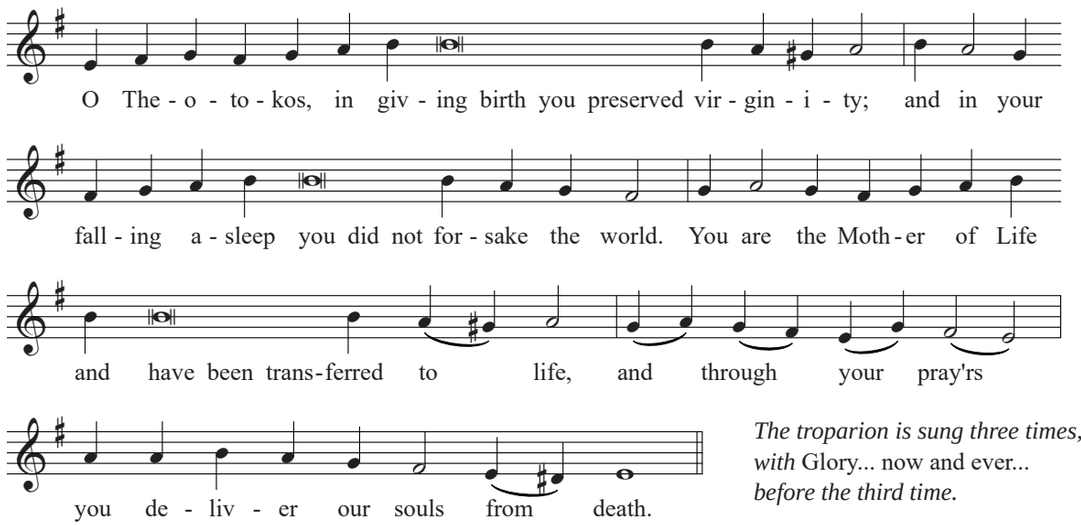
THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

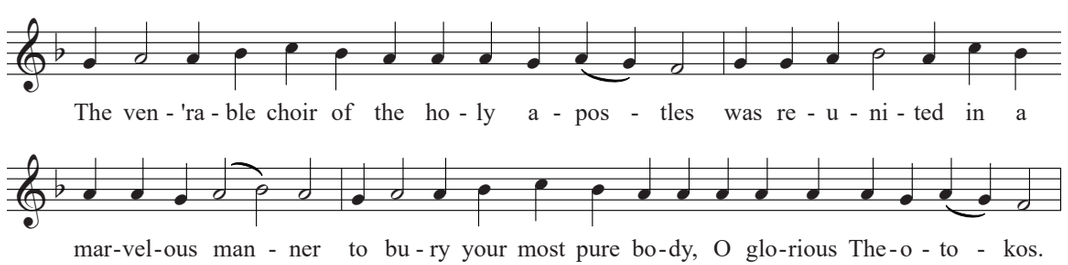
Tradition relates that the Mother of God died in Jerusalem, after a visit with all of Christ's apostles. They carried her coffin to the Garden of Gethsemane where it was placed into a tomb. The apostle Thomas came late, and asked that the tomb might be opened so that he could reverence her body. When opened, the tomb was found empty except for the winding sheet.

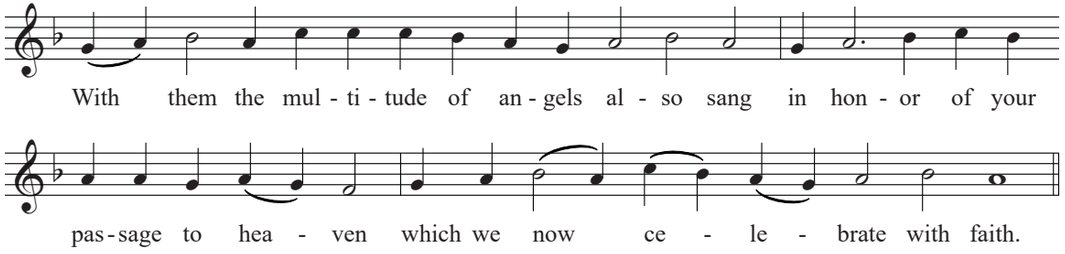
Troparion - *Tone 1*



The troparion is sung three times, with Glory... now and ever... *before the third time.*
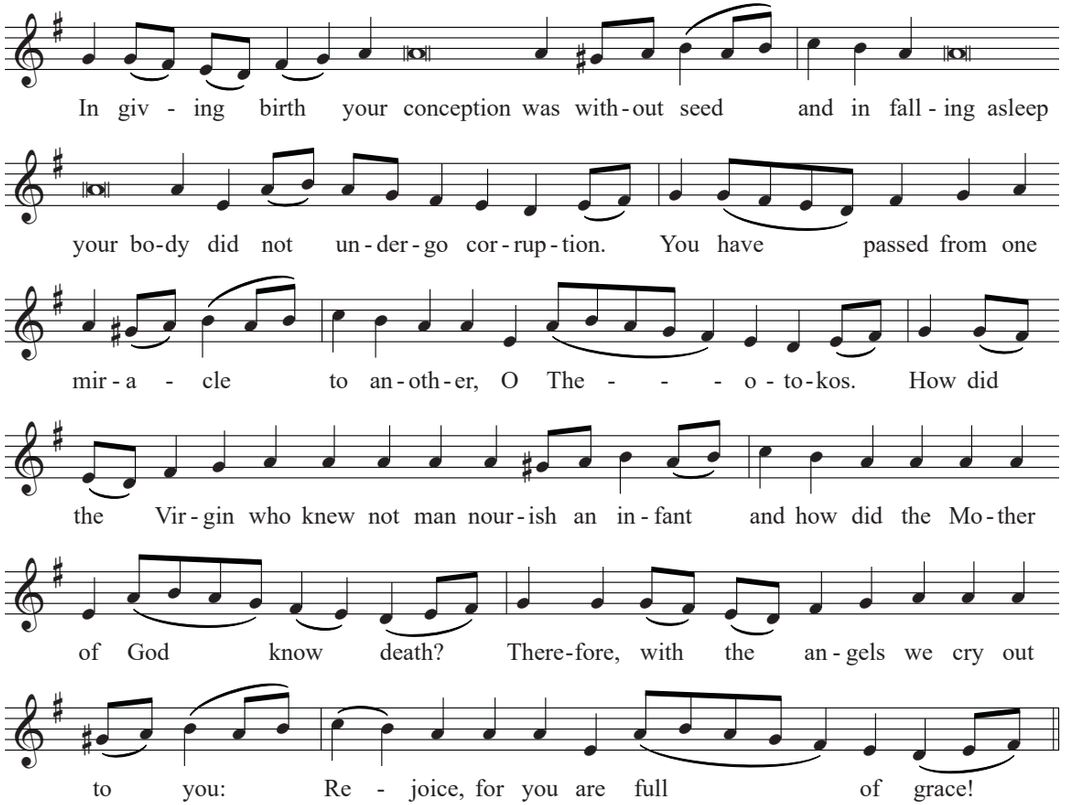
Sessional Hymn 1 - *Tone 1 podoben: Hrob tvoj*





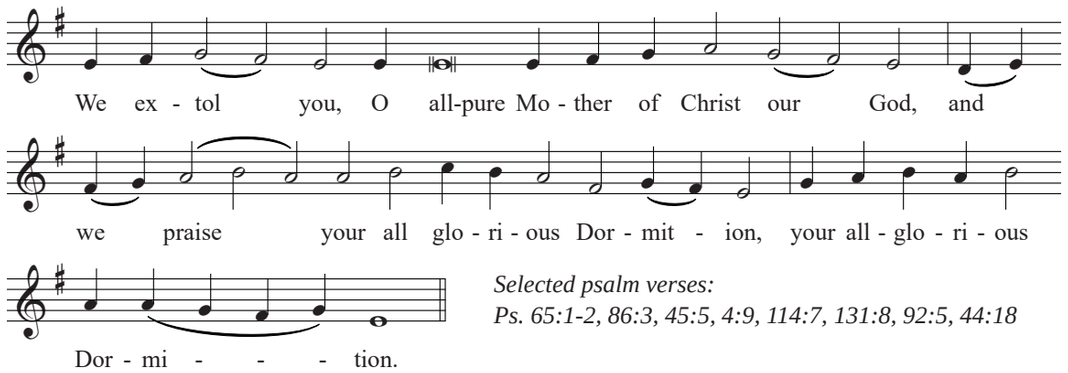
Cantor: Glory... now and ever... *and all repeat:* The venerable choir of the holy apostles...

Sessional Hymn 2 - *Tone 3 podoben: Krasot'i*



Cantor: Glory... now and ever... *and all repeat:* In giving birth your conception was without seed...
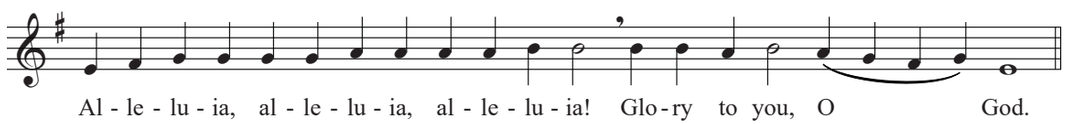
Exaltation after the Polyeleos: *The refrain is repeated after each verse.*
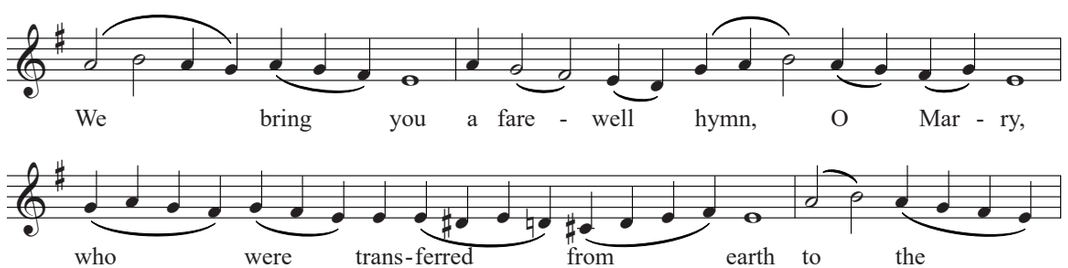


Selected psalm verses:
Ps. 65:1-2, 86:3, 45:5, 4:9, 114:7, 131:8, 92:5, 44:18
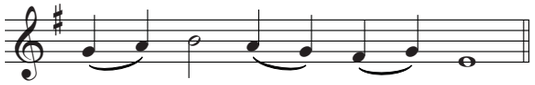
Verse: Shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth, * sing praise to his name, give to him glorious praise.
Verse: Of you are told glorious things, * O City of God.
Verse: The Most High has sanctified * his dwelling place.
Verse: I will lie down * and sleep in peace.
Verse: Turn back, my soul, to your rest, * for the Lord has been good to you.
Verse: Go up, Lord, to your rest, * you and your holy ark.
Verse: Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, * until the end of time.
Verse: I shall make your name remembered * in all generations.
Verse: Glory…now and ever… *and the Exaltation is repeated*

Three times, each with a reverence:

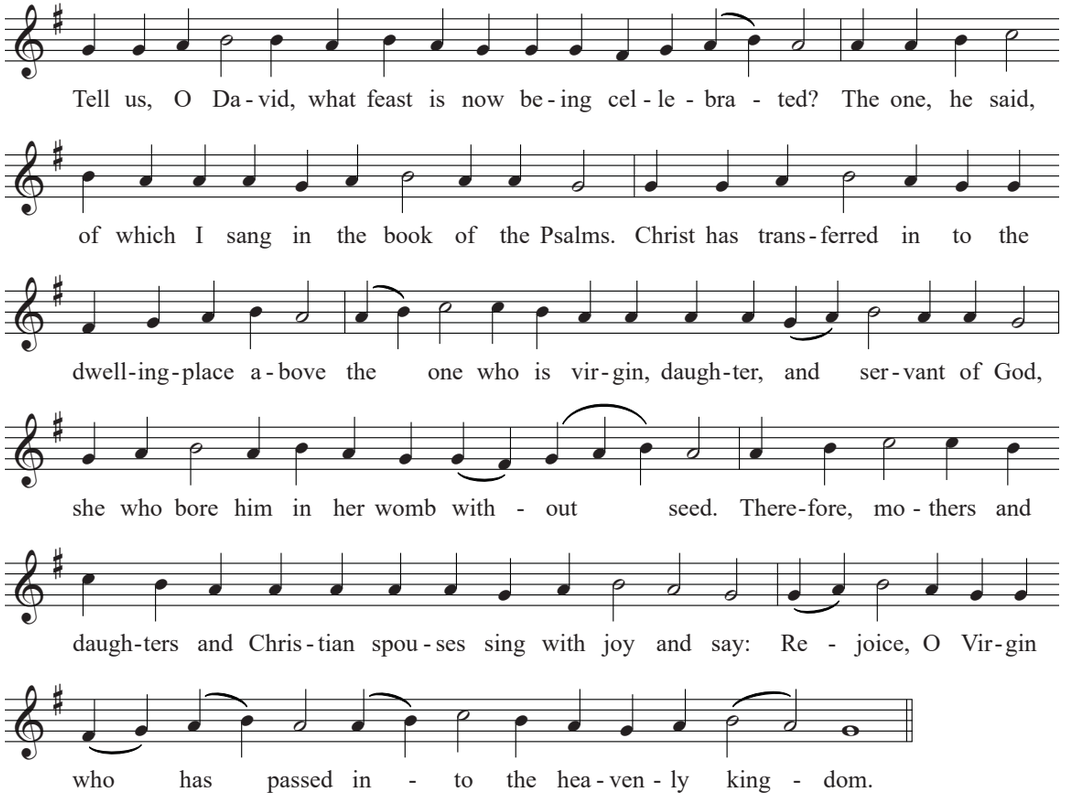


Bulgarian verse:
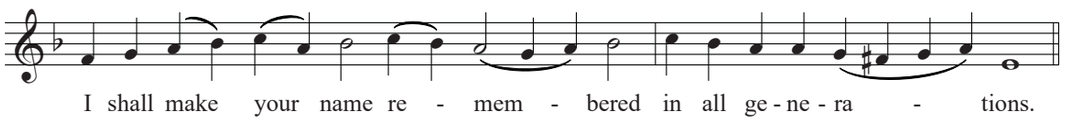




Sessional Hymn - *Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif*
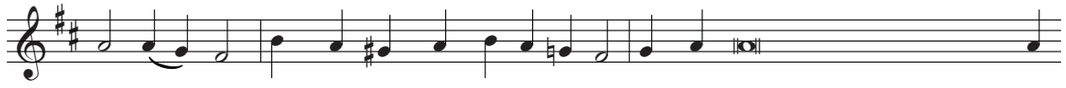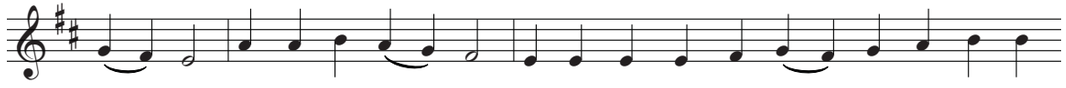


Cantor: Glory…now and ever… *Repeat "Tell us, O David…"*
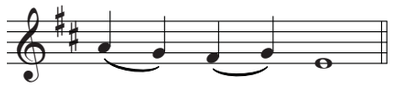
Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 44: 18,11):



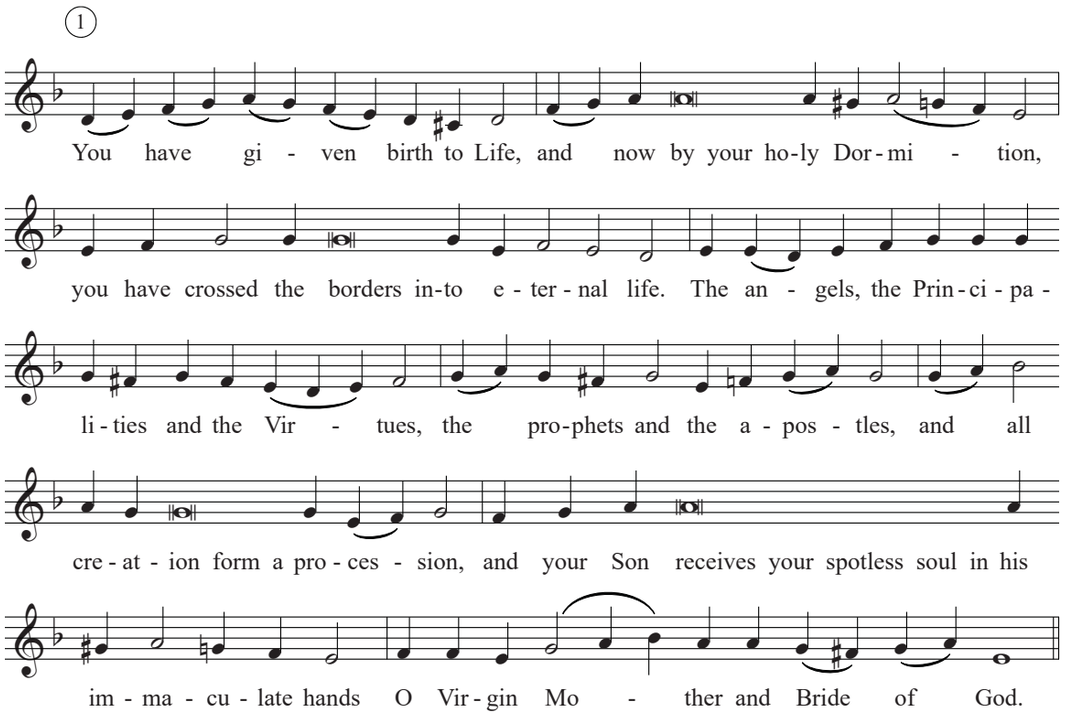
Verse: Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.





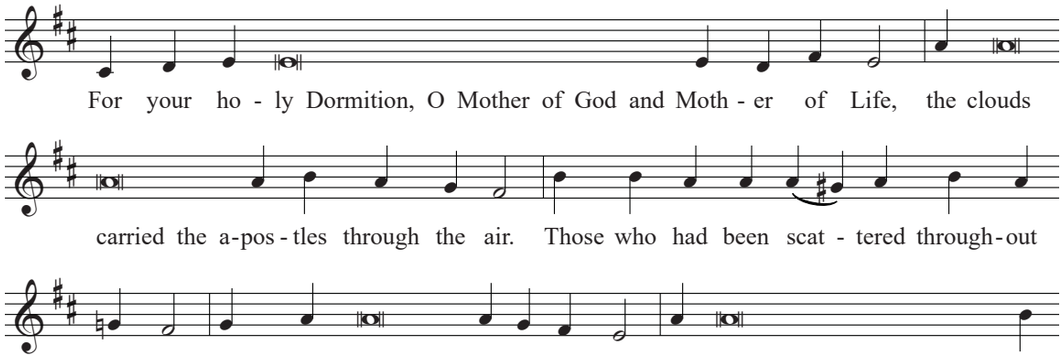


The service continues with the Great Doxology on p. 41.



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

Doxastikon - *Tone 6 samohlasen*



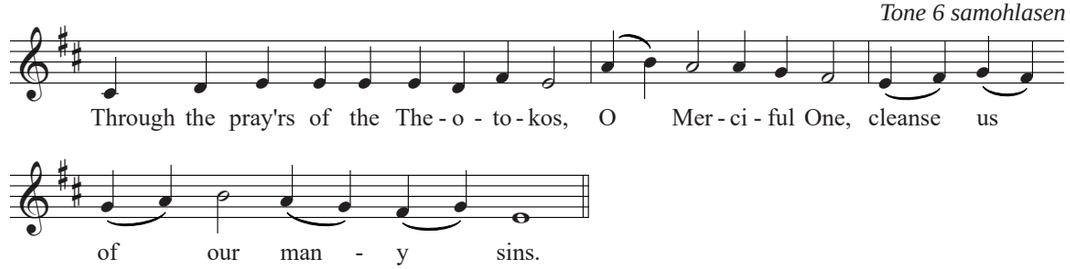
"Let everything that lives and that breathes" is sung in Tone 4 (same as the prokeimenon).

Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-49, 56

Stichera after Psalm 50

Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 6 samohlasen
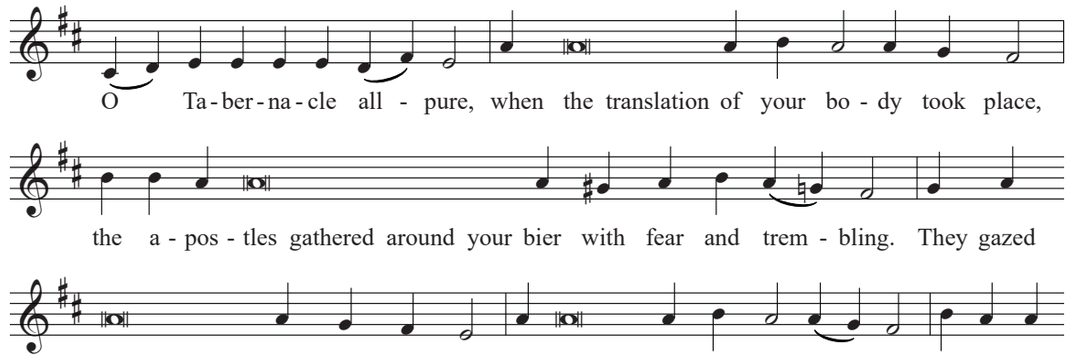


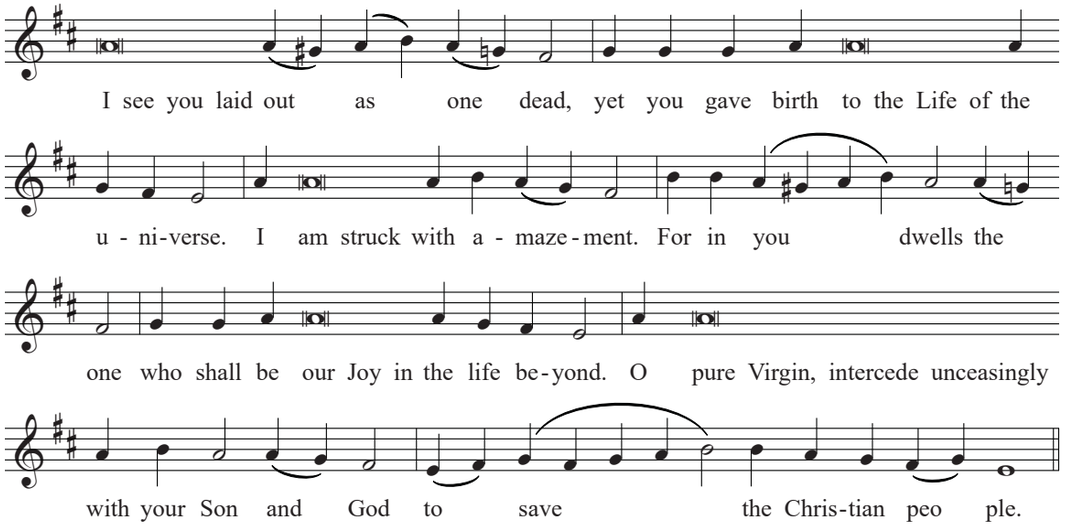
Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

All: Through the prayers of the Theotokos...

Cantor: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

Sticheron - *Tone 6 samohlasen*

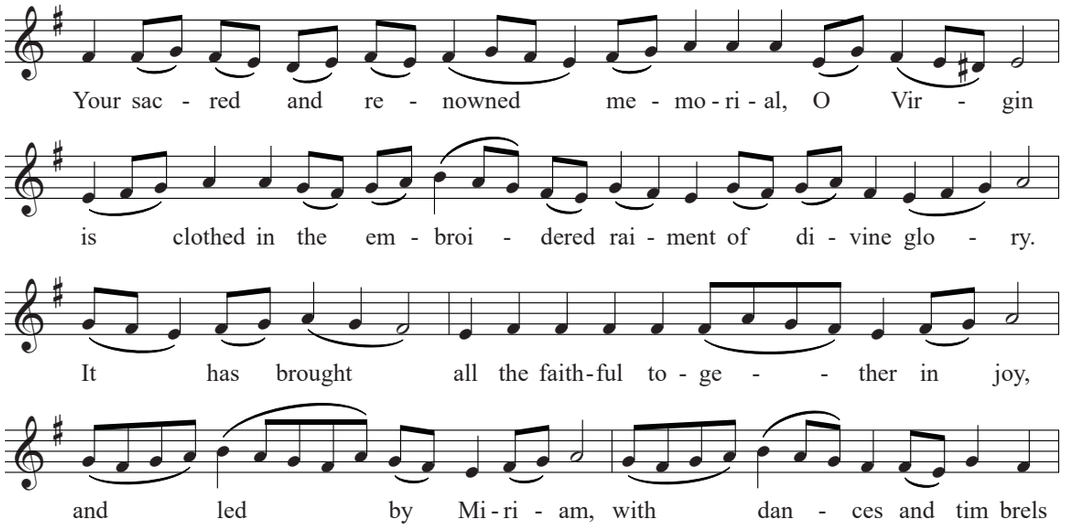


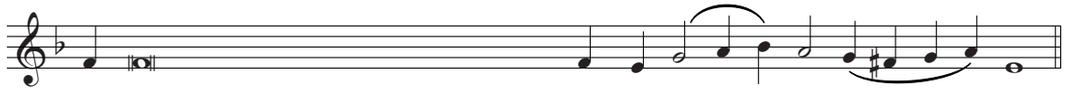


Canon

Ode 1

Irmos - *Tone 1*

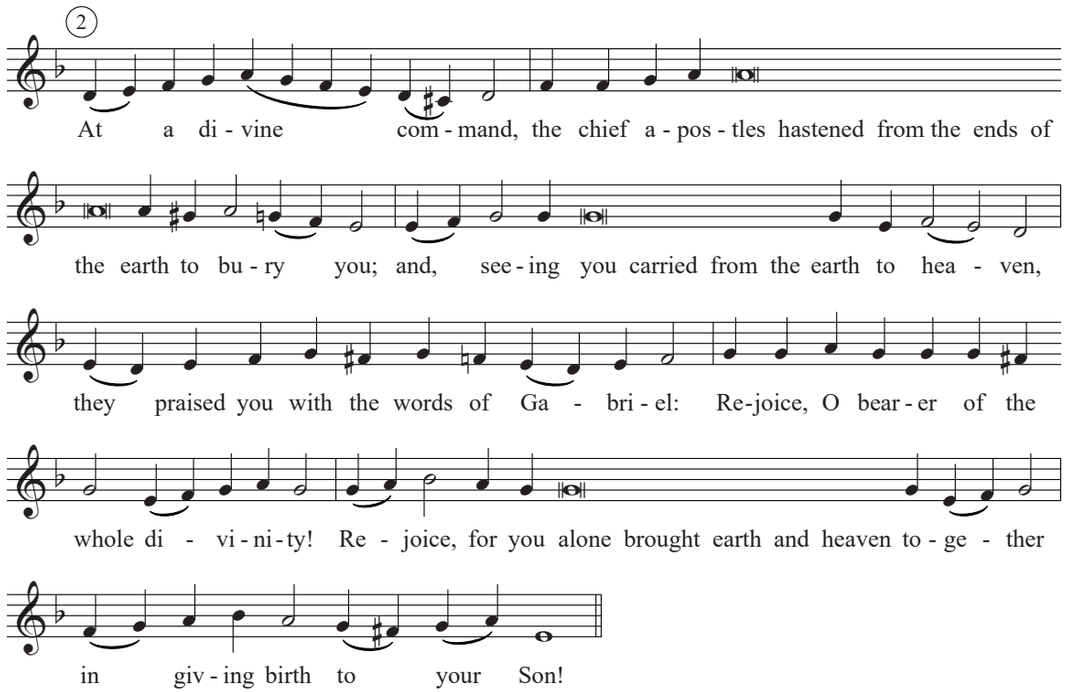




Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
(on 3) praise him with lute and harp.

All repeat "At your glorious Dormition, the heavens rejoice..."
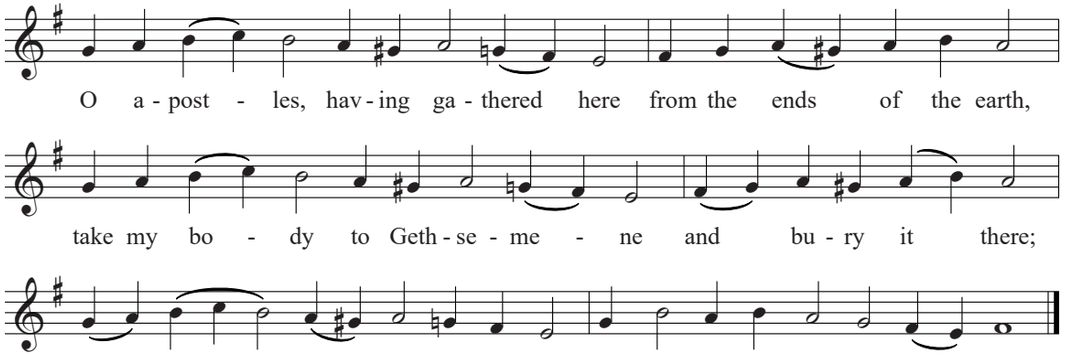
Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
(on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.



Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
(on 1) praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.

Hymn of Light

Tone 3 samopodoben : Apostoly

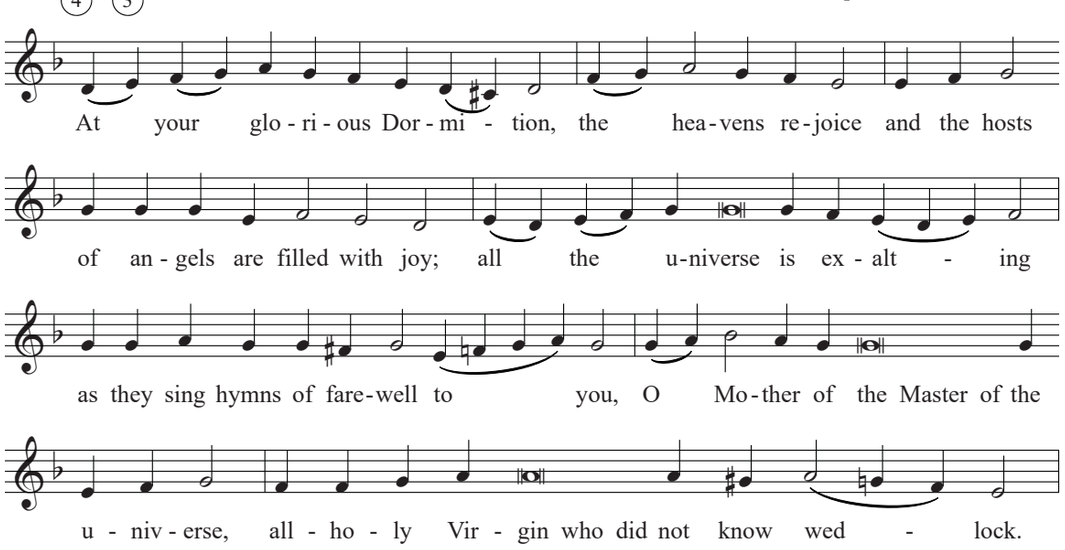


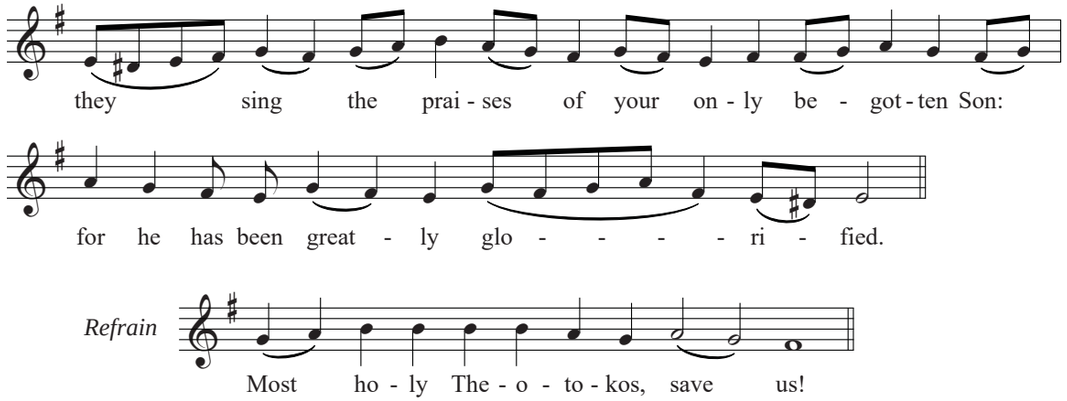
(sung three times)

The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 4

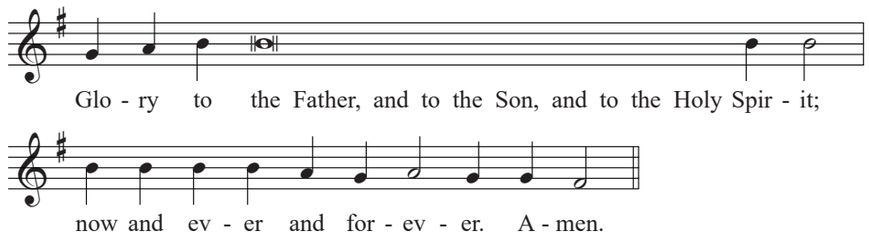
Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds,
(on 4) praise his surpassing greatness.

Tone 4 podoben: Jako dobl'a





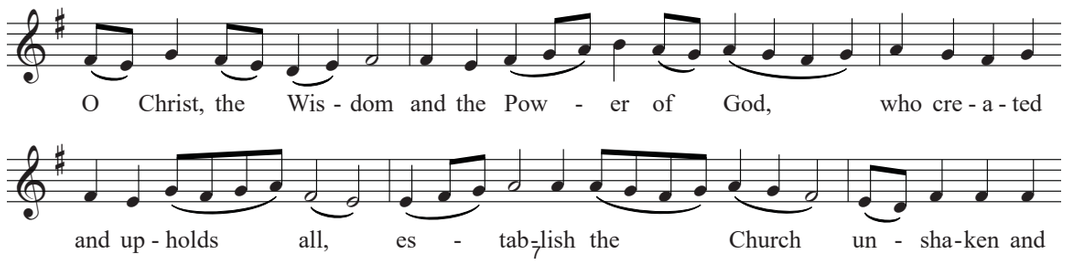
The heavenly choirs encircled your holy body in Zion while the choir of apostles, assembling from the ends of the earth, stood beside you, O Theotokos. Along with them, we also honor your holy memory, O most pure Virgin.
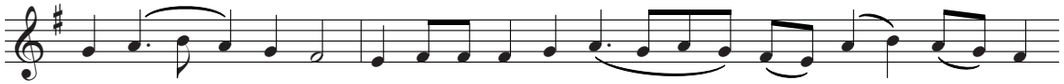


You have gained victory over nature by giving birth to God, O pure Virgin; yet, like your Son and Creator, you have followed the laws of nature while being above it. Therefore, through your death, you have risen to eternal life with your Son.

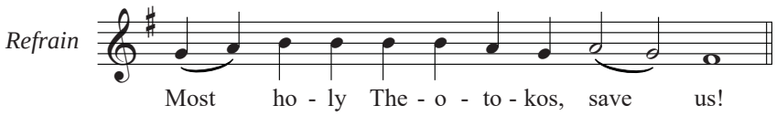
Ode 3

Irmos - *Tone 1*

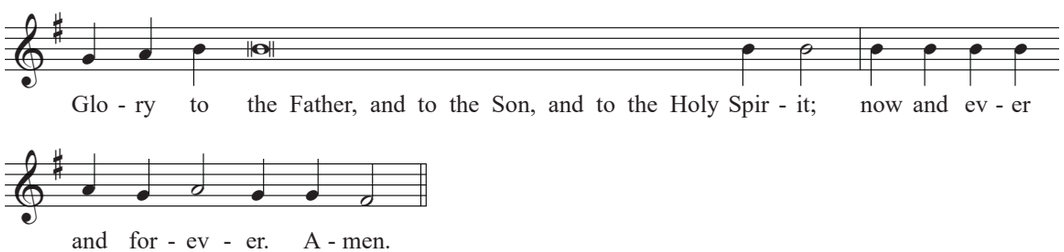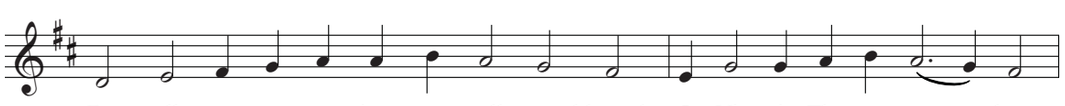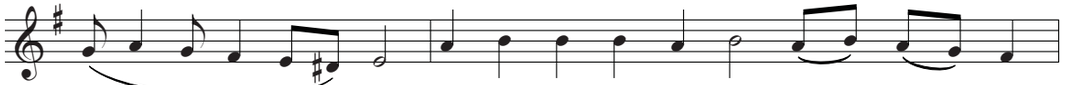








O most pure Virgin, the holy apostles acknowledged you to be both a mortal and one who was beyond and above nature, the Mother of God. Therefore, they approached your body with fear and awe, and beheld you, the tabernacle that had contained God, radiant with glory.
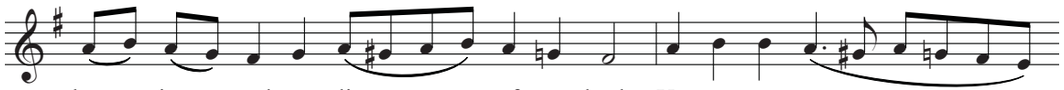


The bold hands of the impudent one were quickly cut off by the righteousness of God in order to preserve the honor of the living Ark, the glory of the Divinity, from whom the Word had taken flesh.

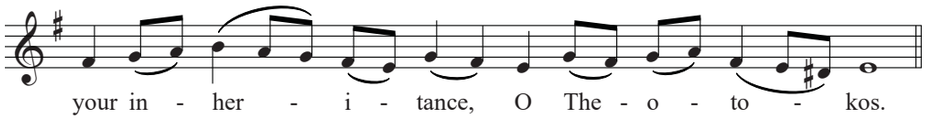
Hypakoje - *Tone 4*





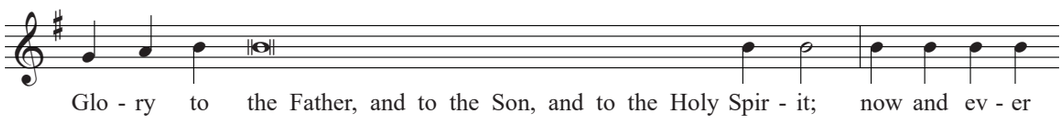






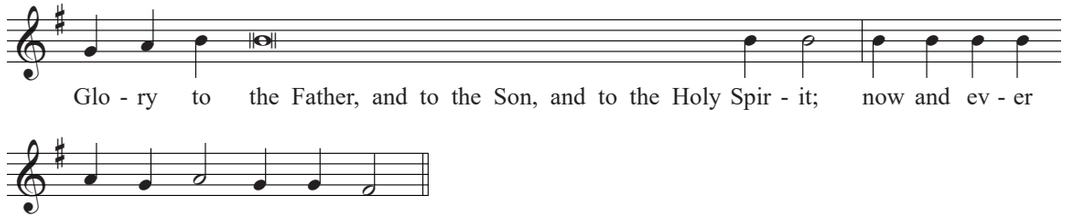
All repeat "The angels were struck with amazement…"

The assembly of apostles gathered around your body which had contained God. Beholding it with awe, they cried out with a clear voice: Save your people as you pass over to the heavenly mansions of your Son.



The heavenly choirs were astonished as they beheld their Master in Zion holding the soul of a woman in his hands. As a Son, it was fitting that he spoke to her who had given birth to him without stain and said: Come and share the glory of your Son and your God.

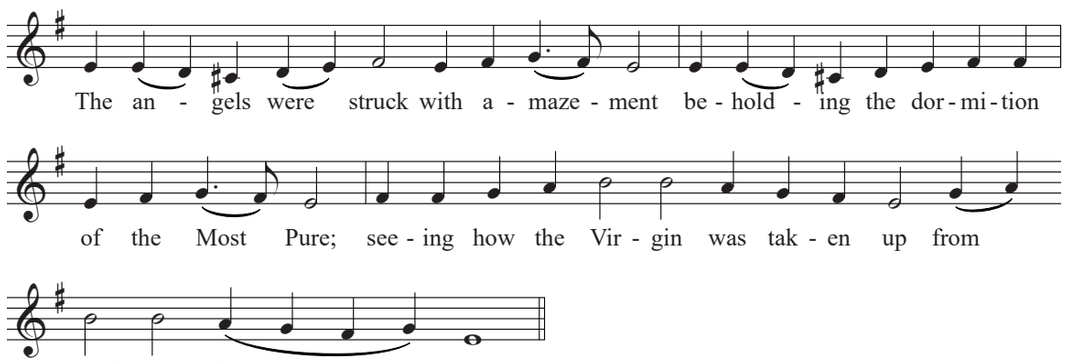
The choir of apostles attended the divine Ark of holiness in Zion while singing: O Tabernacle of the living God, where are you going? Continue to guard those who sing to you in faith: Because we have been saved, we glorify the one and only Creator and praise him above all forever.
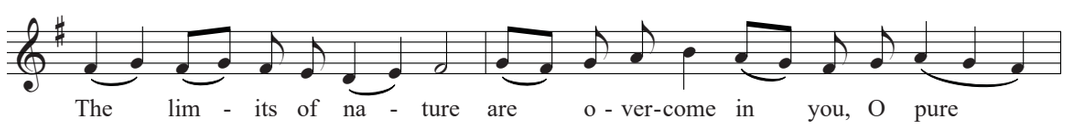


As the pure Virgin left the earth, she raised up her hands in which she had embraced the incarnate God, and she confidently spoke to her Son, saying: Remember forever those whom You have given me and who sing out to you: Because we have seen saved, we glorify the one and only Creator and praise him above all forever.
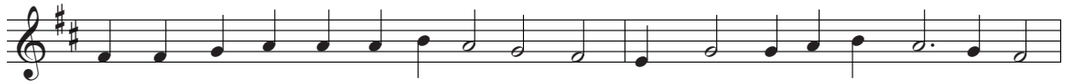
The Canticle of the Theotokos is omitted.
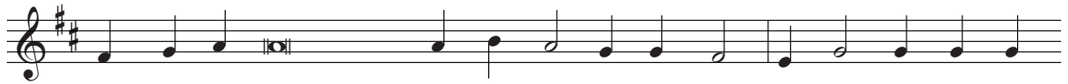
Ode 9
Magnification
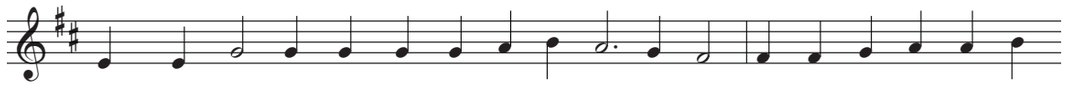


Irmos - *Tone 1*
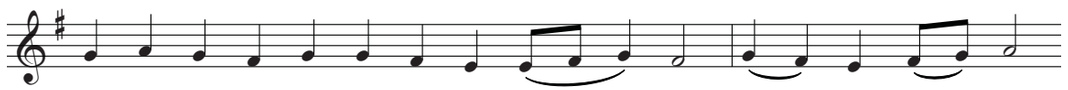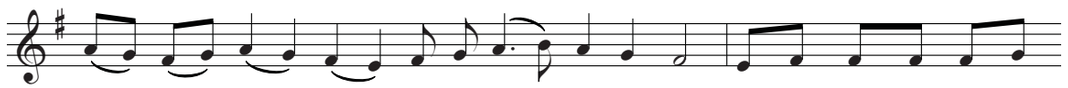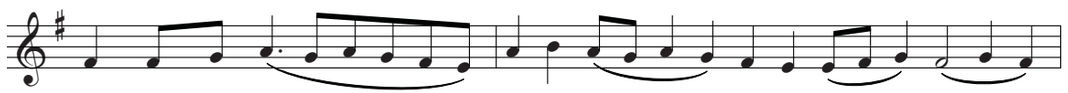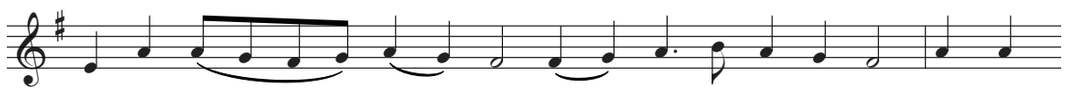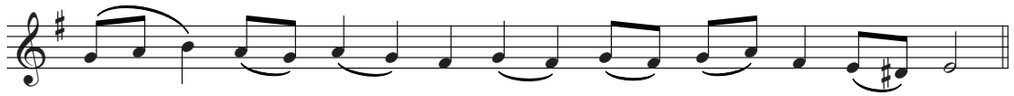












Ode 4
Irmos - *Tone 1*



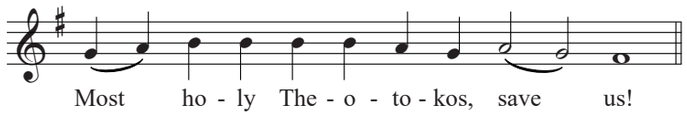






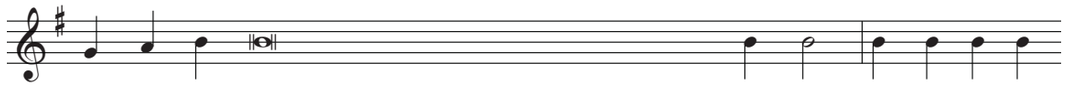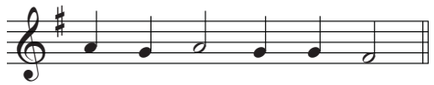


Refrain



Come all you faithful, and behold the mystery; for the holy mountain of the Lord is raised above the heavens as we look on. The earthly heaven takes up her dwelling in a heavenly and immortal land. *(Refrain)*

O pure Virgin, your death was a passing over into a better and eternal life. It transported you from this earthly life to one that is divine and knows no end; now you behold your Son and Lord in joy.
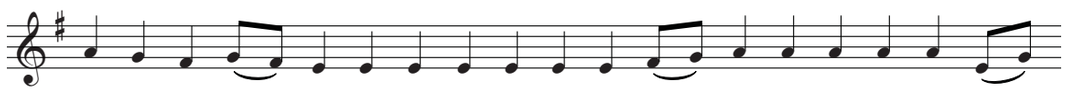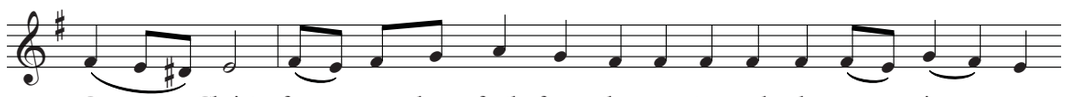




The heavenly gates opened wide, and the heavenly choirs sang as Christ welcomed the virgin treasure of his own mother. The Cherubim served you in gladness, and the Seraphim praised you in joy.

Ode 5

Irmos - *Tone 1*
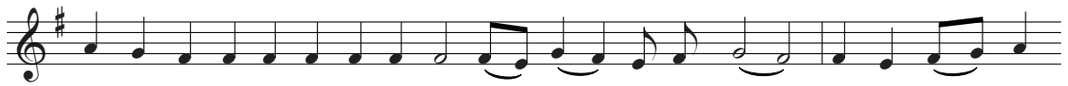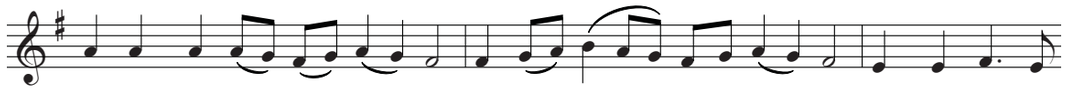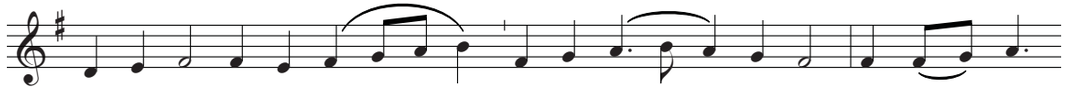




Inspired by God, the faithful have assembled to witness the passing over of God's glorious Tabernacle from Zion to the heavenly dwelling place where the joyful singing of those celebrating the feast can be heard praising Christ and saying: Blessed are you, O most glorious God, for you are the God of our Fathers.

Ode 8
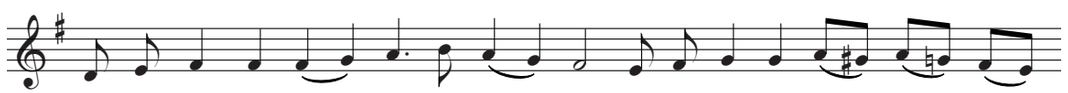
Irmos - *Tone 1*
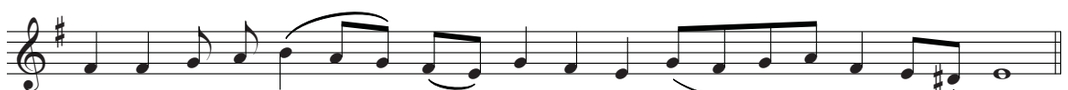




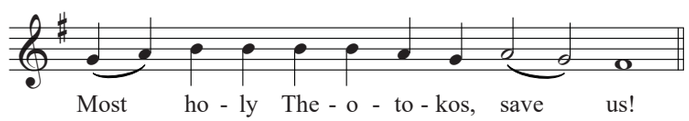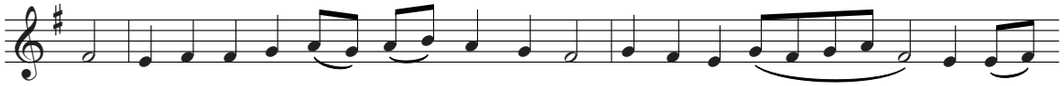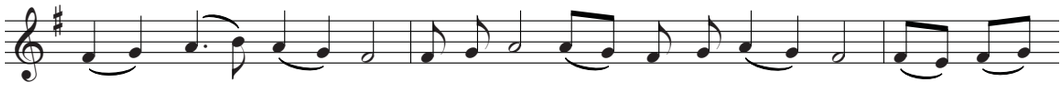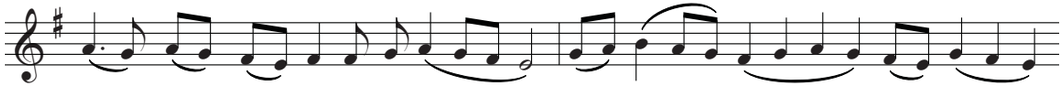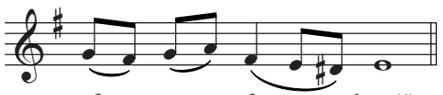








Refrain
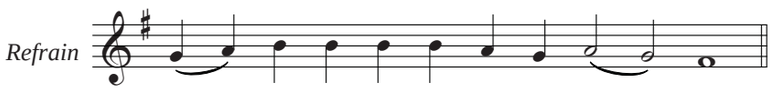






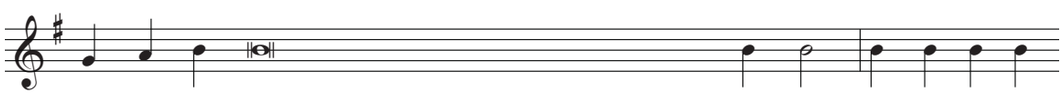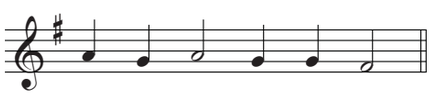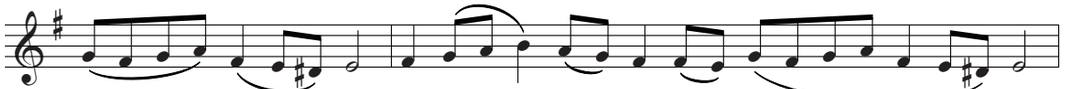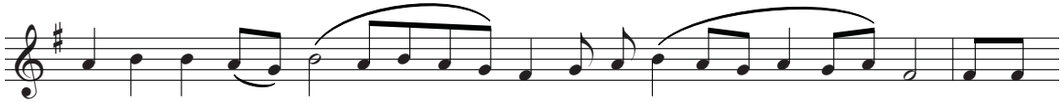






Moses, overcome by wrath, destroyed the tablets made by God and inscribed by the Holy Spirit. But the God of Moses preserved the virginity of his own Mother in her childbirth, and now has carried her to the heavenly dwelling. Rejoicing with her, we sing out to Christ: Blessed are you, O most glorious God, for you are the God of our Fathers. *Refrain*
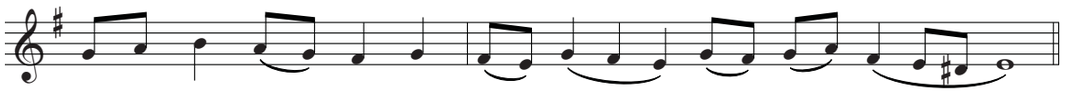
O faithful, let us sing on this sacred and festive day of the Translation of the pure Virgin. With the cymbals of our pure lips, the melodious lyres of our hearts, the sweet-sounding trumpets of our uplifted minds, and the joyful clapping of our hands, let us say: Blessed are you, O most glorious God, for you are the God of our Fathers.
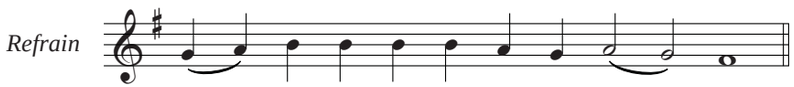




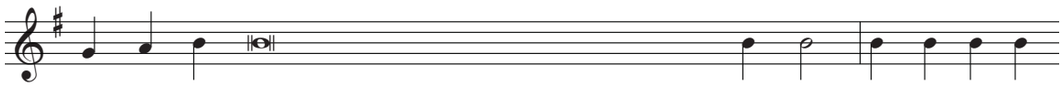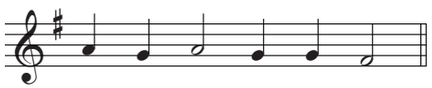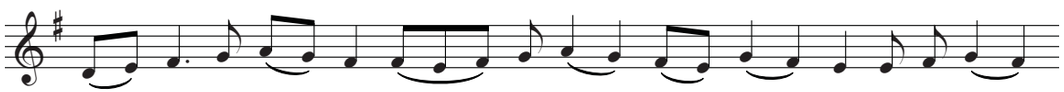








The choir of apostles was transported upon a cloud from the ends of the earth to Zion so that they might minister to you, O Virgin. From you, O swift cloud, the Almighty God, the Sun of Righteousness, bestowed light upon those who were in the shadow of darkness.

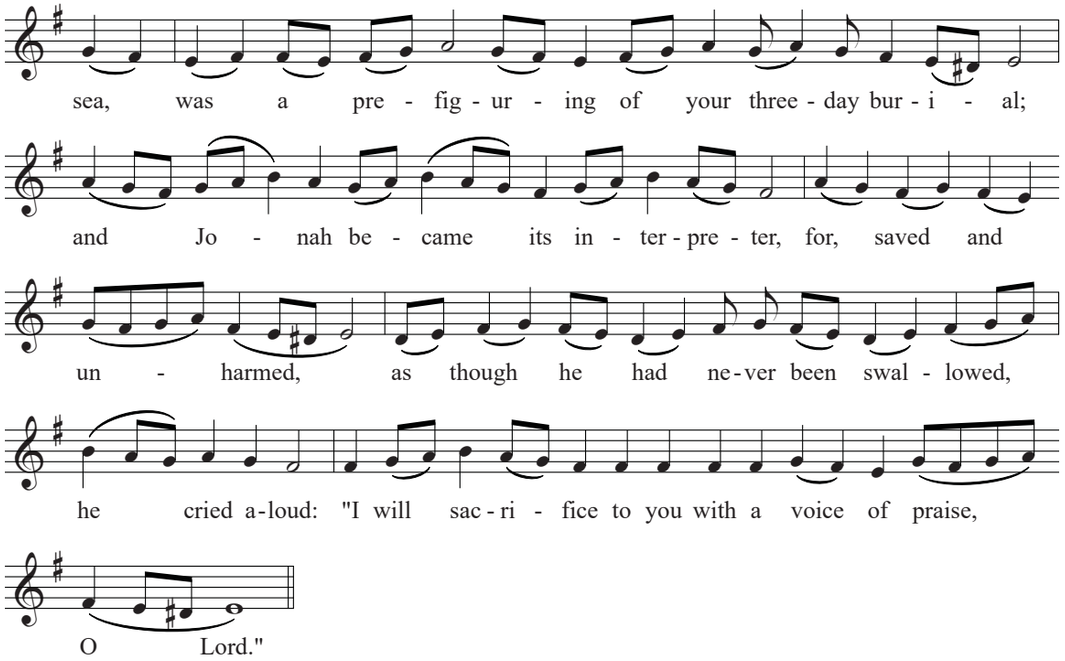




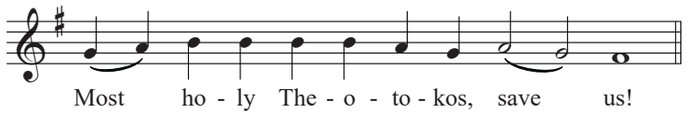
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostles sang out a burial hymn to the Mother of God in a voice louder than trumpets: Rejoice, O pure source of the Incarnation of God. Through you, salvation comes to the whole world.

Ode 6
Irmos - *Tone 1*

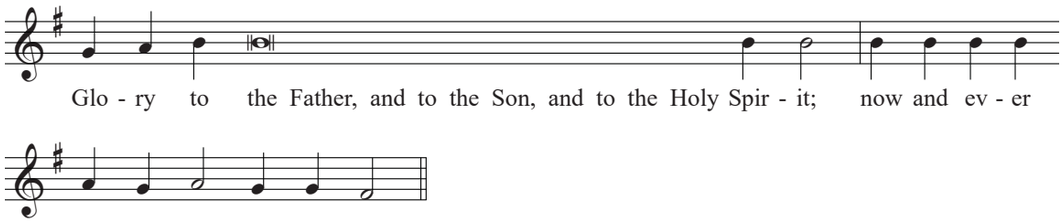




Refrain

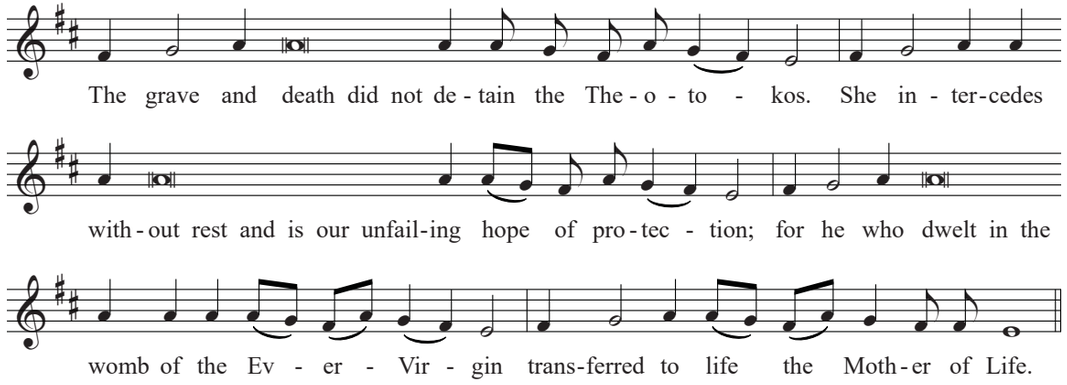


The Divine King of all bestowed upon you gifts that are beyond nature. Just as he preserved your virginity in childbirth, he saved your body from suffering corruption in the tomb. He exalted you, his Mother, through your divine passage in glory.



O Virgin, your Son has granted that you dwell in the Holy of Holies as a bright lamp, burning with the immaterial fire, as a golden censer burning with divine coal. You are the vessel containing manna, the rod of Aaron, the tablet written by God, the holy Ark, and the table of the Bread of Life.

Kontakion of the Dormition - *Tone 2*



Ikos: O Savior, encircle my heart so that I may praise this stronghold of the world, your most pure Mother; may my words be as strong as a fortress, and may my thoughts acquire power and strength. You always fulfill the petitions of those who come to You in faith. Therefore, grant me the words, the tongue, and the thoughts that are without shame; for every gift that enlightens us comes from You, the Enlightener of our souls, and the Lord who dwelt in a virginal womb.
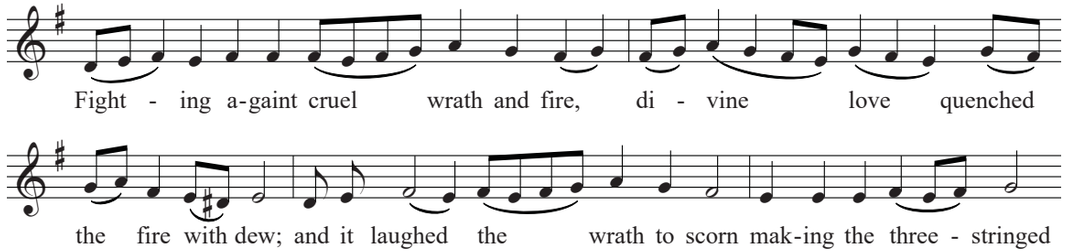
Ode 7
Irmos - *Tone 1*

