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

Abridged

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.**

The priest removes his phelonion.

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(Bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(Bow)*
| Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(Bow)*

HEXAPSALMOS

The lector, holding a candle, chants the psalm simply on a single pitch:

Psalm 4:
When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!
O men, how long will your hearts be closed, will you love what is futile and seek what is false?

It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him.
Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still. Make justice your sacrifice, and trust in the Lord.

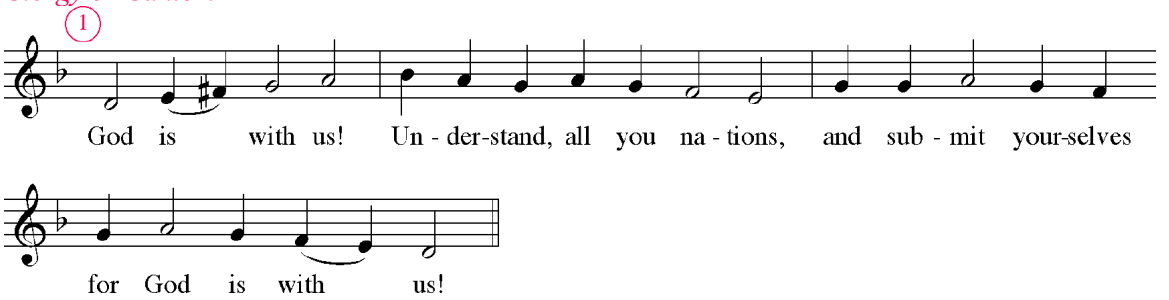
"What can bring us happiness?" many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
You have put into my heart a greater joy than they have from abundance of corn and new wine.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

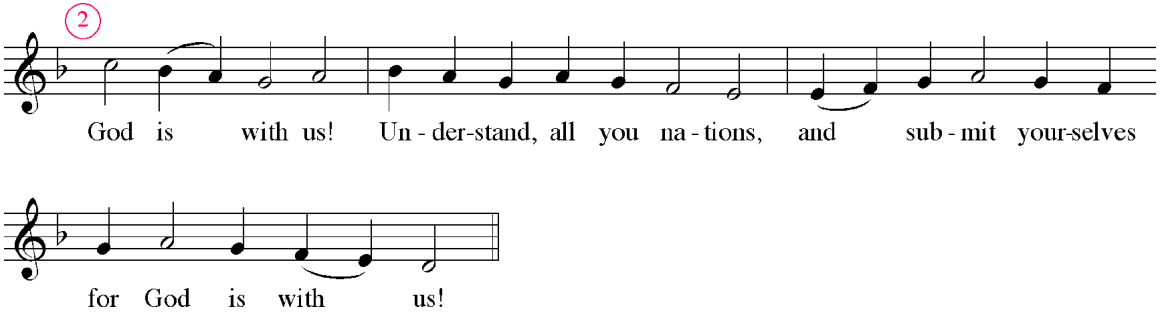
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! *(Three times, third time with melody)*

GOD IS WITH US

Clergy or Cantor:



All:



- Give ear all you distant lands, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- You mighty ones, submit yourselves, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- If you strengthen yourselves again, again you will be defeated, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Form a plan, but the Lord will thwart it, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- Whatever word you speak will not stand even among yourselves, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- We will not fear what you fear nor shall we be dismayed, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- Hallow the Lord our God and He will be your fear, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- If you trust in Him, He will be your refuge, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- We will hope in Him and by Him will we be saved, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Here am I with the children God has given me, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Upon you who dwelt in the shadow of death a light has shone, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- For a child is born to us; a son is given to us, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Upon His shoulder dominion rests, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- Of His peace there is no end, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- They call Him Angel of Great Counsel, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

- Father of the age to come, for God is with us. *Refrain (1)*
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen, for God is with us. *Refrain (2)*

Clergy: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!
All: God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

Our human ears have never heard the songs of praise | offered you by bodiless beings, the cherubim;
nor the joyful and never-ceasing glory | tendered by the six-winged seraphim;

nor the thrice-holy hymns | of all the angelic hosts.
O Trinity undivided: | Being from forever!

Before all that is or was or will be: | Father, before all ages,
eternal with your only Son, | like you without beginning,

and your Holy Spirit of Life, | equal in honor!
All-holy Virgin, Theotokos, | and you, eyewitnesses and servants of the Word,

with all the choirs of prophets and martyrs, | who dwell in everlasting life!
Look at us, behold our wretchedness! | Never cease praying for us,

that, freed from all the snares of evil, | we, too, may sing loudly the angelic hymn:
Holy, holy, holy are you, thrice-holy Lord! | Have mercy on us, and save us, amen!

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, | Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible;
and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, | born of the Father before all ages.

Light from light, true God from true God, | begotten, not-made,
one in essence with the Father; | through whom all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, | he came down from heaven
and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, | and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, | and suffered and was buried.
He rose on the third day | according to the scriptures.

He ascended into heaven | and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, | and his kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, | who proceeds from the Father.
Together with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified; | he spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. | I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.
I expect the resurrection of the dead | and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All-holy Lady, Theotokos, | pray for us sinners!
Angels and archangels, and all you powers of heaven above, | pray for us sinners!

O holy John, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord, | pray for us sinners!
All you apostles and martyrs and prophets, | pray for us sinners!

All you venerable and god-bearing fathers, bishops and teachers of the universal church, | pray for us sinners!
O holy *(Name/s of the patron/s of this church),* **| pray for us sinners!**

With the invincible, ineffable and divine power of the holy and life-giving cross, | O Lord, protect us always!
O God, cleanse us sinners! | O God, cleanse us sinners!

O God, cleanse us sinners | and have mercy on us!

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

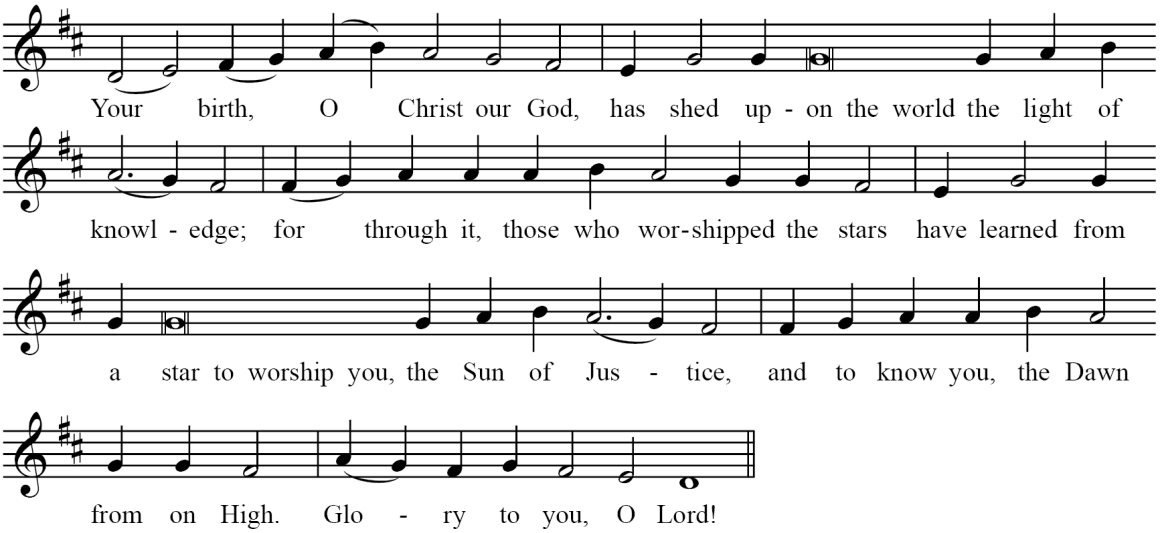
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, | now and ever and forever. Amen.

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

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

Response: Amen.

Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*



The priest comes before the holy doors.

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

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

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.

In the name of the Lord, | Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Response: Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR HOLY FATHER BASIL THE GREAT

Priest: O Lord, our Lord, as you preserved us this day from the arrows that fly in daylight, so now keep us safe from everything that lurks about in the darkness of night. To you we raise our hands in prayer: accept this as our evening sacrifice. Count us worthy of sleep free of sin, sheltered from all evil. Keep far from us all the fearful temptations, and every confusion or cowardice that comes from the devil. Fill our souls with contrition and our minds with anxiety as we become aware of the strictness with which you will search our thoughts on your dread and just day of judgment. Nail our flesh to fear of you. Mortify our bodies, that in the quiet of sleep, we may be illumined with the vision of your judgments. Spare us from indecent dreams and all improper desires. Awaken us in time for prayer, strong in faith and ready to observe all you have taught us. Through the loving kindness of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

THE SECOND PART OF GREAT COMPLINE

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(Bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(Bow)*
| Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(Bow)*

The Prayer of Manasseh:
O Lord God of our fathers. | God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their righteous offspring;
He who made the heaven and the earth | with all their beauty.

He who bound the sea | and established it by the command of his word,
he who closed the bottomless pit | and sealed it by his powerful and glorious name:

You, before whom all things fear and tremble; | especially before your power.
Because your awesome magnificence | cannot be endured;

none can endure or stand before | your anger and your fury against sinners.
But unending and immeasurable | are your promised mercies;

Because you are the Lord. | long-suffering. merciful, and greatly compassionate.
and you feel sorry over the evils of men.

You, O Lord, according to your gentle grace, | promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins,
and in your manifold mercies | appointed repentance for sinners as the way to salvation,

You, therefore, O Lord, God of the righteous, | did not appoint grace for the righteous,
such as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, | those who did not sin against you;

but you appointed grace for me, | I who am a sinner.
Because my sins exceeded the number of the sands of the sea, | and on account of the multitude of my iniquities, I have no strength to lift up my eyes.

And now, O Lord, I am justly afflicted, | and I am deservedly harassed; already I am ensnared.
And I am bent by many iron chains, | so that I cannot lift up my head;

for I do not deserve to lift up my eyes | and look to see the height of heaven,
because of the gross iniquity of my wicked deeds, | because I did evil things before you,

and provoked your fury, | and set up idols and multiplied impurity.
And now behold I am bending the knees of my heart before you; | and I am beseeching your kindness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned; | and I certainly know my sins.
I beseech you; | forgive me, O Lord, forgive me!

Do not destroy me with my transgressions; | do not be angry against me forever;
do not remember my evils; | and do not condemn me and banish me to the depths of the earth!

For you are the God of those who repent. | In me you will manifest all your grace;
and although I am not worthy, | you will save me according to your manifold mercies.

Because of this salvation I shall praise you continually | all the days of my life.
because all the hosts of heaven praise you, | and sing to you forever and ever.

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!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | Glory to you, O God!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! *(Third time with melody)*

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

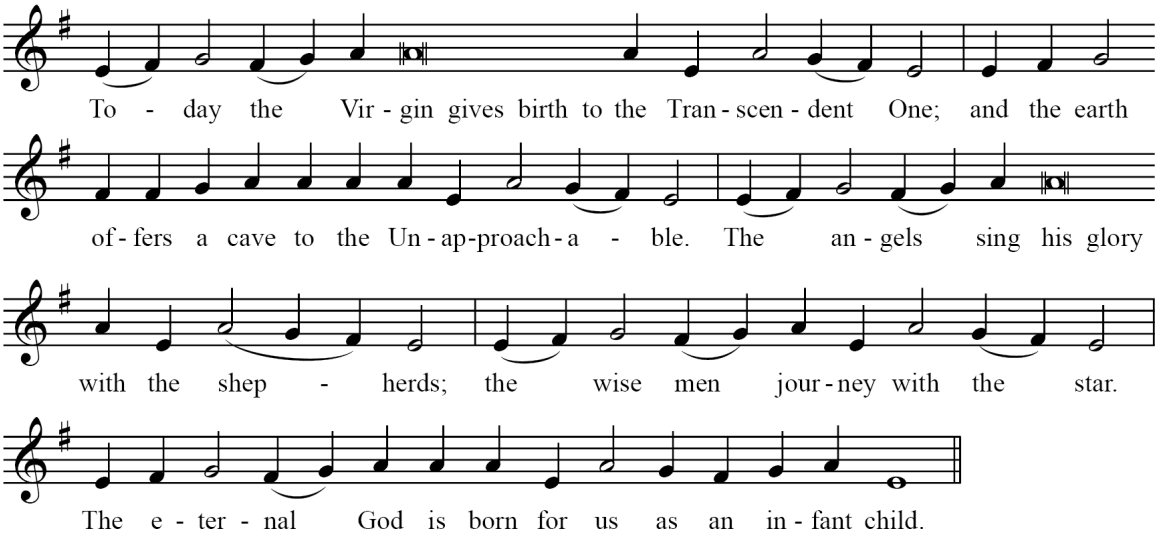
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, | but deliver us from evil.

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

Response: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*



Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

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

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.

In the name of the Lord, | Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us!

Response: Amen.

Priest: O God our Master, Almighty Father, only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ; and You, O Holy Spirit, one God and one Power, have mercy on me a sinner, and save me, your unworthy servant, according to the ways of Your wisdom. For You are blessed forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

THE THIRD PART OF GREAT COMPLINE

Come, let us worship our King and God. *(Bow)*
Come, let us worship Christ our King and God. *(Bow)*
| Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God. *(Bow)*

Psalm 69:
O God, make haste to my rescue, | Lord, come to my aid!
Let there be shame and confusion | on those who seek my life.

O let them turn back in confusion, | who delight in my harm,
let them retreat, covered with shame, | who jeer at my lot.

Let there be rejoicing and gladness | for all who seek you.
Let them say for ever: "God is great," | who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor, | come to me, O God.
You are my rescuer, my help, | O Lord, do not delay.
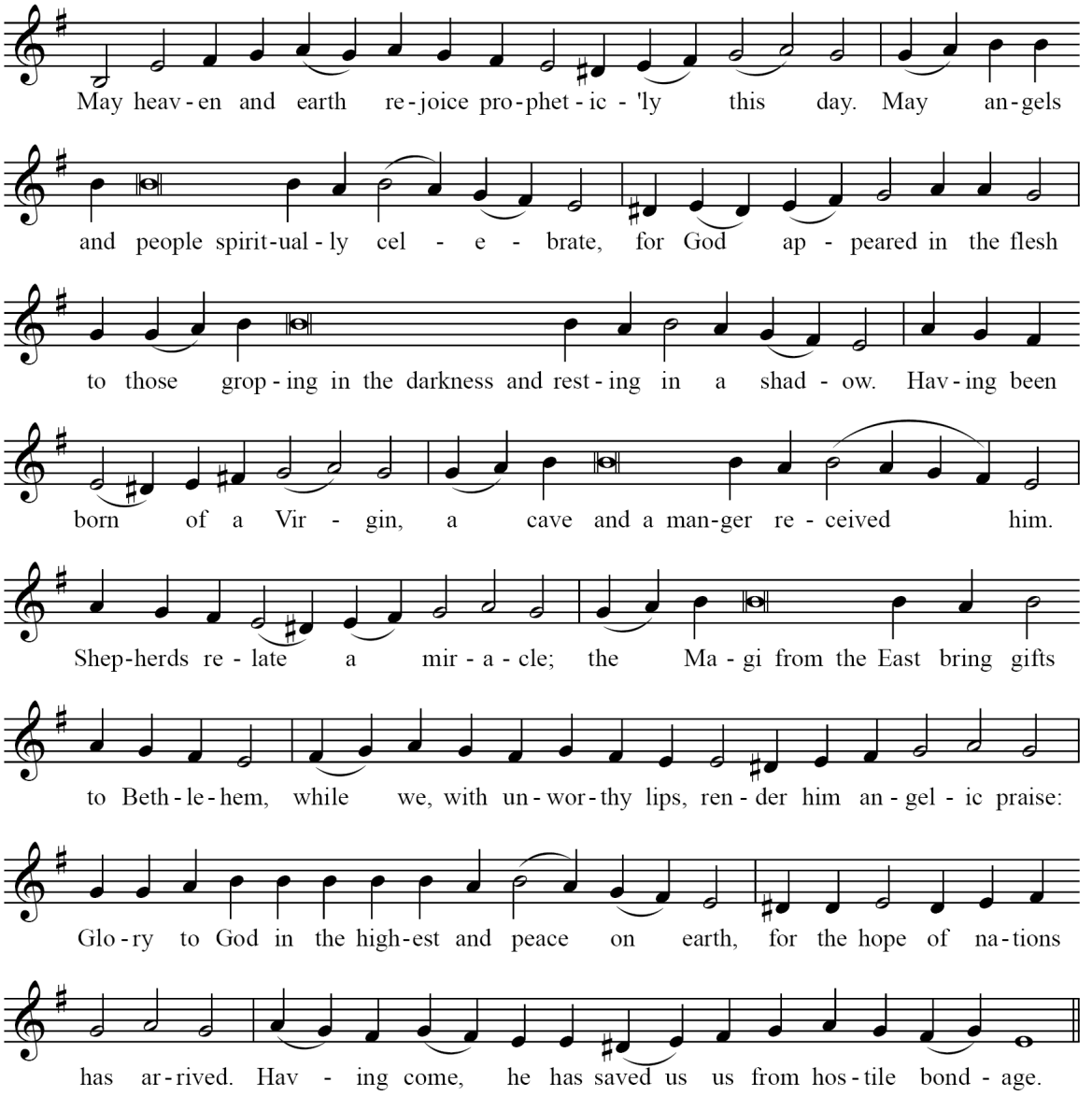
LITIJA

The celebrant takes the hand cross, and the deacon the censer. Together with the faithful, the clergy process to the narthex. The celebrant leaves the sanctuary through the holy doors,

and the deacon through the northern door. Concelebrating priests may join in this procession, each vested in epitrachilion and phelonion.

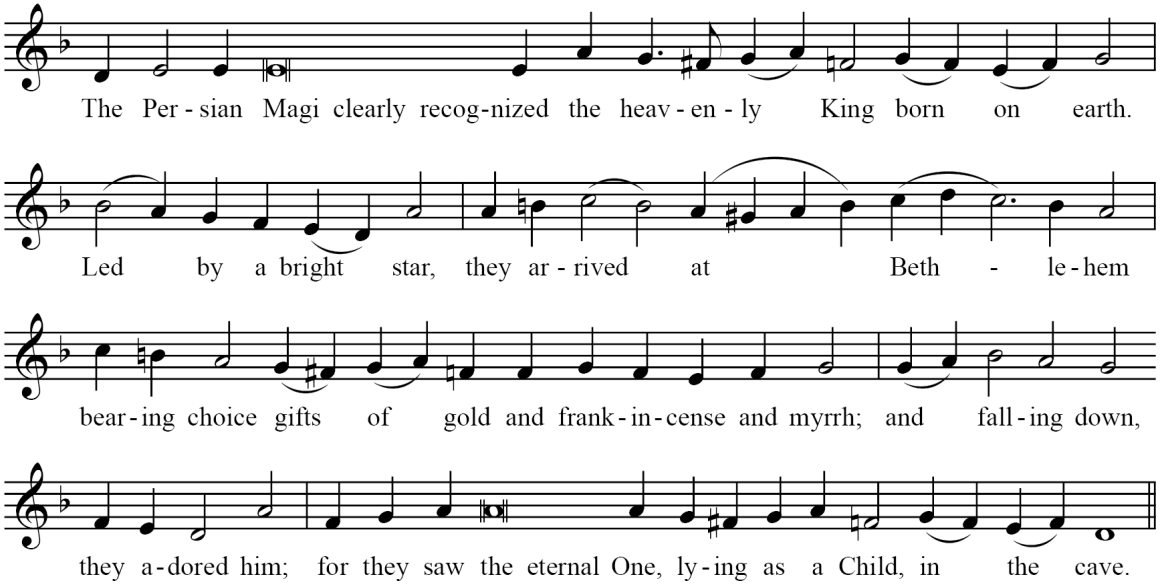
Having received the blessing from the celebrant, the deacon incenses the icons in the narthex, the priest(s), and the faithful in the narthex.

Tone 1 Bolhar



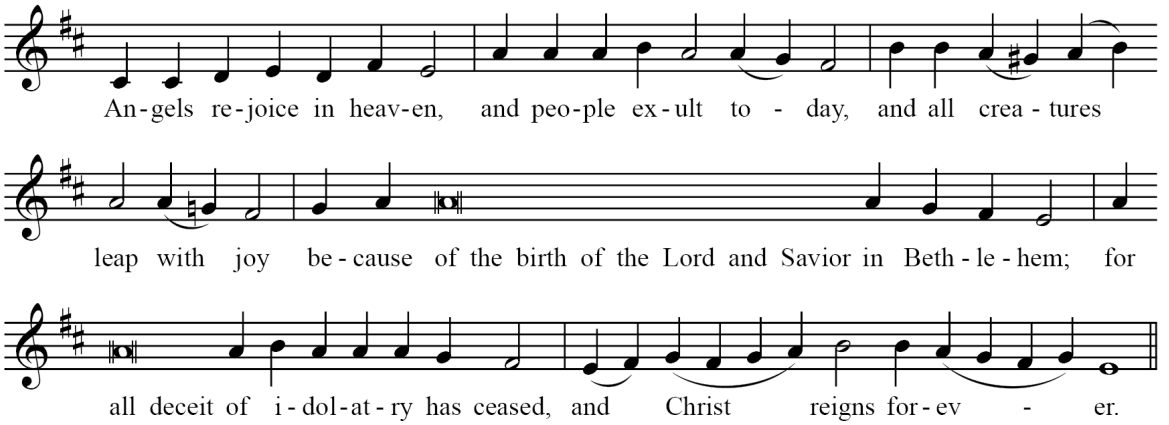
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Doxastikon - *Tone 5 Bolhar*



Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 6 samohlasen



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; by the power of the precious and life-creating cross; through the protection of the honorable and heavenly 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 Wonder-worker, 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 martyrs, Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo, 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 all other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy *(Name/s of the patron/s of this church);* 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)*

- Again we pray for our holy father *(Name),* Pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

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

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

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

Celebrant: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea. Be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Peace be to all.

Response: **And to your spirit.**

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

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

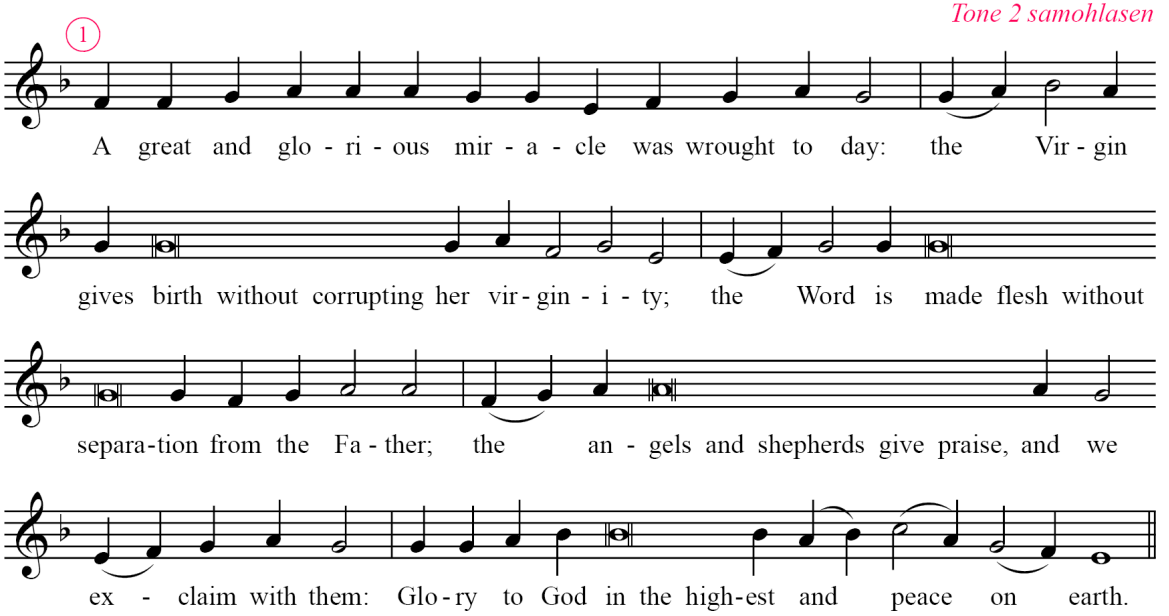
Celebrant: All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable; through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; by the power of the precious and life-creating cross; through the protection of the honorable and heavenly angelic powers; through the prayers 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 Wonder-worker, 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 martyrs, Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo, 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 all our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy *(Name/s of the patron/s of this church);* and of all the saints. Grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on us and on your world, and save our souls, for you are good and love us all.

Response: Amen.

All then enter the nave of the church and sing the Apostichera.
The clergy stand at the tetrapod, where the loaves, wheat, wine, and oil have been prepared.

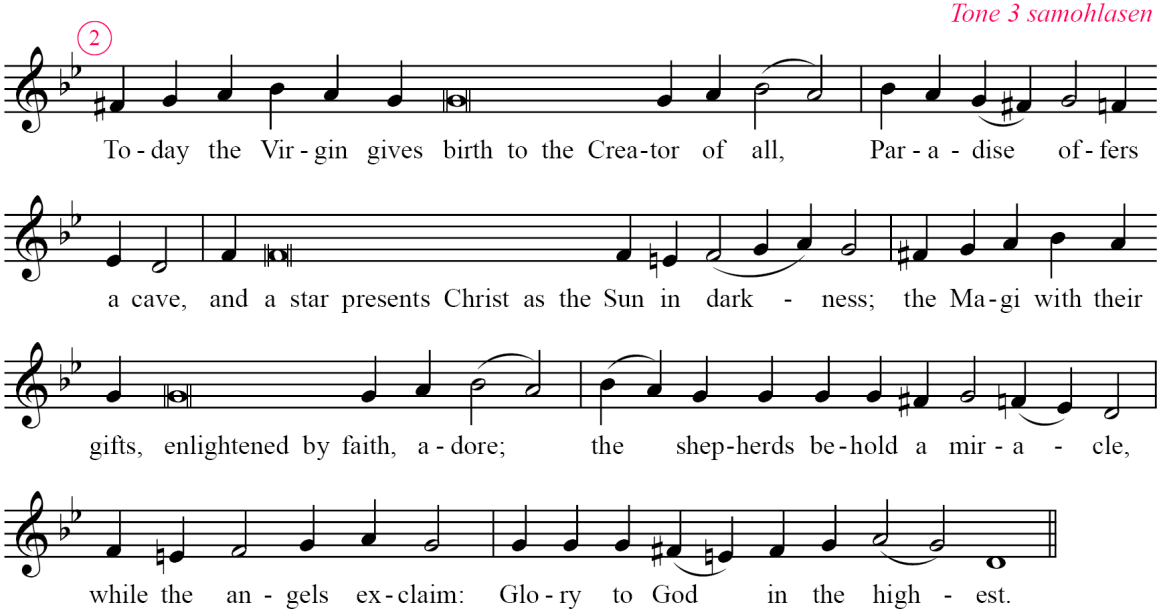
APOSTICHERA

Tone 2 samohlasen

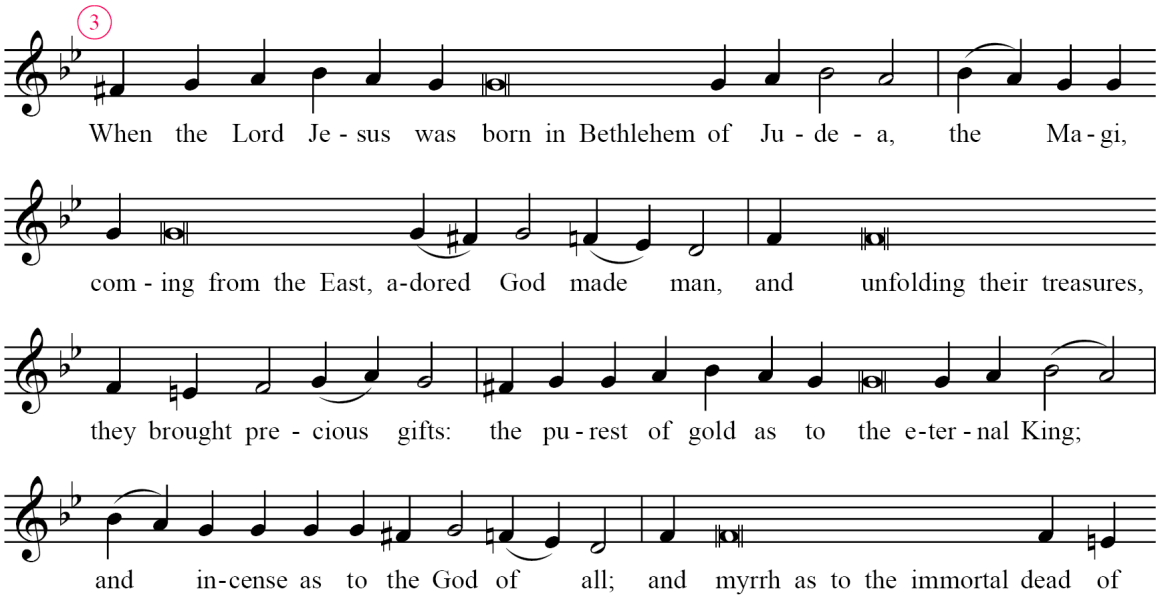


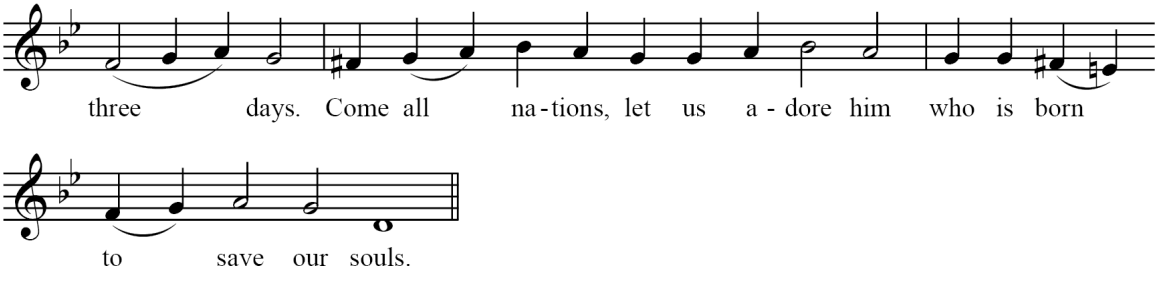
Cantor: From eternity you have been born of my womb, vows the Lord who does not repent.

Tone 3 samohlasen
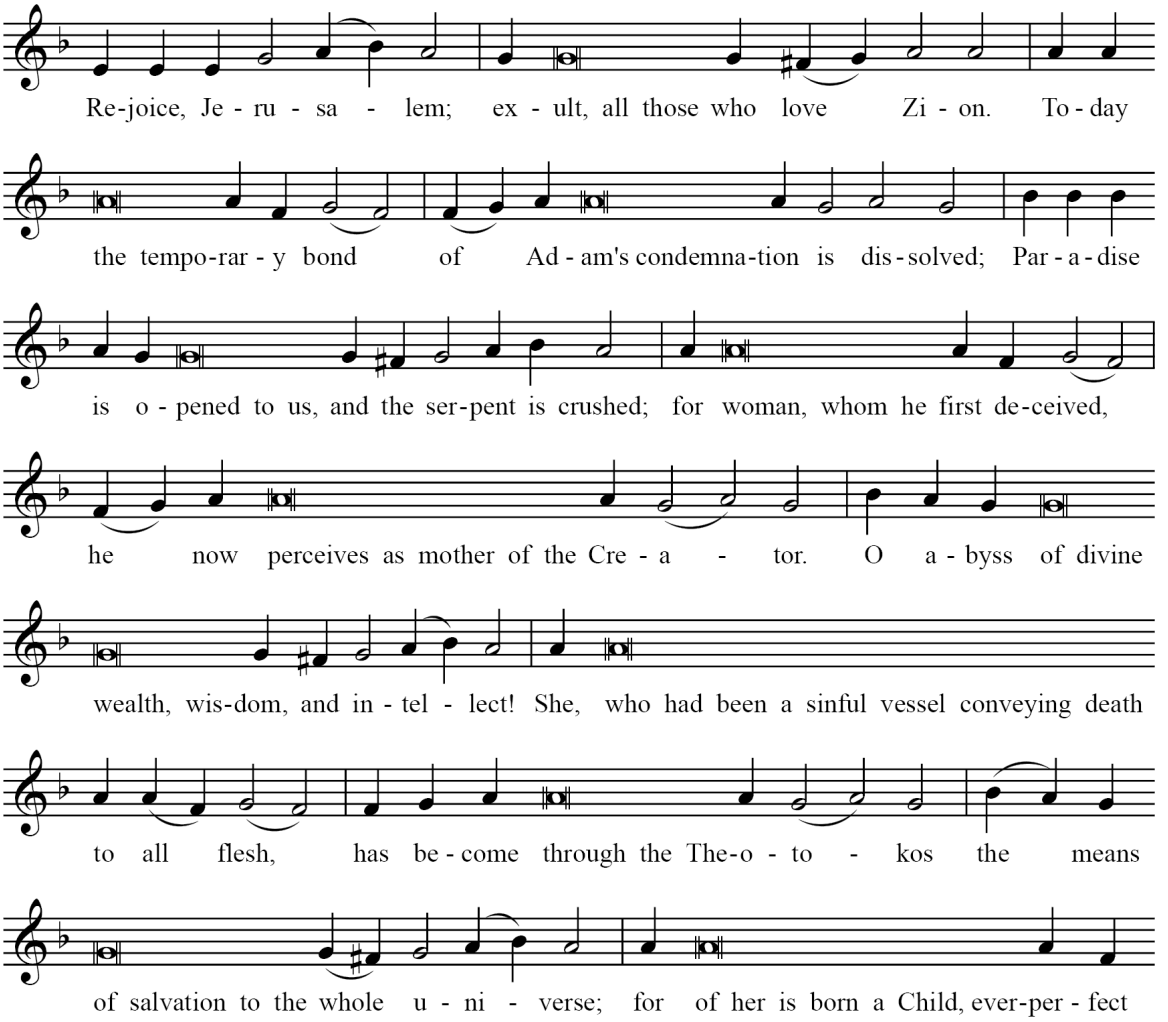


Cantor: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.

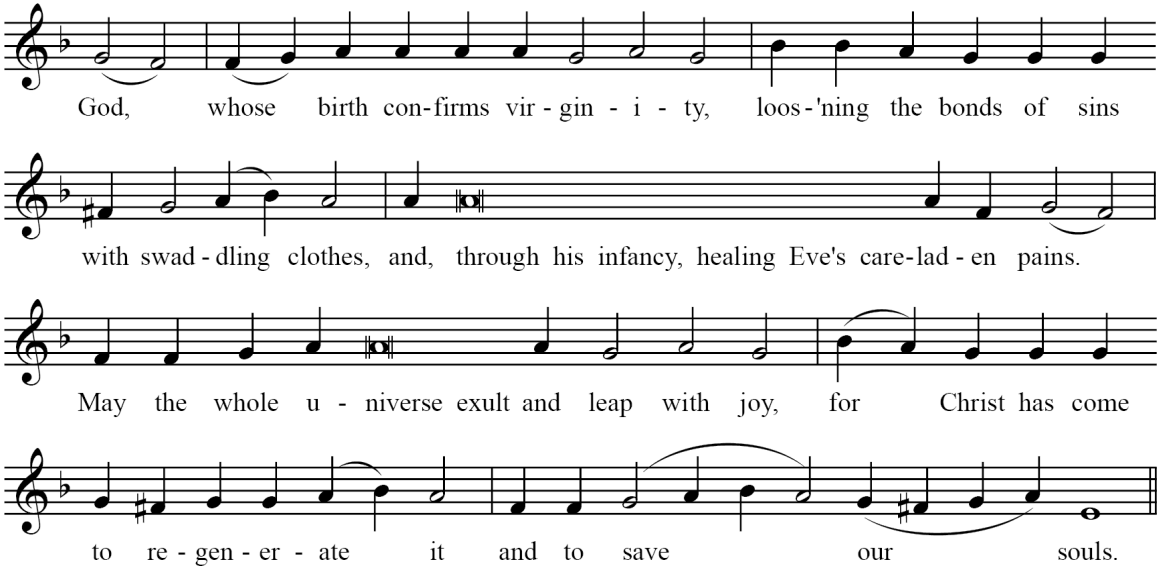




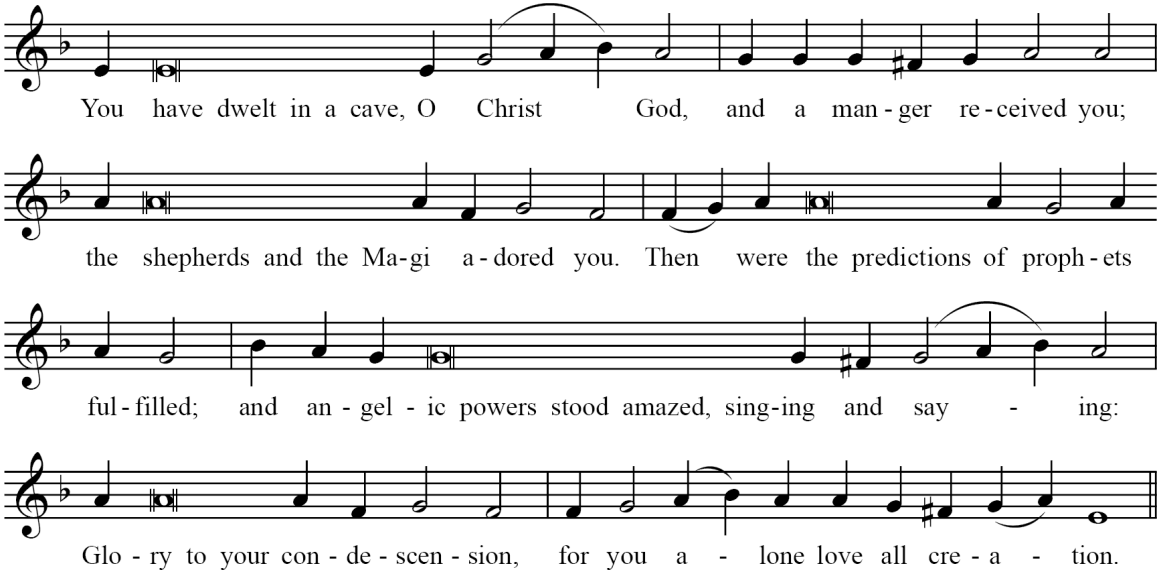
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Doxastikon - *Tone 4 samohlasen*
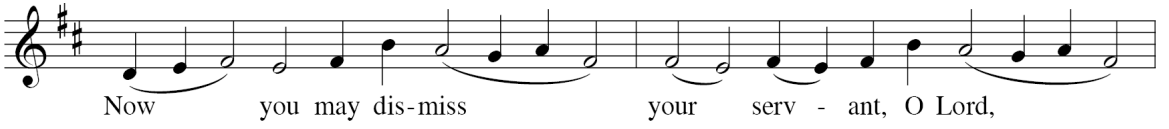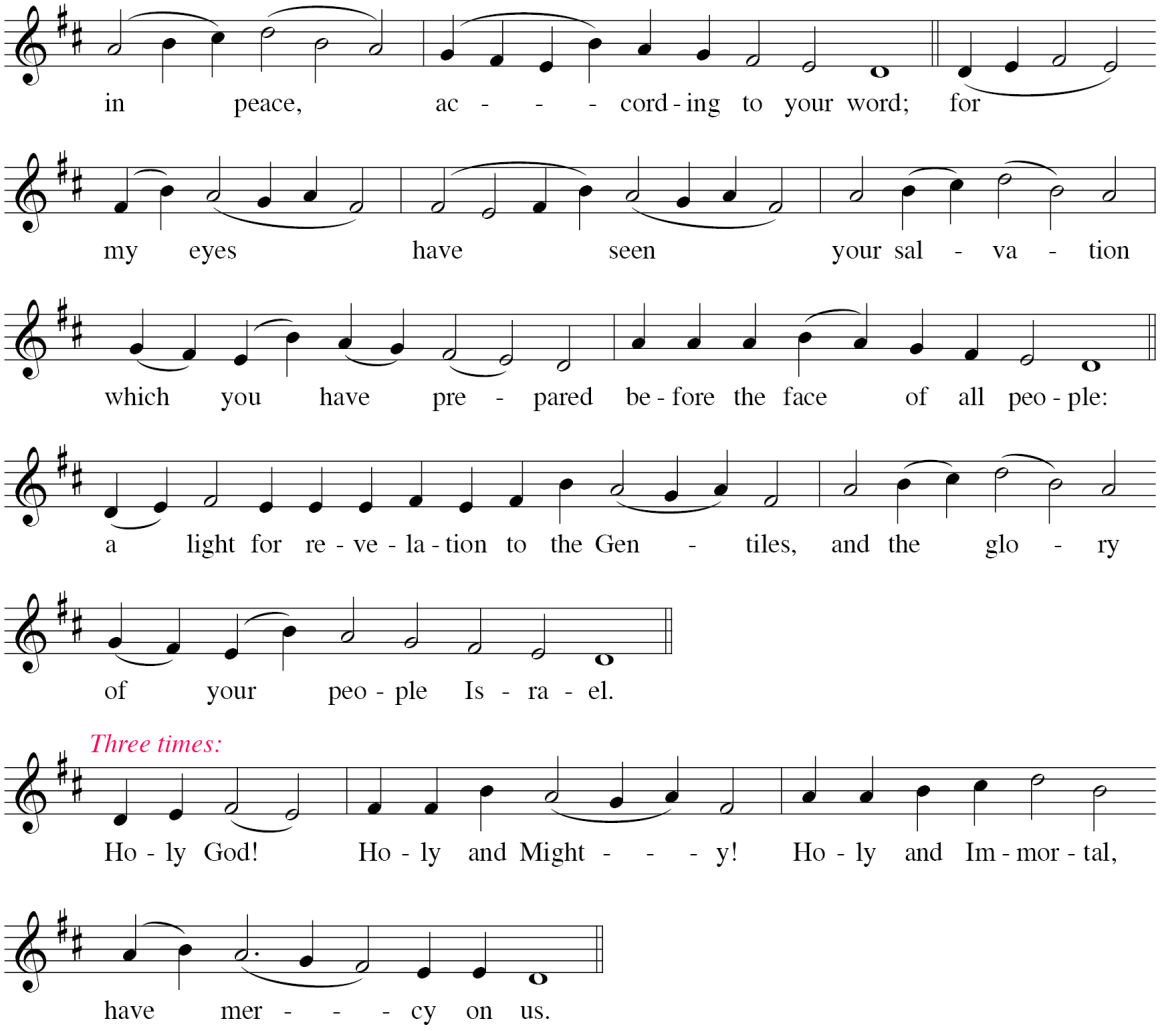




Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.



THE PRAYER OF HOLY SIMEON THE GOD-BEARER





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

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

Lord, have mercy. *(Three times)*

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

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

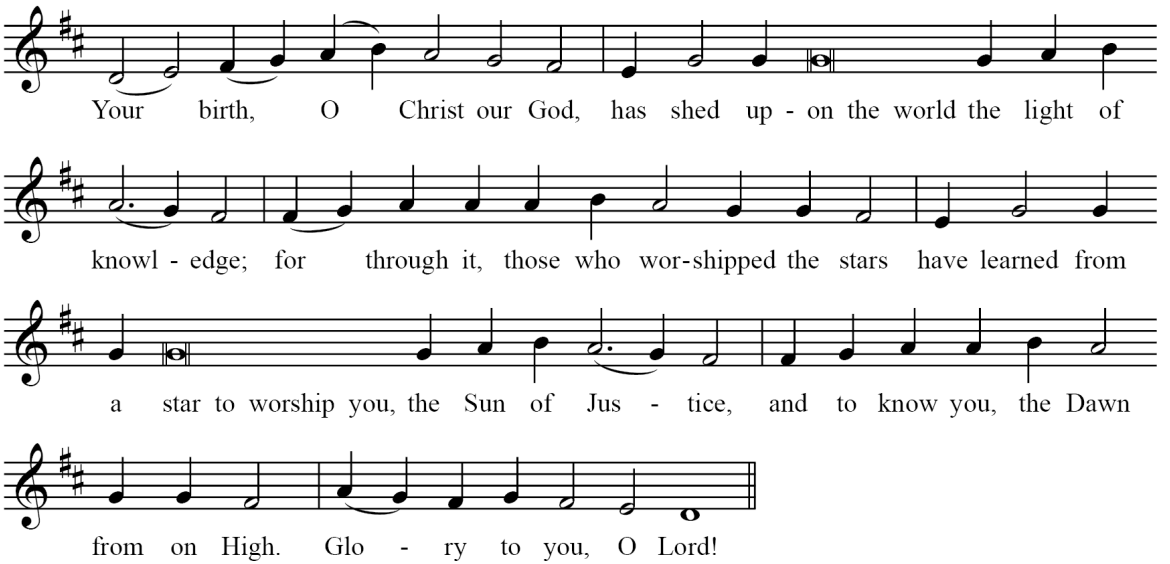
Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

TROPARION

During the Troparion the deacon, having received the blessing of the celebrant, incenses around the tetrapod three times and then incenses the priest(s).

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..."**

BLESSING OF BREAD

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.
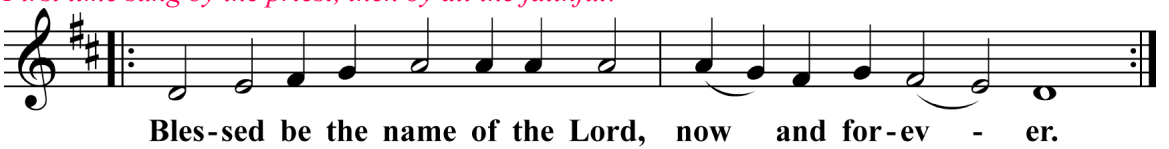
Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

The celebrant takes one loaf and blesses the other four with it. Having returned the loaf, he then intones the prayer of blessing. At the words, "bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil," he points to each substance with his right hand.
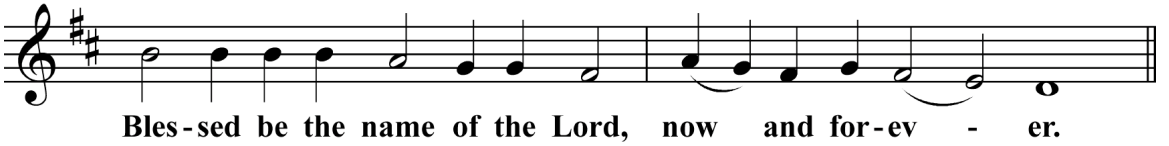
Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

First time sung by the priest, then by all the faithful:



All:



After the blessing, the celebrant and the deacon, who carries the tray of loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, enter the sanctuary, both entering by way of the holy doors.

Psalm 33:

I will bless the Lord at all times, | his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord | my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear | and be glad.
Glorify the Lord with me. | Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; | from all my terrors he set me free.
Look towards him and be radiant; | let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him | and rescued him from all his distress.
The angel of the Lord is encamped, | around those who revere him, to rescue them.

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

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

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

Response: **Amen.**

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

Abridged

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 the psalm simply on a single pitch:

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)*

LITANY OF PEACE

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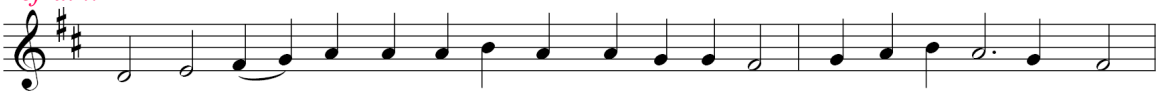
Response: **To you, O Lord.**
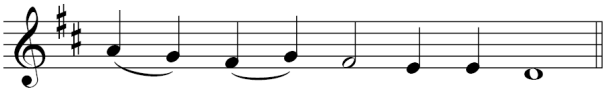
Celebrant: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to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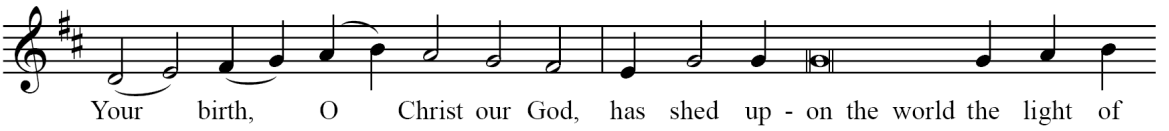




Deacon: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever. *Refrain*

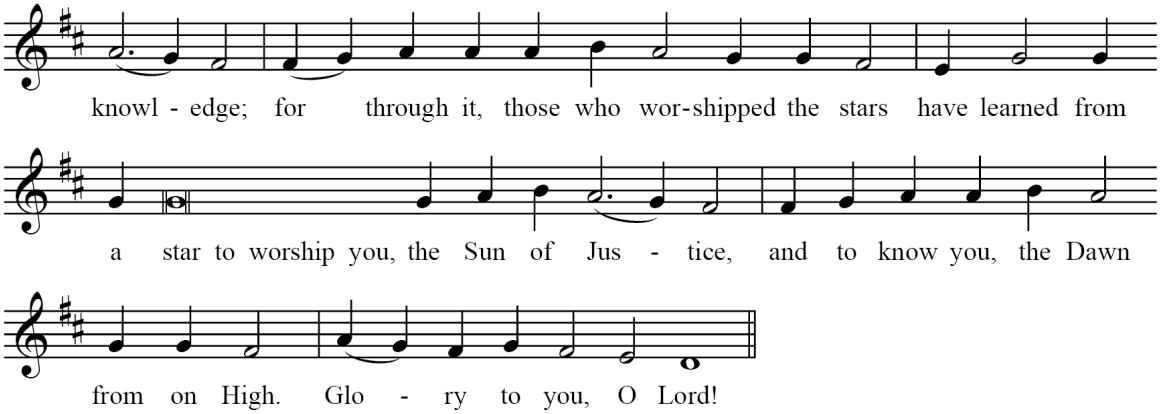
- They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them. *Refrain*

- 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.

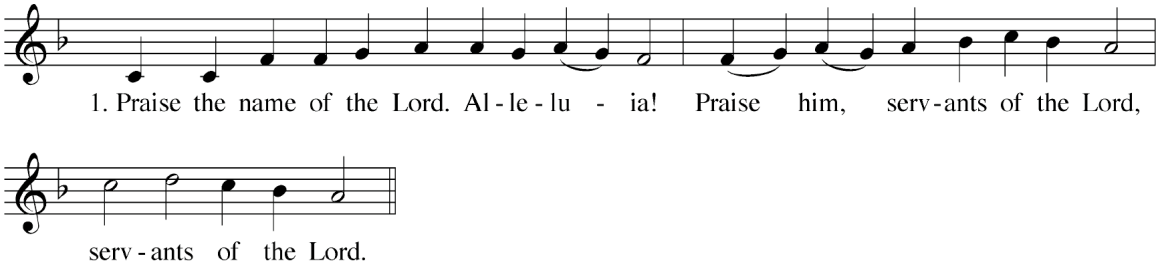
The faithful repeat **"Your birth, O Christ our God..."**

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.
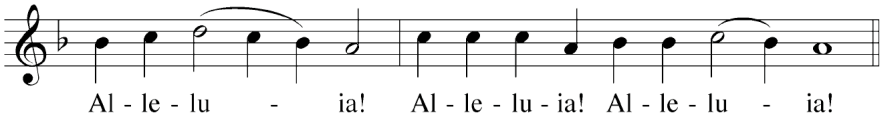
The faithful repeat **"Your birth, O Christ our God..."**
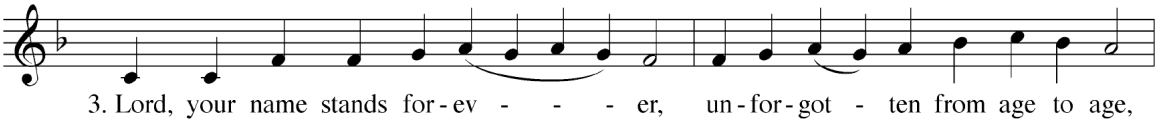
POLYELEOS
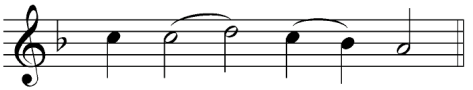
The priest vests in the phelonion. The deacon opens the holy doors, and the priest incenses the holy table, the icon screen, the church, and the people, preceded by the deacon with a candle.
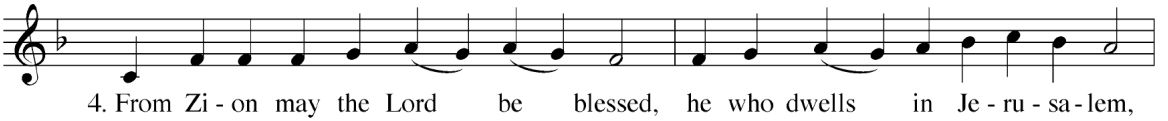


Refrain 1
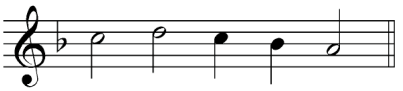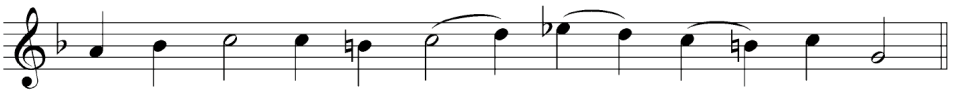






Refrain 1

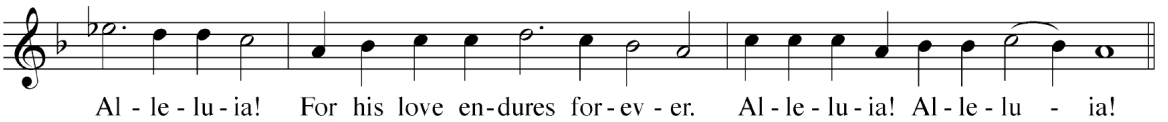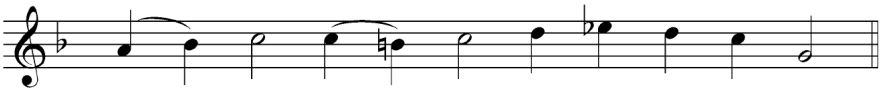




Refrain 1
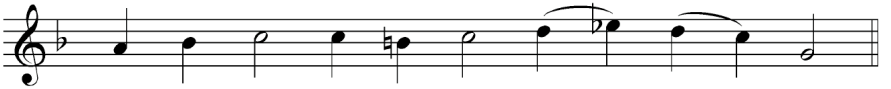


Refrain 2
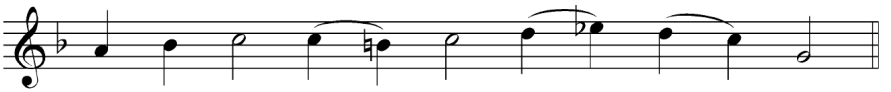




Refrain 2



Refrain 2

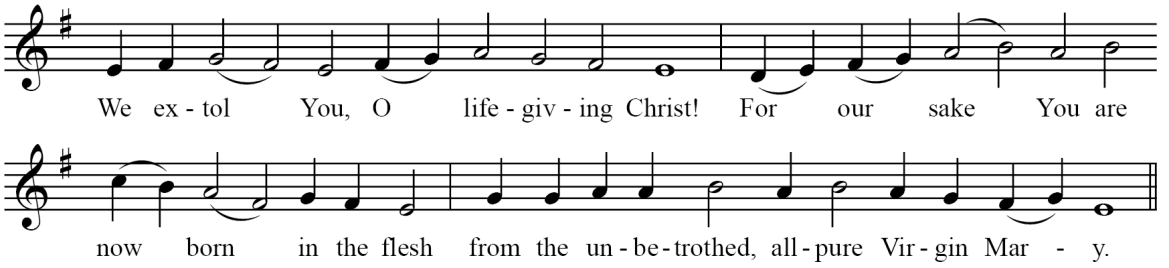


Refrain 2

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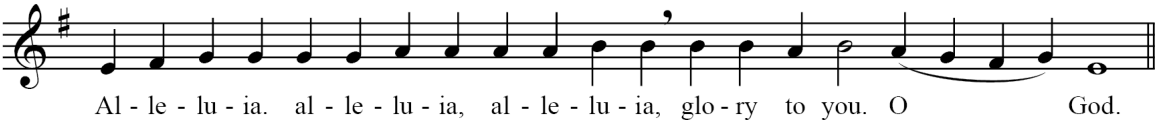
Cantor: The Lord has sent deliverance to his people. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

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

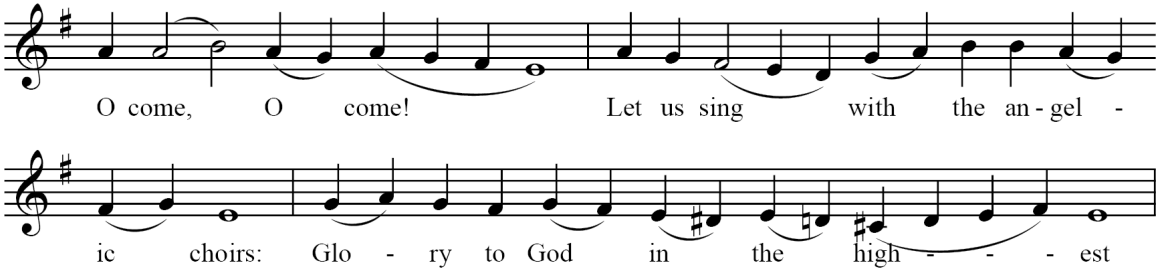
Cantor: Before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn, and he will not repent. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**
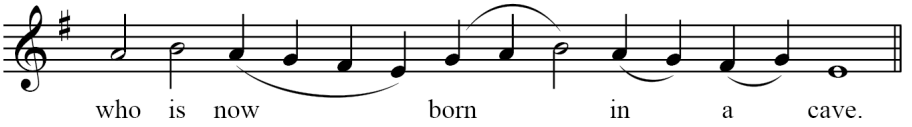
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. **We extol you, O life-giving Christ...**

Three times

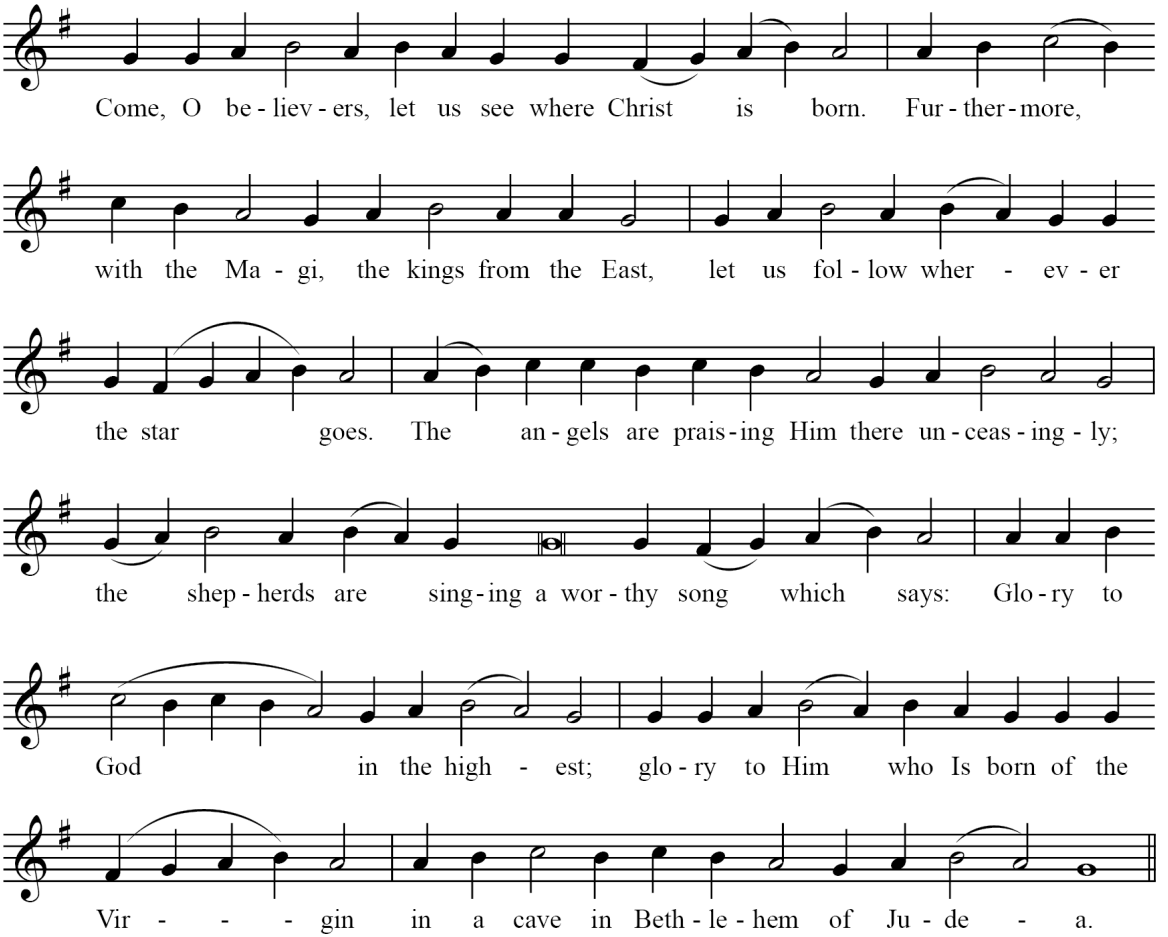


Bulgarian verse *("Bolharski pripiv")*





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.**
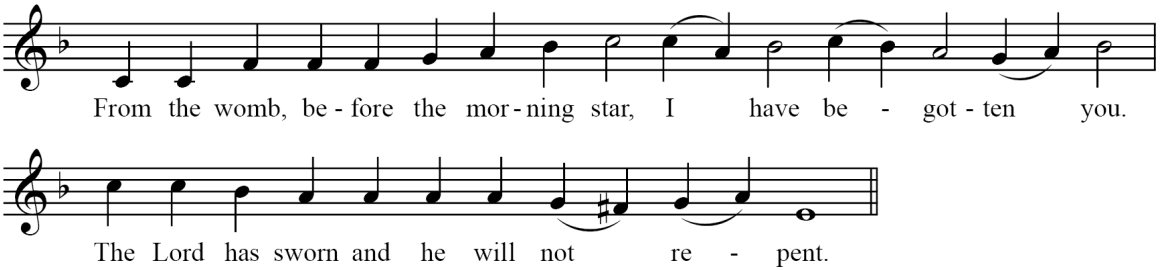
PROKEIMENON AND HOLY GOSPEL READING

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.

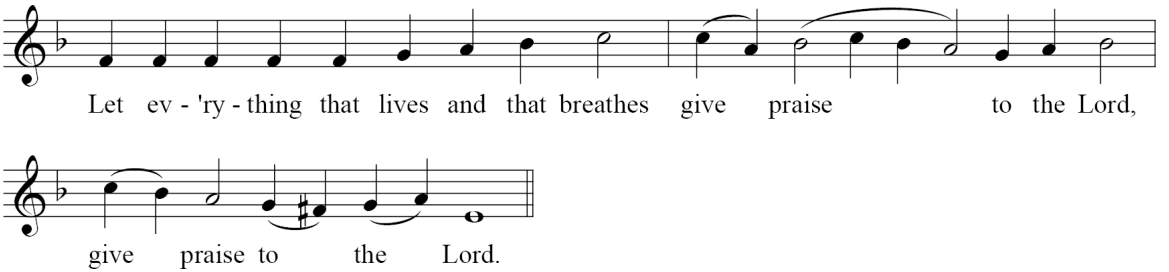
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

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.**

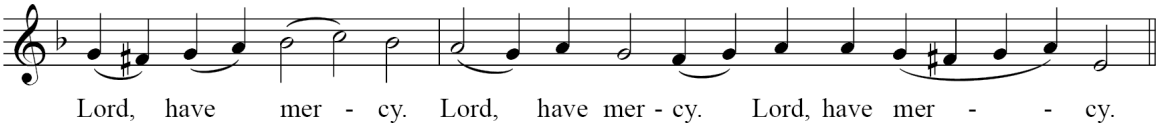
Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.



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.

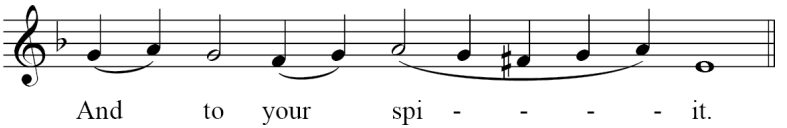
Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.



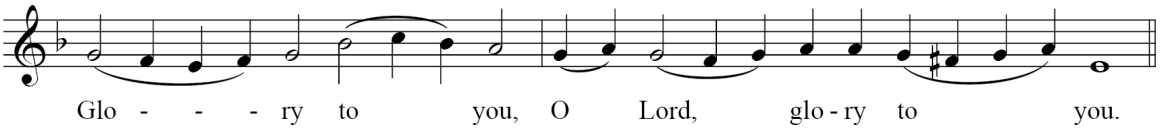
Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel.

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.

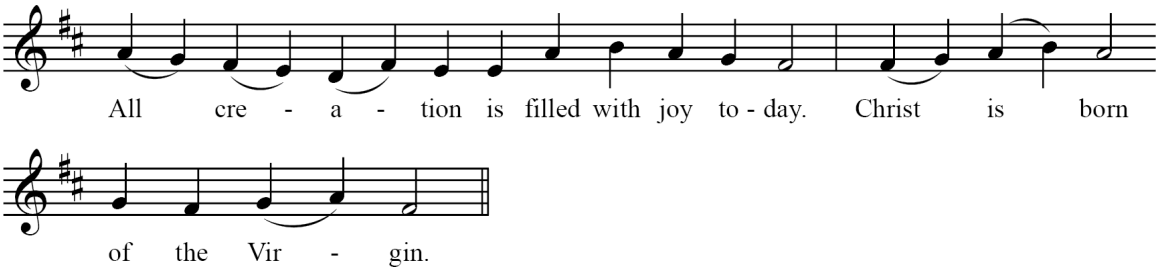
O rescue me, God, my helper, | and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips | and my mouth shall declare your praise.

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.

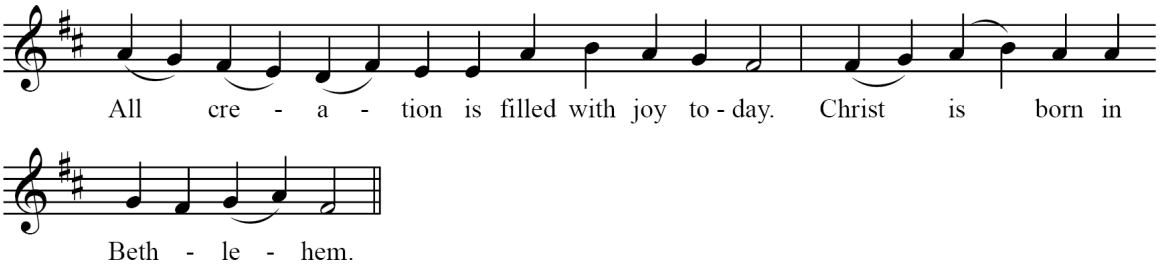
In your goodness, show favor to Zion: | rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, burnt offerings wholly consumed, | then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

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

Tone 2 Bolhar
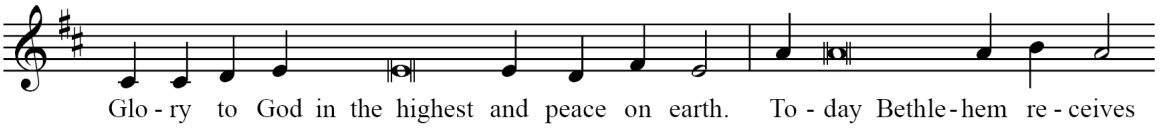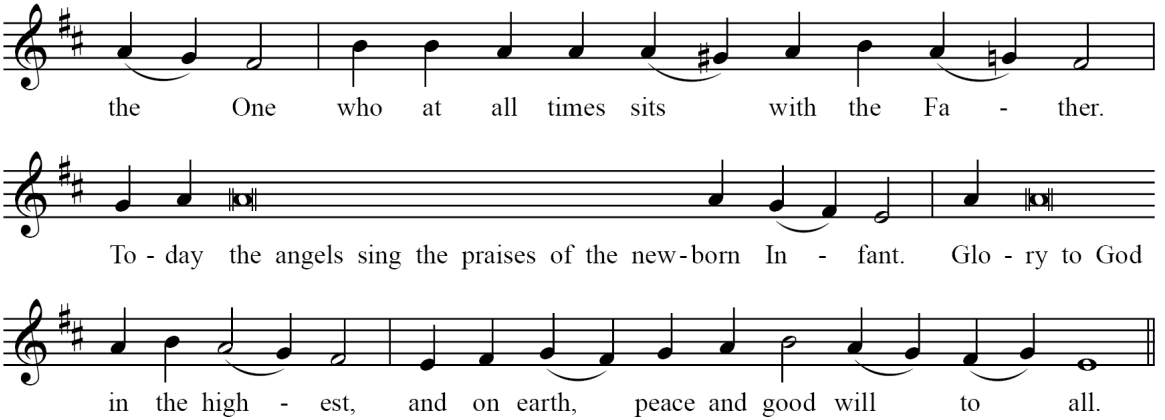


Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.



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.**

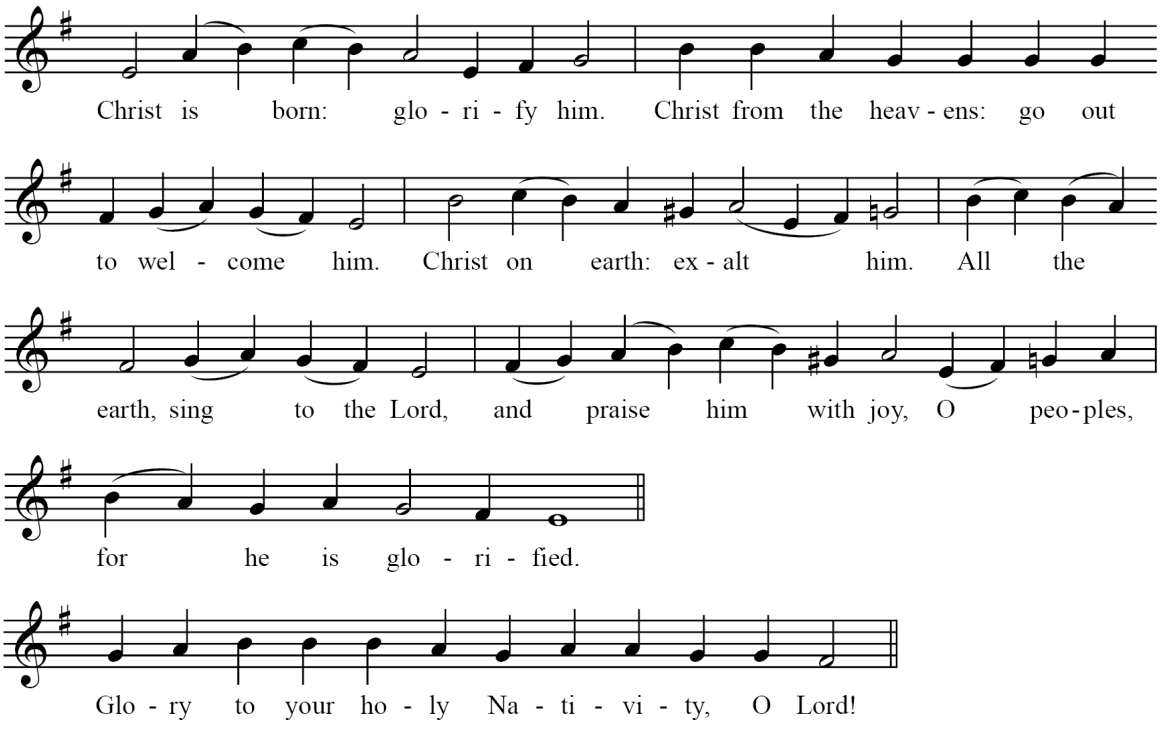
The priest and deacon enter the altar.

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

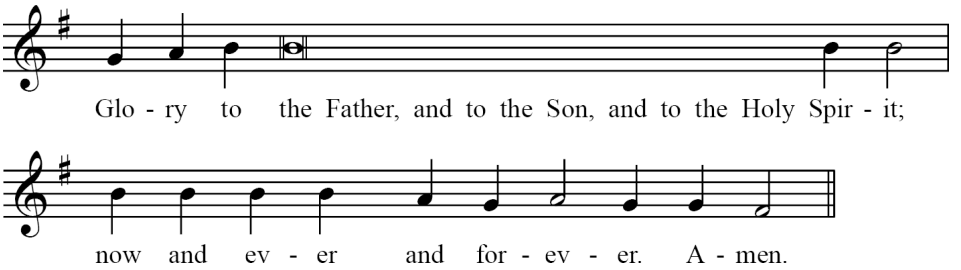
Irmos *Tone 1 samopodoben*



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.

Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
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.

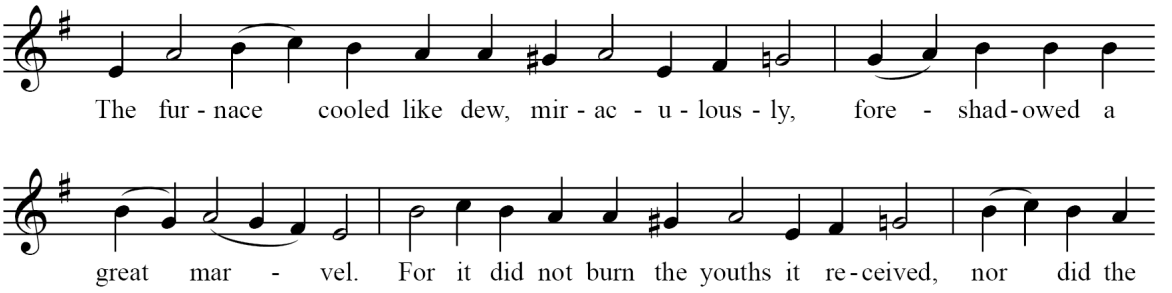


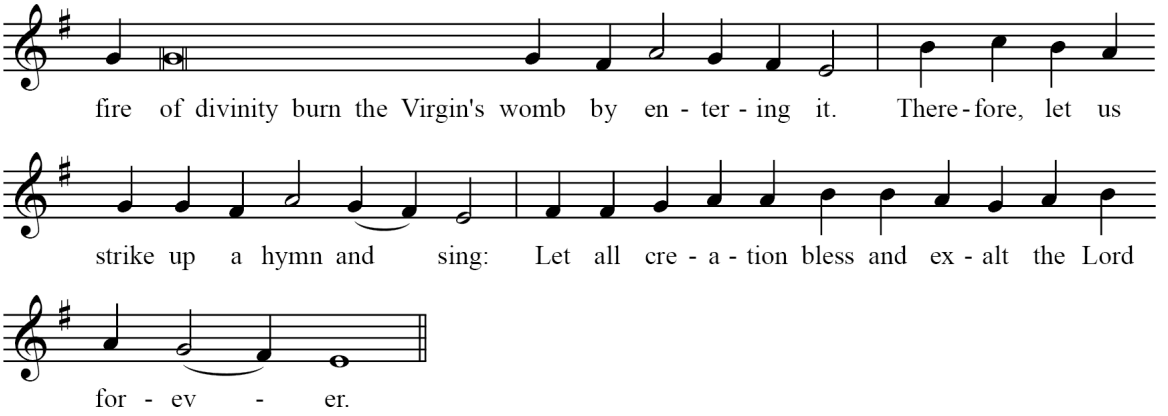
Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.

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

Ode 8

Irmos

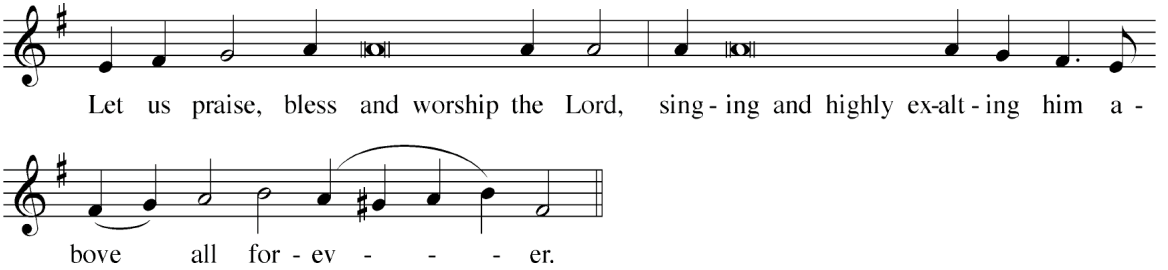




Glory to your holy Nativity, O Lord!
The children of David were once led captive from Zion by the daughter of Babylon through the strength of the sword; now, the Magi bringing gifts, are sent by her to beseech the Daughter of David in whom God took flesh. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all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

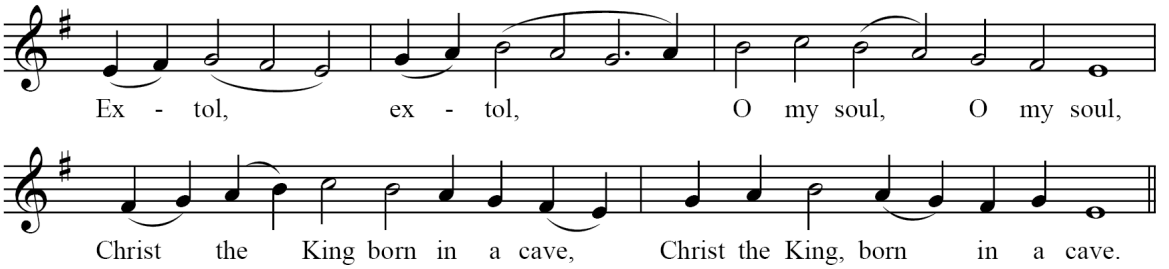
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Babylon plundered Zion, the Queen, and seized all her riches. But Christ, by a guiding star, attracted to Zion the wealth of Babylon with her kings who studied the stars. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: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



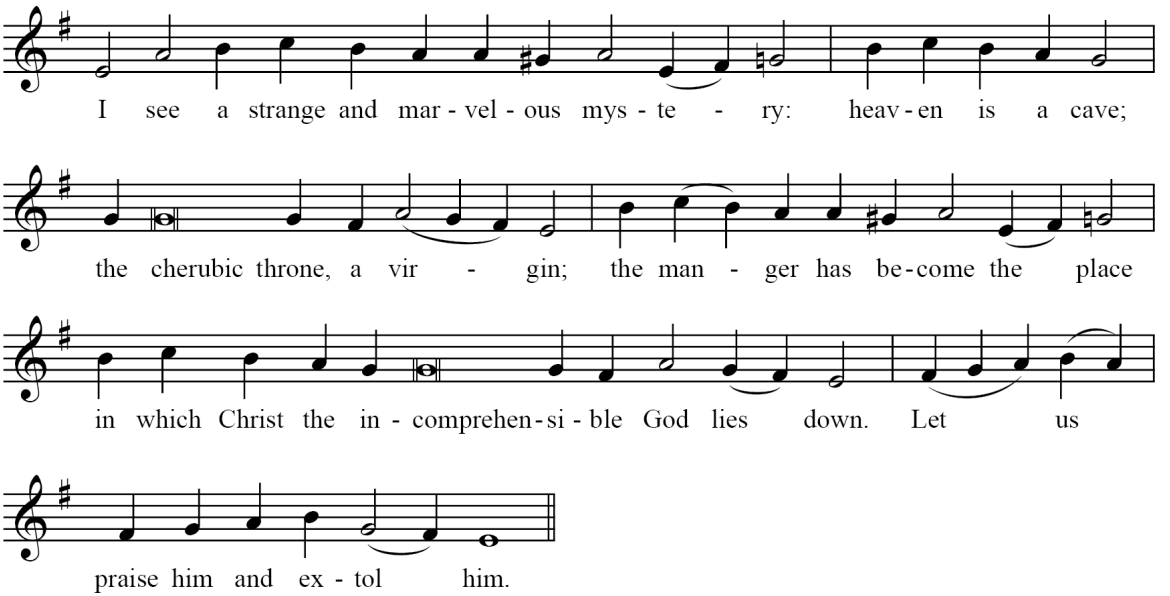
Repeat the Irmos **"The furnace cooled like dew, miraculously…"** *as Katavasia.*

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.*

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.

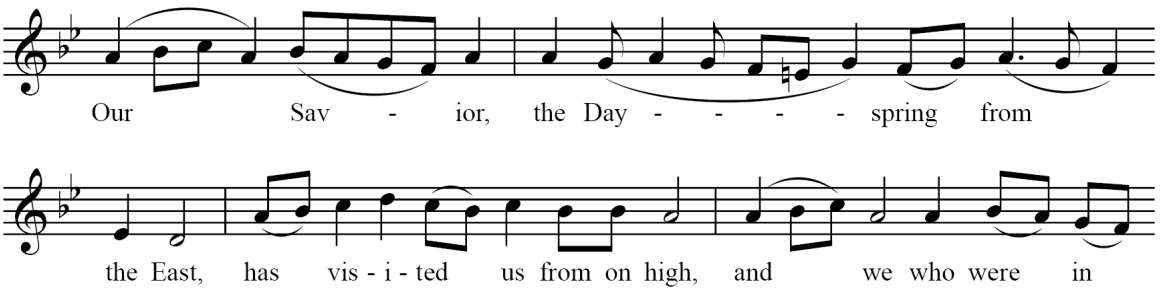
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

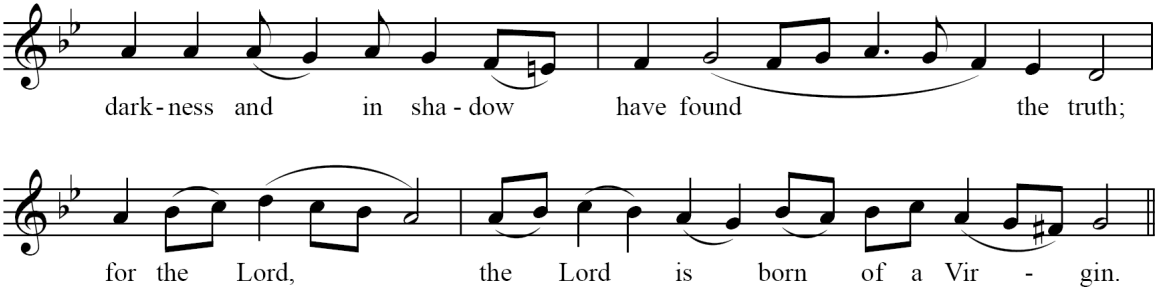
Response: To you, O Lord.

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:*

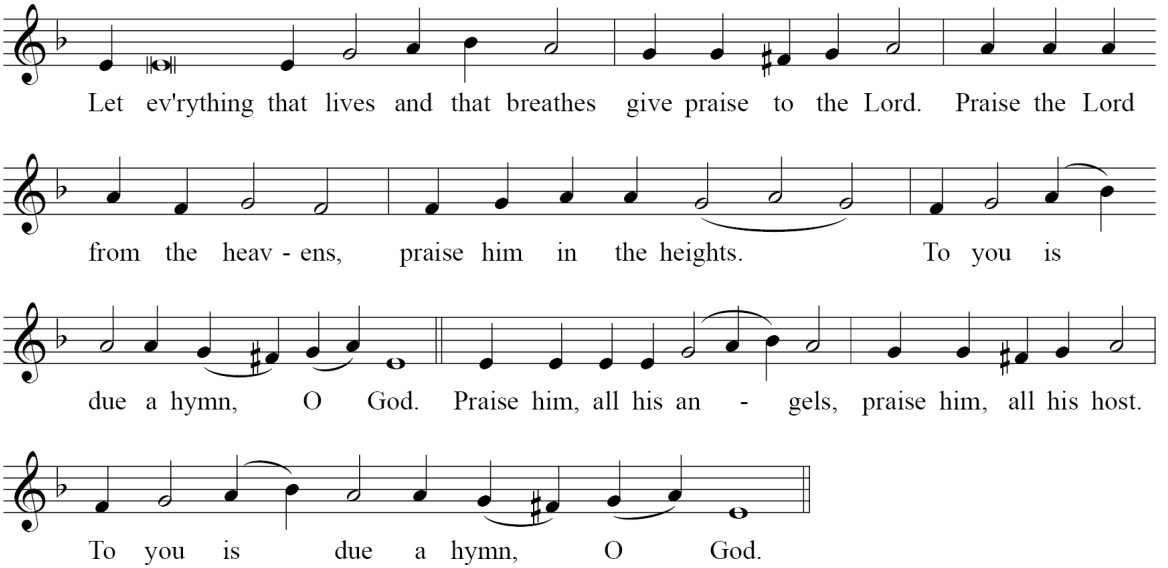




PSALMS OF PRAISE

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.

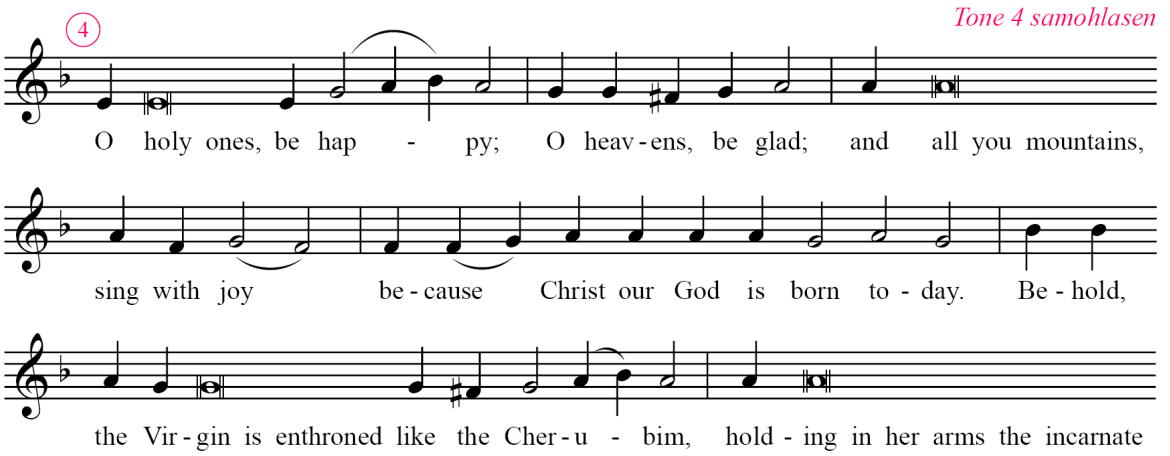
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, | shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips | and a two-edged sword in their hand,

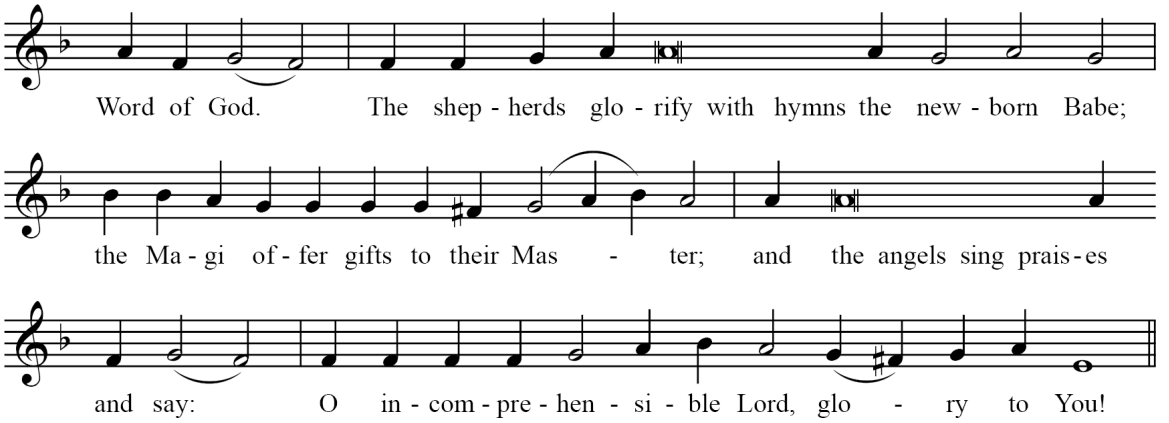
to deal out vengeance to the nations | and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains | and their nobles in fetters of iron.

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

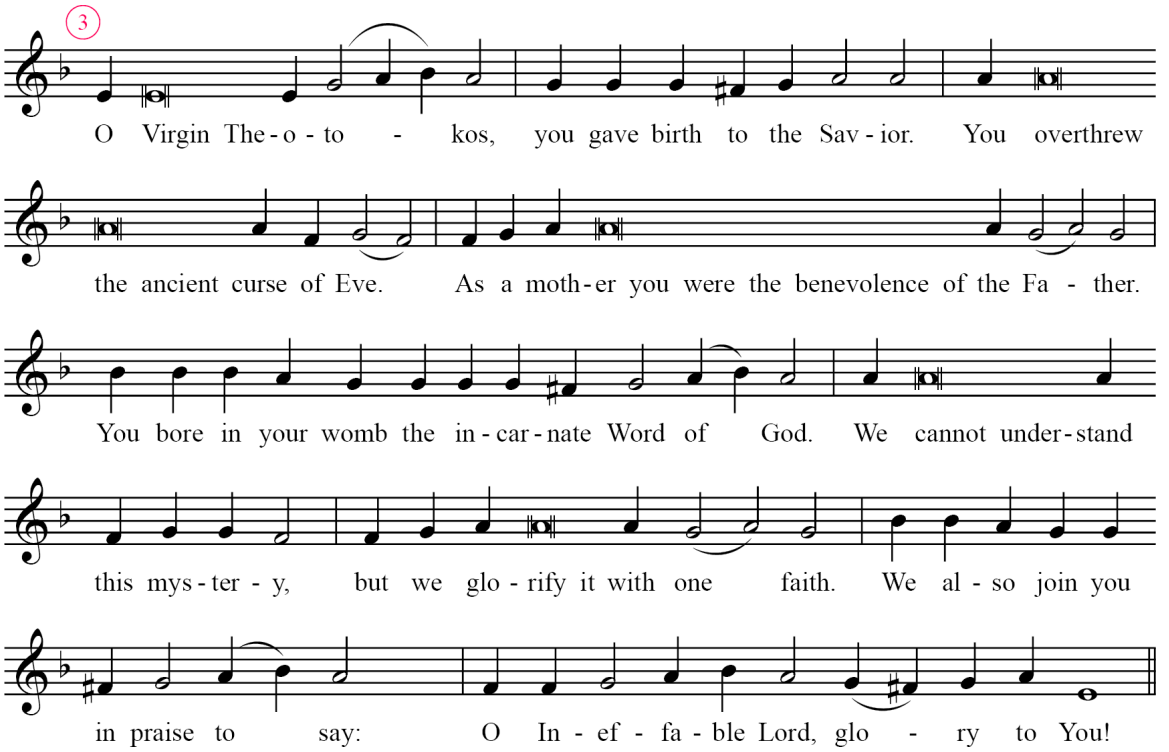
Psalm 150:
Praise God in his holy place, | praise him in his mighty heavens.

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

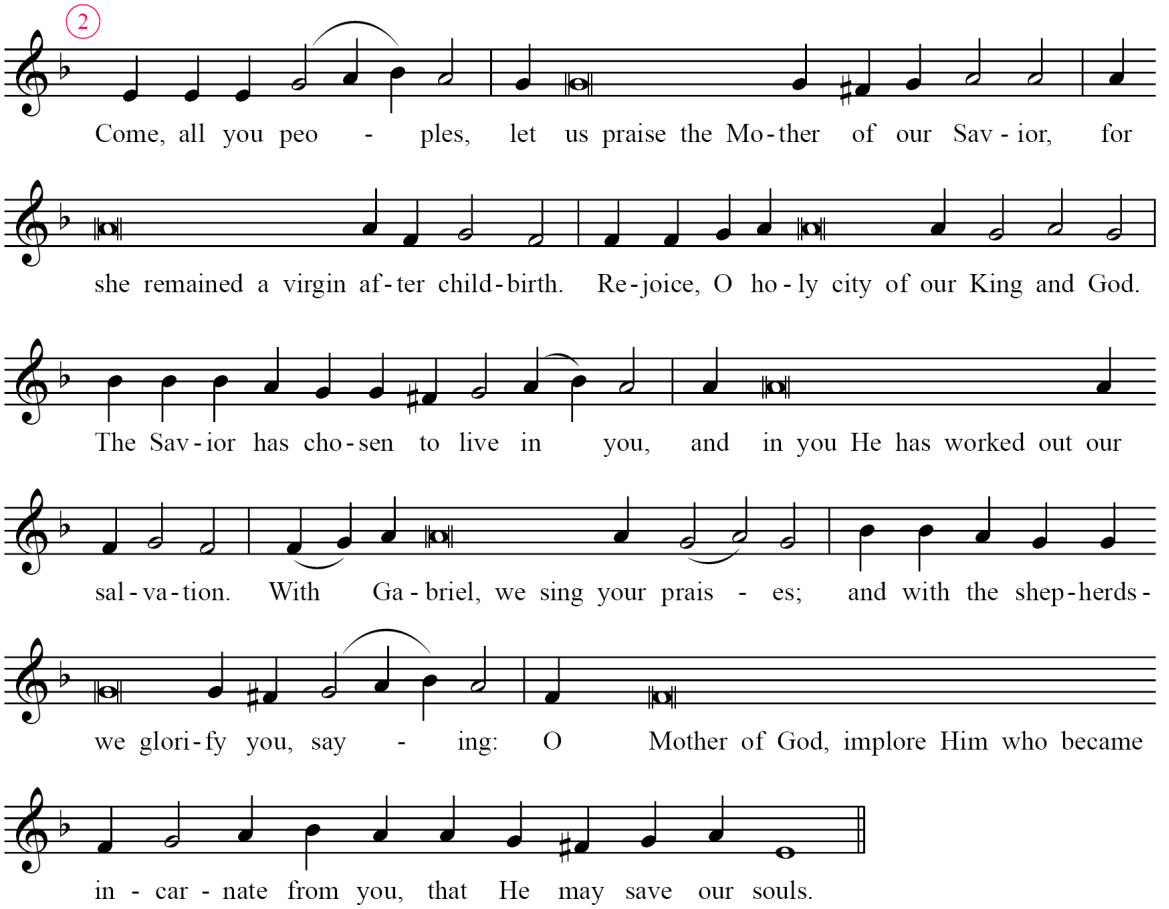




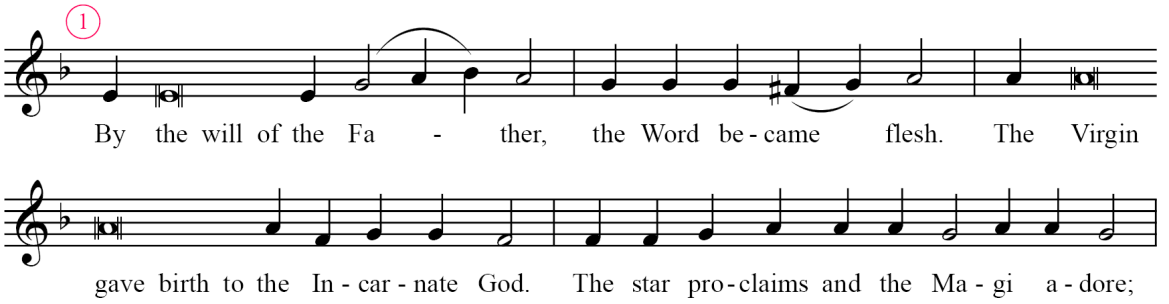
Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet, praise him with lute and harp.
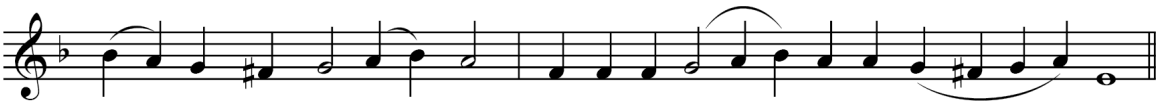


Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.



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.

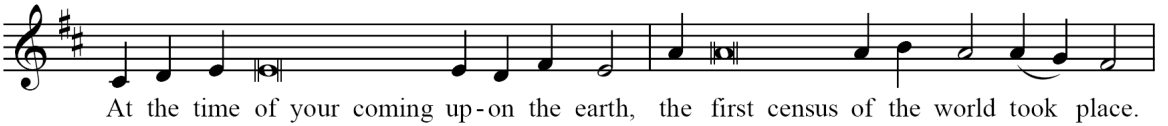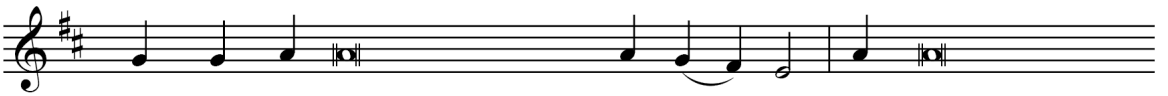




The deacon opens the holy doors.
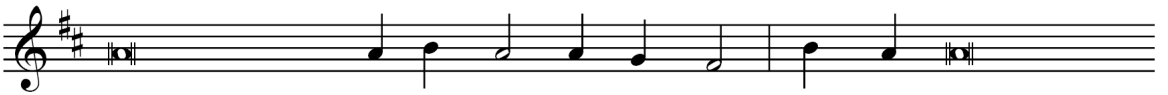
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
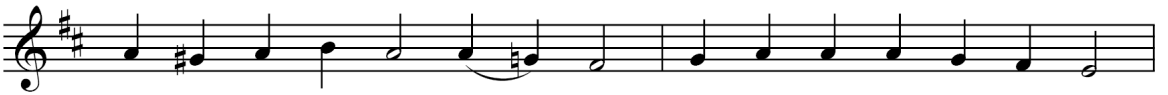
Tone 6 samohlasen
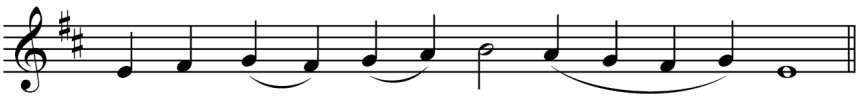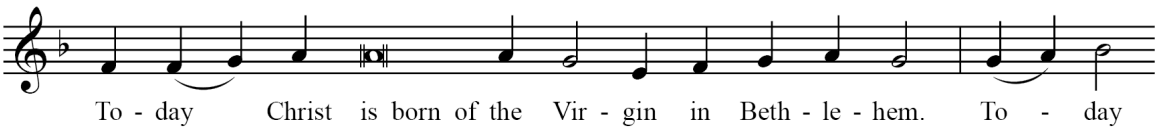








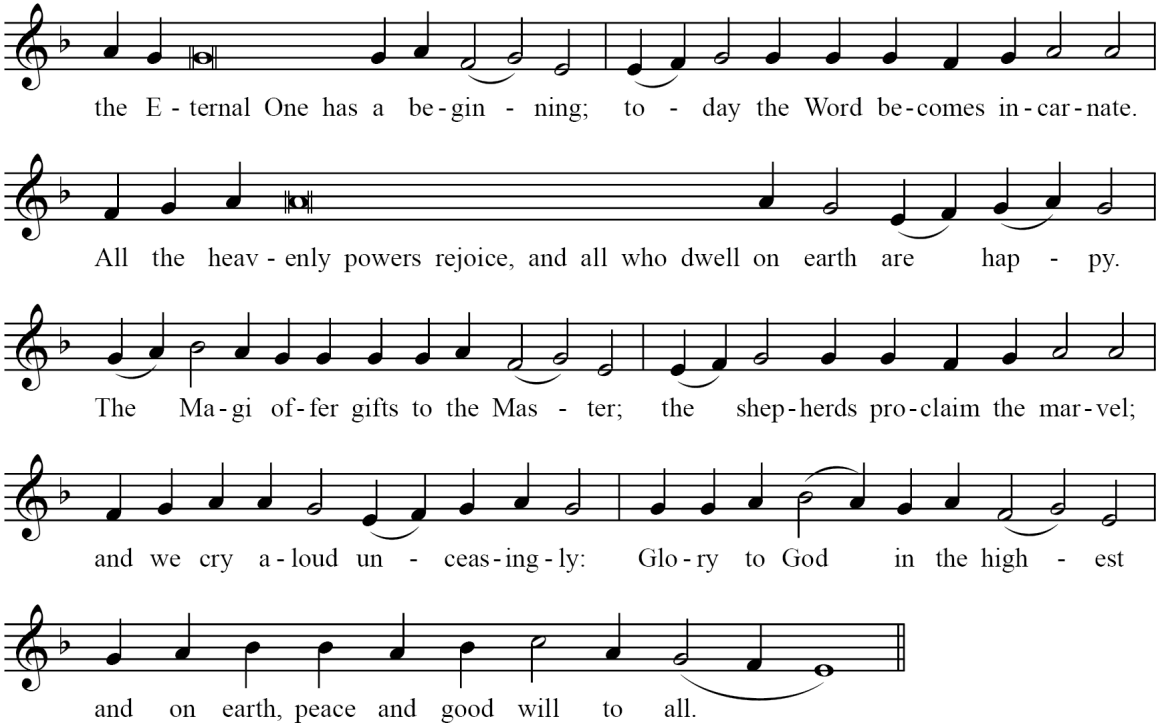




Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Tone 2 samohlasen

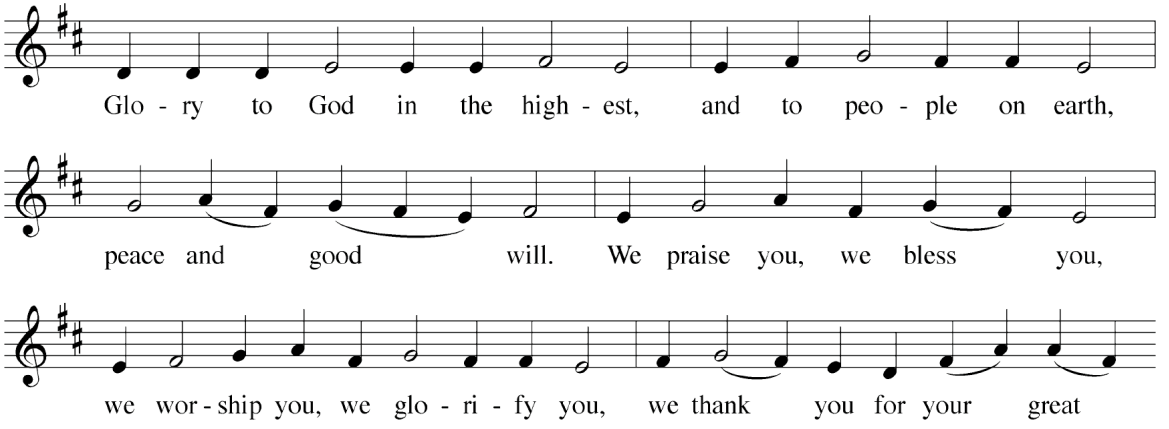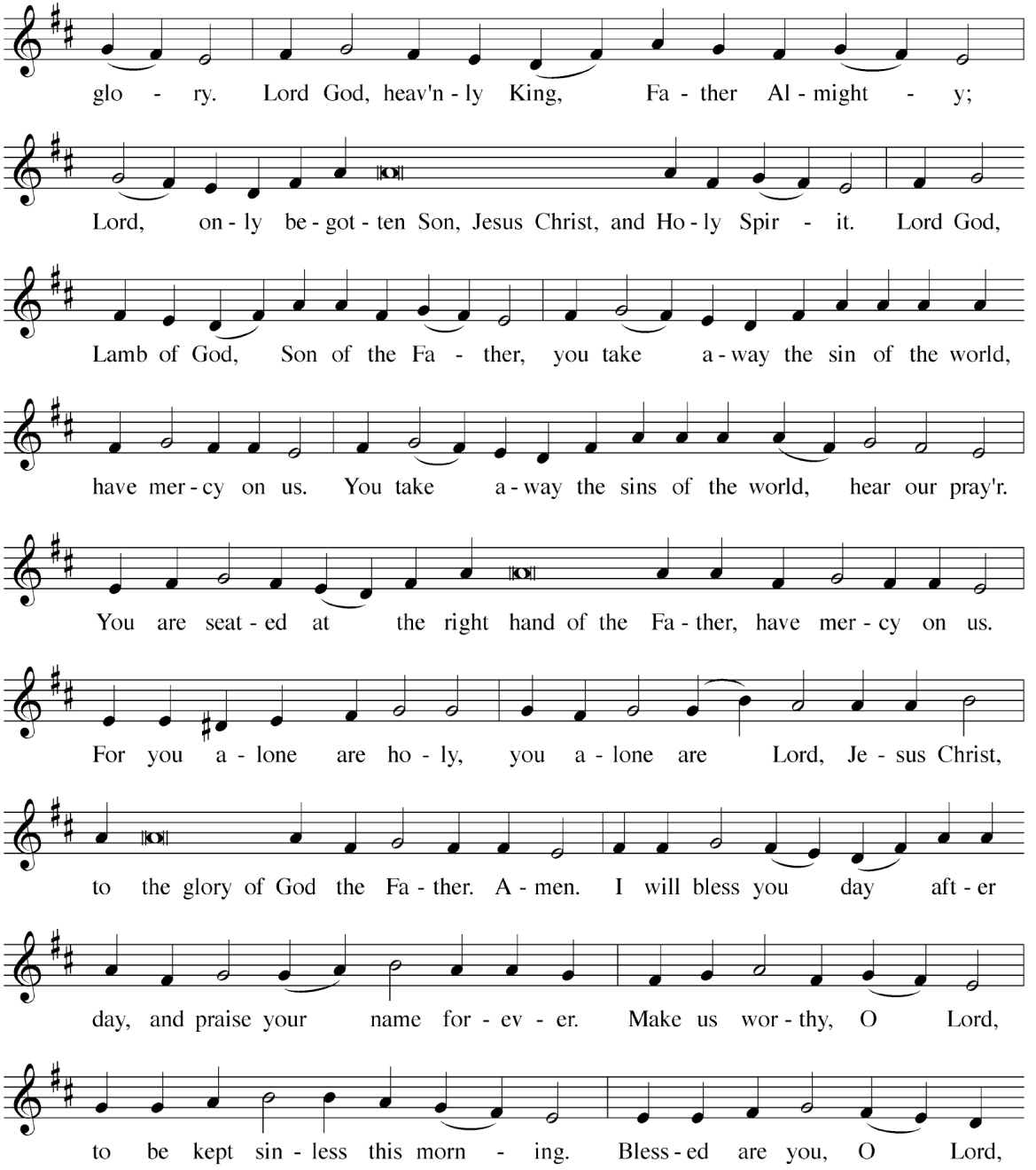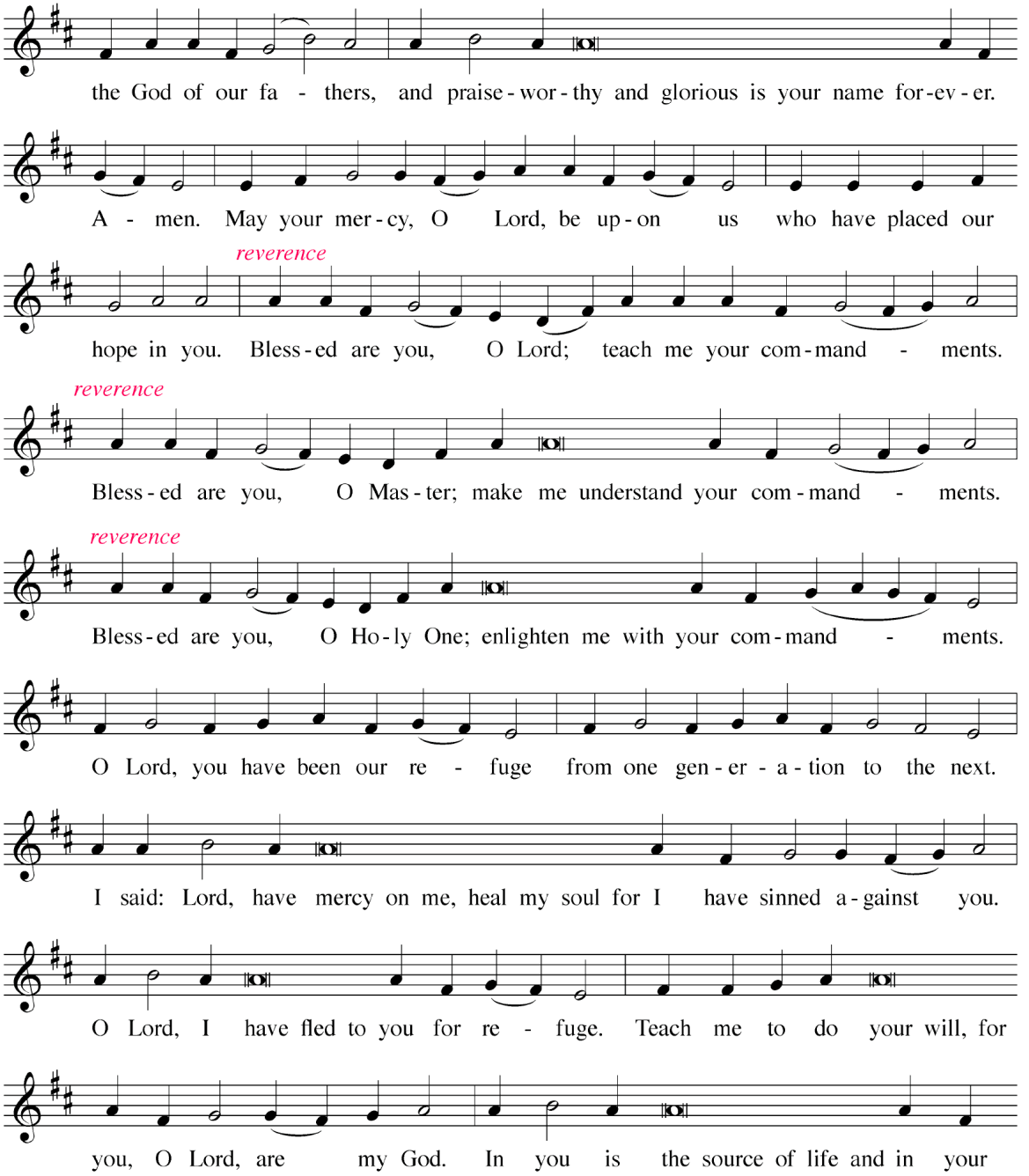




GREAT DOXOLOGY

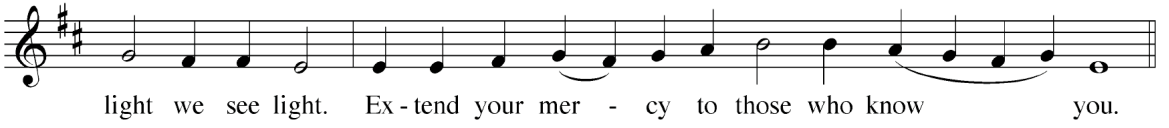
The priest stands before the holy table, and, facing east, raises his hands and intones:

Priest: Glory to you who show us the light!
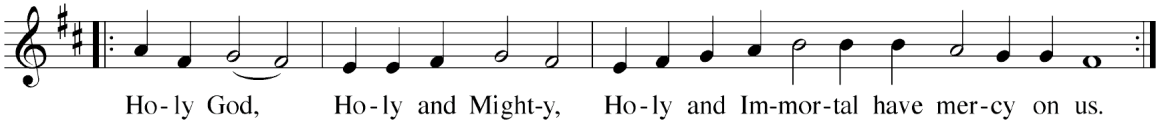



glo - ry. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, Fa - ther Al - might - y;
Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.
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,
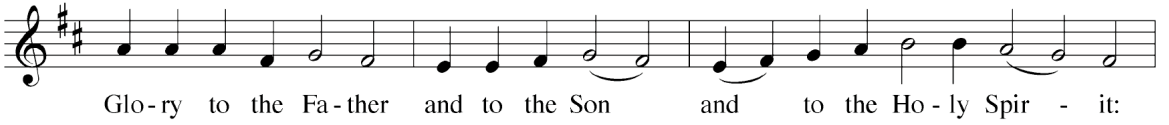

the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy and glorious is your name for - ev - er.
A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us who have placed our
reverence
hope in you. Bless - ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments.
reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Mas - ter; make me understand your com - mand - ments.
reverence
Bless - ed are you, O Ho - ly One; enlighten me with your com - mand - ments.
O Lord, you have been our re - fuge from one gen - er - a - tion to the next.
I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned a - gainst you.
O Lord, I have fled to you for re - fuge. Teach me to do your will, for
you, O Lord, are my God. In you is the source of life and in your

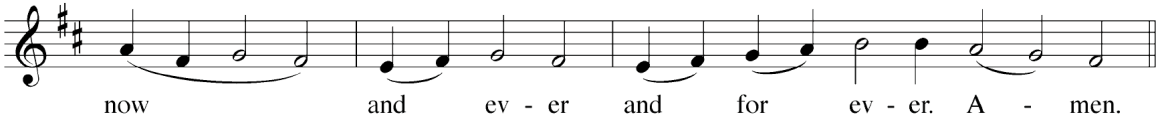


The priest takes the Gospel book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the holy doors and replaces it on the holy table.
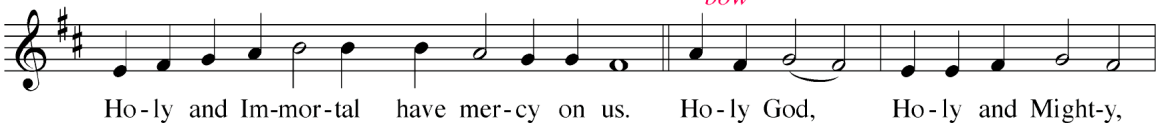
Three times, each with a bow:
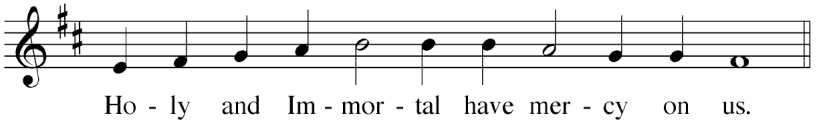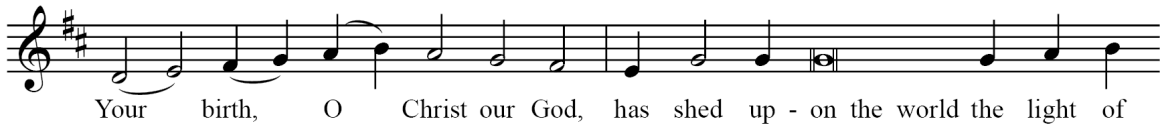






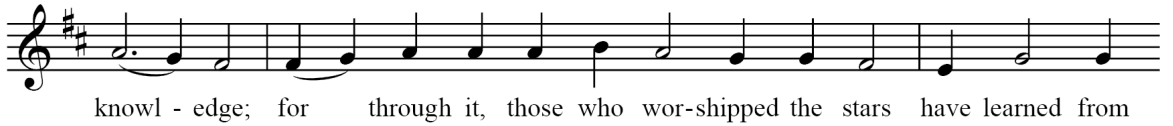
bow
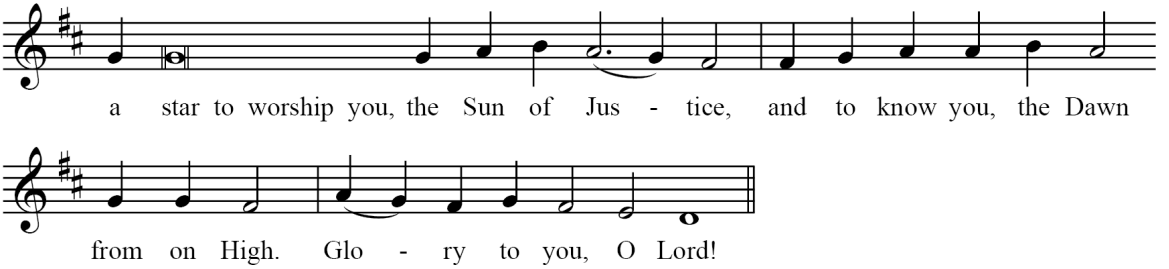




Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*







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.