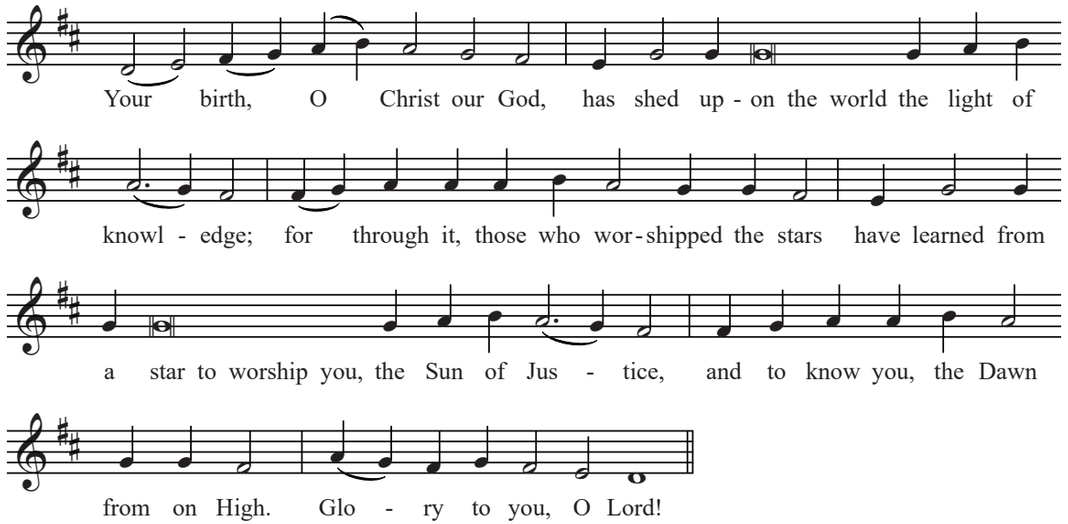
Matins propers, December 25
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*Supplement for **The Order of Matins: Sunday and Feasts**, 2006*

"The Lord is God" is sung in Tone 4, p 162

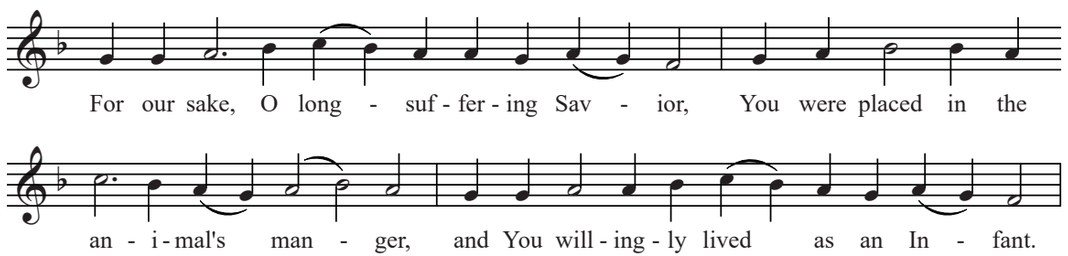
Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*



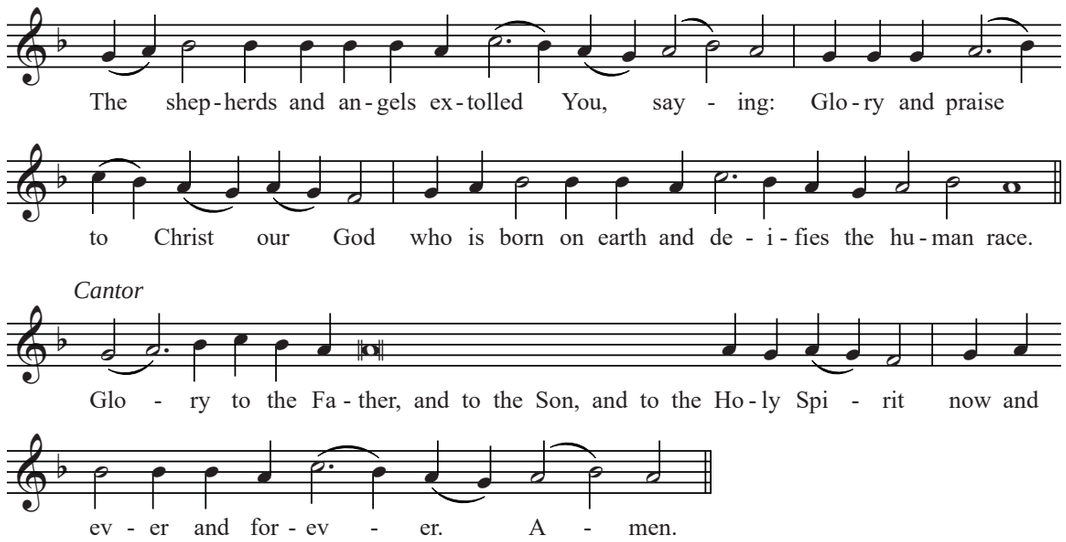
Cantor: Glory.... (*and all repeat the troparion*: "Your birth, O Christ our God...")

Cantor: Now and ever... (*and all repeat the troparion*: "Your birth, O Christ our God...")

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

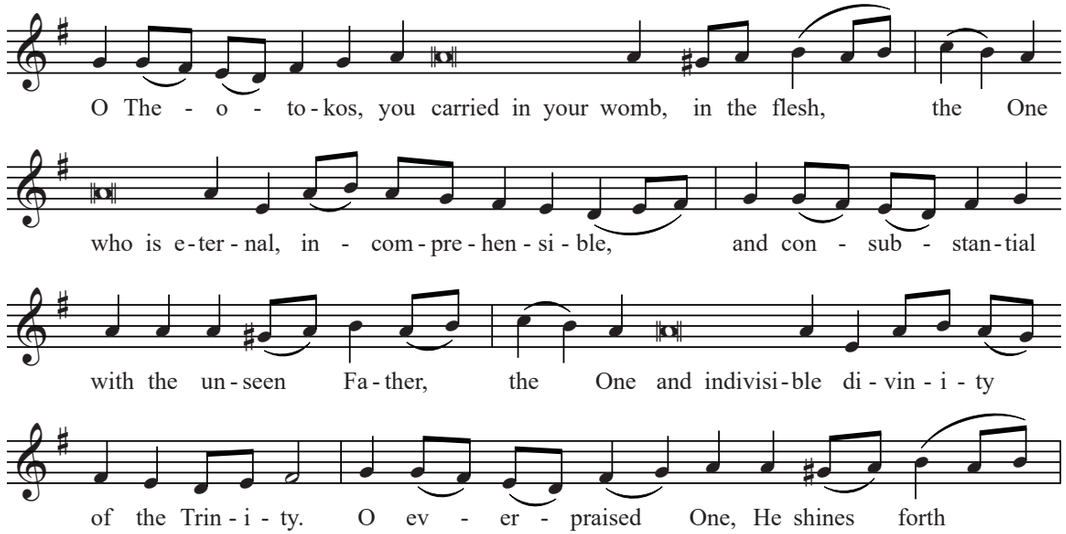


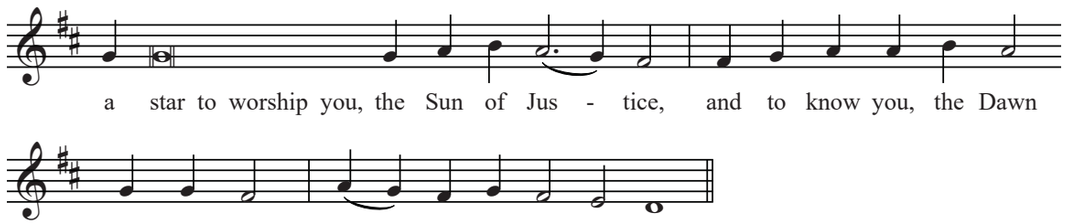
Revised 5/25/26



All repeat the sessional hymn: "For our sake, O long-suffering Savior..."

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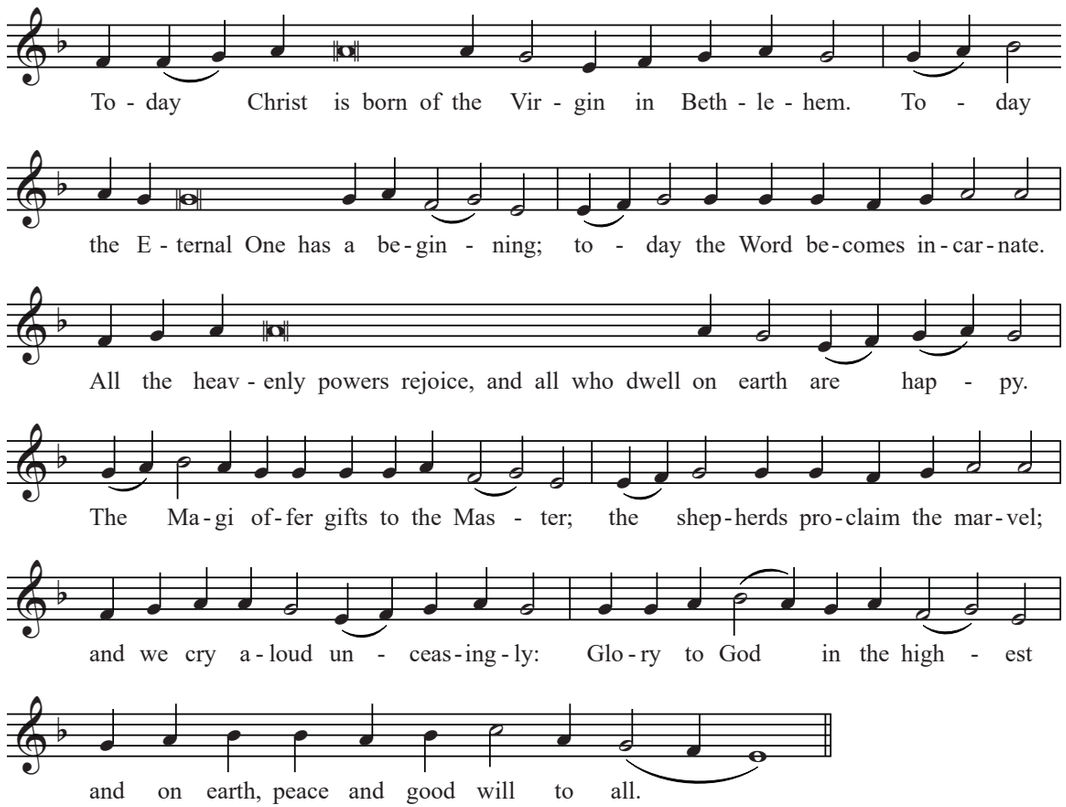




Christmas Matins concludes with the Litany of Supplication (p. 45), the Prayer over Bowed Heads (p. 47), and the Dismissal (p. 48):

Priest: May Christ our true God, who for our salvation was born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea, and lay in a manger, have mercy on us and save us...

The end, and glory to God!

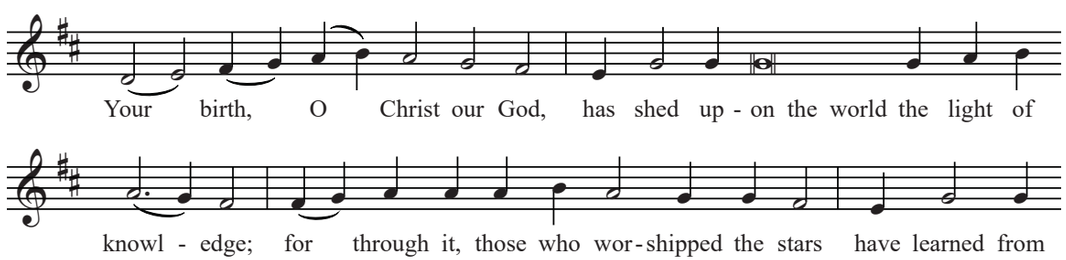
Cantor: *(Tone 2)* Now and ever...

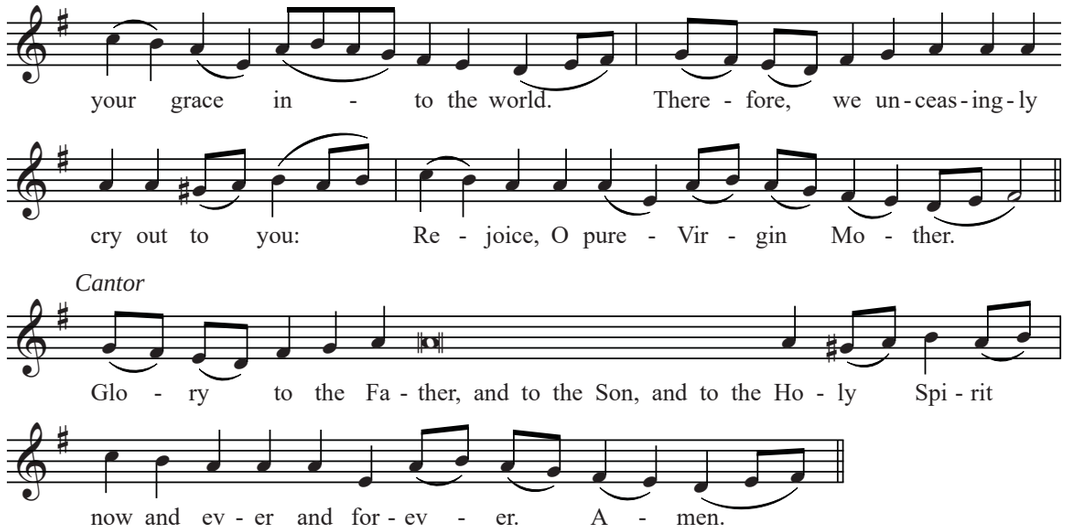
Tone 2 samohlasen



The service continues with the Great Doxology (p. 41), which concludes with the Trisagion (p 44). Then we sing the troparion of the Nativity, once:

Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*
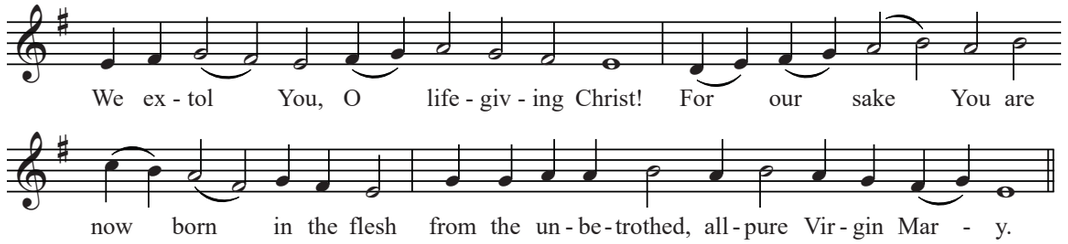




All repeat the sessional hymn: "O Theotokos, you carried in your womb..."

Polyeleos, p. 16.

Exaltation - *Ps. 65:2, 110:9, 88:27, 88:28, 71:11, 109:2-3, 2:7, 88:53*



This exaltation is repeated after each of the following verses (chanted by the reader or cantor), and also after the "Glory... now and ever" and the Allelulia.

Verse: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; * sing praise to his name, give to him glorious praise. *Refrain*

Verse: The Lord has sent deliverance * to his people. *Refrain*

Verse: He will say to me: * "You are my father." *Refrain*

Verse: I will make him my first-born, * the highest of the kings of the earth. *Refrain*

Verse: Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, * all nations shall serve him. *Refrain*

Verse: from the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you. * The Lord has sworn and he will not repent. *Refrain*
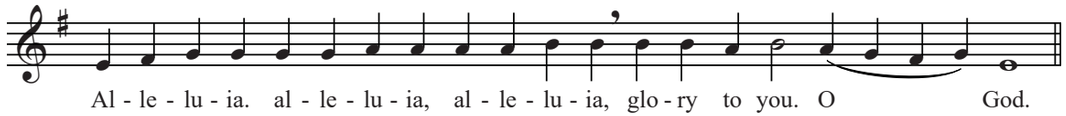
Verse: The Lord said to me: "You are my Son. * It is I who have begotten you this day." *Refrain*

Verse: Blessed be the Lord forever. * Amen, amen! *Refrain*

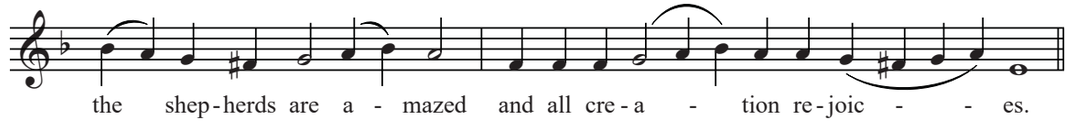
Verse: Glory…now and ever… *Refrain*

After the last repetition of the Exaltation:
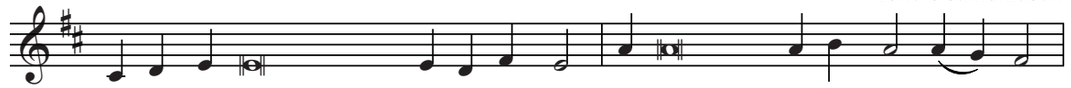
Three times
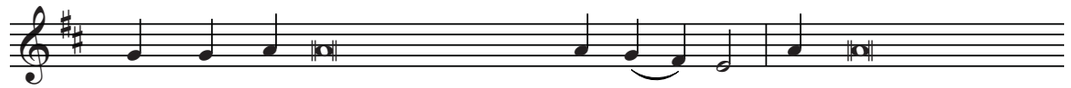


The Alleluia is folowed by the Bulgarian verse ("Bolharski pripiv"):
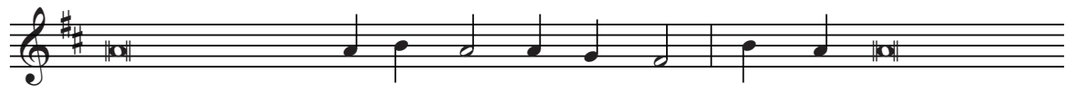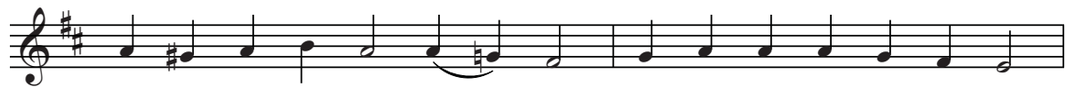


Cantor: *(Tone 6)* Glory... *Tone 6 samohlasen*
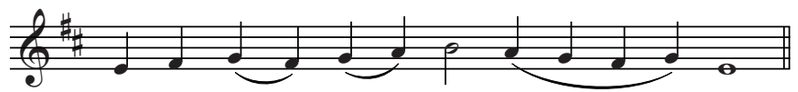




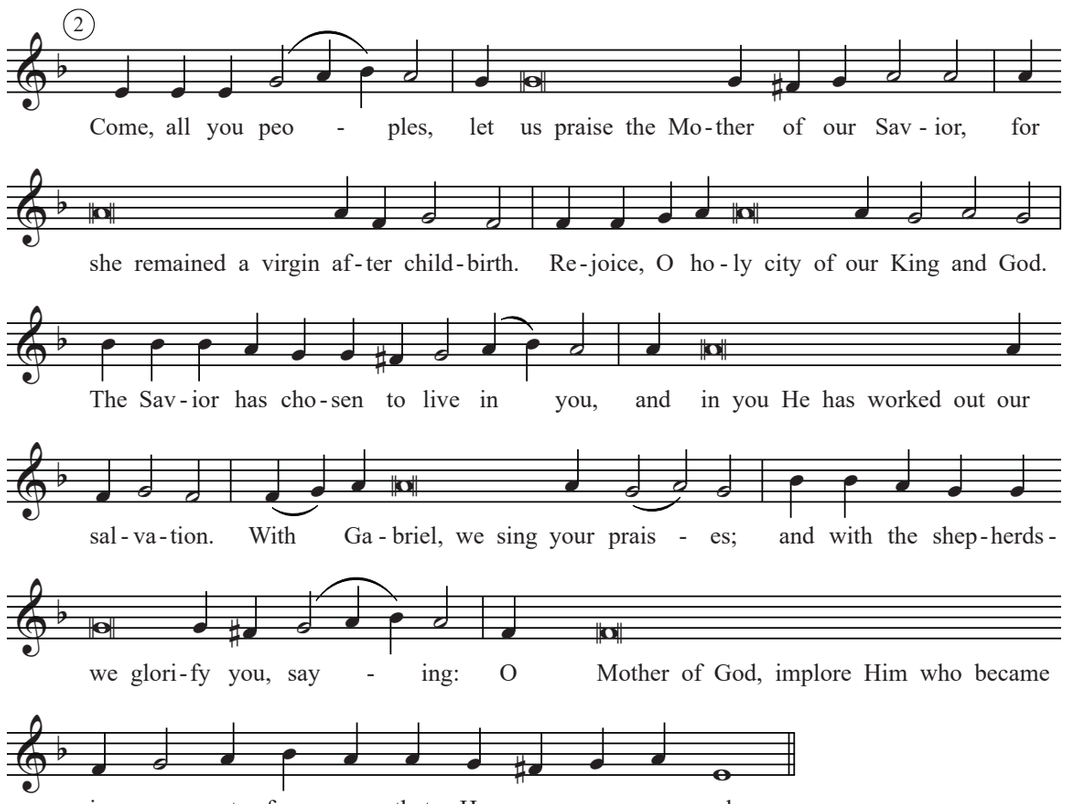




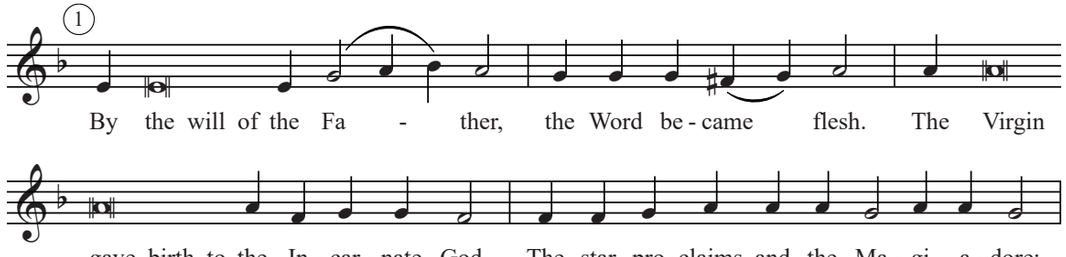




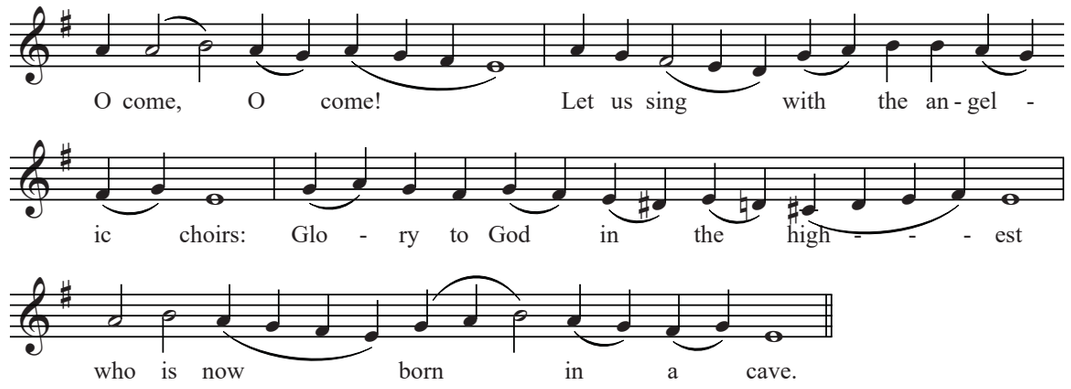
Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
(on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.



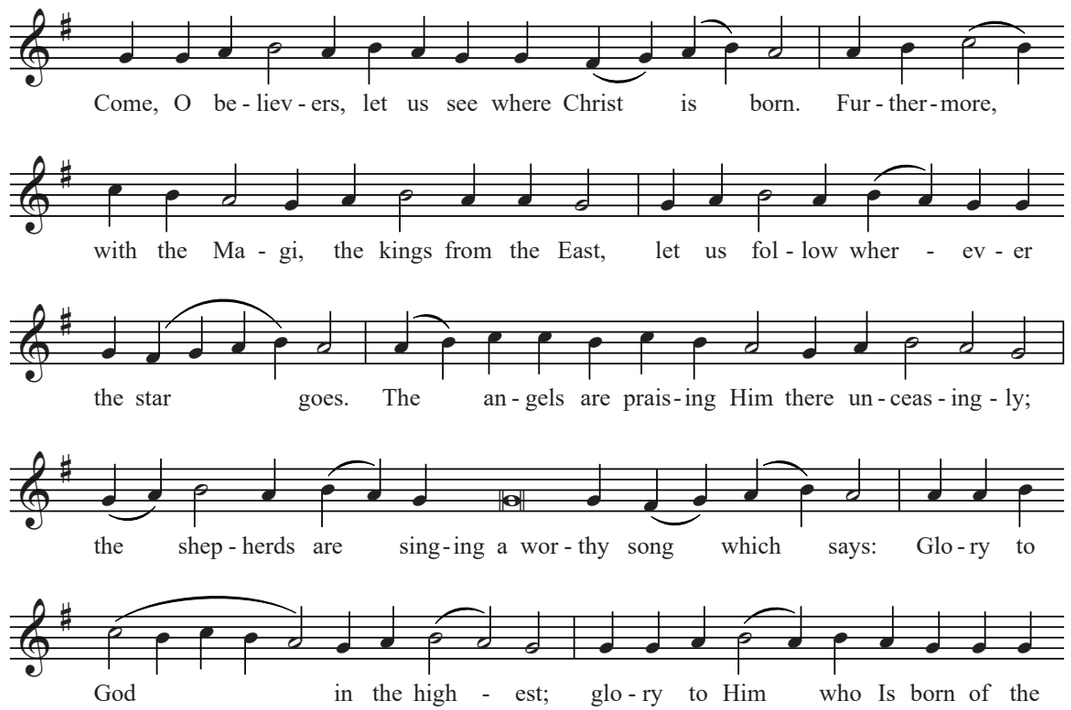
Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals.
(on 1) Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

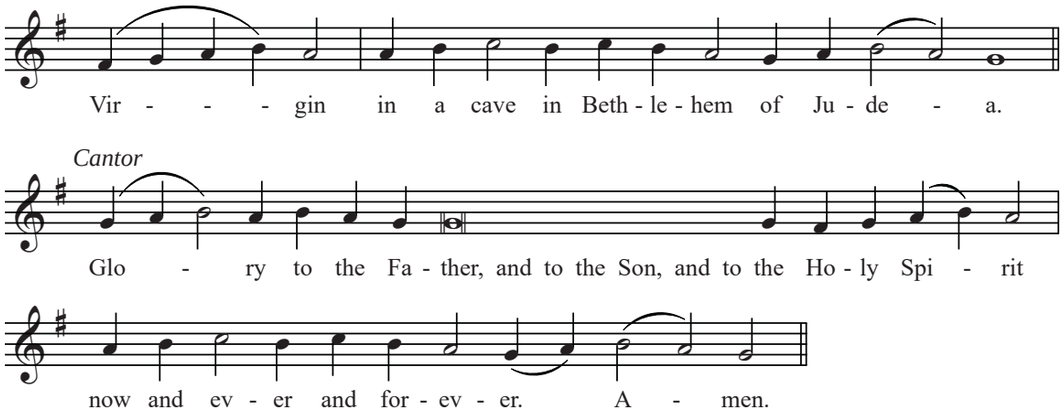


Bulgarian verse *("Bolharski pripiv")*



Sessional Hymn III - *Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif*
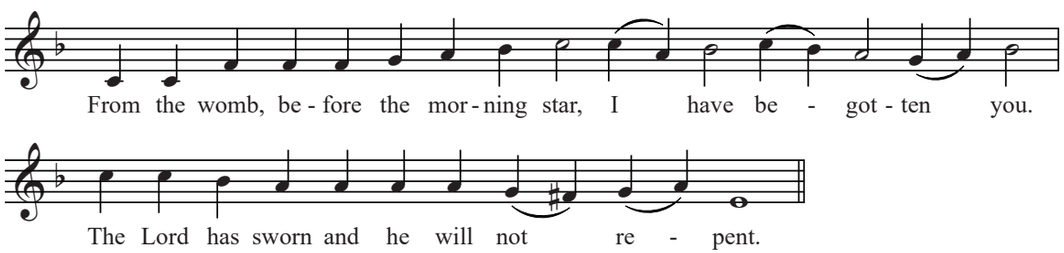




All repeat the sessional hymn: "Come, O believers, let us see where Christ is born..."

Festal Gradual Hymn, p. 312.

The service continues on p. 23 with the singing of the prokeimenon.

Prokeimenon - *Tone 4* (Psalm 109: 3-4, 1):

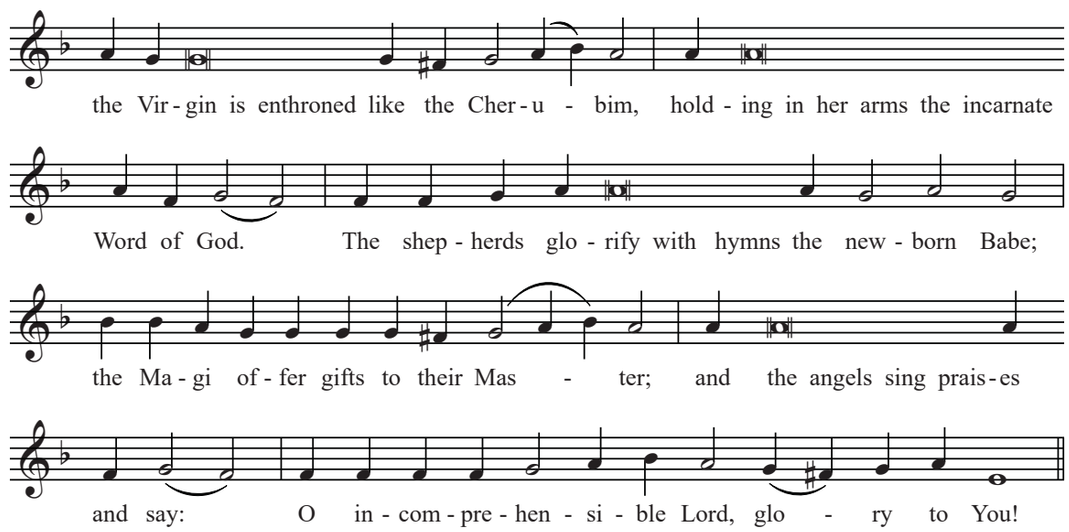


Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

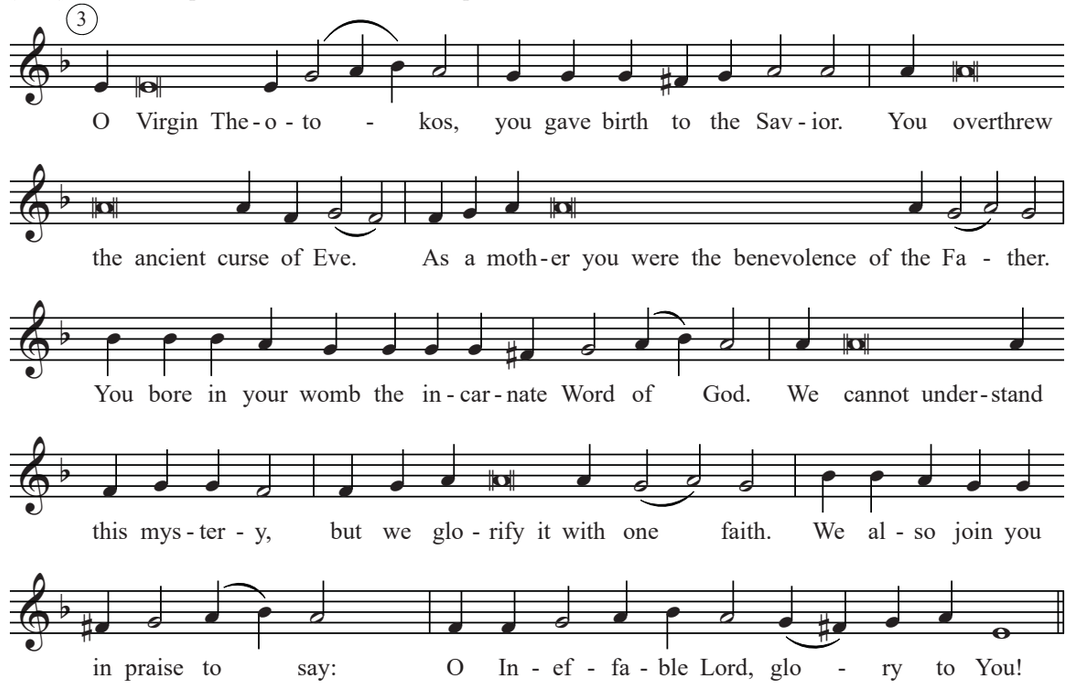
"Let everything that lives and that breathes..." is sung in Tone 4, p. 171.

Gospel: Matthew 1: 16-25 *(the birth of the Lord)*

"Having beheld the resurrection of Christ..." is not sung. The service continues with the chanting of Psalm 50, p. 28.

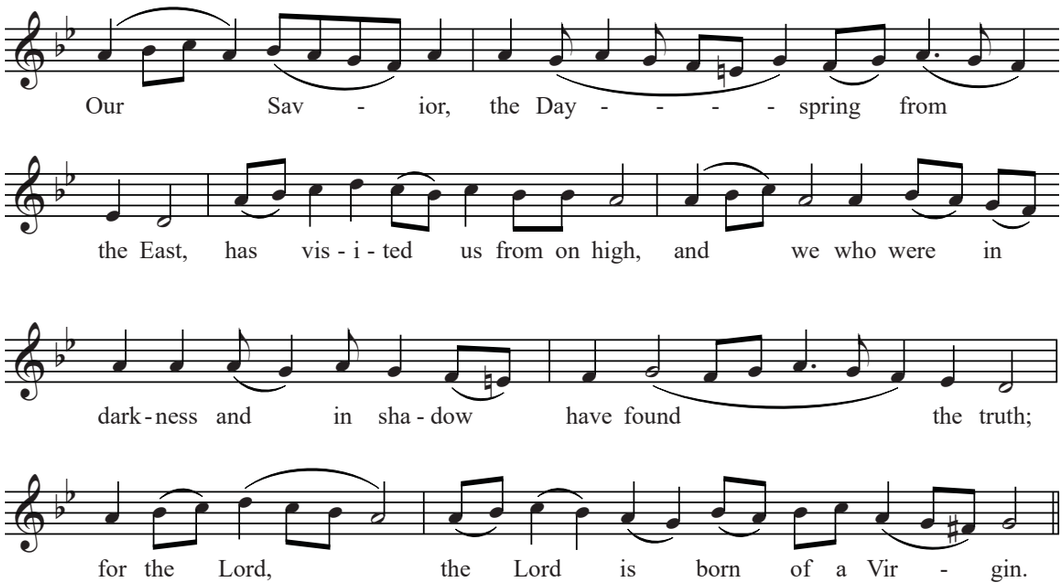


Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
(on 3) praise him with lute and harp.



After the ninth ode, Little Litany (p. 36). Then the Hymn of Light (Svitilen) of the Nativity is sung:

Hymn of Light - *Tone 3 samopodoben:*

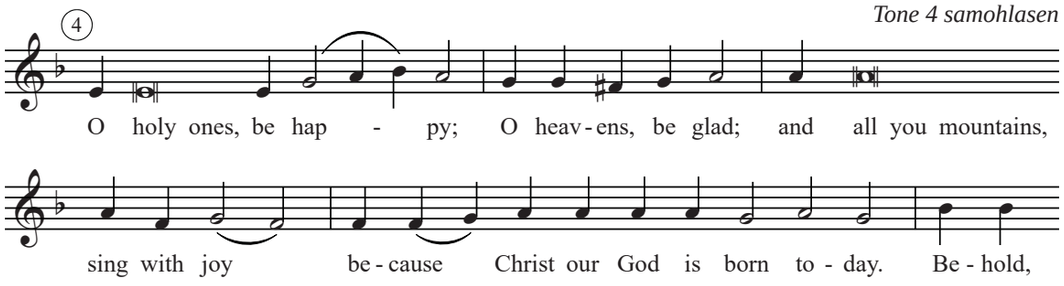


The Praises (Psalms 148-150)

The opening verses of Psalm 148 are sung in Tone 4 (p. 184), followed by the recited verses. The stichera are sung beginning "on 4":
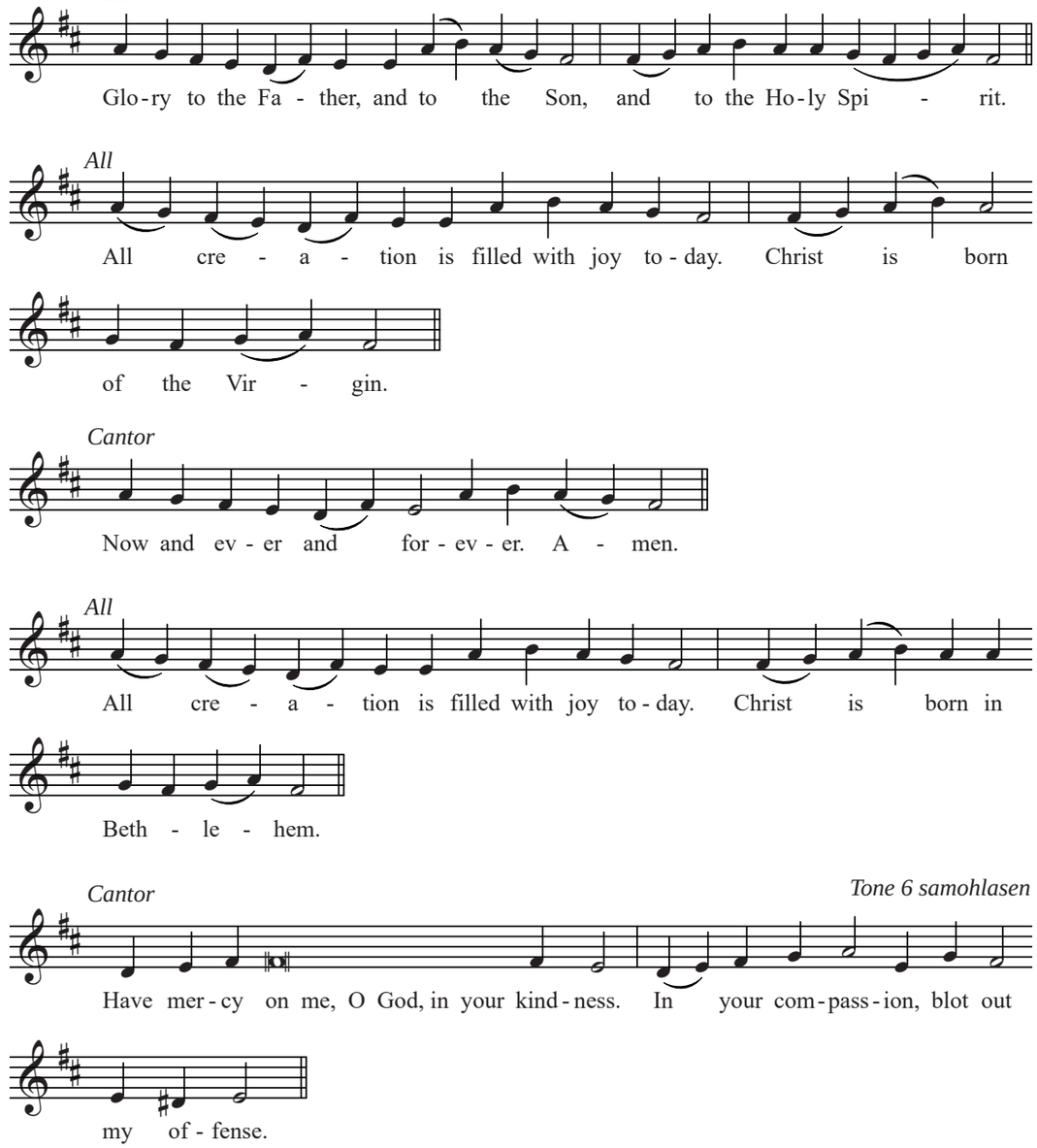
Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds,
(on 4) praise his surpassing greatness.

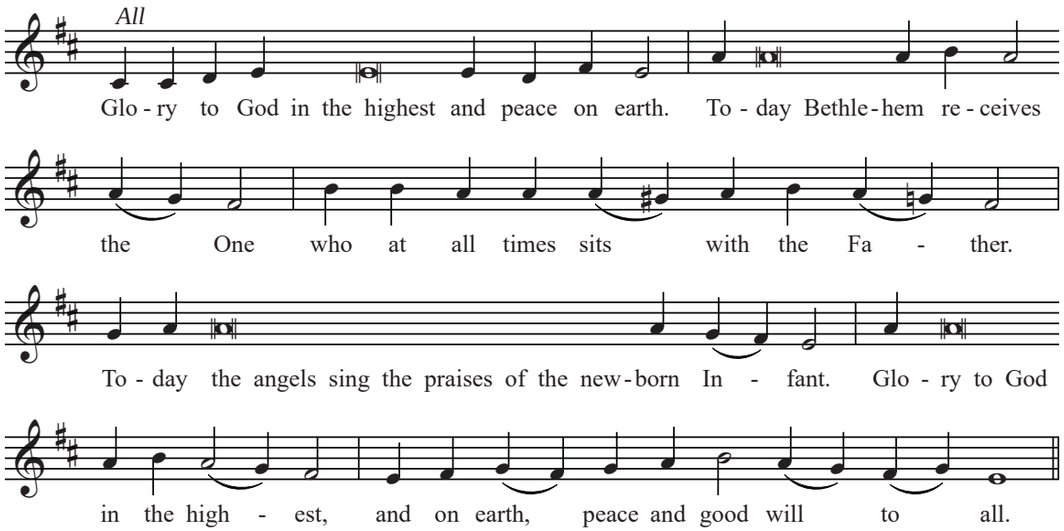
Tone 4 samohlasen



Stichera after Psalm 50

Cantor *Tone 2 Bolhar*



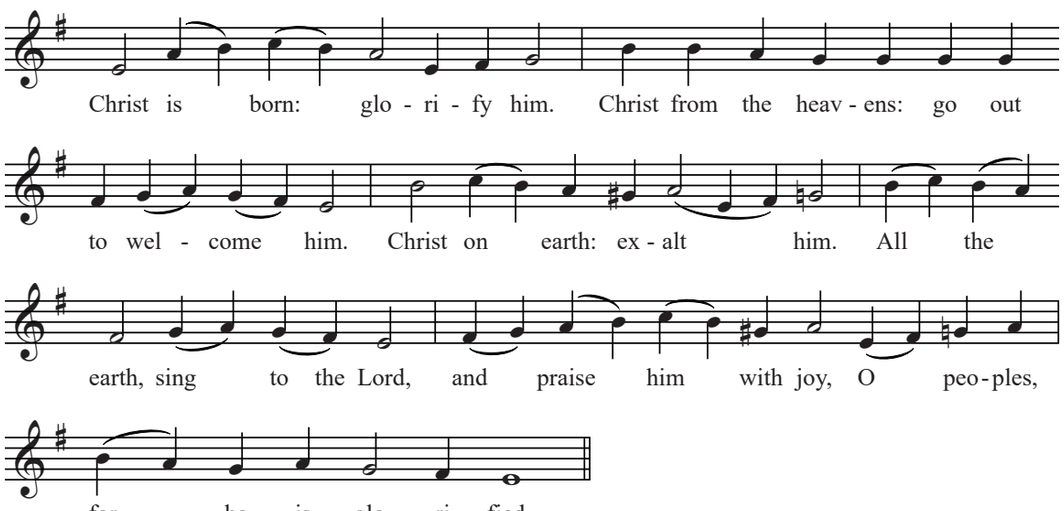


The service continues with the litany, "Save your people, O Lord..." on p. 30.

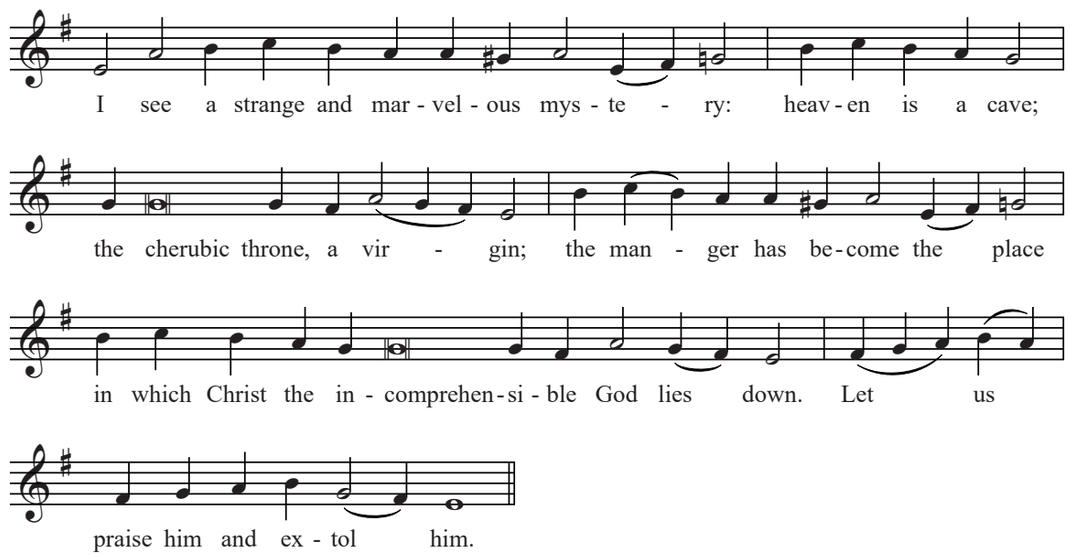
The Canon of the Nativity

Ode 1

Irmos *Tone 1 samopodoben*



Irmos



O my soul, extol our God, born in the flesh from the Virgin.

Observing the unusual path of a mysterious and newly shining star which was brighter than any other heavenly light, the Magi learned that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.

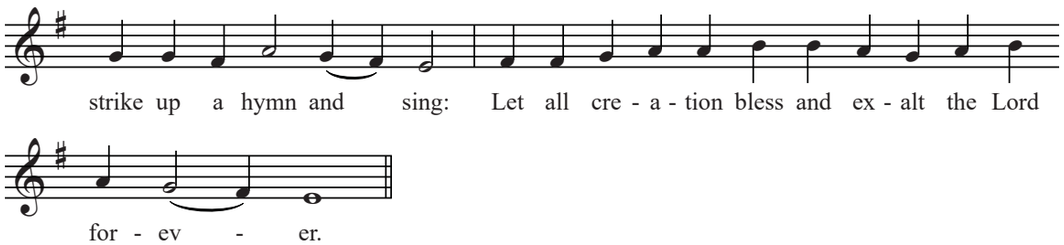
O my soul, extol our God, who is worshiped by the Magi.

The Magi asked of Herod: Where is the newborn King whose star we have seen? We have come to worship Him. The enemy of God was troubled and irrationally schemed how to kill Christ.

O my soul, extol the pure Virgin, who has given birth to Christ the King.

Herod asked the Magi, who had come to Bethlehem to worship Christ with their gifts, when they had first seen the star which directed them. But the Magi returned to their own country by the same star, thereby deceiving Herod, the killer of the Innocents.

The magnification and irmos are repeated as katavasia.



Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

The children of David were once led captive from Zion by the daughter of Babylon through the strength of the sword; now, the Magi bringing gifts, are sent by her to beseech the Daughter of David in whom God took flesh. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever. *Refrain*

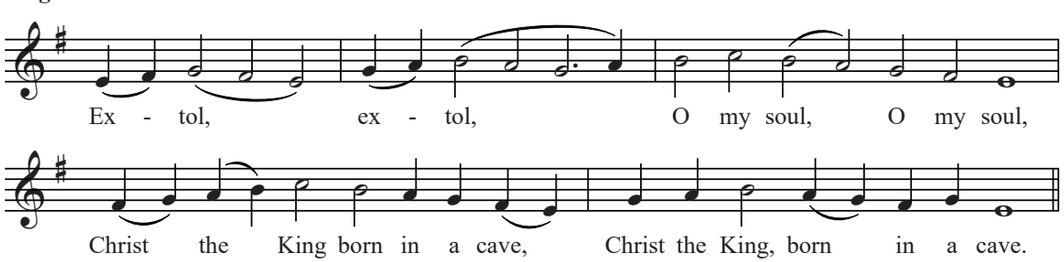
As captives, the children of Zion did not play upon their lyres; Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, quiets all the iniquity of Babylon as well as the music of her harps. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.
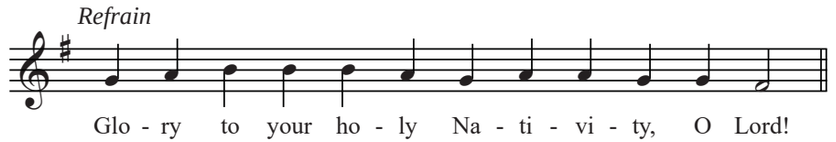
Glory.... now and ever...

Babylon plundered Zion, the Queen, and seized all her riches. But Christ, by a guiding star, attracted to Zion the wealth of Babylon with her kings who studied the stars. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is omitted. Instead, the following magnification is sung:

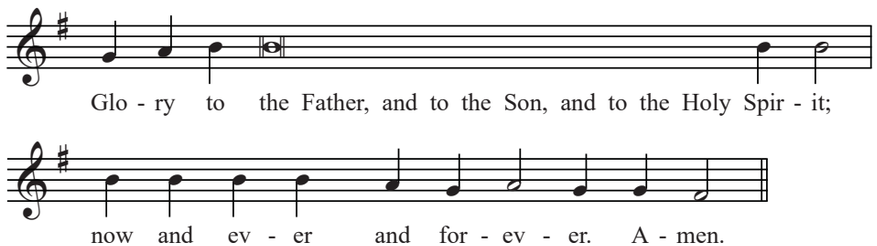
Ode 9
Magnification





Although created in the image of God, humankind fell from the divine and higher life, and through transgression became entirely subject to corruption and decay. But now the all-good Creator fashions human nature anew; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

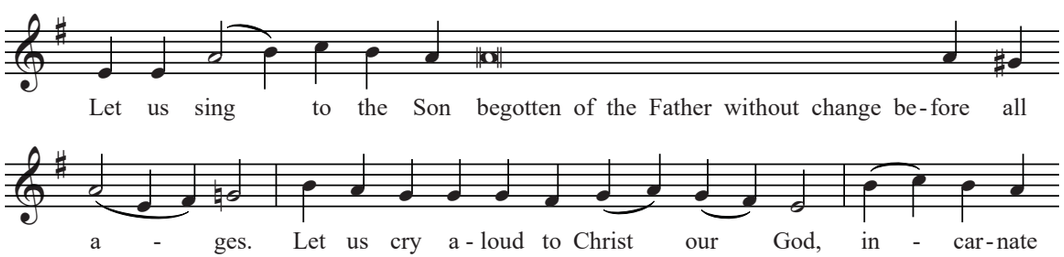
When the Creator saw the one whom He had created with his own hands perishing, He lowered the heavens and came down; He took upon himself human nature from the most holy and pure Virgin, truly becoming flesh; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

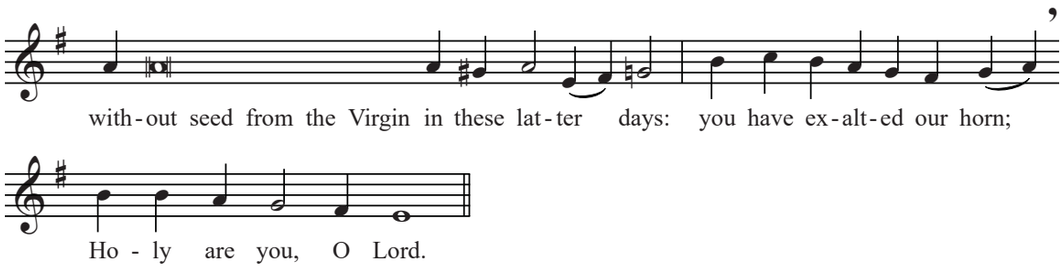


Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.

The irmos may be repeated as katavasia, if desired.

Ode 3
Irmos





Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

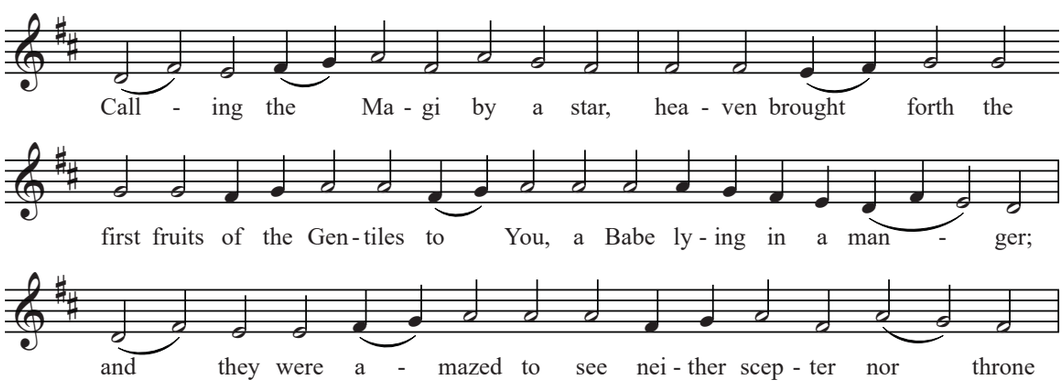
Although Adam was formed from the clay of the earth, he shared In God's life; yet through the tempting of a woman, he sunk and fell into corruption. But now when he sees Christ born of a woman, he cries aloud: For my sake, You have become as I am; glory to You, O Lord! *Refrain*

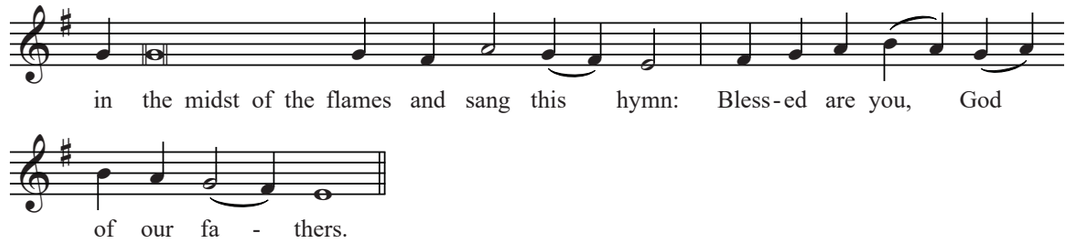
You made yourself, O Christ, a creature in the form of clay, and even took on our flesh, thereby making us partakers in your divine nature. You have become a mortal, yet still remain God. You are our strength; glory to You, O Lord!

Glory.... now and ever...

Rejoice, O Bethlehem, for you are the Queen among the princes of Judah; because from you comes forth, in the sight of all, Christ himself, the Shepherd who watches over Israel, and He that is seated upon the Cherubim. He is our strength and reigns over all.

Hypakoe - *Tone 8*





Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

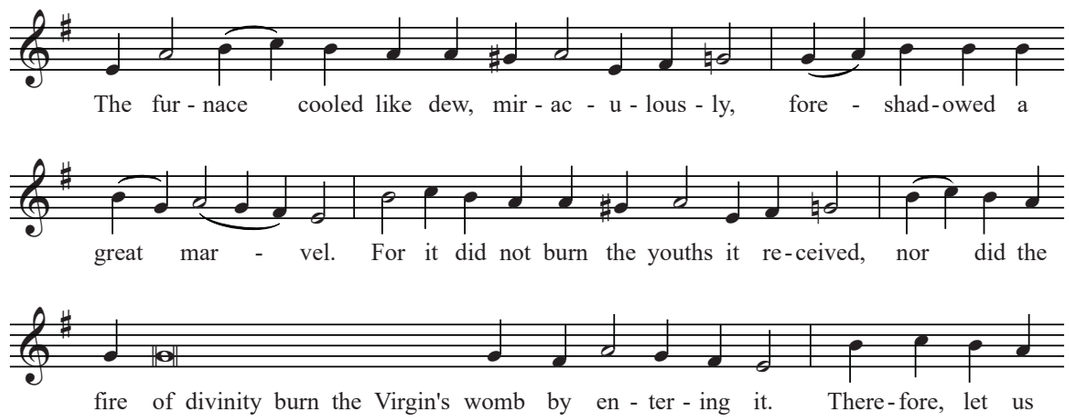
An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds keeping night watch over their flocks. The shepherds were frightened as they saw the glory of the Lord around the angel and heard him say: Rejoice, for Christ is born. Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers. *Refrain*

At the word of the angel, the heavenly hosts cried aloud: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all; Christ has shone forth. Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers.

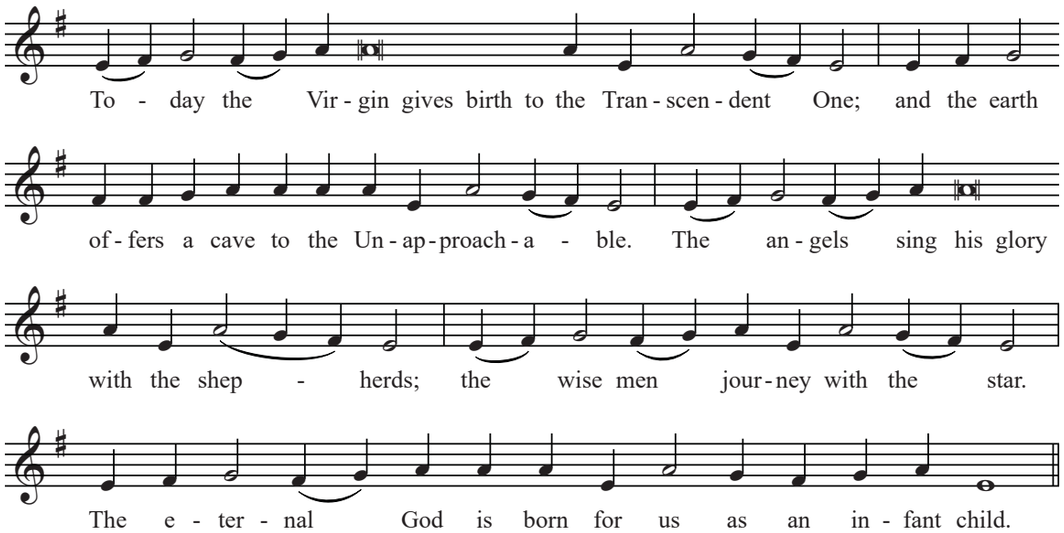
Glory.... now and ever...

When the angel had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: Let us go and see this event which the Lord has made known to us. They hastened to Bethlehem and worshiped with Mary the One whom she had borne. They cried out: Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers.

Ode 8
Irmos



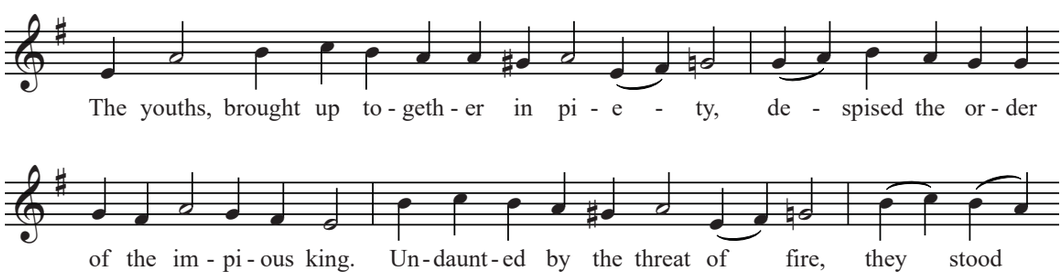
Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*

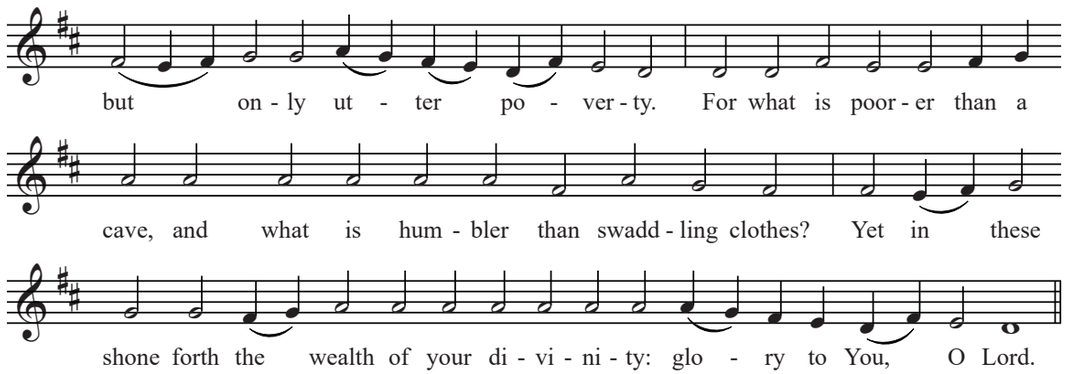


Ikos: Bethlehem has opened up Eden for us. Come and let us see the delights that we have found there in secret. Come and let us gather the fruits of Paradise that are within the cave. There, the unwatered Root has manifested itself, and it has sprouted forgiveness. There, the undug Well, of which David yearned to drink, is found. There, the Virgin, who gave birth to the Infant, immediately quenched the thirst of Adam and David. Therefore, let us hasten to the place where the young Infant, the Eternal God, is born.

Ode 7

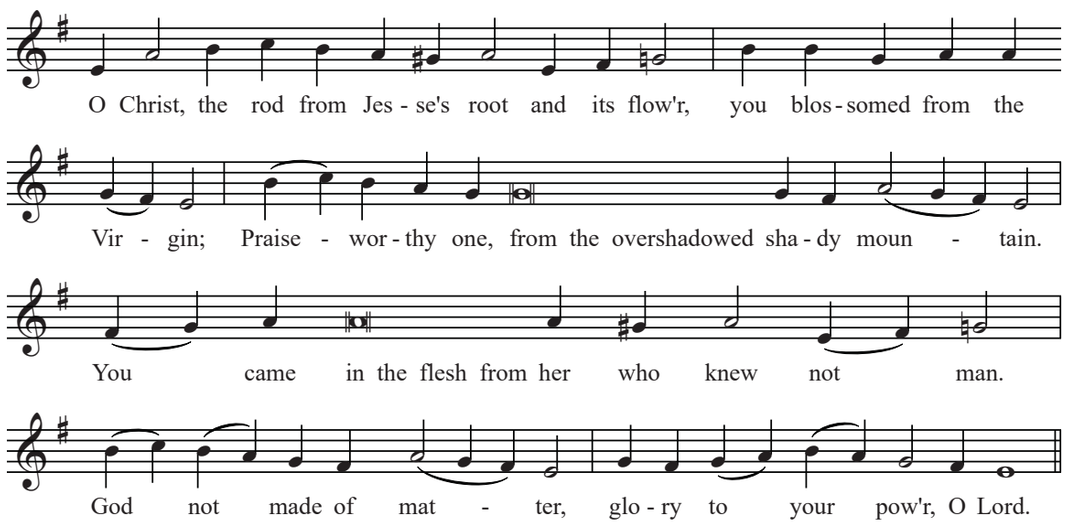
Irmos





Ode 4

Irmos



Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

In the days of old, Jacob foretold You, O Christ, calling You the Expectation of the nations. You have come forth from the tribe of Judah and have overcome the might of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, turning their idolatry into faith pleasing to God. Glory to Your power, O Lord! *Refrain*

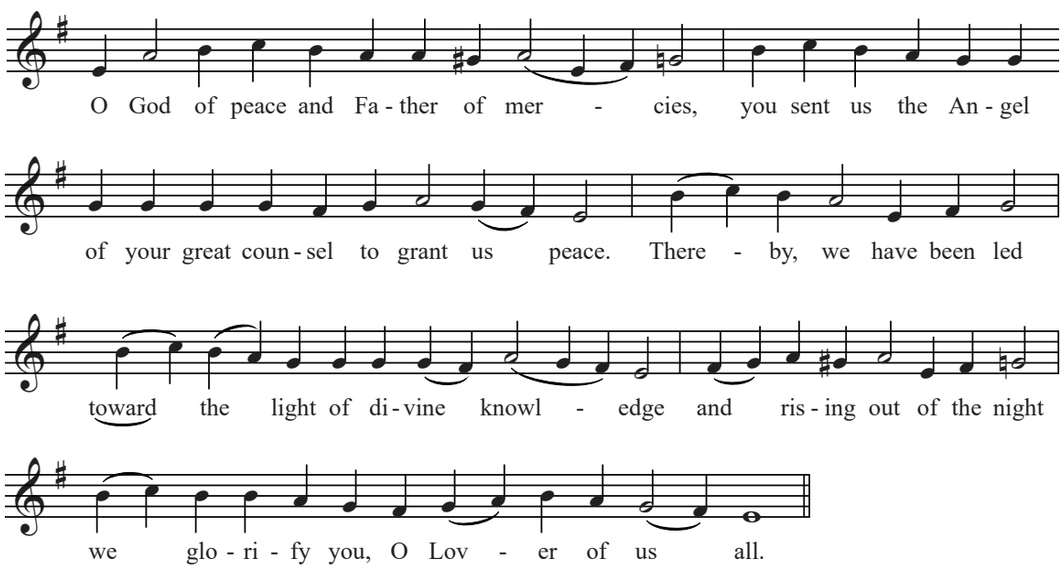
Rising as a Star out of Jacob, O Master, You have brought joy to the Magi who interpreted wisely the words of Balaam, the prophet of old. They were led to You as the first fruits of the Gentiles, and You graciously received them as they brought You pleasing gifts. Glory to your power, O Lord!

Glory.... now and ever...

You have descended, O Christ, into the womb of the Virgin as dew upon the fleece and as drops of rain that shower the earth. Ethiopia, Tarshish, and the Isles of Arabia; the kings of Saba, of the Medes, and those of all the earth, bow down before You, O Savior. Glory to your power, O Lord!

Ode 5

Irmos



Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

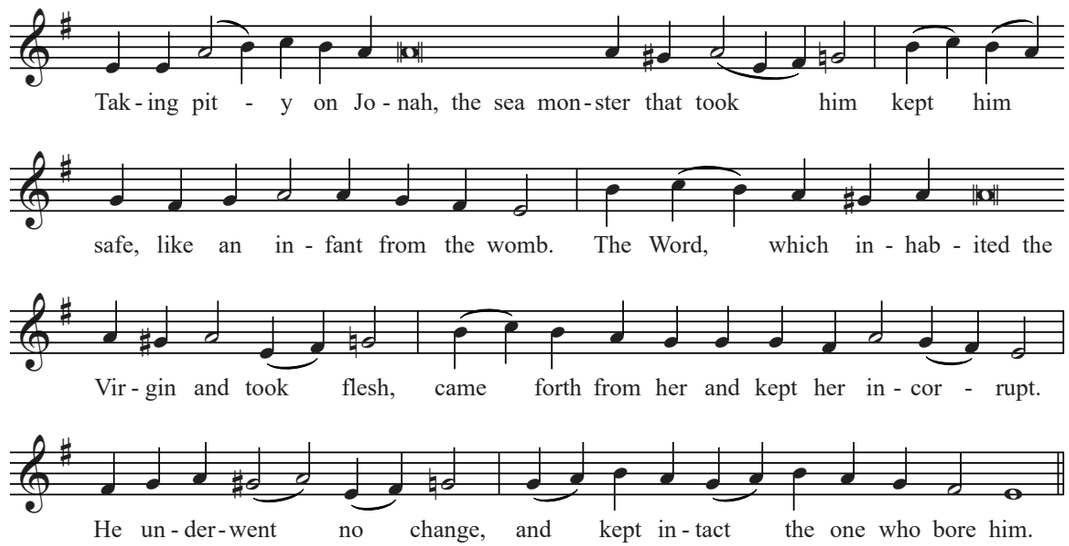
In obedience to the decree of Caesar, O Christ, You were registered among his servants; and You have set us free from being enslaved to the enemy and sin. Completely sharing in our poverty, You made our nature godlike by uniting yourself to us and by participating in our nature.

Glory.... now and ever...

As it was prophesied in times past, behold, the Virgin has conceived in her womb and has given birth to God in the flesh and still remained a virgin. Through her we are reconciled to God; let us sinners sing her praises, for she is truly the Mother of God.

Ode 6

Irmos



Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

Christ our God, begotten from the Father before the morning star, appears in the flesh; He, who directs the armies of heaven, is laid in a manger of dumb beasts. He, who frees the twisted bonds of sin, is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Glory.... now and ever...

A young child, a Son is born from the race of Adam and is given to the faithful. He is the Father and Prince of the World to come; He is the all-powerful God who rules over all creation; He is called the Angel of great counsel.