Matins of the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

If continuing immediately from Compline, begin with the Hexapsalmos below. Otherwise:

The priest vests in bright epitrachilion and phelonion, opens the holy doors,
and preceded by the deacon with a candle, incenses the whole church.
Then the priest stands before the holy table, and the deacon at the ambon.

Deacon: In the name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest, | and on earth peace, good will among men. *(Three times)*

O Lord, you shall open my lips, | and my mouth will declare your praise. *(Twice)*

HEXAPSALMOS

The priest, having removed his phelonion, says the Matins Prayers of Light
quietly in front of the holy doors, and the deacon stands at the ambon.

The lector, holding a candle, chants these psalms simply on a single pitch:

Psalm 3:
How many are my foes, O Lord! How many are rising up against me!
How many are saying about me: "There is no help for him in God."

But you, Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, who lift up my head.
I cry aloud to you, Lord. He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest, and I sleep. I wake, for the Lord upholds me.
I will not fear even thousands of people who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God, you who strike my foes on the mouth, you who break the teeth of the wicked!
O Lord of salvation, bless your people!

And again:
I lie down to rest, and I sleep. I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

Psalm 37:
O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; do not punish me, Lord, in your rage.
Your arrows have sunk deep in me; your hand has come down upon me.

Through your anger all my body is sick: through my sin, there is no health in my limbs.
My guilt towers higher than my head; it is a weight too heavy to bear.

My wounds are foul and festering, the result of my own folly.
I am bowed and brought to my knees. I go mourning all the day long.

All my frame burns with fever; all my body is sick.
Spent and utterly crushed, I cry aloud in anguish of heart.

O Lord, you know all my longing: my groans are not hidden from you.
My heart throbs, my strength is spent; the very light has gone from my eyes.

My friends avoid me like a leper; those closest to me stand afar off.
Those who plot against my life lay snares; those who seek my ruin speak of harm, planning treachery all the day long.

But I am like the deaf who cannot hear, like the dumb I cannot open my mouth.
I am like a man who hears nothing in whose mouth is no defense.

I count on you, O Lord; it is you, Lord God, who will answer.
I pray: "Do not let them mock me, those who triumph if my foot should slip."

For I am on the point of falling and my pain is always before me.
I confess that I am guilty and my sin fills me with dismay.

My wanton enemies are numberless and my lying foes are many.
They repay me evil for good and attack me for seeking what is right.

O Lord, do not forsake me! My God, do not stay afar off!
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my God, my Savior!

And again:
O Lord, do not forsake me! My God, do not stay afar off!
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my God, my Savior!

Psalm 62:
O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night
for your have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
Those who seek to destroy my life shall go down to the depths of the earth.

They shall be put into the power of the sword and left as the prey of the jackals.
But the king shall rejoice in God; (all that swear by him shall be blessed,) for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

And again:
On you I muse through the night for your have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! *(Three times, third time with melody)*
Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

The priest goes in front of the holy doors and reads the Prayers of Matins.
The deacon returns to the altar. The lector continues:

Psalm 87:
Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence. O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils; my life is on the brink of the grave.
I am reckoned as one in the tomb; I have reached the end of my strength.

Like one alone among the dead, like the slain lying in their graves,
like those you remember no more, cut off, as they are, from your hand.

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb, in places that are dark, in the depths.
Your anger weighs down upon me; I am drowned beneath your waves.

You have taken away my friends and made me hateful in their sight.
Imprisoned, I cannot escape; my eyes are sunken with grief.

I call to you, Lord, all the day long; to you I stretch out my hands.
Will you work your wonders for the dead? Will the shades stand and praise you?

Will your love be told in the grave or your faithfulness among the dead?
Will your wonders be known in the dark or your justice in the land of oblivion?

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Lord, why do you reject me? Why do you hide your face?

Wretched, close to death from my youth, I have borne your trials; I am numb.
Your fury has swept down upon me; your terrors have utterly destroyed me.

They surround me all the day like a flood, they assail me all together.
Friend and neighbor you have taken away: my one companion is darkness.

And again:
Lord my God, I call for help by day; I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence. O turn your ear to my cry.

Psalm 102:
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion,

Who fills your life with good things, renewing your youth like an eagle's.
The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.
The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry forever.
He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
For he knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flowers like the flower of the field;
The wind blows and he is gone and his place never sees him again.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear;
His justice reaches out to children's children when they keep his covenant in truth, when they remember his commands and do them.

The Lord has set his throne in heaven and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Bless the Lord, all his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word, who heed the voice of his word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his servants who do his will.
Bless the Lord, all his works, in every place where he rules.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And again:
In every place where he rules. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalm 142:
Lord, listen to my prayer: turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgment for no one is just in your sight.

The enemy pursues my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead, long forgotten.

Therefore my spirit fails; my heart is numb within me.
I remember the days that are past: I ponder all your works.

I muse on what your hand has wrought and to you I stretch out my hands.
Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you. Lord, make haste and answer; for my spirit fails within me.

Do not hide your face lest I become like those in the grave.
In the morning let me know your love for I put my trust in you.

Make me know the way I should walk: to you I lift up my soul.
Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good Spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.

For your name's sake, Lord, save my life; in your justice save my soul from distress.
In your love make an end of my foes; destroy all those who oppress me for I am your servant, O Lord.

And again:
You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgment.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer. Do not call your servant to judgment.
Let your good Spirit guide me in ways that are level and smooth.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! *(Three times, third time with melody)*

LITANY OF PEACE

The deacon comes to the ambon to say the Litany of Peace.
He and the priest bow to each other, and the priest returns to the altar.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

(The same response is given to each of the following petitions:)

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

- 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.

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

- For our holy father *(Name),* Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

- 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.

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

- For this city *[or:* For this holy monastery*],* for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

- 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.

Special petitions may be inserted here.

- That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

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

- 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.

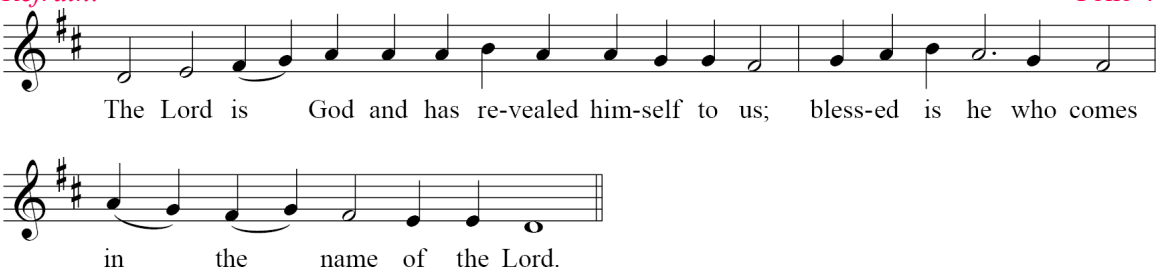
Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: 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: **Amen.**

THE LORD IS GOD

Refrain: Tone 4



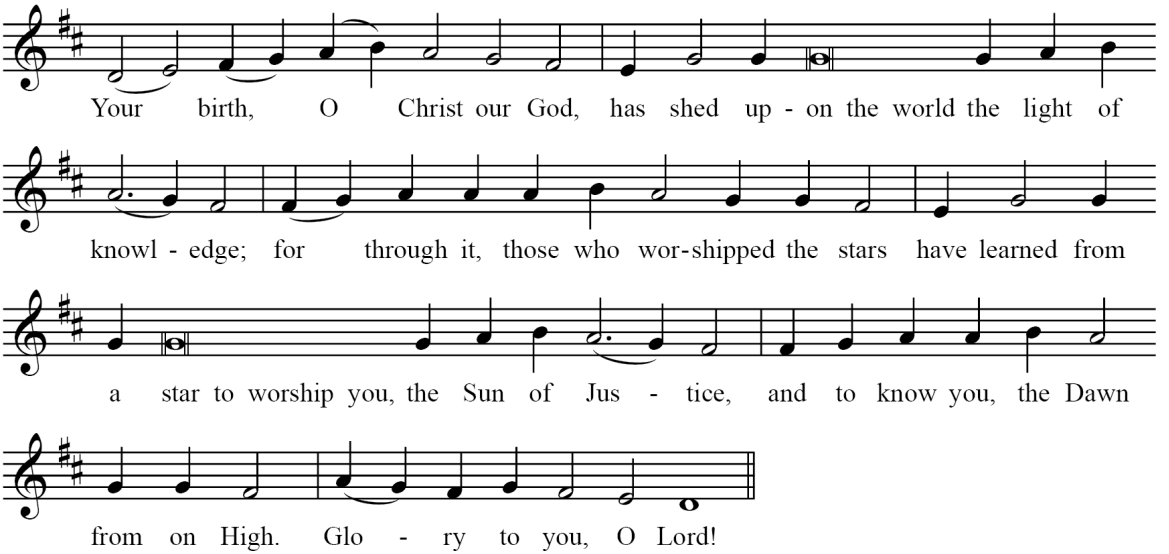
Deacon: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever. *Refrain*

- They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them. *Refrain*

- I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. *Refrain*

- The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. *Refrain*

Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*



Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The faithful repeat **"Your birth, O Christ our God..."**

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

The faithful repeat **"Your birth, O Christ our God..."**

FIRST PSALTER READING

Each station of the Psalter reading begins:

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Lector: | Now and ever and forever. Amen.

The lector chants the psalms of the station, concluding:

Lector: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

| Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | Glory to you, O God! *(Three times, third time with melody)*

After the final station of the Psalter reading:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

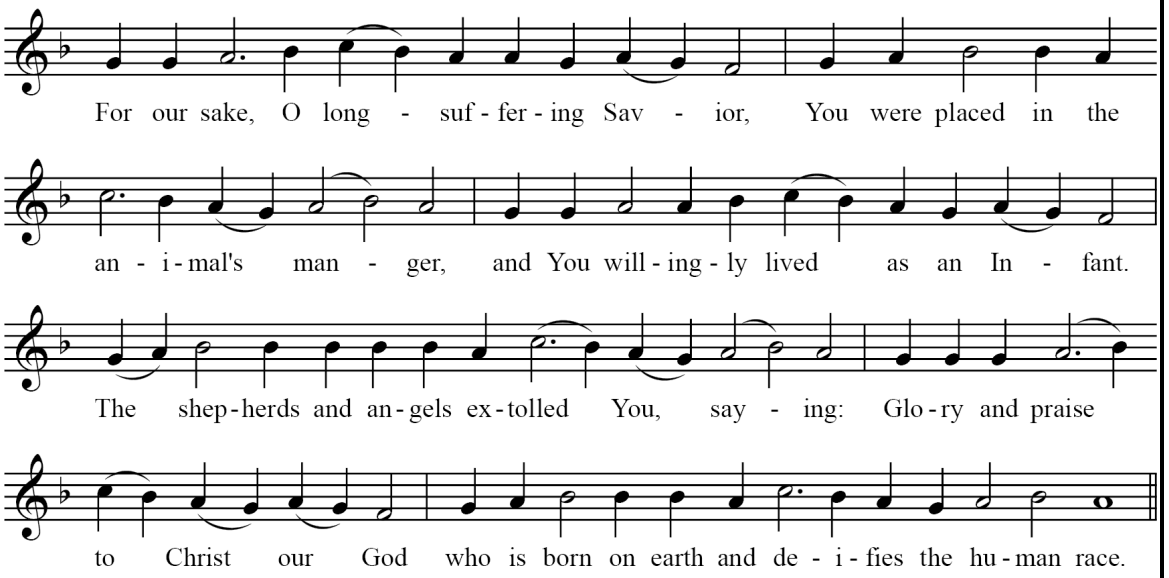
Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Priest: For yours are the might and the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

If the Psalter was read, the faithful now sing:

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



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

All repeat **"For our sake, O long-suffering Savior..."**

SECOND PSALTER READING

Each station of the Psalter reading begins:

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Lector: | **Now and ever and forever. Amen.**

The lector chants the psalms of the station, concluding:

Lector: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

| **Now and ever and forever. Amen.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | **Glory to you, O God!** *(Three times, third time with melody)*

After the final station of the Psalter reading:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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: **To you, O Lord.**

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: **Amen.**

If the Psalter was read, the faithful now sing:

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



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

All repeat **"O Theotokos, you carried in your womb..."**

POLYELEOS

The priest vests in the phelonion. The deacon opens the holy doors, and the priest incenses the holy table, the icon screen, the church, and the people, preceded by the deacon with a candle.





Refrain 1







Refrain 1





Refrain 1





Refrain 1



Refrain 2









EXALTATION

The icon of the feast is solemnly carried in procession from the holy table, through the holy doors, and enthroned on the tetrapod, where it is incensed. Meanwhile, the faithful sing:

Exaltation





Cantor: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, sing praise to his name; give to him glorious praise. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

Cantor: The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

Cantor: The Lord said to my Lord, you are my son; this day I have begotten you. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

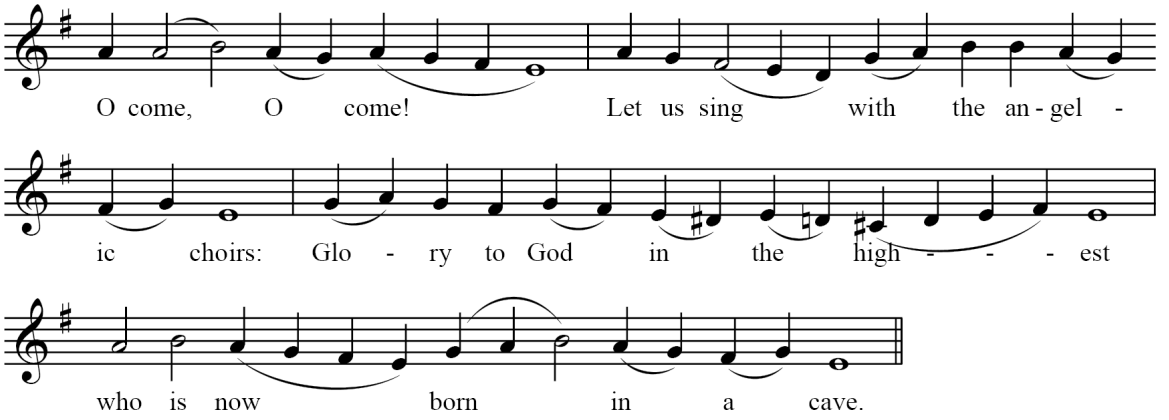
Cantor: Before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn, and he will not repent. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

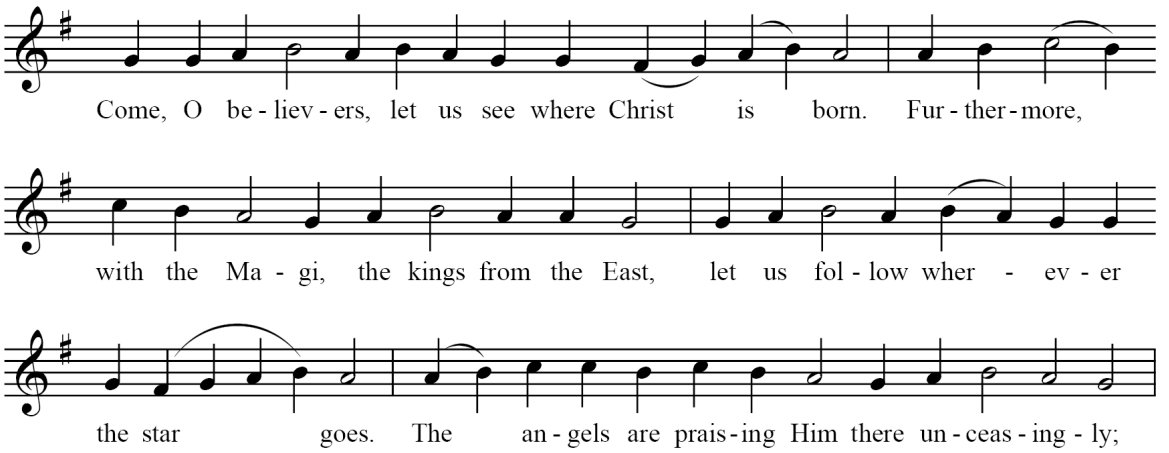
Three times

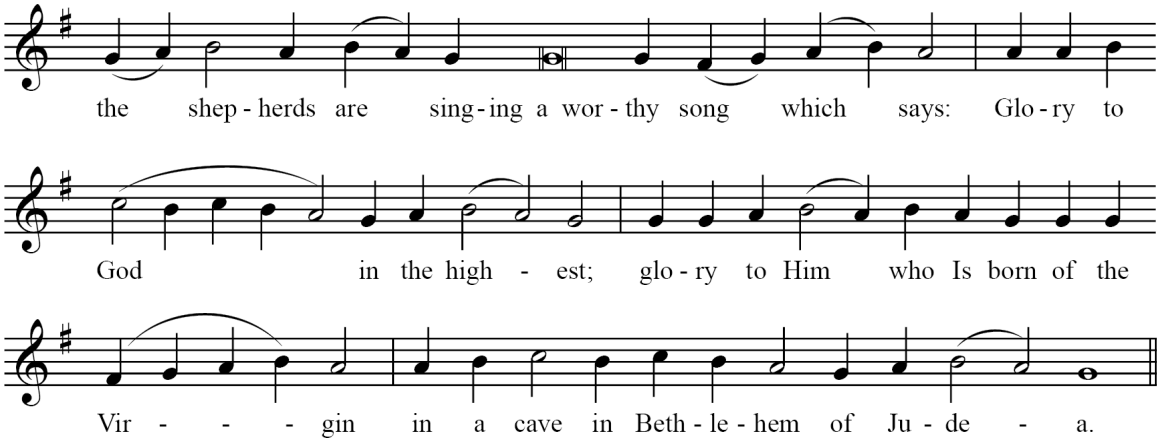


Bulgarian verse *("Bolharski pripiv")*



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





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

All repeat **"Come, O believers, let us see where Christ is born..."**

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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: **To you, O Lord.**

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.

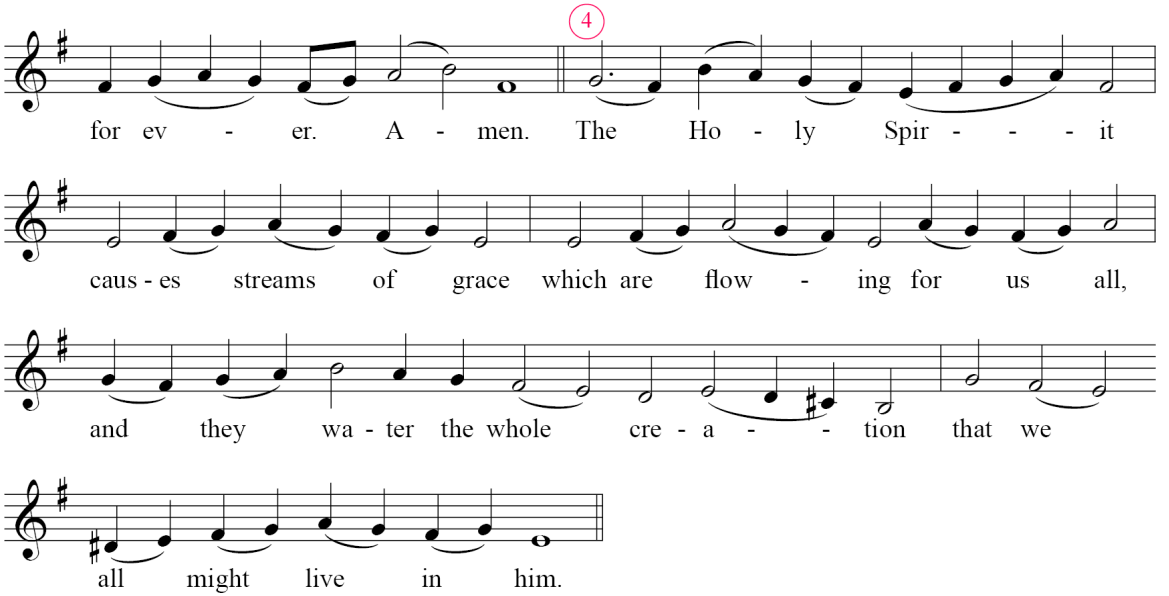
Response: **Amen.**

FESTAL GRADUAL HYMN

Tone 4




fierce - ly waged a bat - tle a - gainst me: but
has - ten to my res - cue and save me, O my Sav - ior.
2
All of you that hate Zi - on shall be put to
shame by the Lord: all of you shall be with - - - ered up,
as the grass is by the fire. Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and
3
to the Ho - ly Spir - it: The Ho - ly Spir - - - it
gives his life to ev - 'ry soul; it is ex - alt - ed in pu - ri - ty;
it is il - lu - - - mined by the one God in three Per - sons
in a sa - cred mys - ter - y. Now and ev - er and



PROKEIMENON AND HOLY GOSPEL READING

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

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



Deacon: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your foot-stool.

From the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and he will not repent.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Response: **Amen.**

Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.





Deacon: Praise God in his holy place; praise him in his mighty heavens.

Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord, give praise to the Lord.

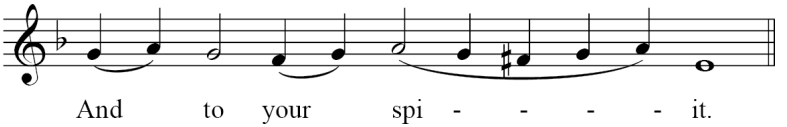
Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.



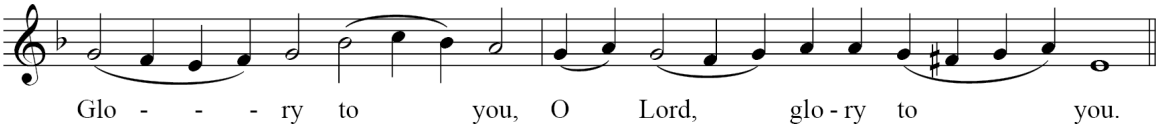
Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Response:



Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.



The priest reads the holy Gospel:

(Matthew 1:16-25) Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and his name shall be called Emmanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.**

The priest closes the Gospel book, kisses it, and places it on the tetrapod.

A homily may be preached at this time.

Psalm 50:

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. | In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt | and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; | my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; | what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence | and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born, | a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; | then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean; | O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, | that the bones you have crushed may thrill.
From my sins turn away your face | and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, | put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, | nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; | with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways | and sinners may return to you.

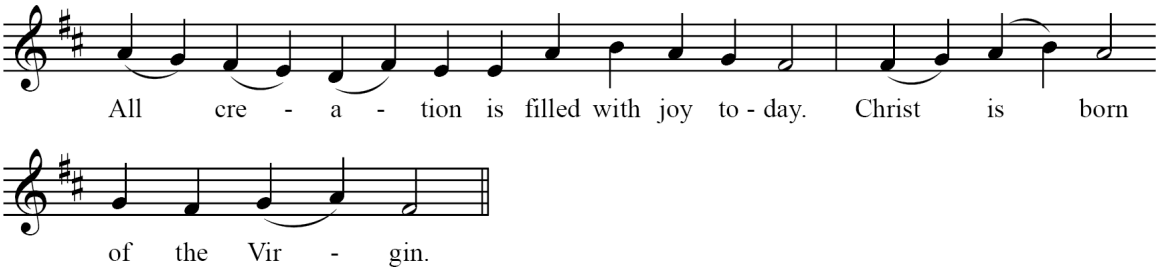
O rescue me, God, my helper, | and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips | and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, | burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit, | a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

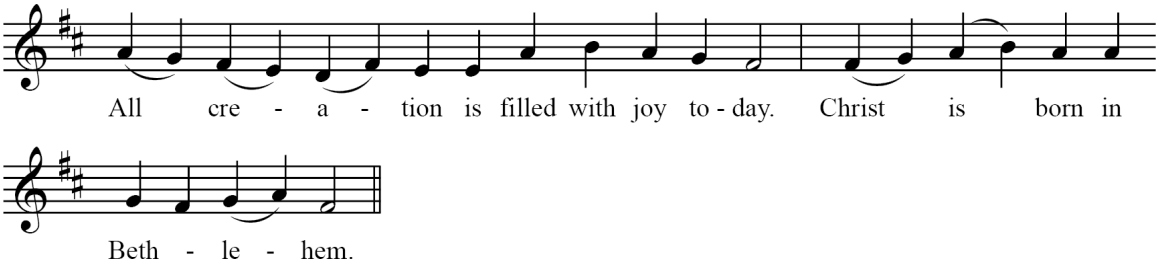
In your goodness, show favor to Zion: | rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, burnt offerings wholly consumed, | then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

Cantor: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 2 Bolhar

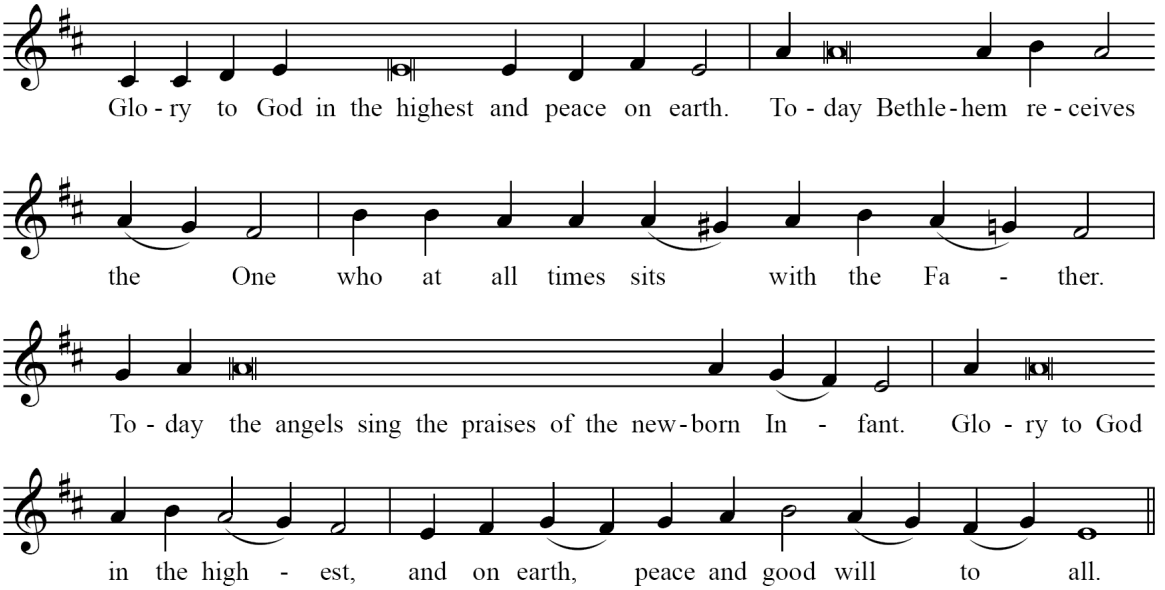


Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.



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

Tone 6 samohlasen



The deacon stands before the icon of the Lord and says:

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 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: **Lord, have mercy.** *(12 times)*

The priest stands before the holy doors and says:

Priest: O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath. Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

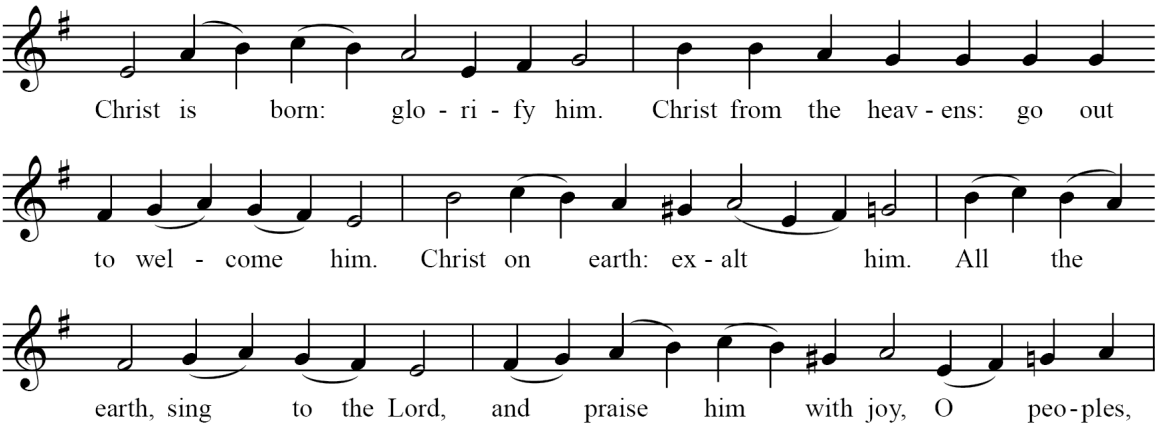
The priest and deacon enter the altar.

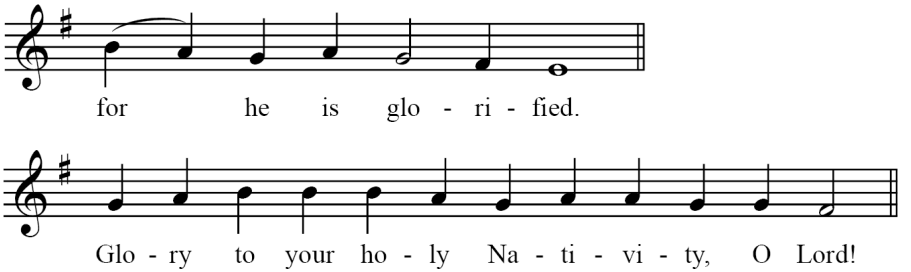
CANON

The priest, taking the hand cross, and the deacon, taking the blessed oil, go to the tetrapod.
The priest anoints the faithful who come forward to venerate the Gospel book.
After the anointing is completed, the clergy return to the altar.
The holy doors are closed and the priest removes his phelonion.

Ode 1

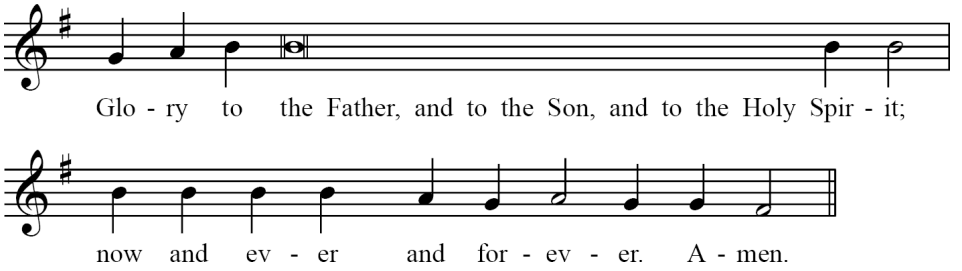
Irmos *Tone 1 samopodoben*





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.

Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
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.

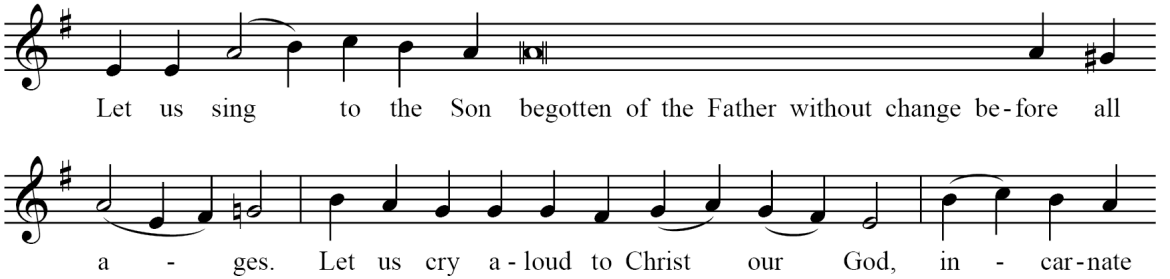


Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.

Repeat the Irmos **"Christ is born: glorify him…"** *as Katavasia.*

Ode 3

Irmos







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!

Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
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.

Repeat the Irmos **"Let us sing to the Son…"** *as Katavasia.*

The deacon stands in front of the holy doors and says the Little Litany from the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

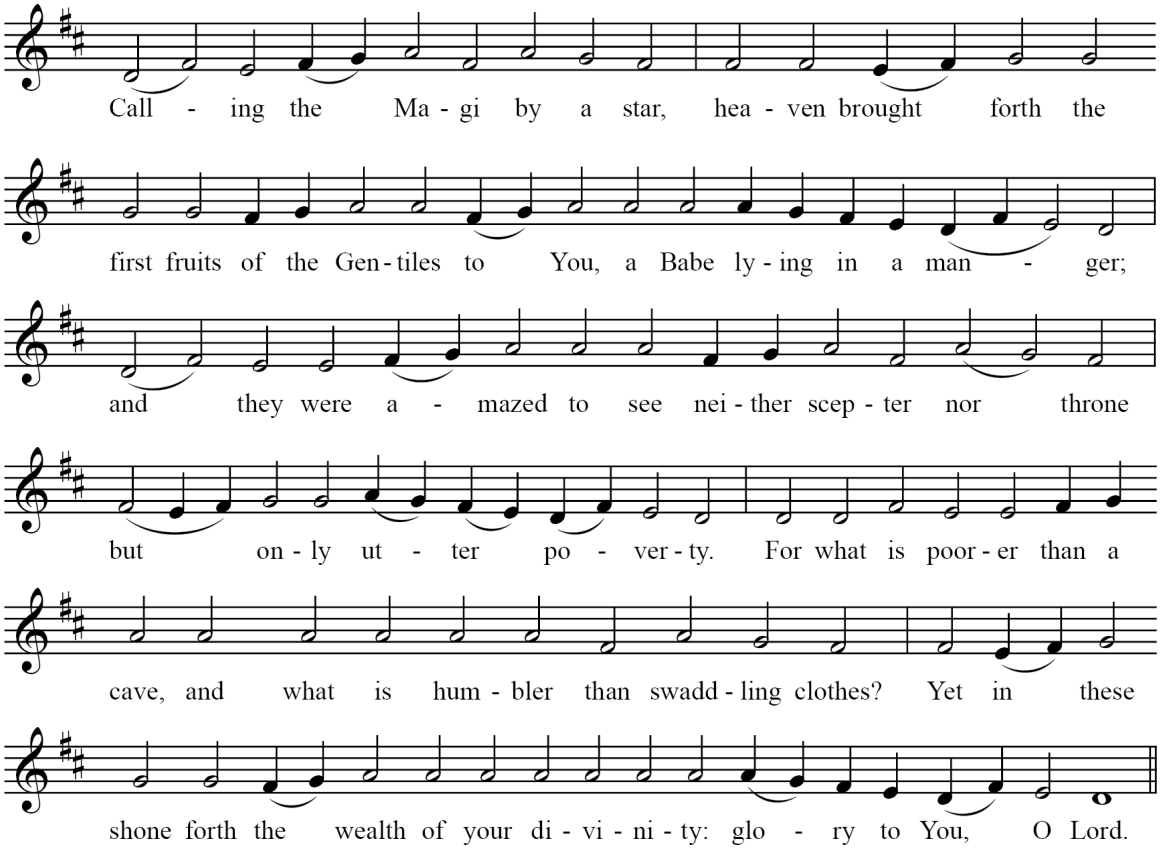
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: **To you, O Lord.**

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

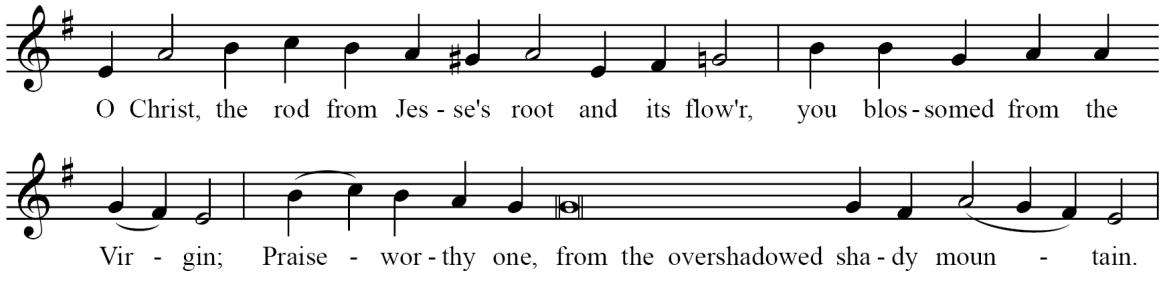
Response: Amen.

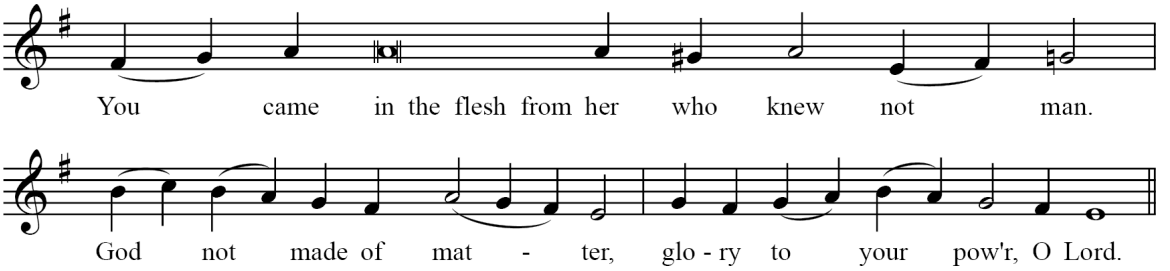
Hypakoe - *Tone 8*



Ode 4

Irmos





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!

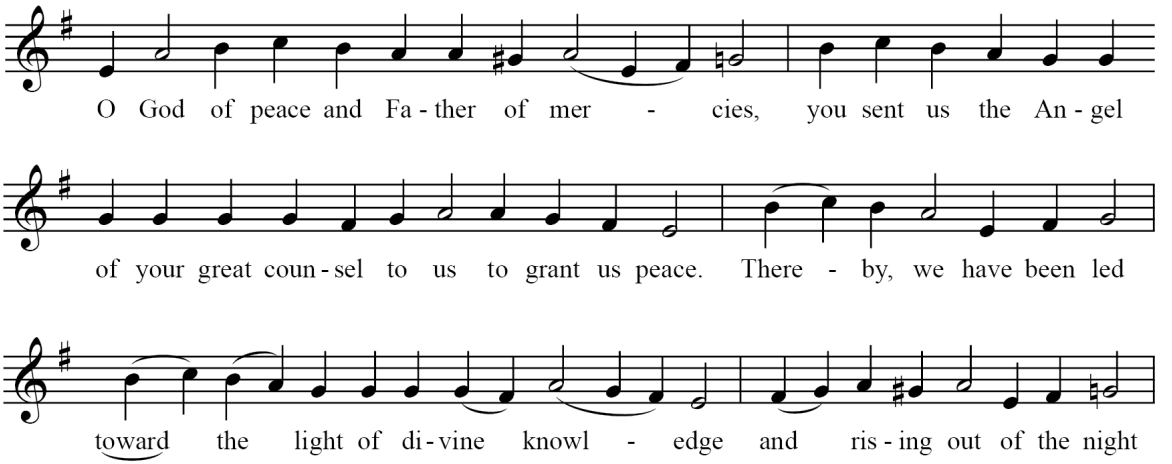
Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
Rising as a Star out of Jacob, O Master, You have brought joy to the Magi who interpreted wisely the words of Balaam, the prophet of old. They were led to You as the first fruits of the Gentiles, and You graciously received them as they brought You pleasing gifts.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

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

Repeat the Irmos **"O Christ, the rod from Jesse's root…"** *as Katavasia.*

Ode 5

Irmos





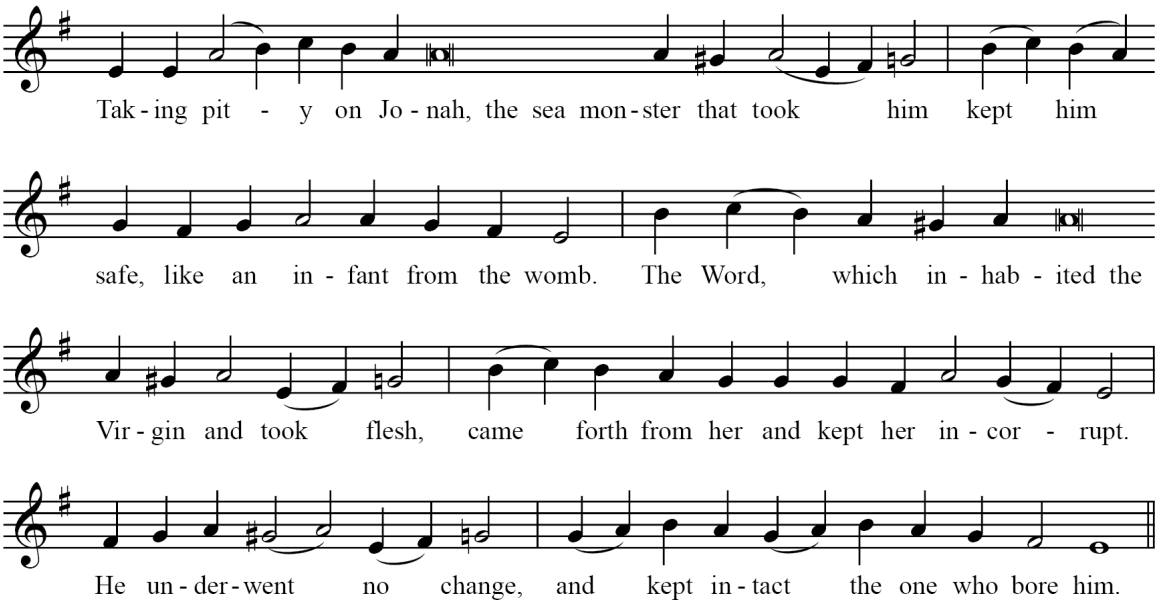
Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
In obedience to the decree of Caesar, O Christ, You were registered among his servants; and You have set us free from being enslaved to the enemy and sin. Completely sharing in our poverty, You made our nature godlike by uniting yourself to us and by participating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

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

Repeat the Irmos **"O God of peace and Father of mercies…"** *as Katavasia.*

Ode 6

Irmos



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

Repeat the Irmos **"Taking pity on Jonah…"** *as Katavasia.*

The deacon stands in front of the holy doors and says the Little Litany from the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

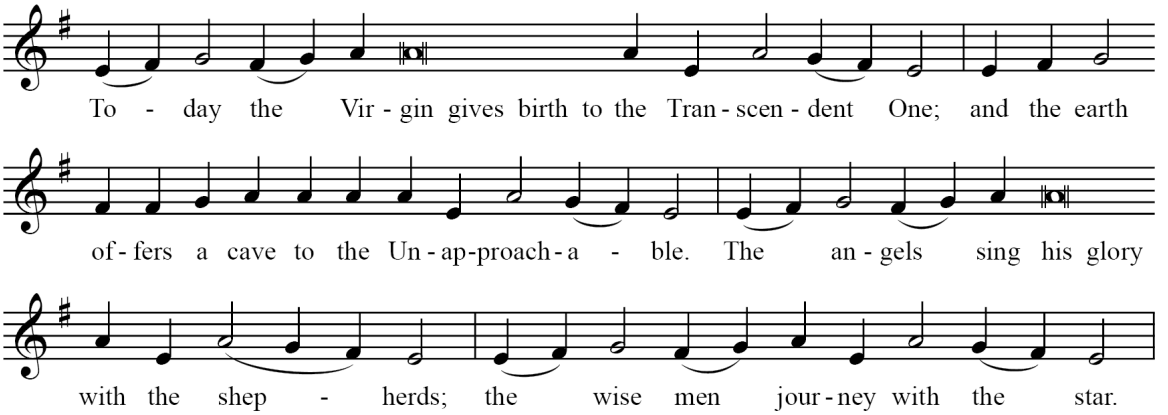
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Priest: For you are the King of Peace, and the Savior of our souls, and we give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*

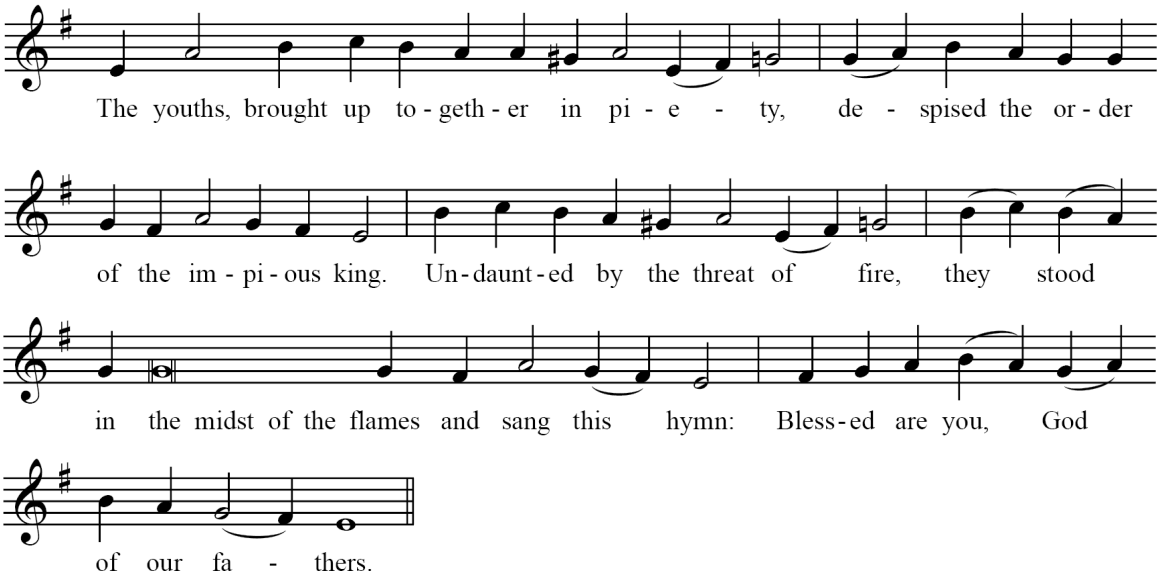




Ikos: Bethlehem has opened up Eden for us. Come and let us see the delights that we have found there in secret. Come and let us gather the fruits of Paradise that are within the cave. There, the unwatered Root has manifested itself, and it has sprouted forgiveness. There, the undug Well, of which David 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



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.

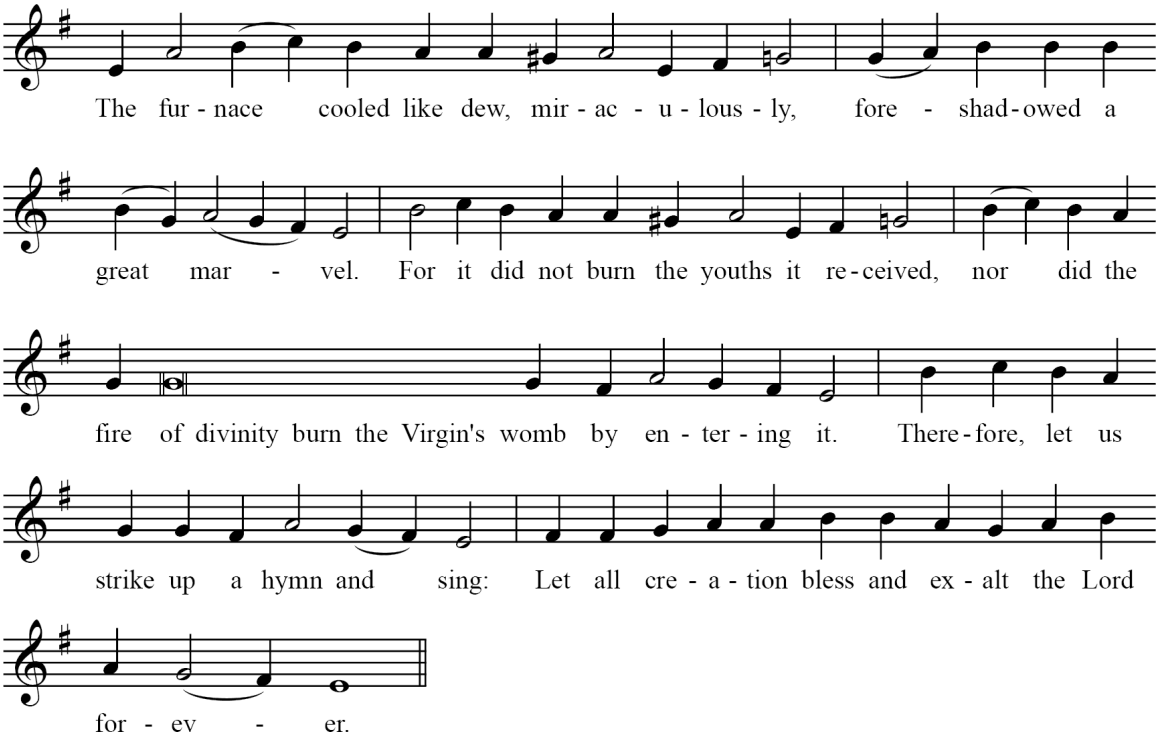
Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
At the word of the angel, the heavenly hosts cried aloud: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all; Christ has shone forth. Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers.

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

Repeat the Irmos **"The youths, brought up together in piety…"** *as Katavasia.*

Ode 8

Irmos

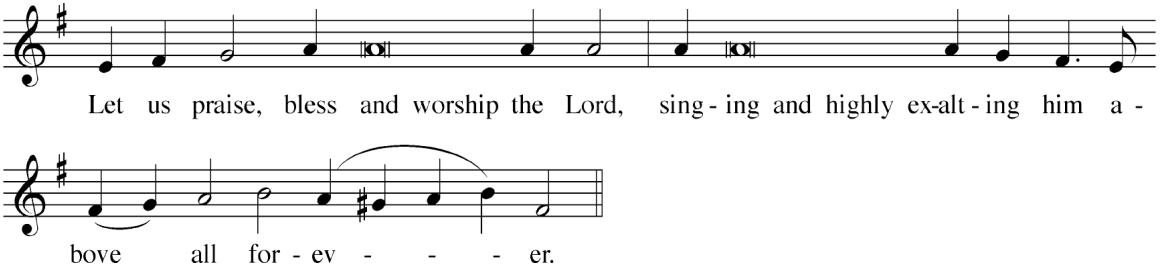


Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
The children of David were once led captive from Zion by the daughter of Babylon through the strength of the sword; now, the Magi bringing gifts, are sent by her to beseech the Daughter of David in whom God took flesh. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all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

Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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.



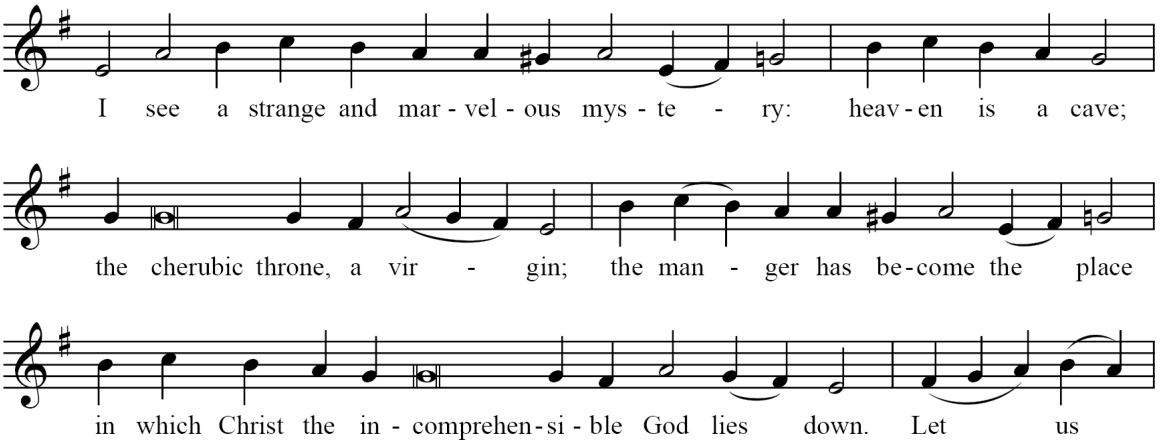
Repeat the Irmos **"The furnace cooled like dew, miraculously…"** *as Katavasia.*

Ode 9

Magnification



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, born in the flesh from the Virgin.
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.

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

Repeat the Magnification and Irmos **"Extol… I see a strange and marvelous mystery…"** *as Katavasia.*

The deacon stands in front of the holy doors and says the Little Litany from the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

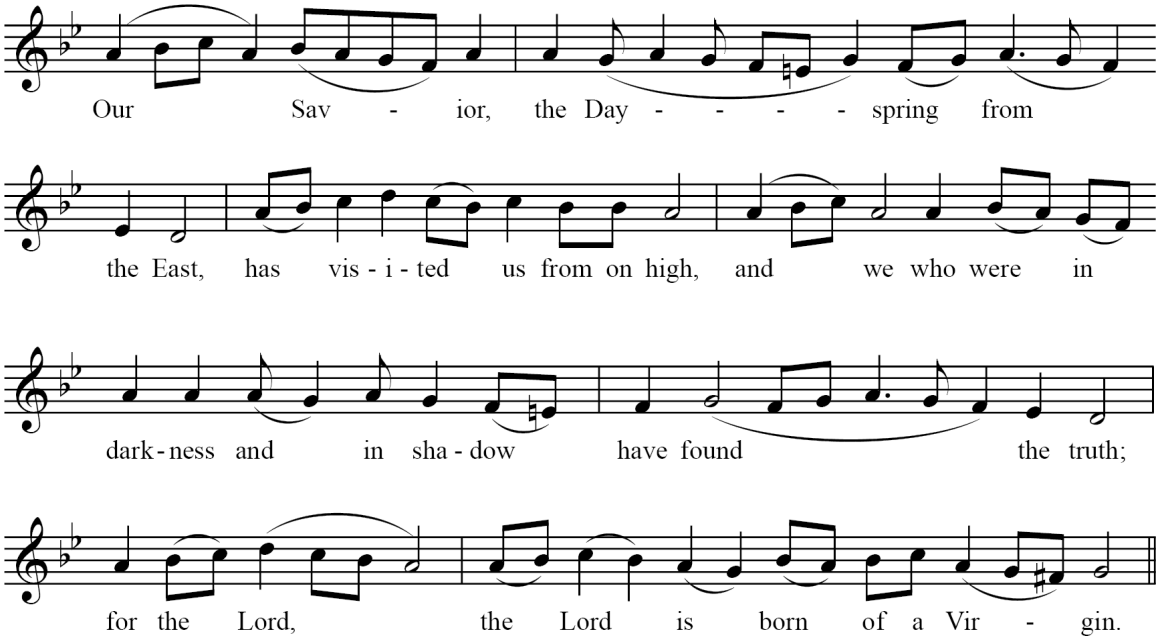
Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Priest: O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives

praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

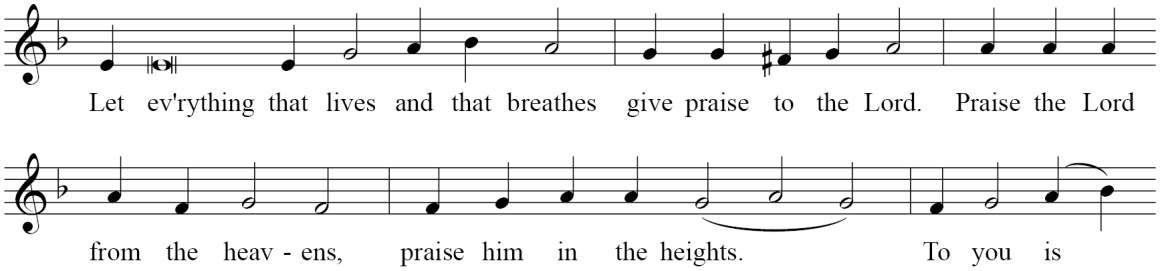
Hymn of Light - *Tone 3 samopodoben:*

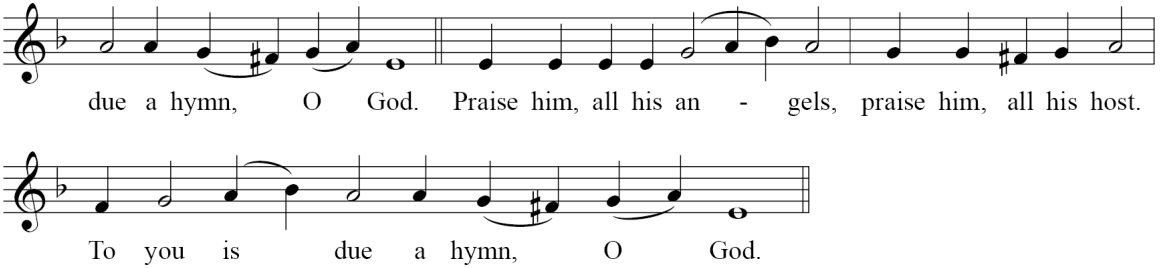


PSALMS OF PRAISE

The priest vests in the phelonion.

Psalm 148:





Praise him, sun and moon, | praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens | and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, | he commanded; they were made.
He fixed them forever, | gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, | sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist, | stormy winds that obey his word;

all mountains and hills, | all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame, | reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth's kings and peoples, | earth's princes and rulers.
young men and maidens, | old men together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord | for he alone is exalted.
The splendor of his name | reaches beyond heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people, | he is the praise of all his saints,
of the children of Israel, | of the people to whom he comes close.

Psalm 149:
Sing a new song to the Lord, | his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, | let Zion's sons exult in their king.

Let them praise his name with dancing | and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. | He crowns the poor with salvation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, | shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips | and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations | and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains | and their nobles in fetters of iron.

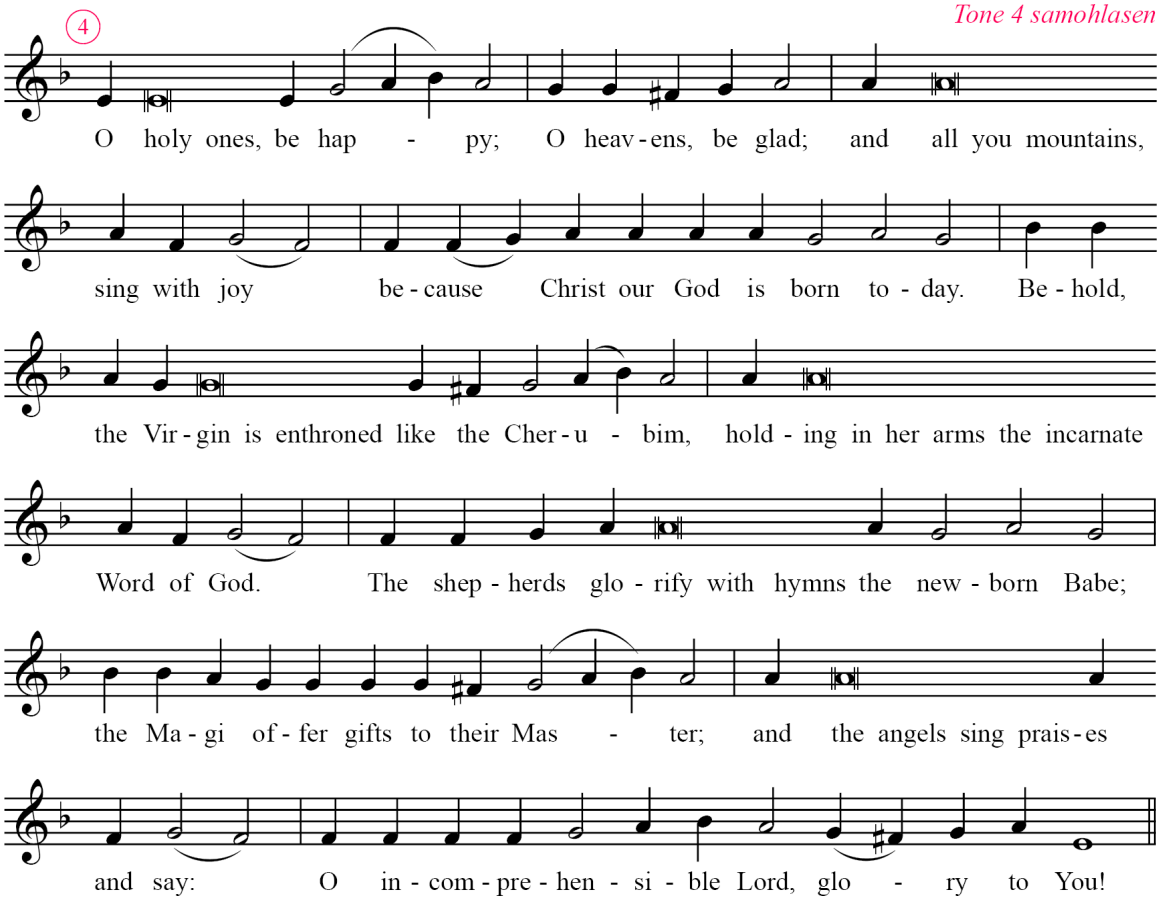
To carry out the sentence pre-ordained: | this honor is for all his faithful.

Psalm 150:

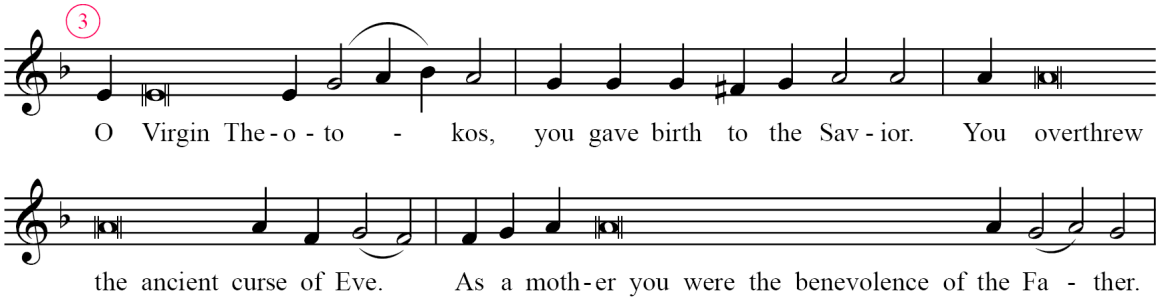
Praise God in his holy place, | praise him in his mighty heavens.

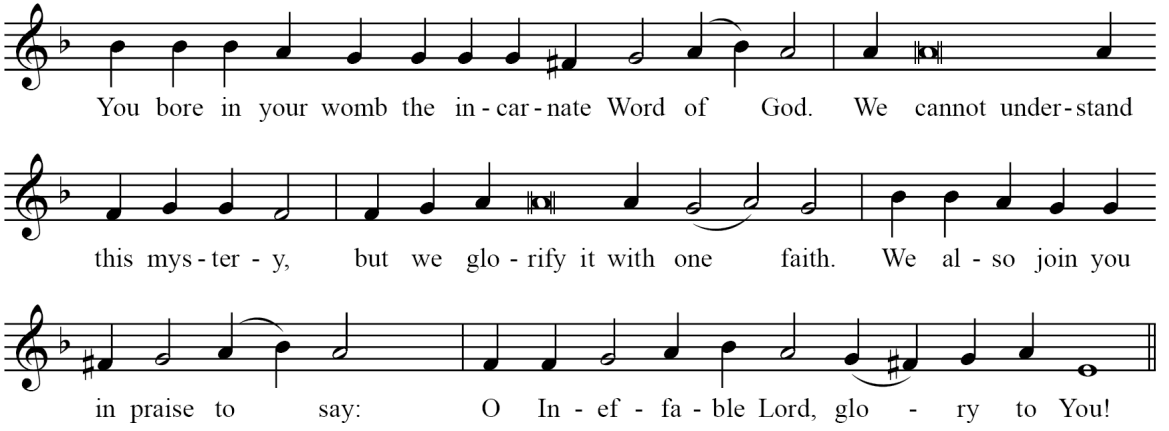
Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

Tone 4 samohlasen

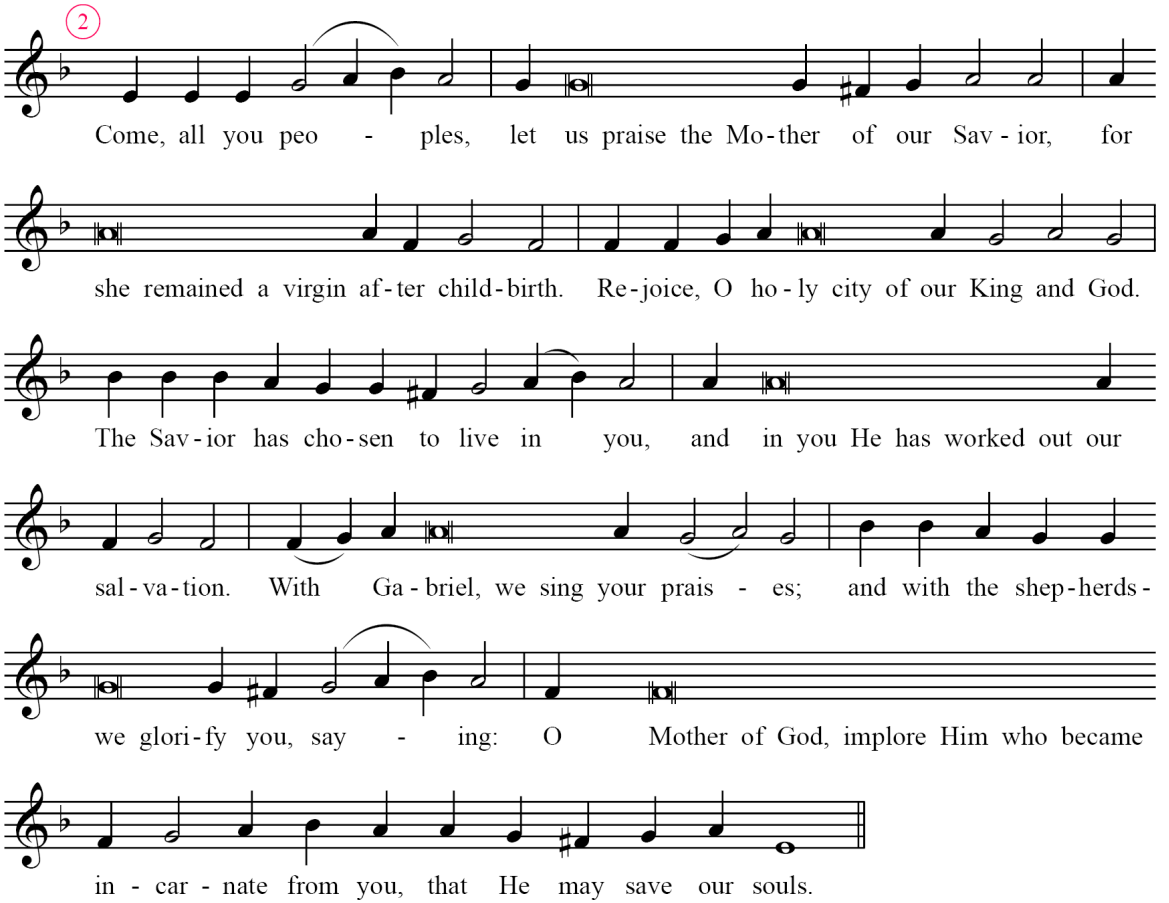


Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet praise him with lute and harp.

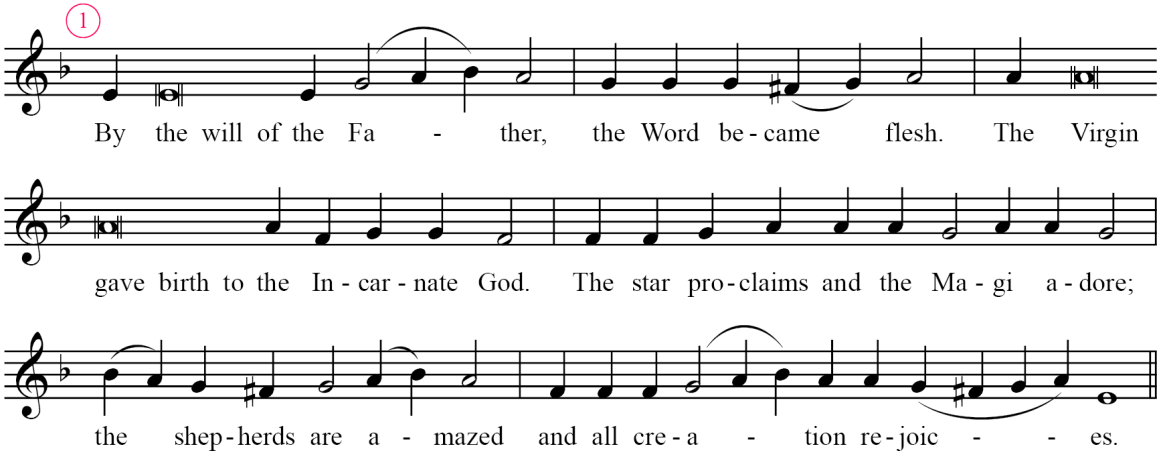




Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.



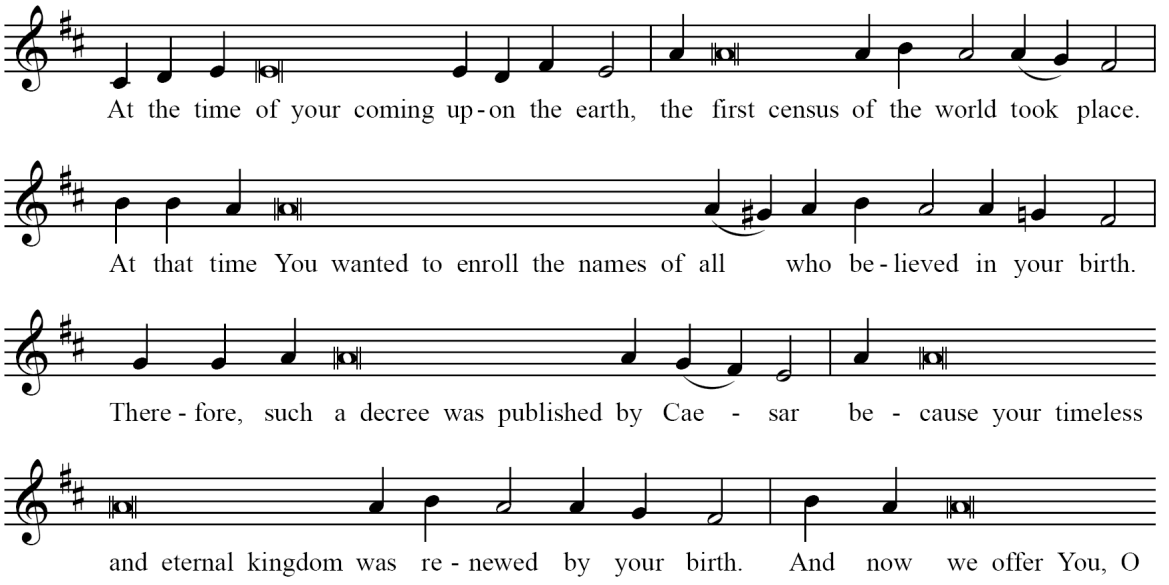
Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals. Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.



The deacon opens the holy doors.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 6 samohlasen





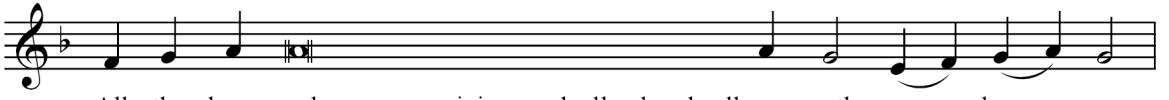


Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

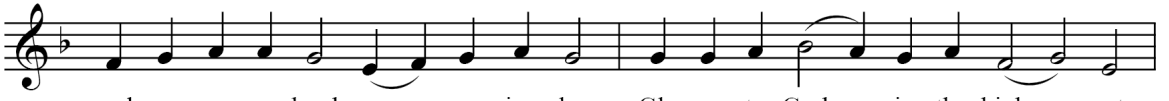
Tone 2 samohlasen













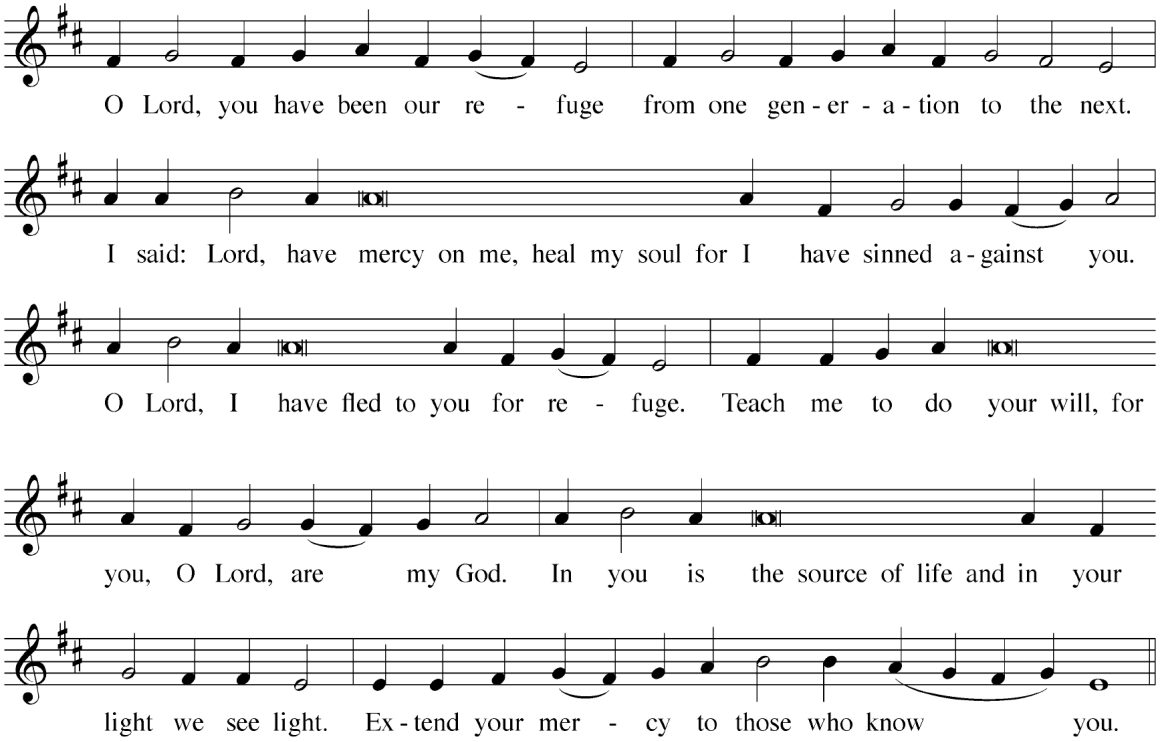
GREAT DOXOLOGY

The priest stands before the holy table, and, facing east, raises his hands and intones:

Priest: Glory to you who show us the light!

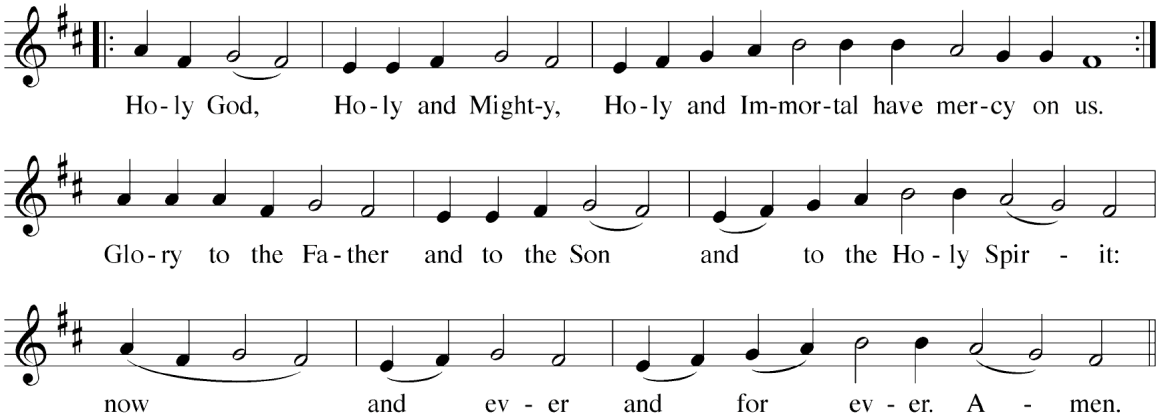


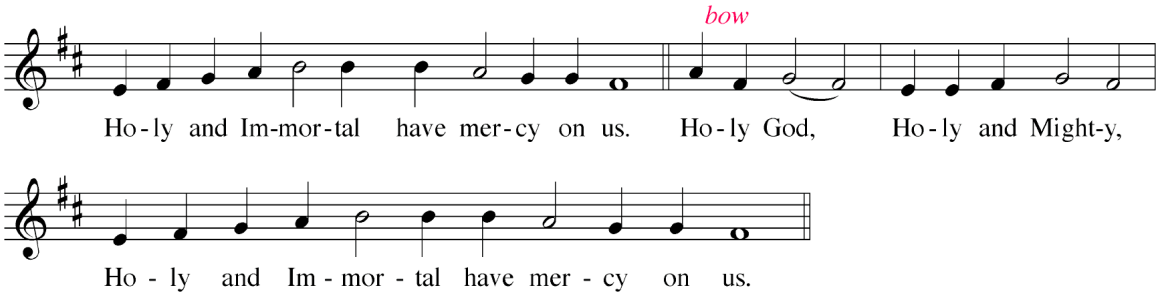

For you a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ,
to the glory of God the Fa - ther. A - men. I will bless you day aft - er
day, and praise your name for - ev - er. Make us wor - thy, O Lord,
to be kept sin - less this morn - ing. Bless - ed are you, O Lord,
the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy and glorious is your name for - ev - er.
A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us who have placed our
reverence
hope in you. Bless - ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments.
reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Mas - ter; make me understand your com - mand - ments.
reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Ho - ly One; enlighten me with your com - mand - ments.



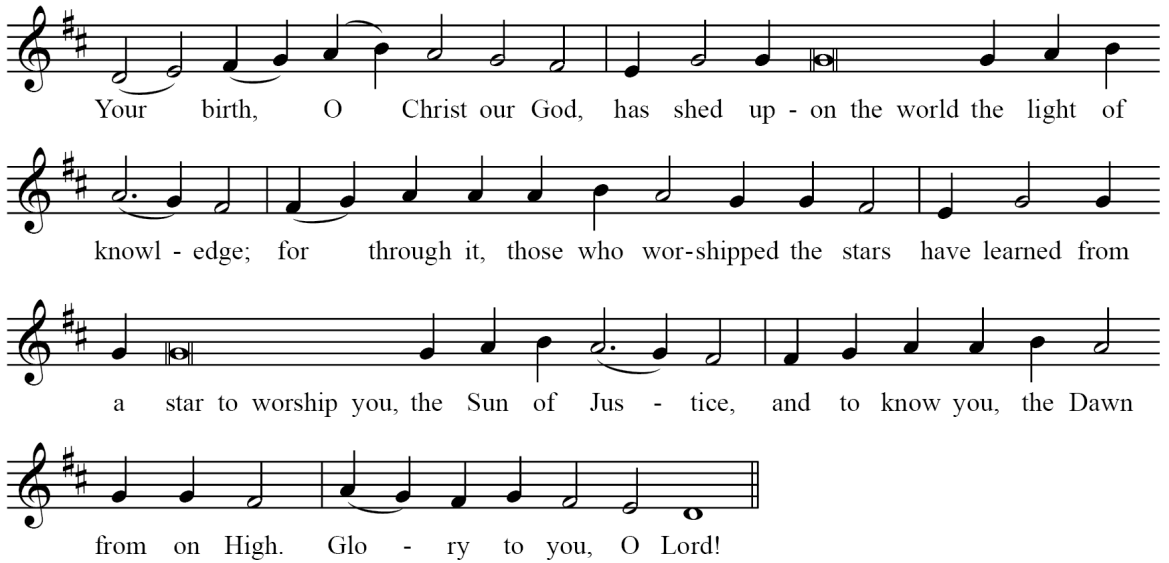
The priest takes the Gospel book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the holy doors and replaces it on the holy table.

Three times, each with a bow:





Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*



LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

The deacon says the following litany from the ambon:

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

- That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Grant this, O Lord. *(This same response is given to each of the following petitions:)*

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

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

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

- That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

- For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

- 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.

To you, O Lord.

The priest, standing before the holy doors, says:

Priest: We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER BOWED HEADS

Priest: Peace be to all.

Response: **And to your spirit.**

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Priest: Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy

dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: | **Give the blessing.**

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

Response: **Amen.**
O God, uphold the holy and true faith, | forever and ever.

Celebrant: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: **More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; | who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.**

Celebrant: Glory to you, O Christ God, our hope, glory to you.

Response: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, | now and ever and forever. Amen.**
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. | Give the blessing.

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 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: **Amen.**

THE END OF MATINS.