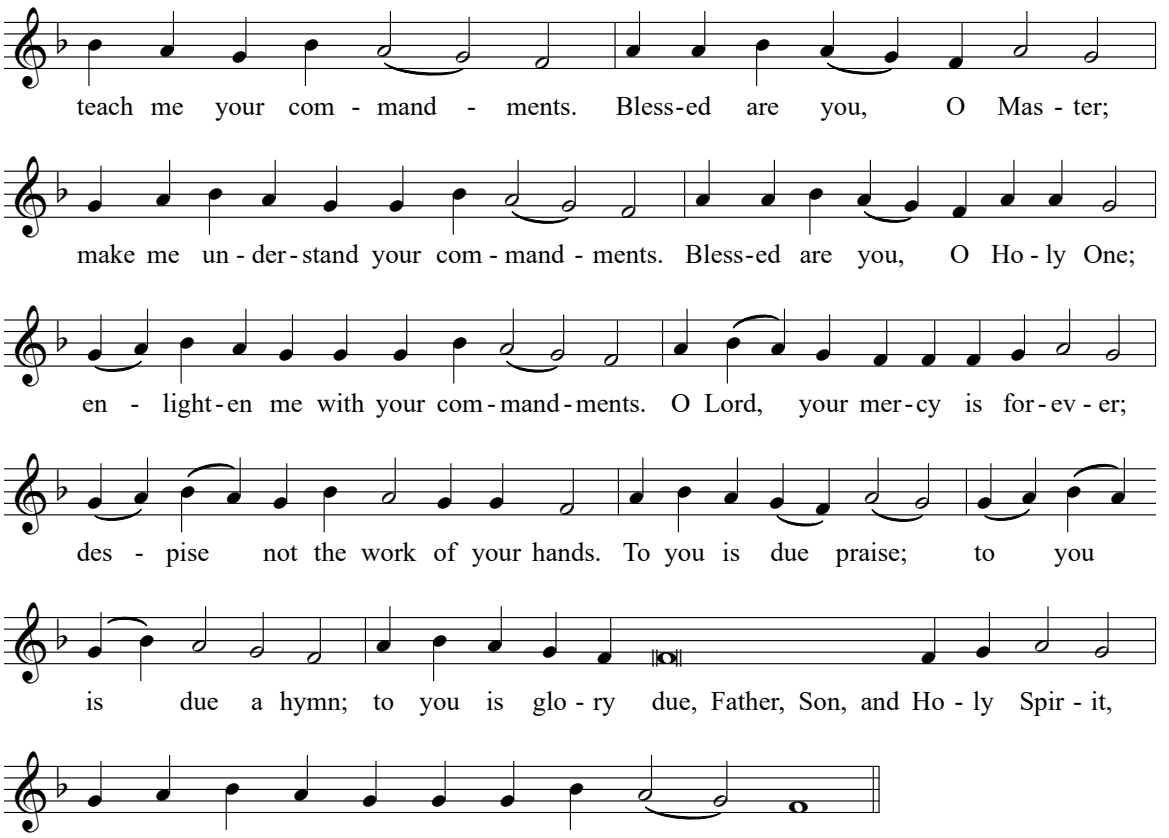
Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



The Hymn of Glorification
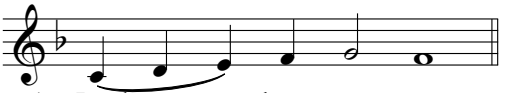




Litany of Fervent Supplication
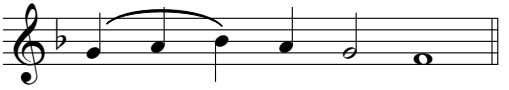
Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response:
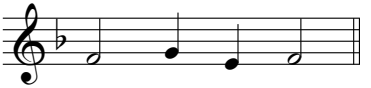


Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O Lord, by your grace.
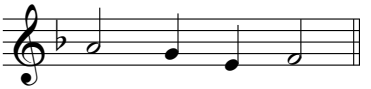
Response:



Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin,
let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls
and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses,
let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world,
let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)
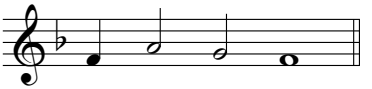
Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance,
let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life,
and for a good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ,
let us beseech the Lord.
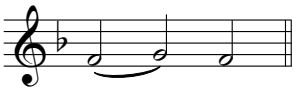
Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

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.
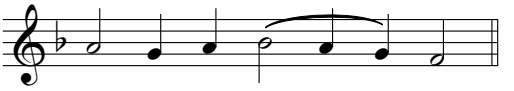
Response: 

Priest: Great and most high God, you alone possess imortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of Mankind, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.
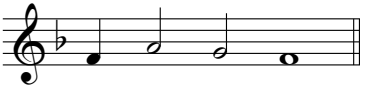
For you, O God, are gracious and you love mankind, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

Priest: Peace be to all!
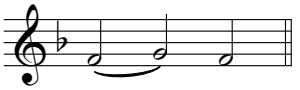
Response: 

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 

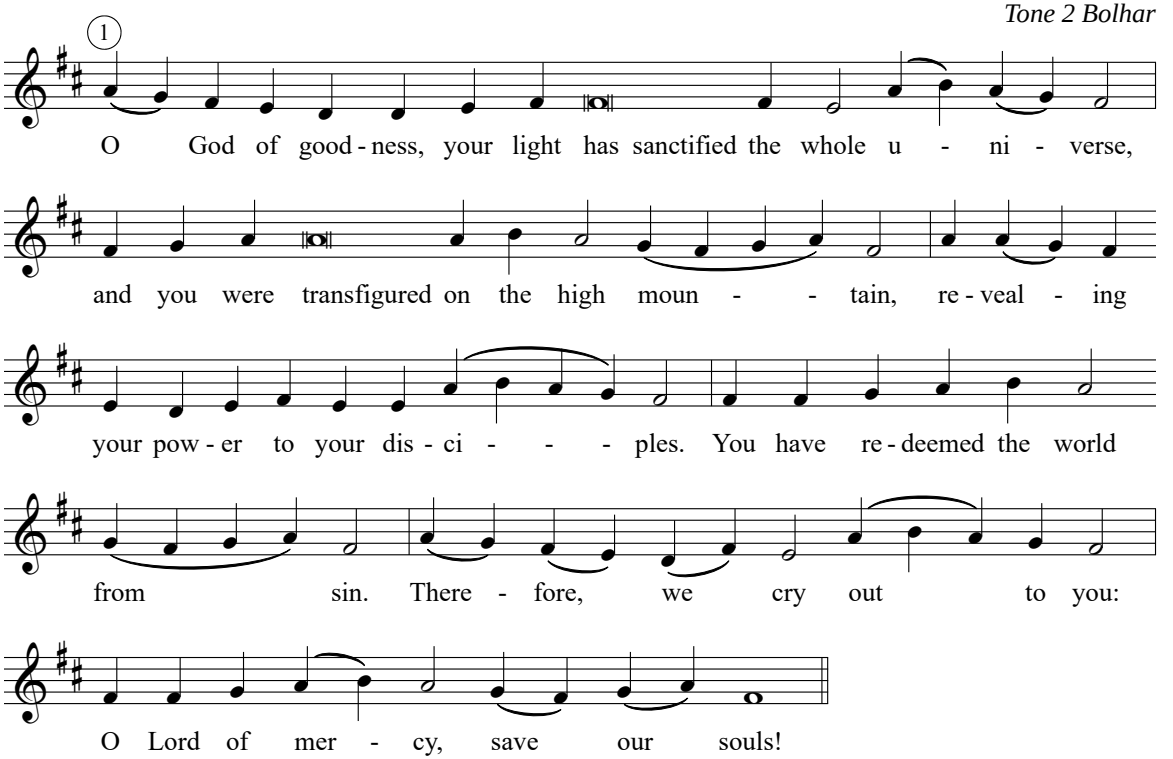
Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love mankind. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

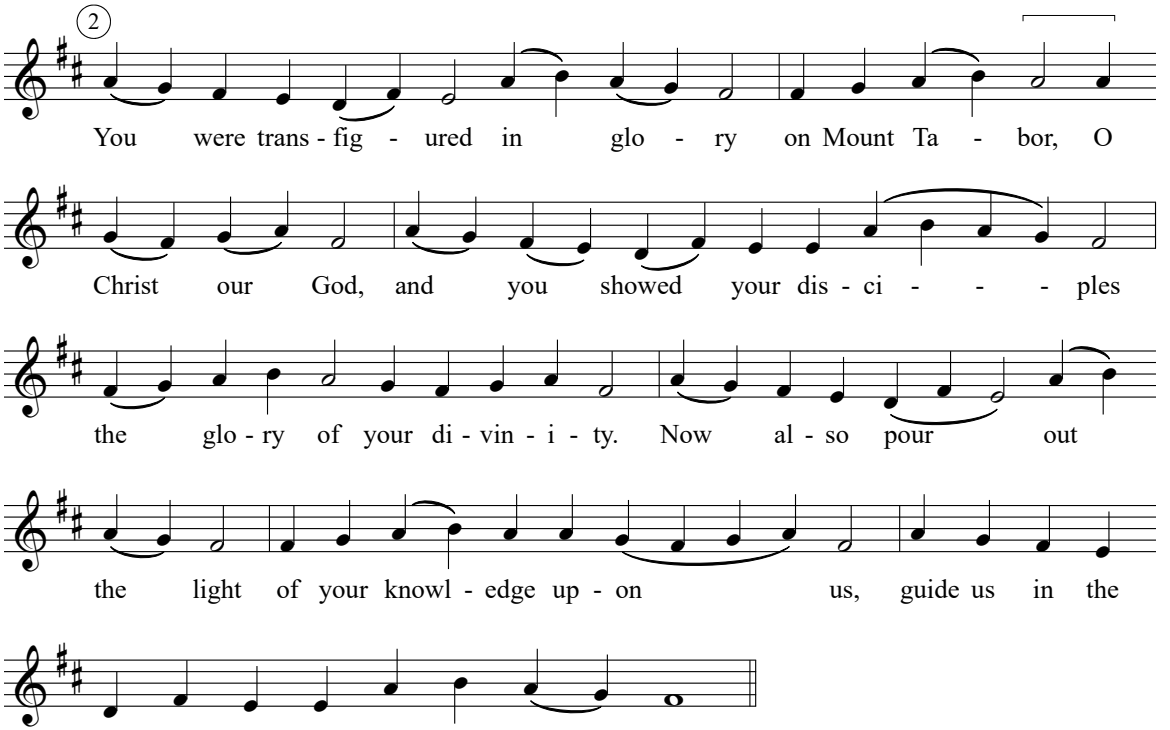
Response:



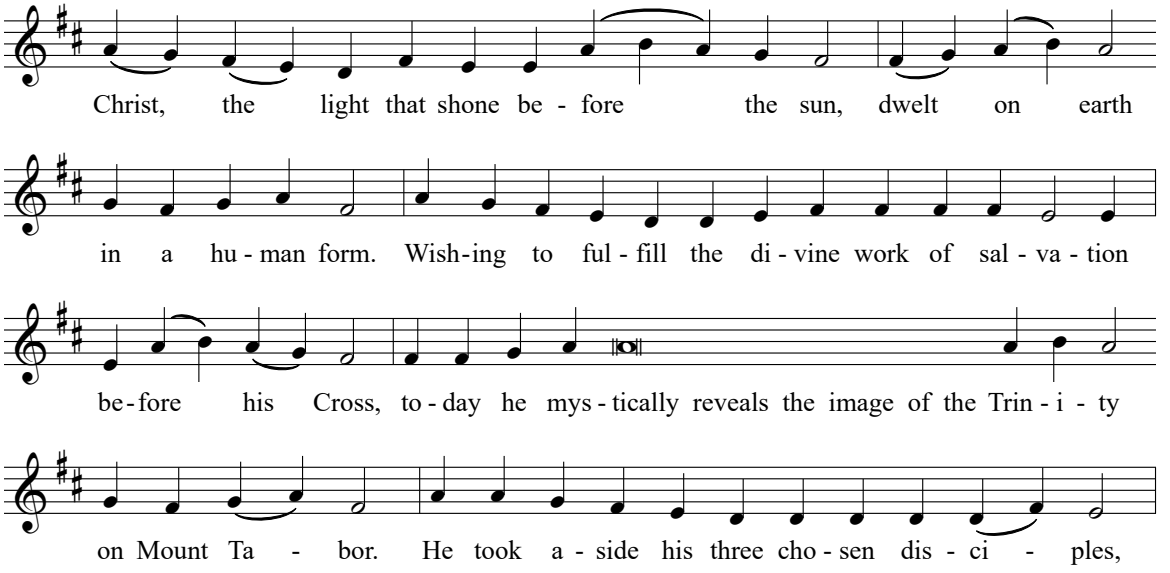
Hymns of the Litija

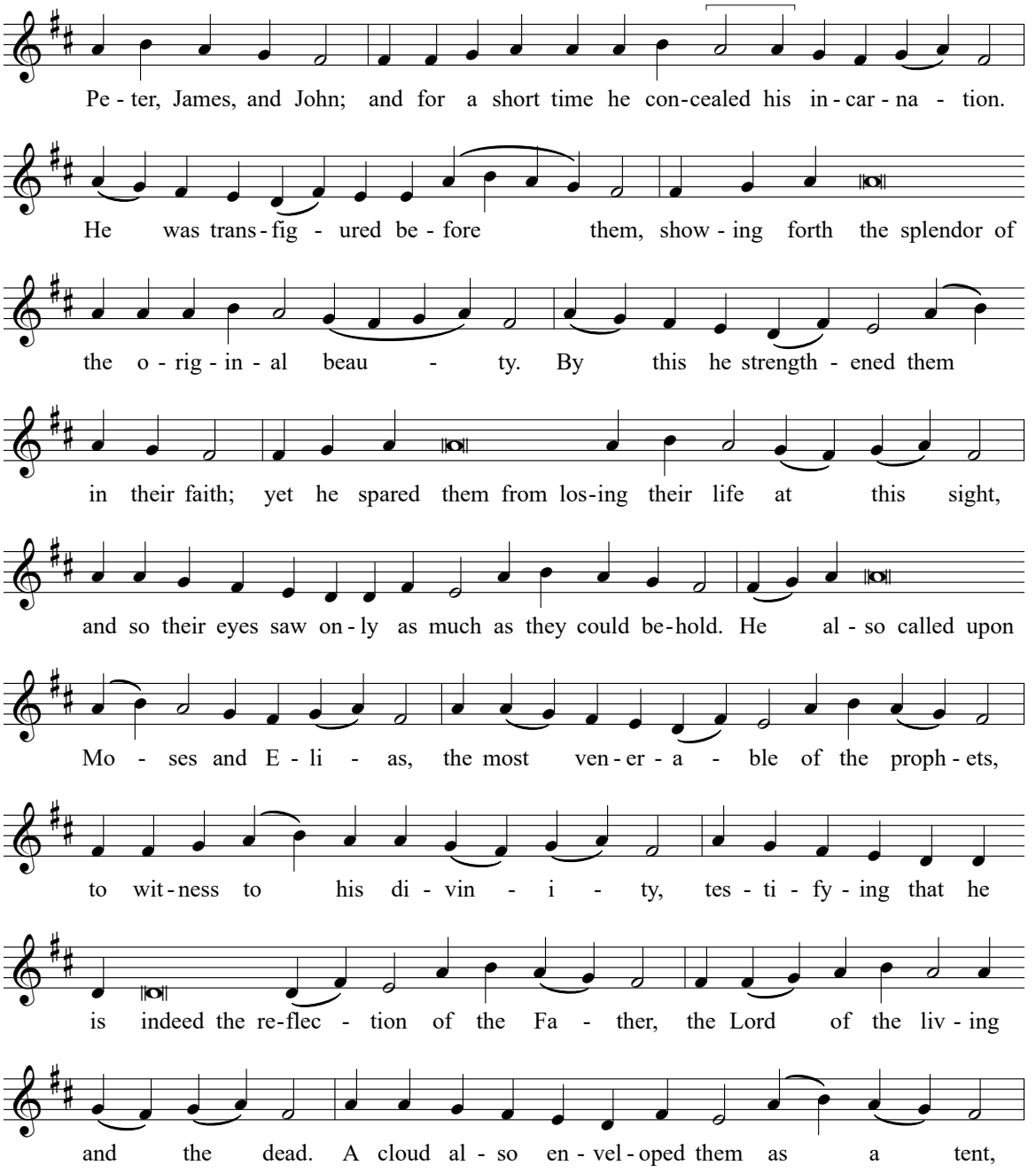
Tone 2 Bolhar
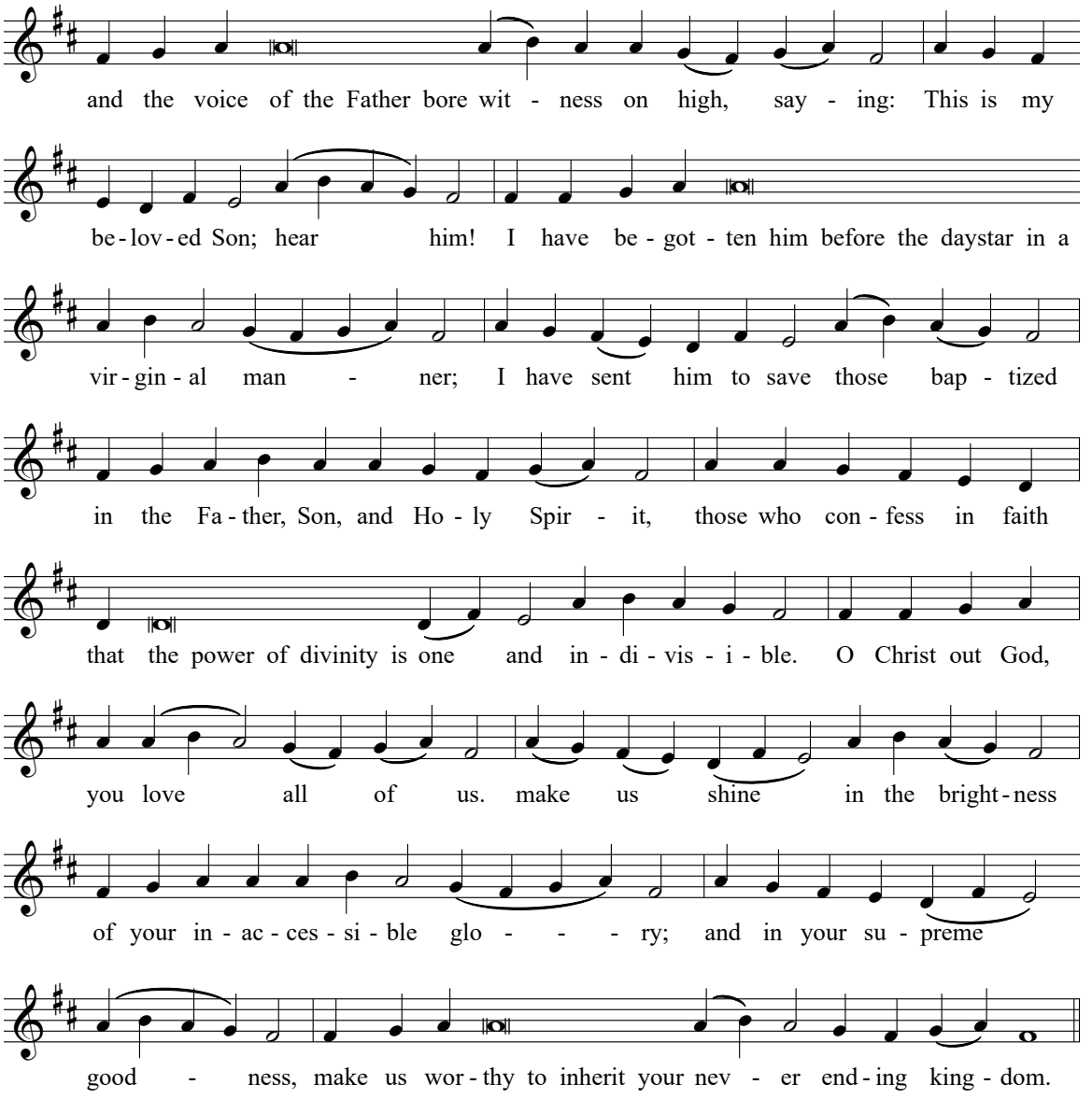




Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
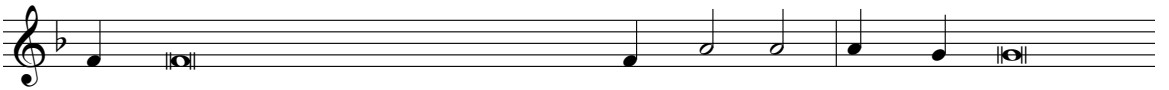



Pe - ter, James, and John; and for a short time he con-cealed his in - car - na - tion.
He was trans - fig - ured be - fore them, show - ing forth the splendor of
the o - rig - in - al beau - ty. By this he strength - ened them
in their faith; yet he spared them from los-ing their life at this sight,
and so their eyes saw on - ly as much as they could be-hold. He al - so called upon
Mo - ses and E - li - as, the most ven - er - a - ble of the proph - ets,
to wit - ness to his di - vin - i - ty, tes - ti - fy - ing that he
is indeed the re-flec - tion of the Fa - ther, the Lord of the liv - ing
and the dead. A cloud al - so en - vel - oped them as a tent,
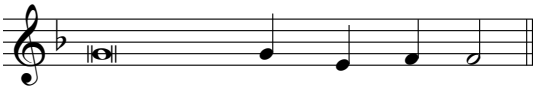

and the voice of the Father bore wit - ness on high, say - ing: This is my
be - lov - ed Son; hear him! I have be - got - ten him before the daystar in a
vir - gin - al man - ner; I have sent him to save those bap - tized
in the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, those who con - fess in faith
that the power of divinity is one and in - di - vis - i - ble. O Christ out God,
you love all of us. make us shine in the bright - ness
of your in - ac - ces - si - ble glo - - - ry; and in your su - preme
good - ness, make us wor - thy to inherit your nev - er end - ing king - dom.

Litany of the Litija

Deacon: Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov, and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and glorious prophet Elias, whose feast we celebrate today; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Response:





(sung twice)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Holy Father ___, Pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.
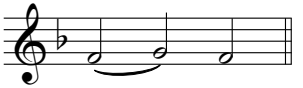
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(as above)*

Deacon: Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan, *(Name),* for our God-loving bishop, *(Name)*; for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent, and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say.

Response: Lord, have mercy. *(as above)*
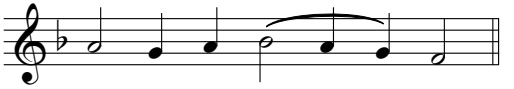
Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
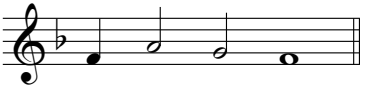


Priest: Peace be to all!

Response:
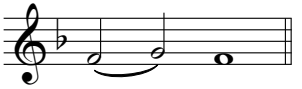


Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:



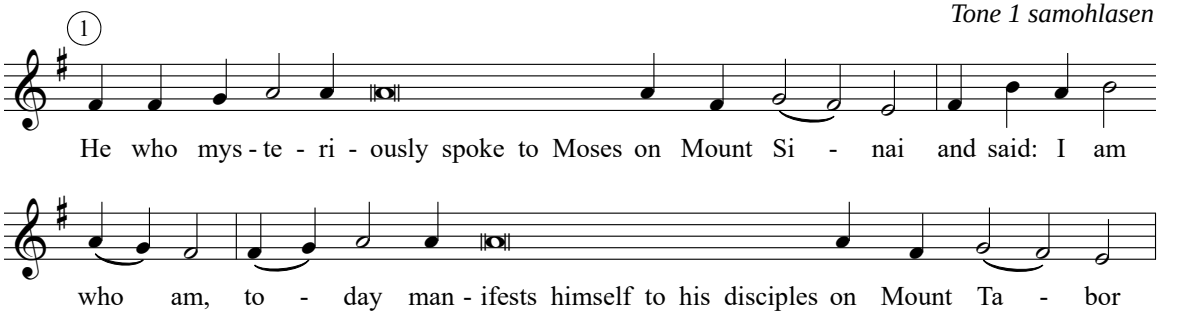
Priest: All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable: through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist of the Lord, John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov, and Basil, bishop of Medila, of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and glorious prophet Elias, whose feast we celebrate today; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; Grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on usand on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.

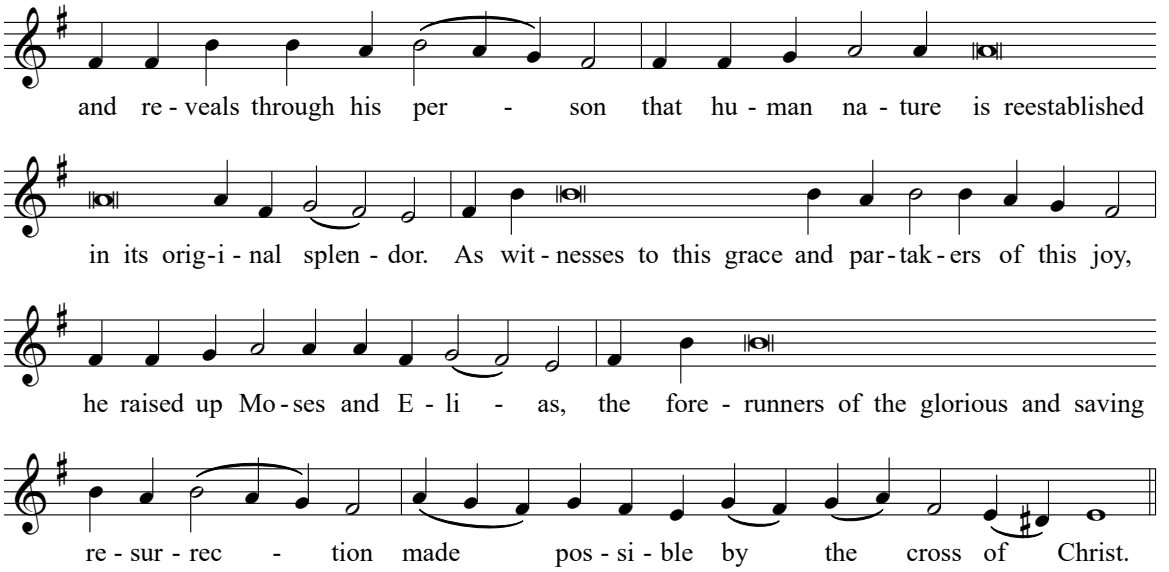
Response:



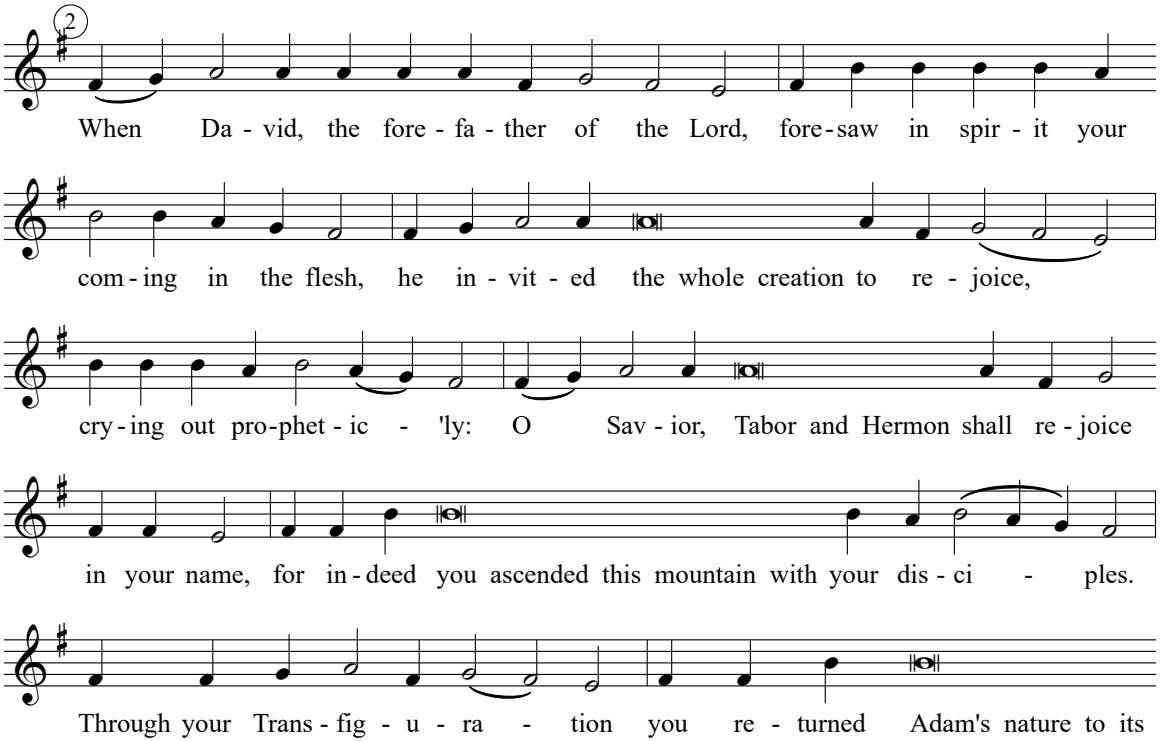
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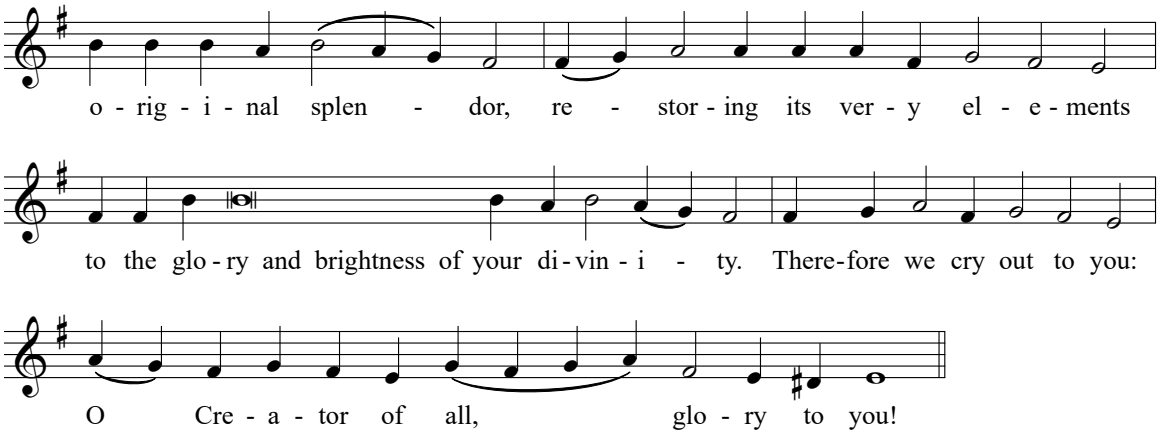
Tone 1 samohlasen



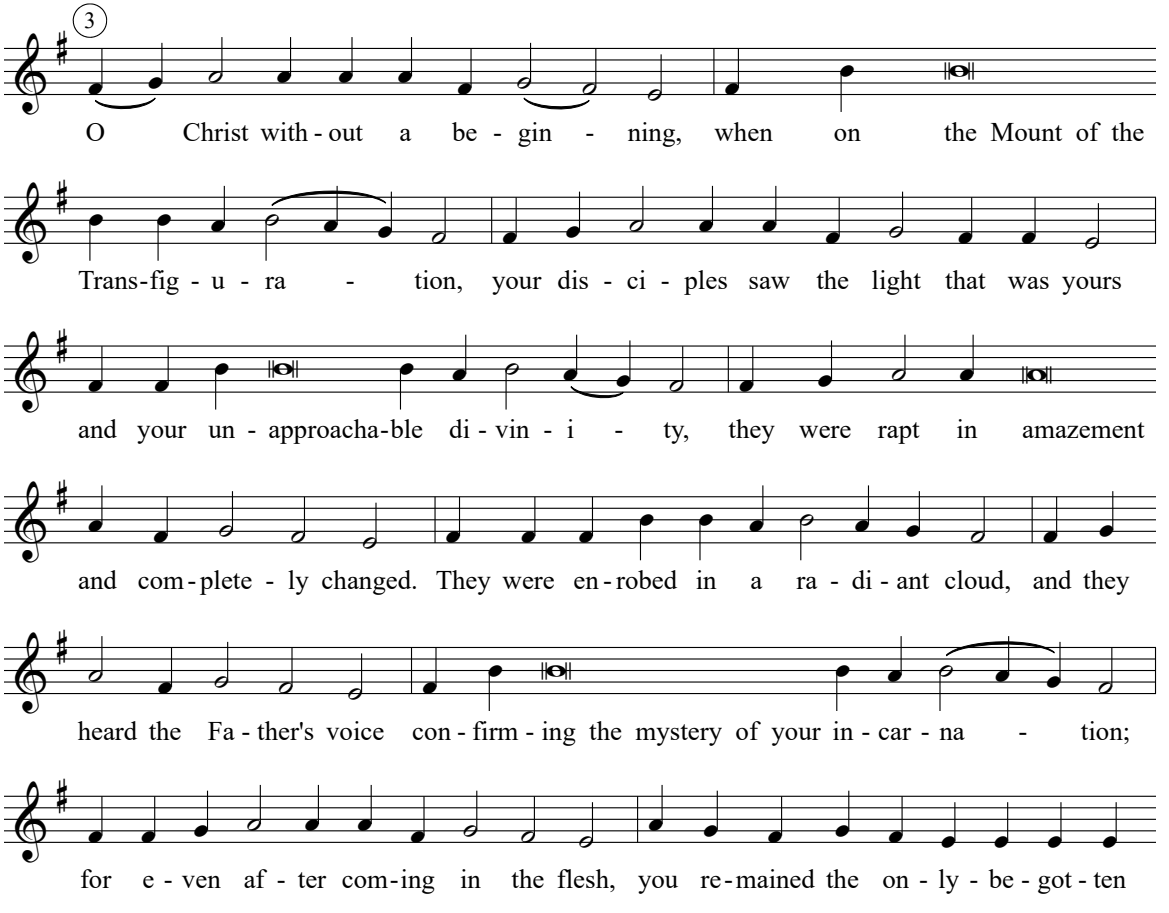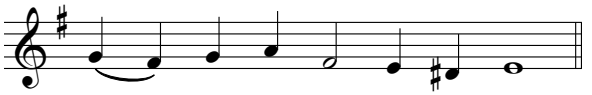


Cantor: The heavens are yours; the earth is yours.
You founded the world and all it holds.





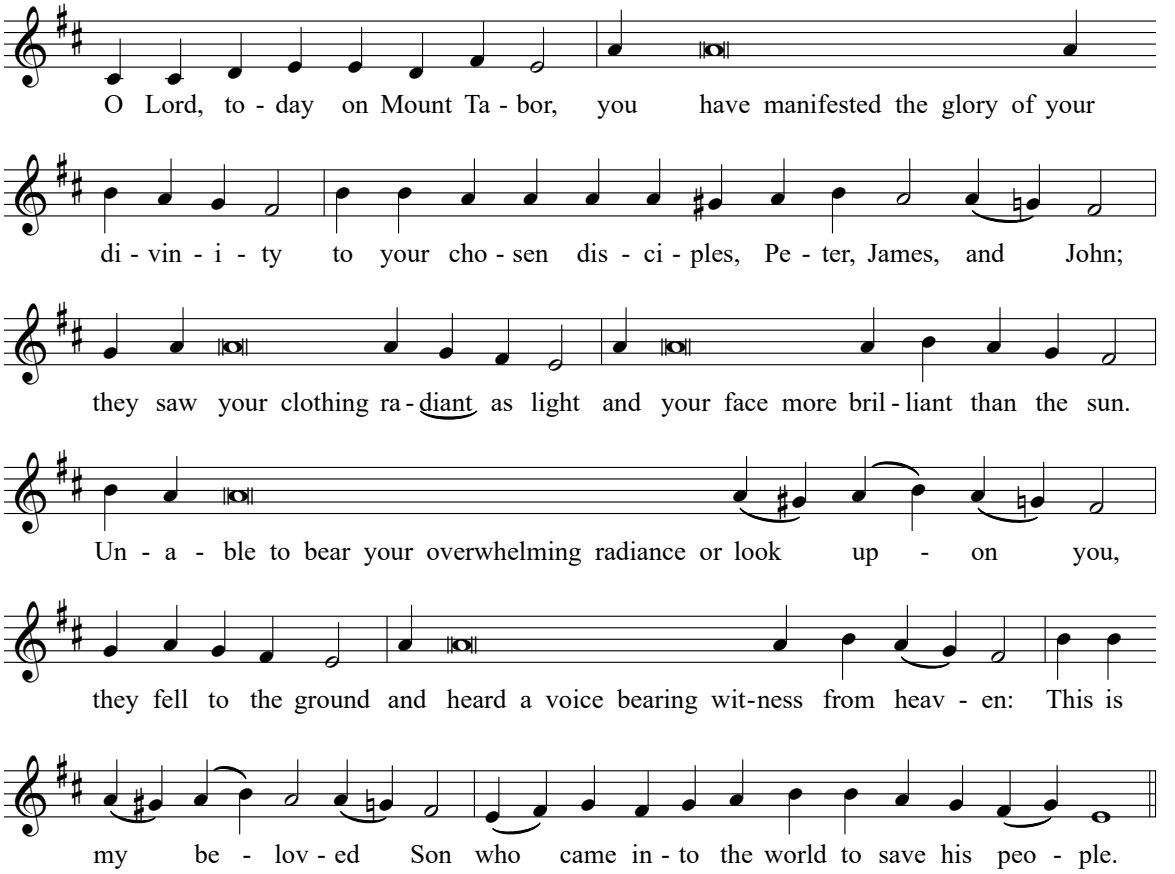
Cantor: Tabor and Hermon shout with you at your name.



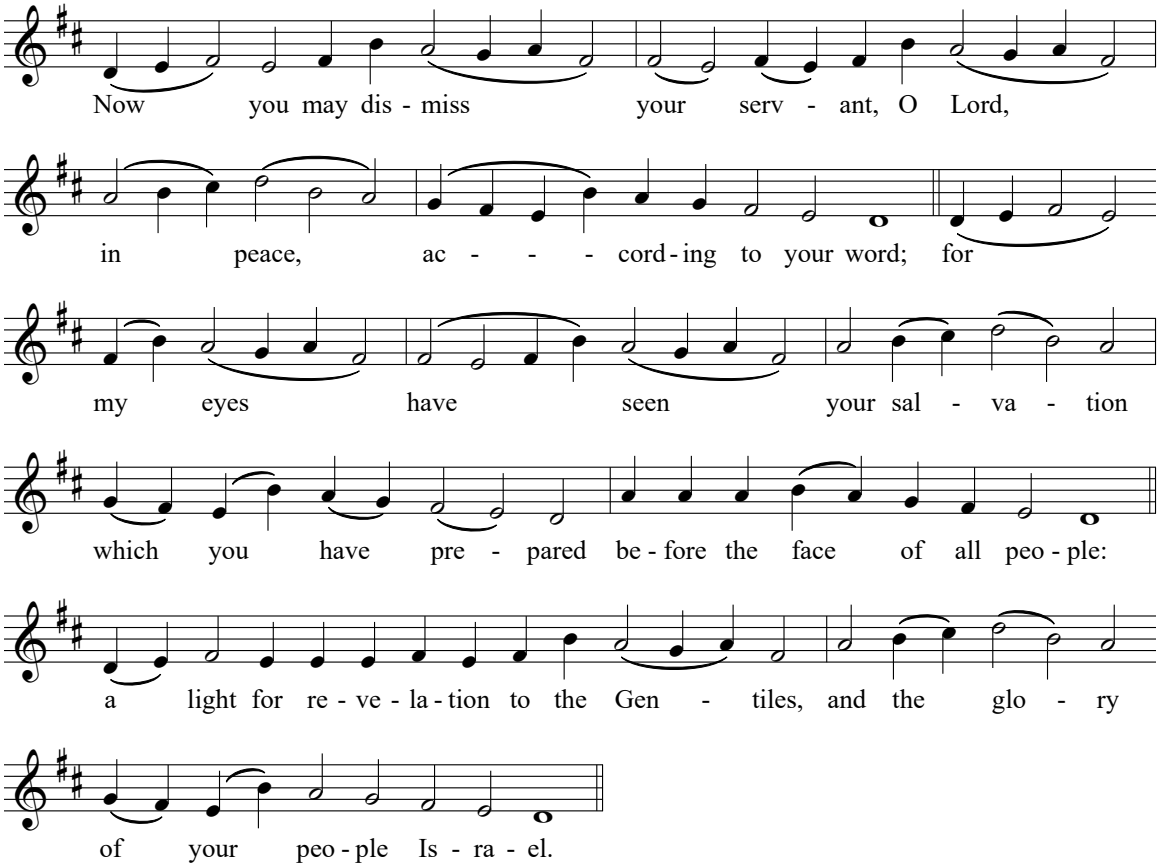


Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory…now and ever…

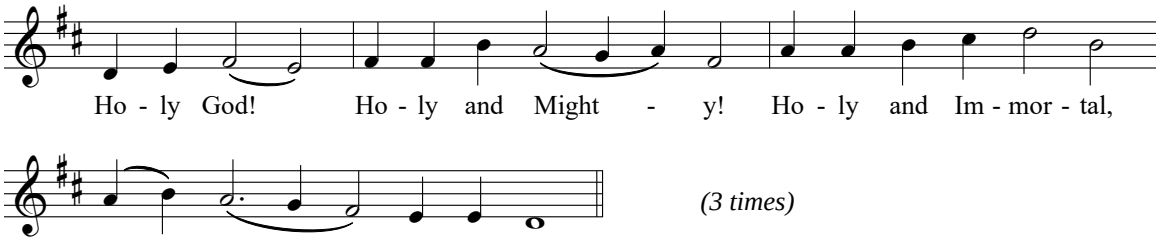
Doxastikon *Tone 6 samohlasen*



The Prayer of St. Simeon



The Trisagion Prayers



(3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
now and ever and forever. ***A**men.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions, *
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for ***your*** name's sake.
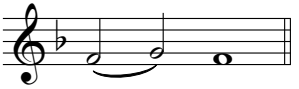
Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, *
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation, *
but deliver us ***from*** evil.

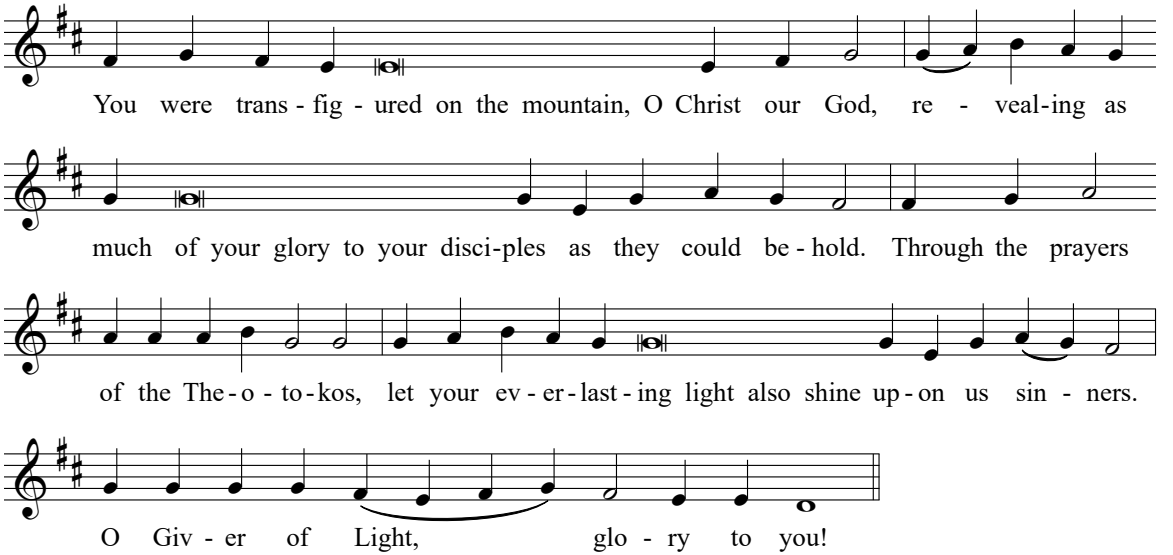
Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Troparion

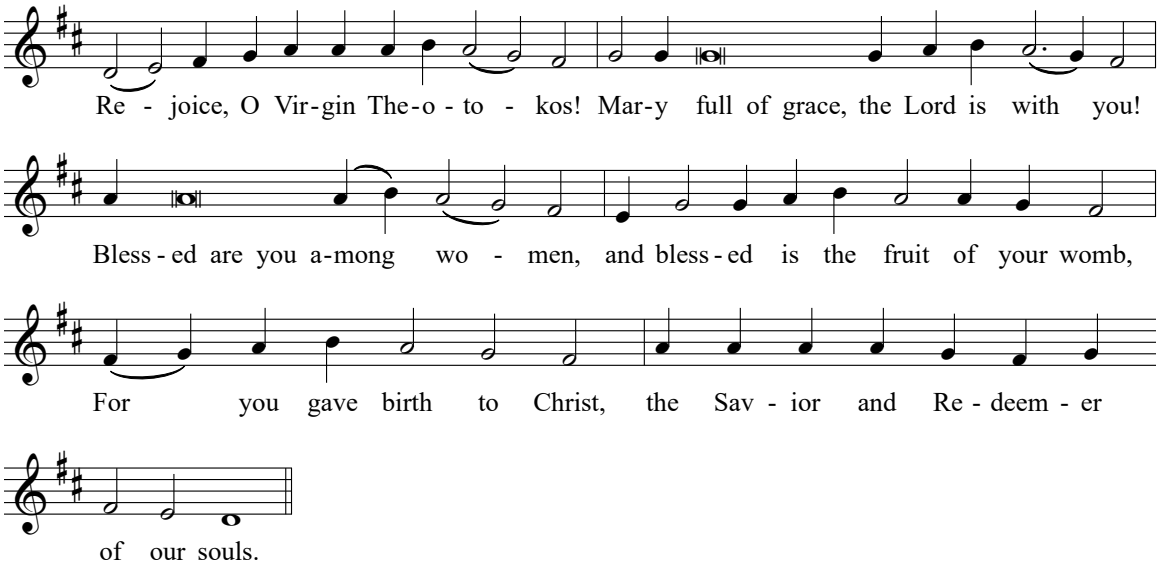
Priest, then All:



Cantor: Glory… now and ever...

Theotokion
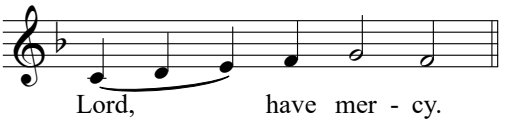
Tone 4



Blessing of Bread
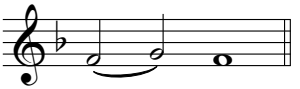
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

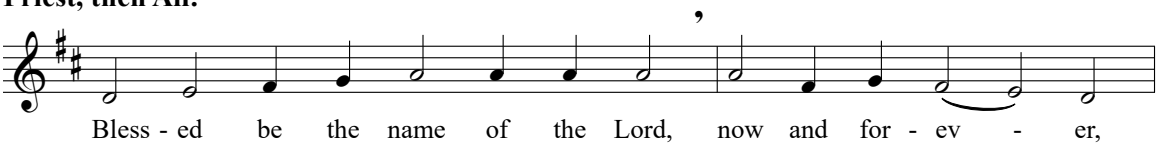


Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and throughout your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

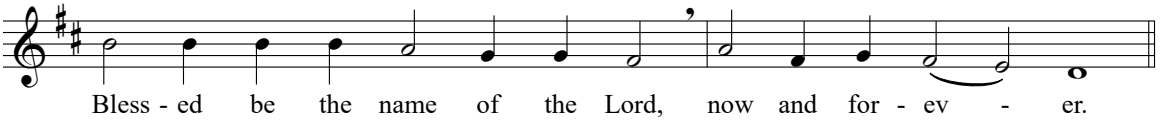
Response:



Priest, then All:



All:



Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,*
   his praise always on ***my*** lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. *
   The humble shall hear and ***be*** glad.

Glorify the Lord with me. *
   Together let us praise ***his*** name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; *
   from all my terrors he set ***me*** free.

Look towards him and be radiant; *
   let your faces not be ***a***bashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him *
   and rescued him from all his ***dis***tress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped, *
   around those who revere him, ***to*** rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *
   He is happy who seeks refuge ***in*** him.
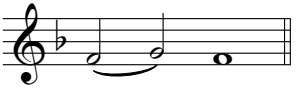
Revere the Lord, you his saints. *
   They lack nothing, those who ***re***vere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry *
   but those who seek the Lord lack ***no*** blessing.

Dismissal
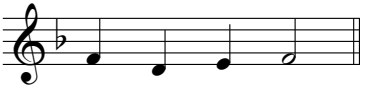
Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



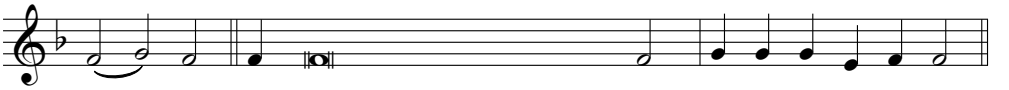
Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



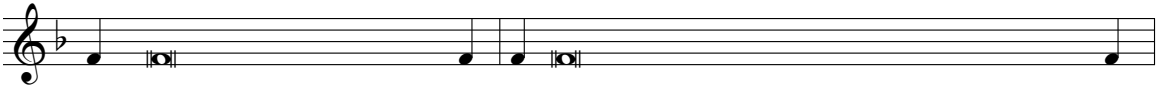
Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.
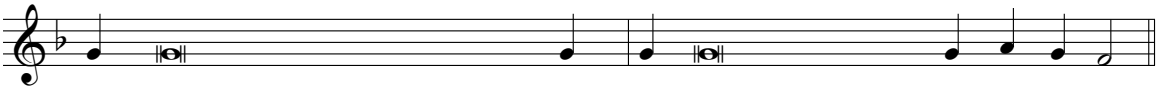
Response:



Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

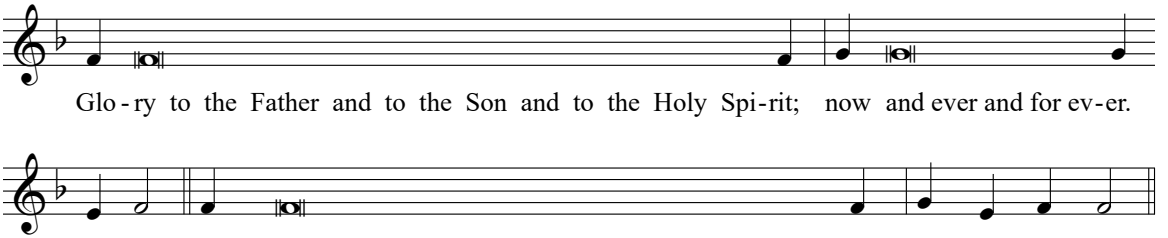
Response:





Priest: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:



Priest: May Christ our true God, who was transfigured in glory on Mount Tabor in the presence of his holy disciples and apostles, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response:

