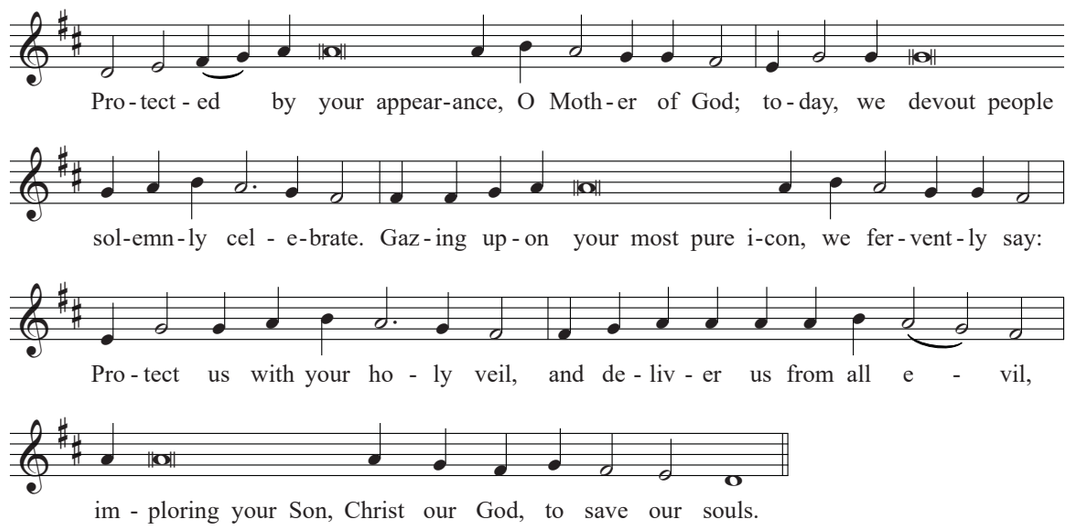
Matins propers, October 1

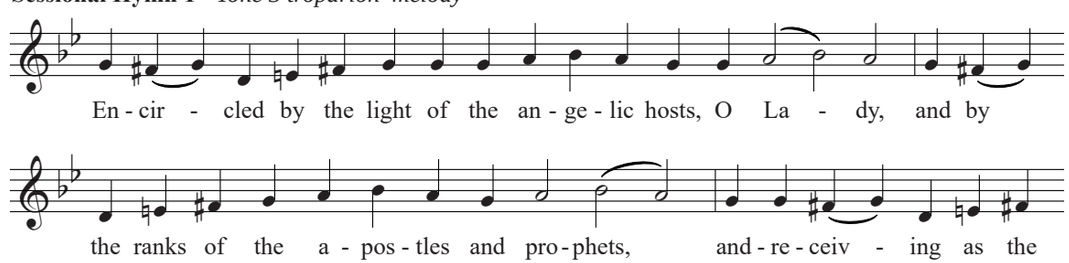
THE PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY. On October 1, 911, during the reign of emperor Leo the Wise, there was an all-night vigil in the Blachernae church of the Theotokos in Constantinople. Standing near the rear of the church was St. Andrew the Fool for Christ, and his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Theotokos appeared above the people with a veil spread over her outstretched hands, as if to protect them. She was surrounded by angels and saints. Seeing this, Andrew asked his disciple, "Do you see the Queen and Lady of all is praying for the whole world?"

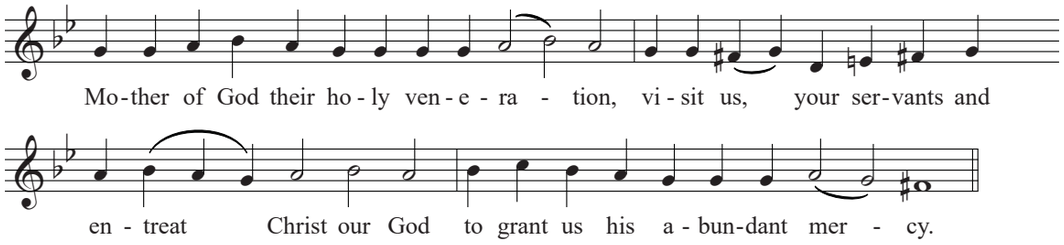
Troparion - *Tone 4*



This troparion is sung three times; "Glory... now..." *is sung to the same melody before the third time.*

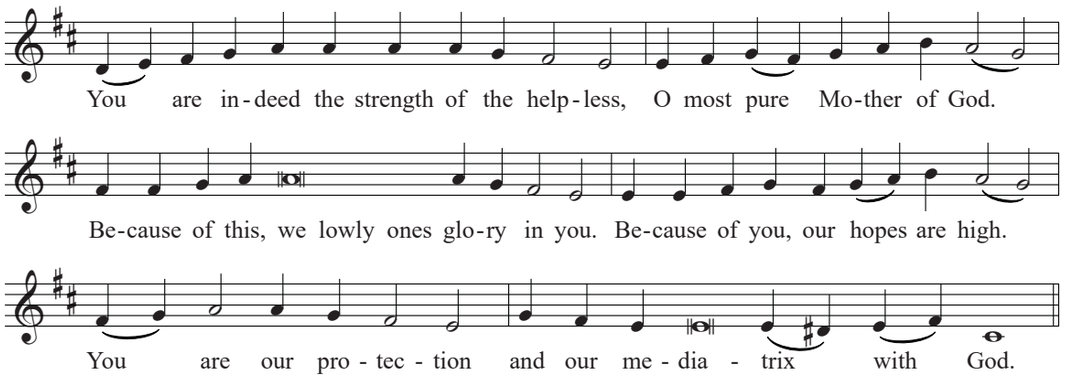
Sessional Hymn 1 - *Tone 3 troparion melody*





Cantor: Glory…now and ever… *Repeat "Encircled by the light of the angelic hosts…"*

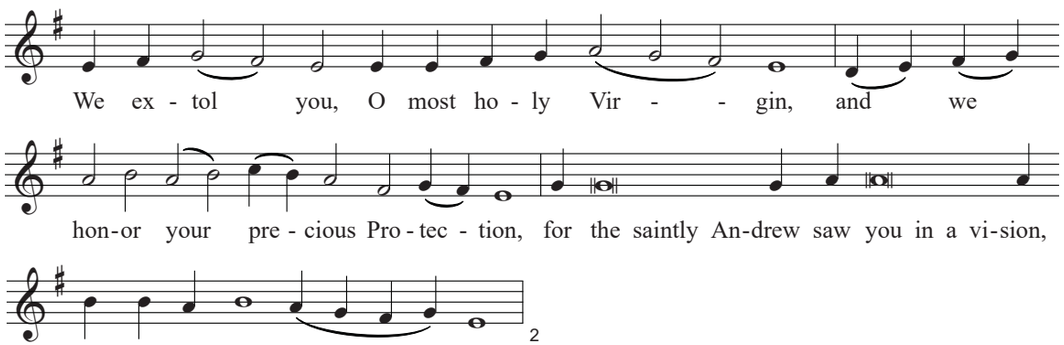
Sessional Hymn 2 - *Tone 6 troparion melody*

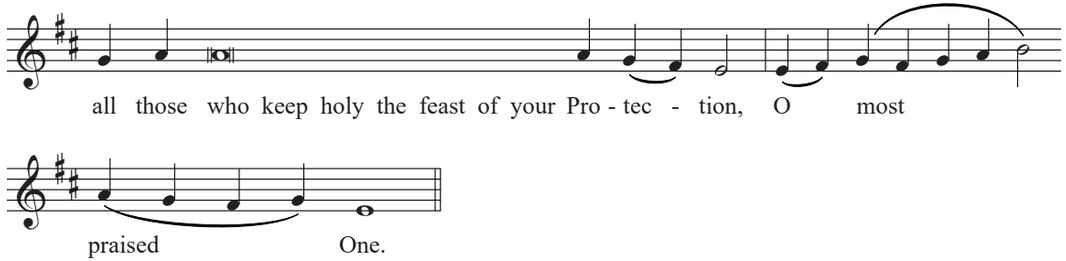


Cantor: Glory…now and ever… *Repeat "You are indeed the strength of the helpless…"*

The service continues with the Polyeleos, found on page 16.

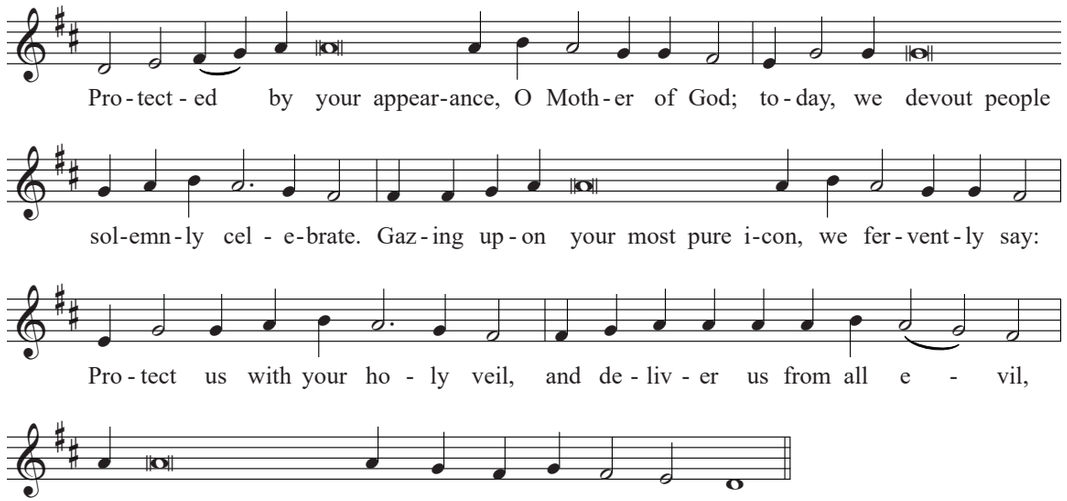
Exaltation after the Polyeleos: *The refrain is repeated after each verse* (Ps. 90:1,4, .26:5, 35:8)



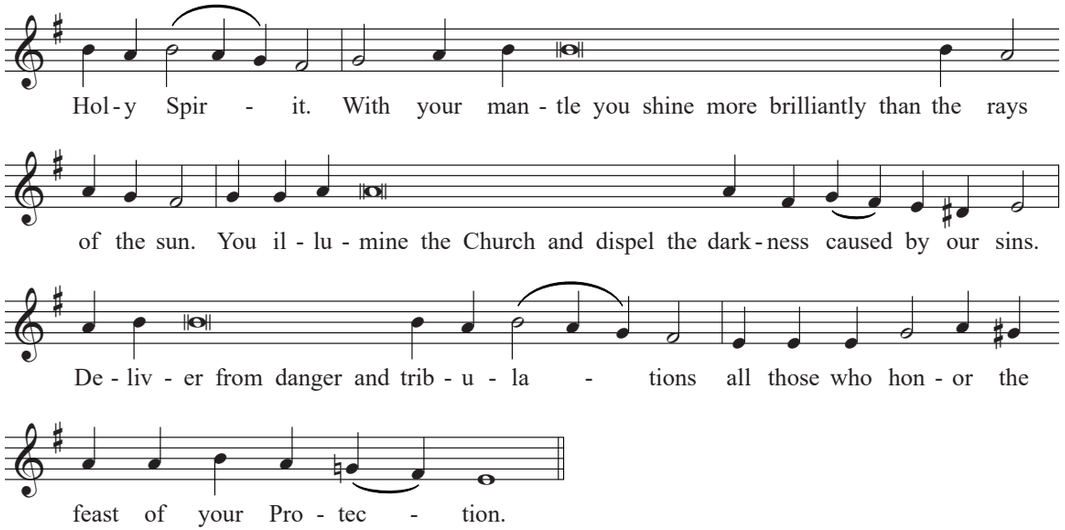


The service continues with the Great Doxology, page 41. After the Great Doxology, the Troparion of the Feast is sung.

Troparion - *Tone 4*

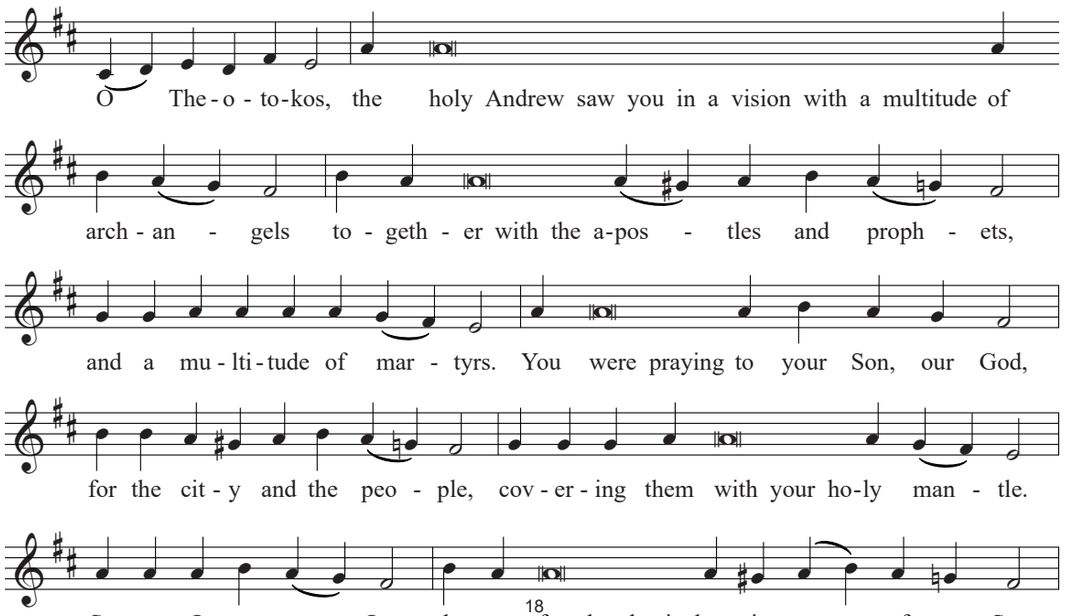


The service concludes with the Liutany of Supplication on p. 45.



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

Theotokion - *Tone 6*



Verse: The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High * abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.
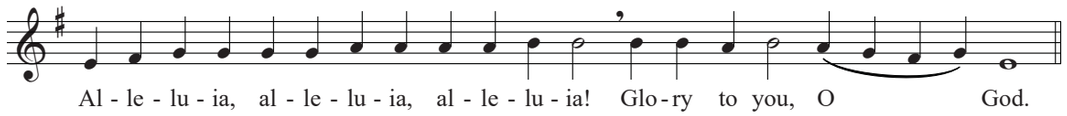
Verse: He will conceal you with his pinions, * and under his wings you will find refuge.

Verse: For there he keeps me safe in his tent * in the day of evil.

Verse: the sons of men * find refuge in the shelter of your wings.

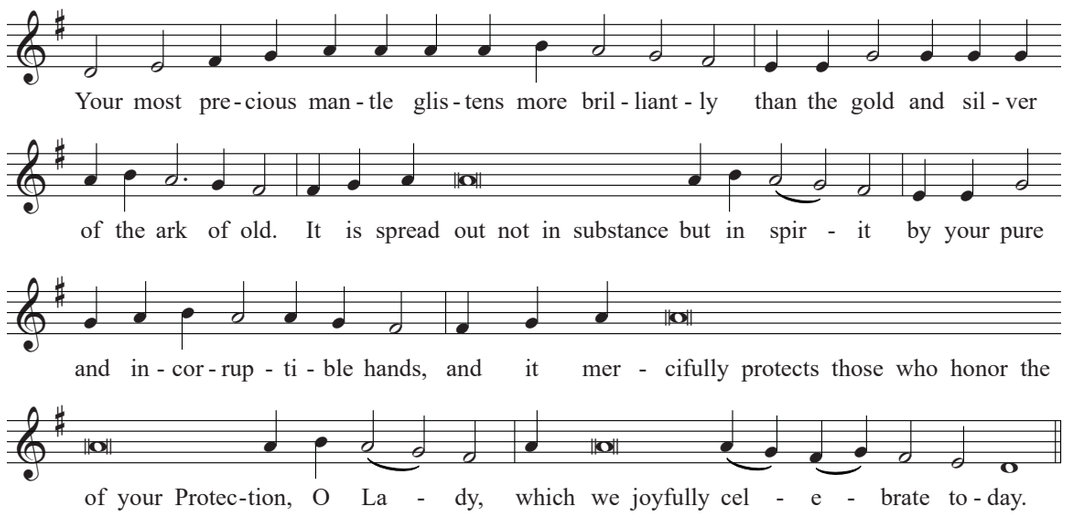
Verse: Glory…now and ever… *and the Exaltation is repeated.*

Three times, each with a reverence:



All repeat the Exaltation.
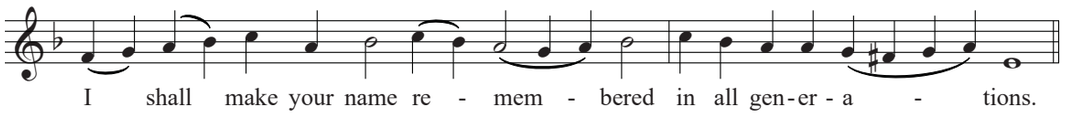
Sessional Hymn - *Tone 4 troparion melody*



Cantor: Glory…now and ever… *Repeat "Your most precious mantle…"*

The Festal Gradual Hymn is found on page 312.

Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 44:18,11):

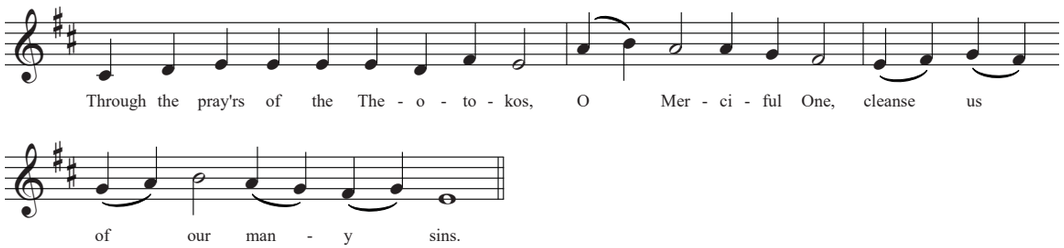


Verse: Listen, O daughter, and see and incline your ear.

"Let everything that lives" is sung in Tone 4, found on page 171. The service continues on page 24.

Stichera after Psalm 50

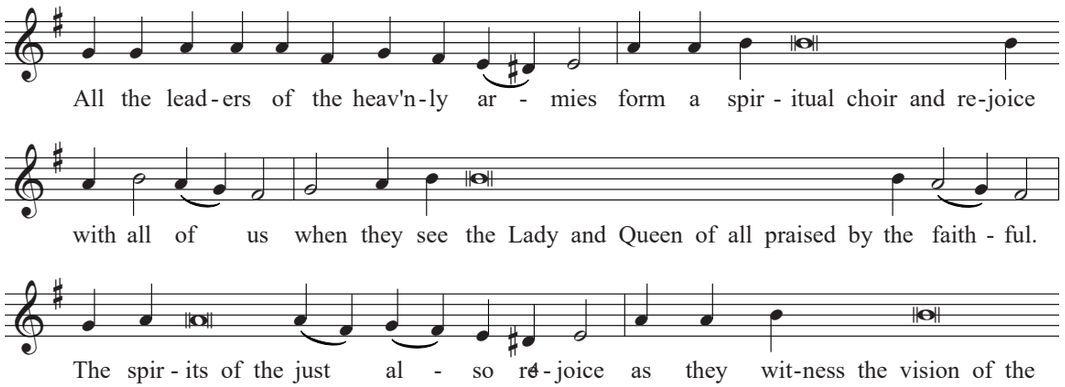
Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.



Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen. *Repeat "Through the prayers…"*
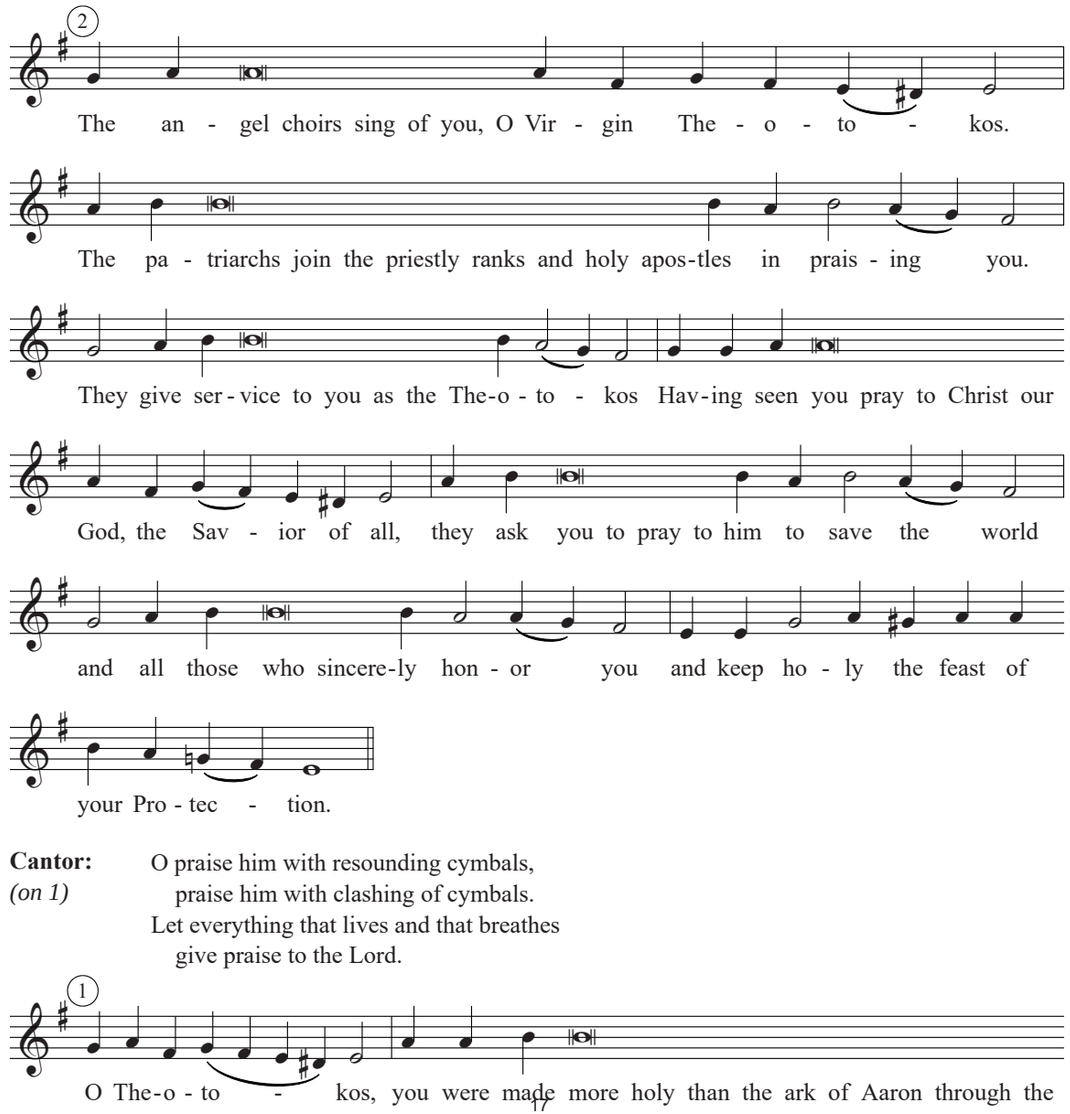
Cantor: *(Tone 8)* Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

Tone 8 samohlasen



Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
(on 3) praise him with lute and harp. *Repeat "O Lady, we bow before you…"*

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

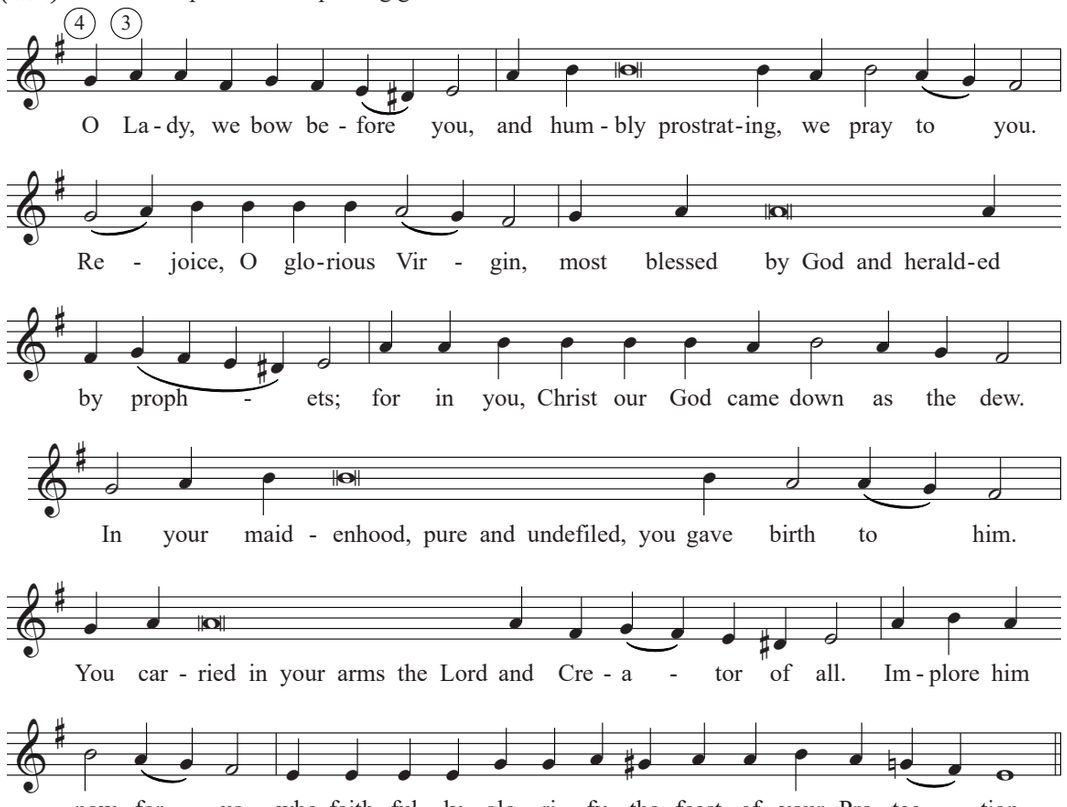
O most holy Lady, Virgin Mother of God, extend your holy mantle over us;
guide and protect our rulers and all people from ev***ery*** evil.

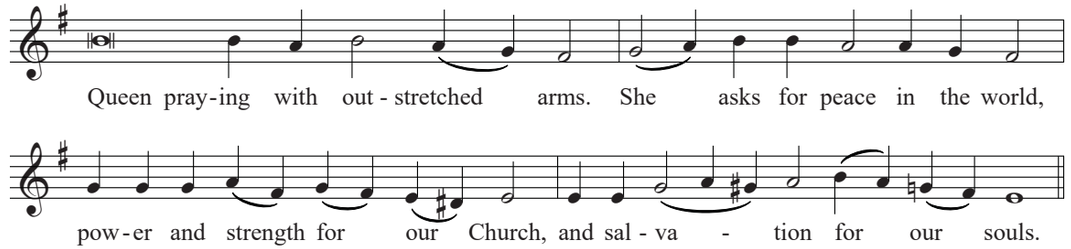
As the holy Andrew saw you in a vision while praying,
so today, O holy Lady, show us your loving ***pro***tection. *(3 times)*

The Praises (Psalms 148-150)

The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 8, beginning on page page 305

Cantor: *(Tone 8)* Praise him for his powerful deeds,
(on 4) praise his surpassing greatness.

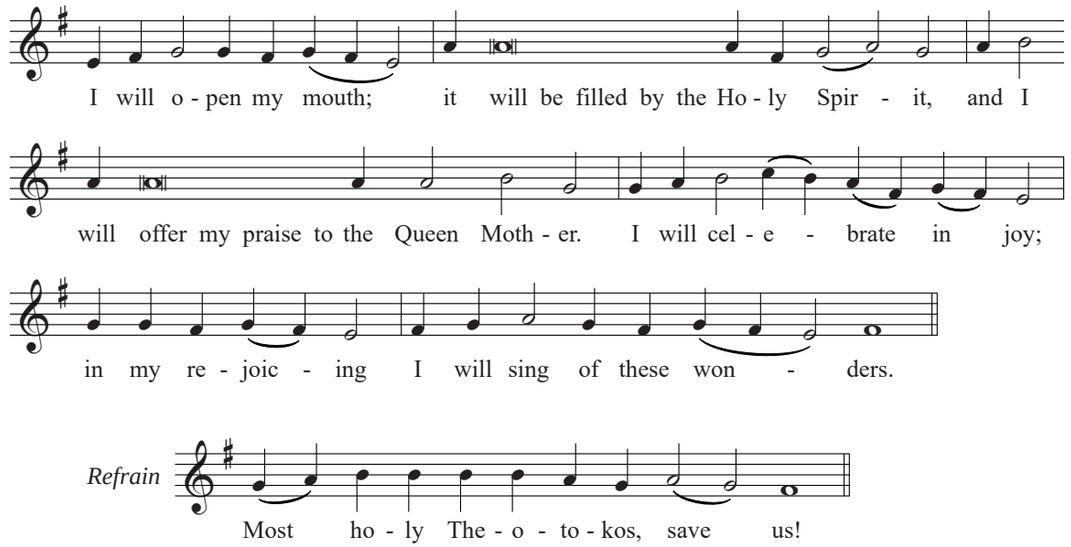




The service continues on page 29

Canon

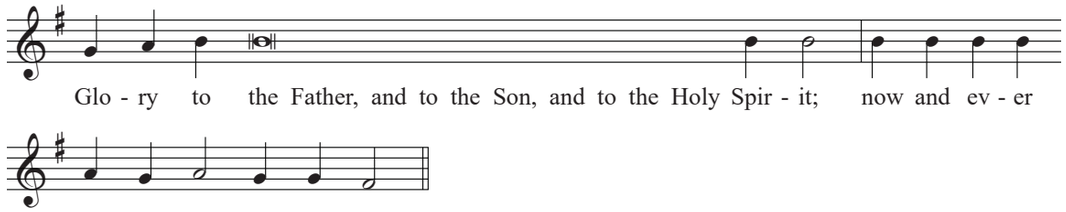
Ode 1
Irmos - *Tone 4*



In the company of the angelic powers and united with the prophets and apostles, the Mother of God enters the Church today in splendor. She prays for all Christians and protects them with her mercy, that they may be delivered from all sorrow and distress.
Refrain

You have been called the ark of Moses and the rod of Aaron, for Christ the flower has blossomed forth from you, O tree of life. Entreat him in behalf of those who honor you, O Queen, to deliver us from all evil that we may celebrate your feast. *Refrain*

In times past, David gathered his choirs together and made music before the ark. Now we on earth honor you with the angelic powers in the Church, saying: O Queen, intercede for us who extol you, that we may reverently celebrate and glorify the feast of your Protection.

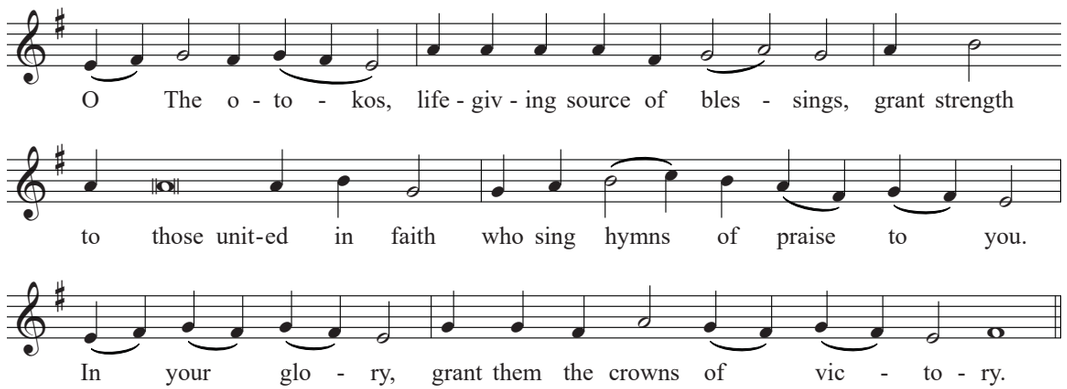


Coming before you in the Church, the angelic powers offer you praise while the patriarchs and bishops glorify you, O Theotokos. Together with them the holy Andrew saw you praying to God for us sinners, interceding for mercy upon those who glorify the feast of your Protection.

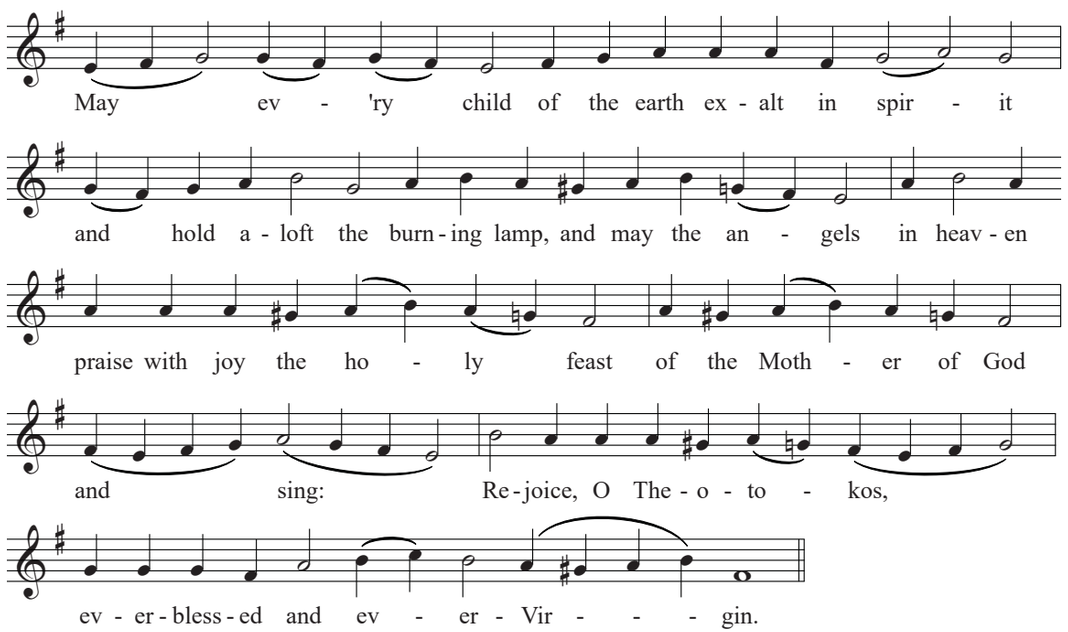
The irmos may be sung as katavasia at the end of each ode, if desired.

Ode 3

Irmos - *Tone 4*



Irmos - *Tone 4*
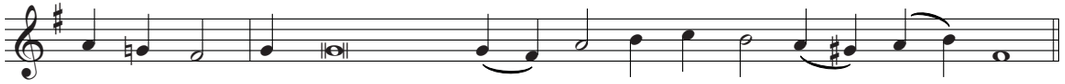


Heed the supplication which your Mother offers in behalf of us sinners, O High King, who sits at the right hand of the Father and is praised by the Seraphim. *Repeat "Extol…"*

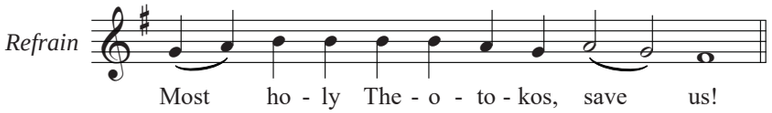
Cleanse us from our sins, save our city from danger, and increase the faithful throughout our land by the prayers of the One who gave birth to you. *Repeat "Extol…"*

O Virgin chosen by God, we praise you in the words of the angel: Rejoice, for you have led Adam back to Paradise. Rejoice, O Hope of Christians who has routed the demons through your name. Rejoice, Enlightener of souls and Protectress of our city.

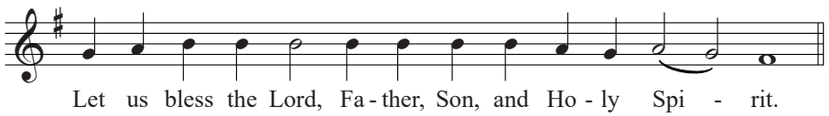
Glory: Holy Virgin Theotokos, receive the prayers of us all so that we may not be cast down by our many sins. Deliver us from all danger and tribulation, for we glorify you and honor the feast of your Protection.

Now and ever: O holy Mother of God, he has bestowed upon you the gift of healing the ills of all Christians, of delivering them from tribulation, of releasing them from sin, and of saving them from all danger. Do not turn away from us, O Lady, as we beseech you to grant us health of body and salvation for our soul.
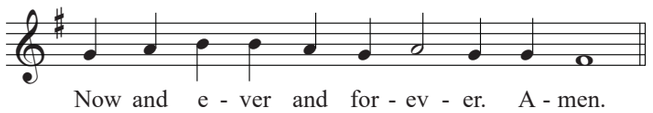




With the angels, prophets and apostles, the priest-martyrs and bishops, O Theotokos, pray for us sinners who keep this feast of your protection in the land of America.



O Mother of God, greatly honored Queen, quiet all violence and calm all violent people, that we may glorify your feast, O Virgin Theotokos, and cry out: O works of the Lord, praise and exalt him forever.
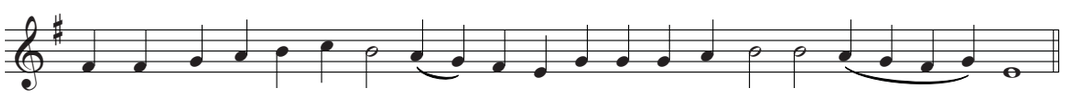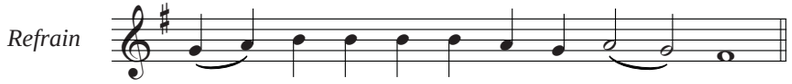


We venerate you in faith and sing hymns to you, for our hearts are on fire, O Mother of God. Have mercy on those who honor you and who praise the Lord and exalt him forever.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is omitted.

Ode 9
Magnification





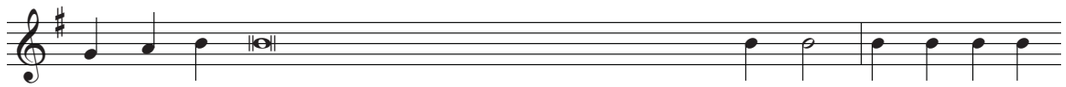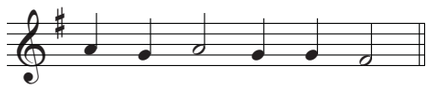


Rejoice, mystical earth, who without plowing have given forth a divine wheat! Rejoice, living table who support the bread of life! Rejoice, O Lady, unfailing fountain of living water! *Refrain*

We your servants stand in your church awaiting your mercy, O Lady; aid us in our lowliness and defend all Christians of the true Faith from all evil with the protection of your veil. *Refrain*

O praiseworthy Virgin, the prophets once spoke about you; with them, pray to God that we may celebrate your protection with radiance and joy. *Refrain*

Gideon foretold you when he spoke about the fleece, for Christ descended upon you like dew upon the fleece. You gave birth to God; now ask him to protect all true Christians, that overcoming their opponents - like the people of Midian - they may give glory on your holy feast.
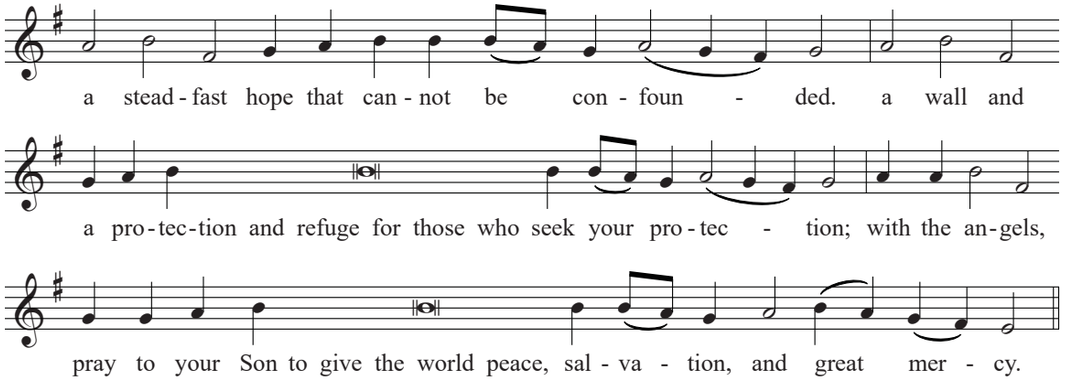




Mother of God, with your protective veil you give more light to the Church and your people than the rays of the sun; by your protection you drive away the darkness of sin as you pray for us to your Son and your God.

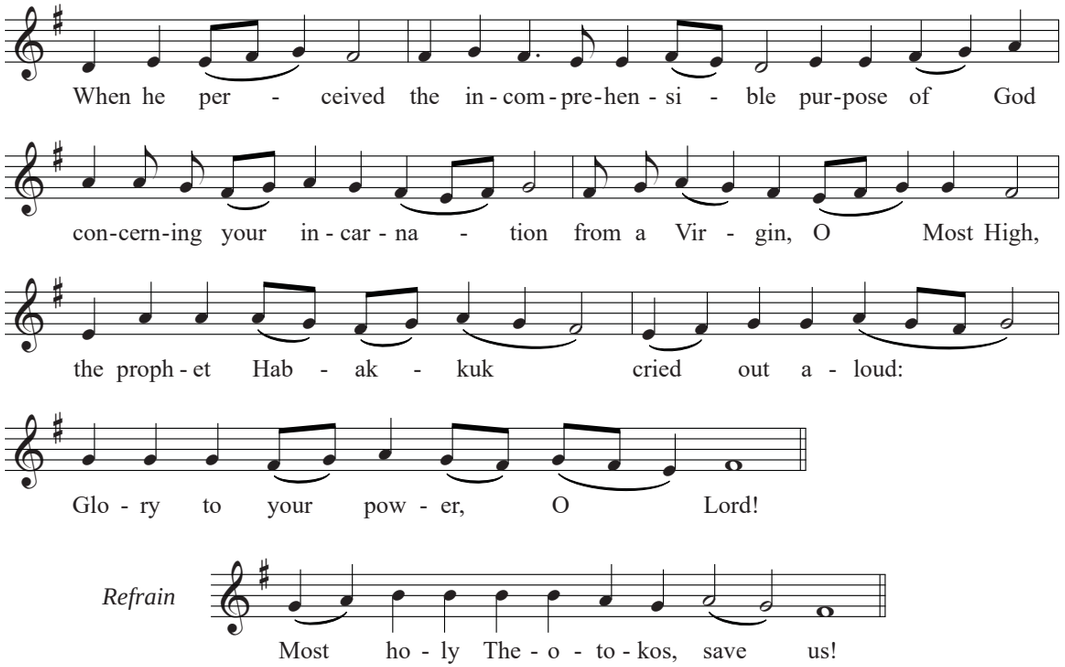
The Small Litany is found on page 32

Sessional Hymn - *Tone 5 troparion melody*





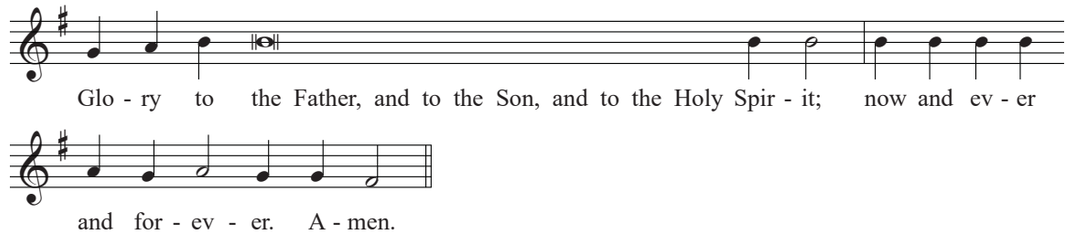
Ode 4
Irmos - *Tone 4*



That which was not known to many prophets and was to be unknown by the ministering angels of God, has not come to pass; now all know you to be truly the Mother of God. All pray and ask your intercession, O blessed Virgin. *Refrain*
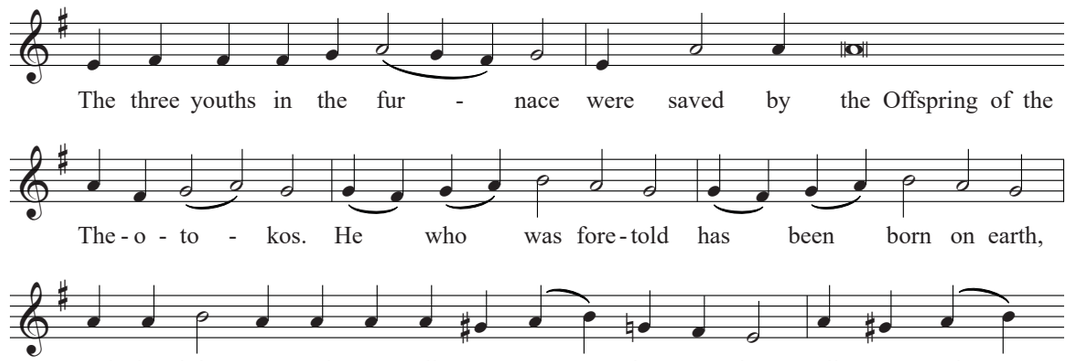
O Virgin Theotokos, you are the mountain foreseen by the prophet Habakkuk, watered by the Spirit, that pours forth healing upon the faithful; make whole all those who sing to your Son: Blessed are you, O all praised Lord, the God of our forefathers! *Refrain*

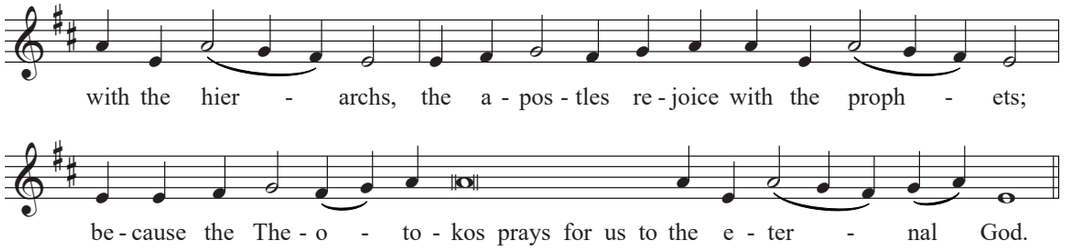
He who bowed the heavens and came down has taken up his abode in you, O Virgin; He heeds your prayers and answers your requests, O pure Mother of God; O blessed among women, pray to him for us who put our trust in you.



O Christ our Creator, Savior and God, accept the prayer which your Mother offers you for us sinners, that we may joyfully sing to you: Blessed are you, O all praised Lord, the God of our forefathers!

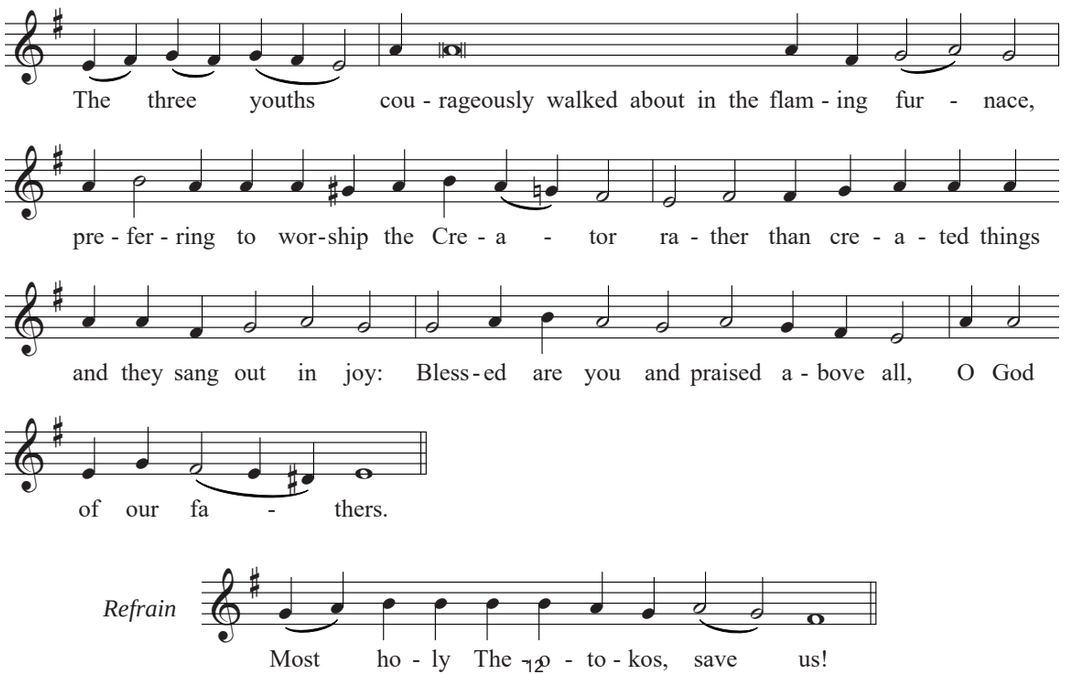
Ode 8
Irmos - *Tone 4*





Ikos: Come, believing people, let us delight in the glorious gifts of the Mother of God, because through her Adam was saved from corruption. Indeed, she is the ark built not by Noah, but by God. Of old, Moses was unable to see God in the burning bush. Today, however, all the world knows the Son of God, Christ incarnate, who was born of her and to whom she prays for us. Therefore, let us extol her as the Theotokos, for she prays for us to the eternal God.

Ode 7
Irmos - *Tone 4*

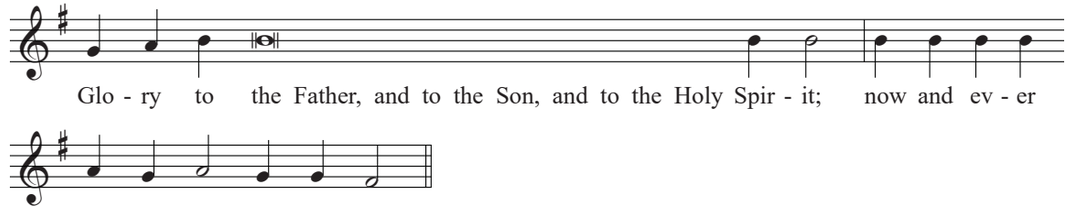


With faith, we raise our voices in melodious hymns to you who are worthy of all praise: Rejoice, fertile mountain, raised aloft by the Spirit! Rejoice, lighthouse! Rejoice, vessel containing the Manna, O you so sweet to the taste of mortals! *Refrain*

O Theotokos, God made you more holy than the ark of Aaron, sanctifying you through the Holy Spirit and commanding the angels to minister to you. With them, pray for this city and the people that glorify your holy feast! *Refrain*

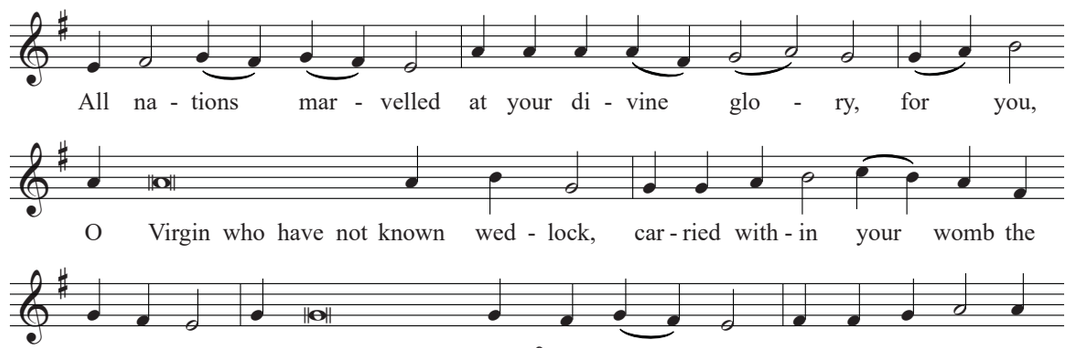
O Theotokos, come now with glory into this church with all the saints, just as Saint Andrew once saw you above the altar, praying in your beauty for all Christians; grant us your peace. *Refrain*
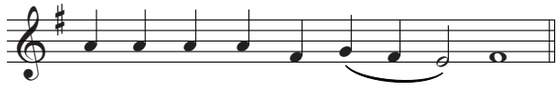
Just as David was given strength against Goliath, give strength in the face of opposition to all true-believing Christians who give you glory, O Lady, that we may rejoice and sing, Rejoice, holy defense and protection of our city!

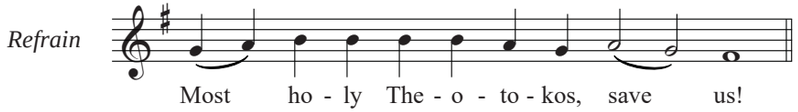


Falling down before you in faith and venerating you with thanks, we cry out to you, O Lady: Rejoice, virgin blessed by God! You are our protection and rampart and help in times of trouble. Save those who seek refuge in you, for we have placed our trust in you.

Ode 5
Irmos - *Tone 4*



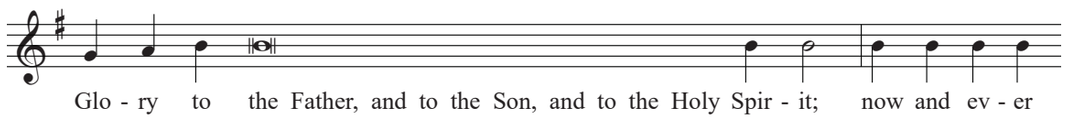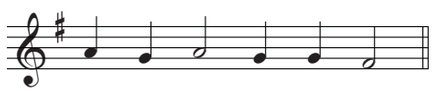




In time past, Solomon described you as the resting place surrounded by the seraphim and spoke of you as the marriage bed of the heavenly King. Thus we now ask you to protect us from all tribulation, O all-holy Mother of God. *Refrain*

As they saw you praying for the whole world, the companies of angels, prophets and apostles waited on you, for you are the Mother of God; and when the Lord heard your supplication, he saved the city and the people. *Refrain*
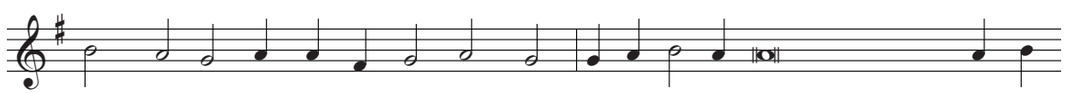
Isaiah, the great prophet of old, foretold you and said you would bring forth God without knowing a man. Indeed, you are the most holy of all, O Mary, since you carried God in your womb and held him in your arms. Protect us with your veil and pray to him for us who glorify you in faith.
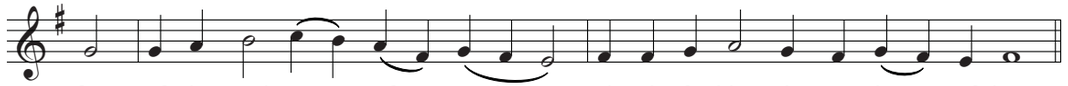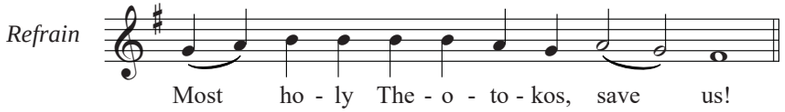




Choirs of saints came swiftly to serve you when they beheld you begging Christ the Savior to grant true Christians victory and defeat those who war against them.

Ode 6
Irmos



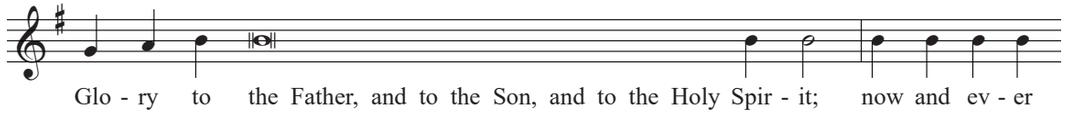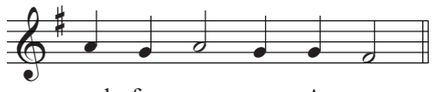




The holy priests and pious people are present in your church awaiting your mercy, O Theotokos. For you have given birth to the joy that absolved all from sin, and thus changed our grief into gladness. *Refrain*

The whole world offers you gifts as Queen and Mother of God. Emperors and princes hail you and all people rejoice, protected from every evil by your prayers, O Theotokos. *Refrain*

Daniel described you as a mighty mountain, for Christ was born from you, but not of mortal seed. He destroyed the plots of the devil and filled the earth with faith in himself. Pray to him for those who glorify the feast of your protection.





We raise our voices to you like the angel: Rejoice, O throne of God upon which Ezechiel saw the Lord in human likeness, carried aloft by the cherubim. With them, O Mother of God, beg him to save our souls!
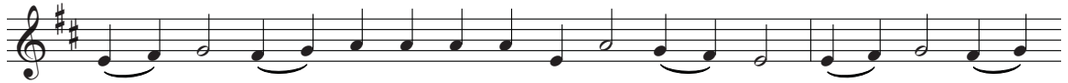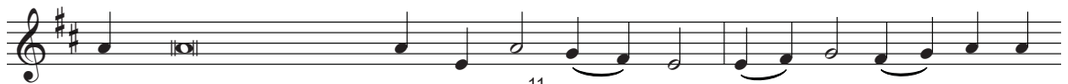
Kontakion - *Tone 4*



