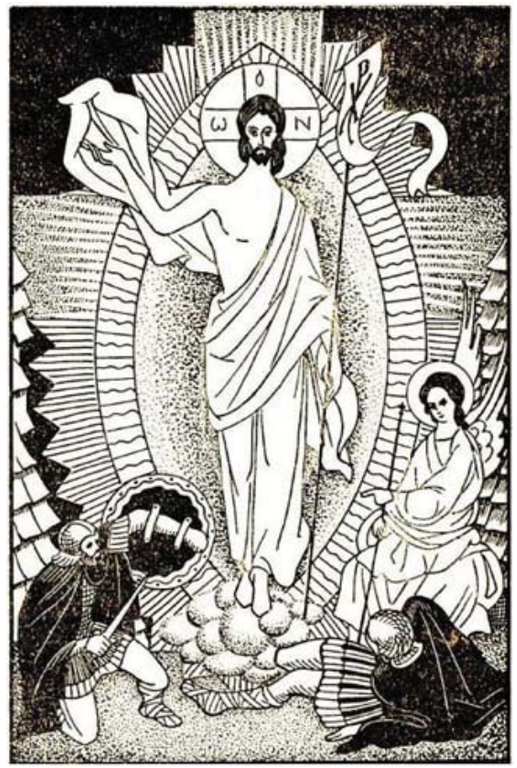
VESPERS ON THE EVENING OF PASCHA

(also called "Agape Vespers")

AND ON THE DAYS OF BRIGHT WEEK



Metropolitan Cantor Institute
April 2026

During Bright Week, the week following the great feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, the Church's liturgical services are characterized by their joy and by their brevity. For an entire week, we repeat the services of Easter Sunday, with slight variations from one day to the next. In a sense, for an entire week, it IS Pascha.

At the same time, Bright Week embraces the entire cycle of the Church's worship. For example, on the Sunday of Pascha, we sing the Resurrectional hymns at the Paschal Vigil and Paschal Matins in the first of the Eight Tones. On the following days, we progress through the eight Resurrectional Tones, singing the Sunday hymns of each tone at weekday Vespers and Matins. Thus:

- on Sunday evening and Monday morning, we sing the Sunday hymns of Tone 2;
- on Monday evening and Tuesday morning, those of Tone 3;
- on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, Tone 4;
- on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, Tone 5,
- on Thursday evening and Friday morning, Tone 6, and
- on Friday evening and Saturday morning, Tone 8.

In this manner, we sing seven weeks of Resurrectional hymns in seven days (tone 7 being skipped). At the Saturday evening services which signal the start of the Sunday after Pascha (Thomas Sunday), we begin again in Tone 1, and return to changing to a new tone once per week.

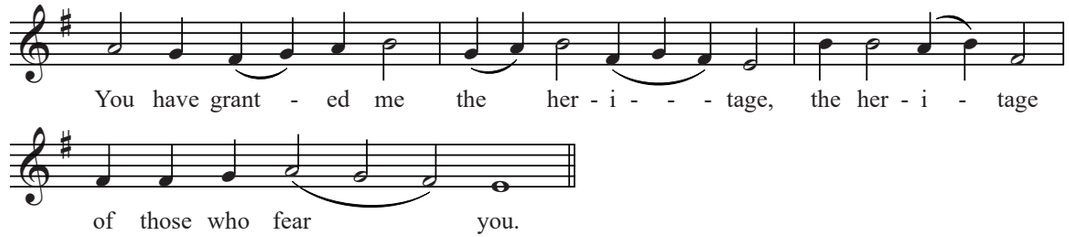
This booklet provides the complete service of Vespers on the afternoon or evening of Pascha, and on the Monday through Friday of Bright Week. On each day, we begin the service with a triple singing of the Paschal troparion, “Christ is risen”. At the Lamp-lighting Psalms, we sing the Resurrectional stichera in the tone of the DAY rather than the tone of the week. The aposticha consist of a single sticheron in the tone of the day, followed by the singing of the Paschal stichera. The service ends with the special Paschal dismissal.

The text and music for this service are taken almost entirely from the Metropolitan Cantor Institute's 2009 booklet for Resurrection Matins, and from the 2006 Sunday Vespers book, also by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. The texts for the daily prokeimena of Pascha and Bright Week come from the Psalter of the Inter-Eparchual Liturgical Commission of the Byzantine Catholic Church *sui juris* of the United States of America., and are set to the prokeimenon melodies as found in the Divine Liturgies book published in 2006.

Like the other publications of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, this setting of the service of Bright Week Vespers is UNOFFICIAL and subject to change or revision by the Cantor Institute, the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission, or the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Church. We hope that it provides spiritual benefit to all who use it.

Prokeimenon (Friday evening)

Great Prokeimenon of Bright Friday - *Tone 8* (Psalm 60: 6, 3, 5, 9)



Deacon: From the end of the earth I call: my heart is faint.

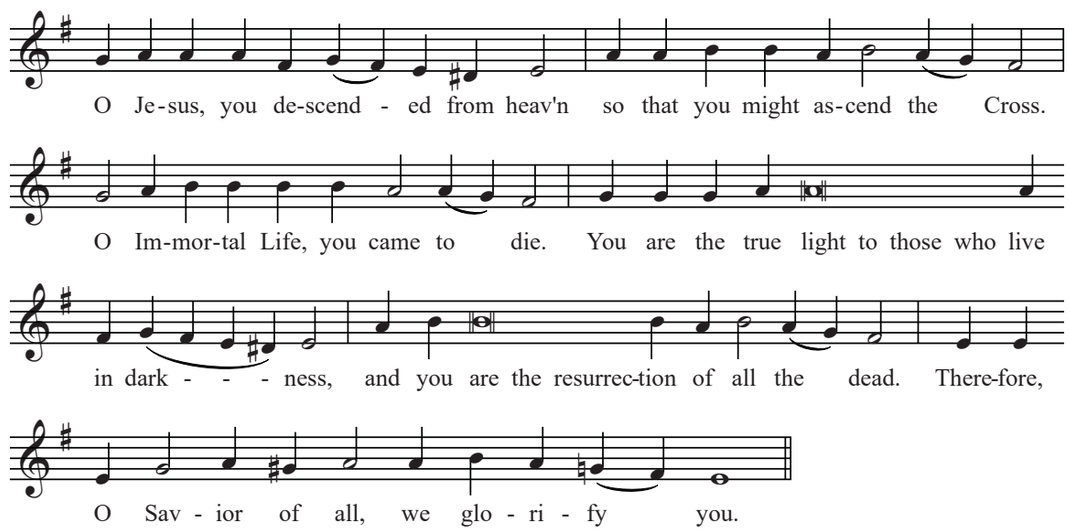
Deacon: Let me hide in the shelter of your wings.

Deacon: So I will always praise your name.
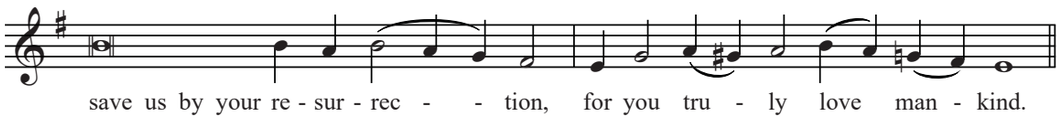
The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.

Aposticha

Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 8*

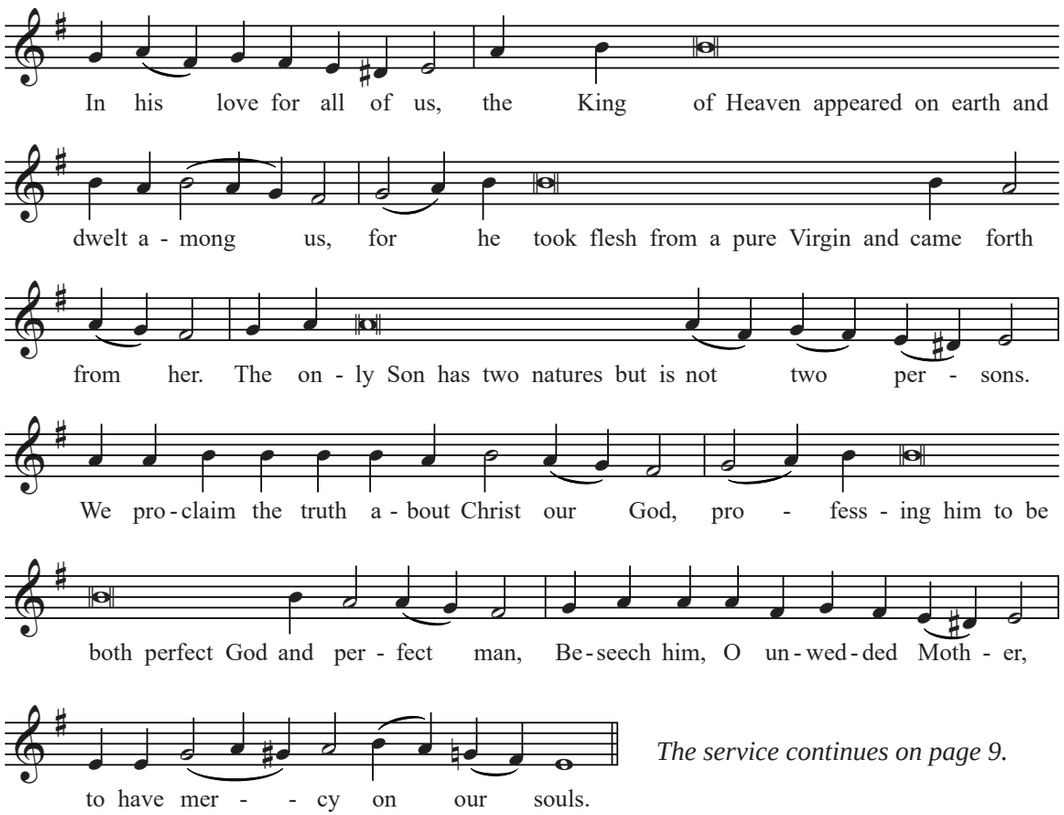


Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.



Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon - *in the same tone*
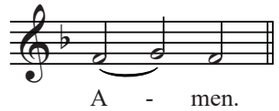


The service continues on page 9.

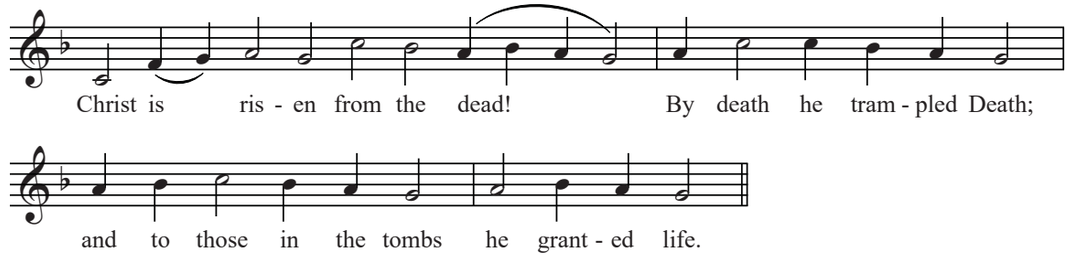
The faithful STAND as the the celebrant, fully vested in bright vestments, stands before the holy table and begins.

Celebrant: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and forever.

Response:

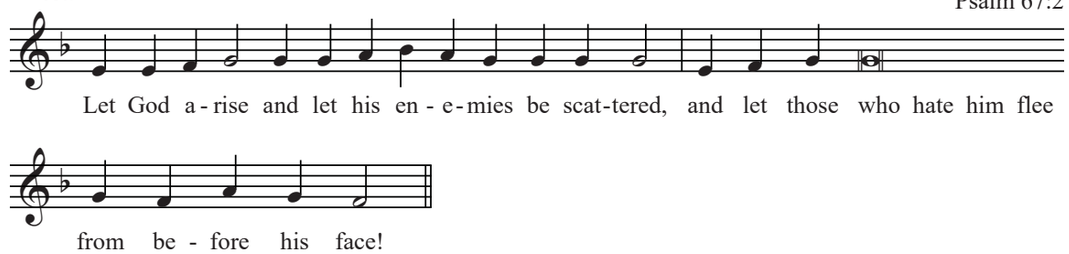


Immediately the Paschal troparion is sung three times: once by the celebrant, and twice by the faithful.
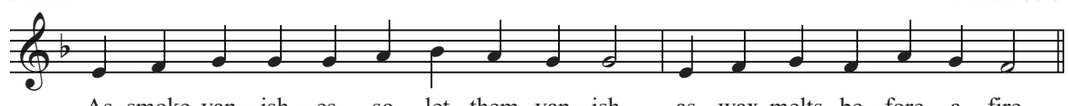


The celebrant sings the following versicles, and to each one the faithful respond by singing the Paschal troparion.

Priest: Psalm 67:2
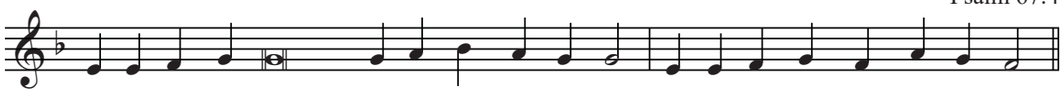


All: Christ is risen…

Priest: Psalm 67:3
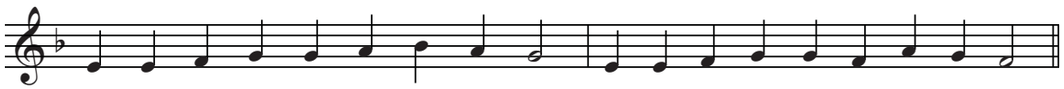


All: Christ is risen…

Priest: Psalm 67:4



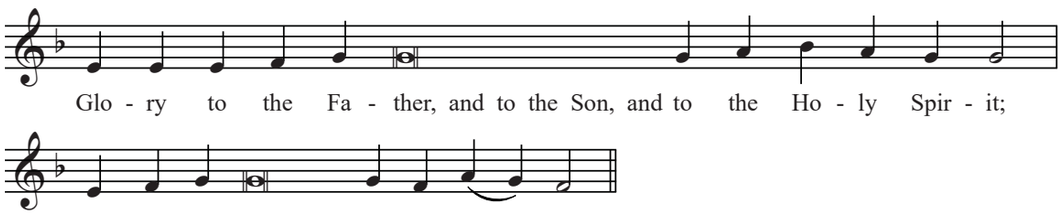
All: Christ is risen…

Priest: Psalm 117:24



All: Christ is risen…

Priest:
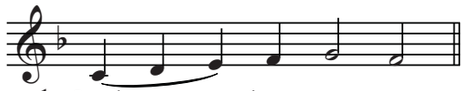


All: Christ is risen…

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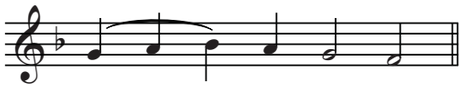
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

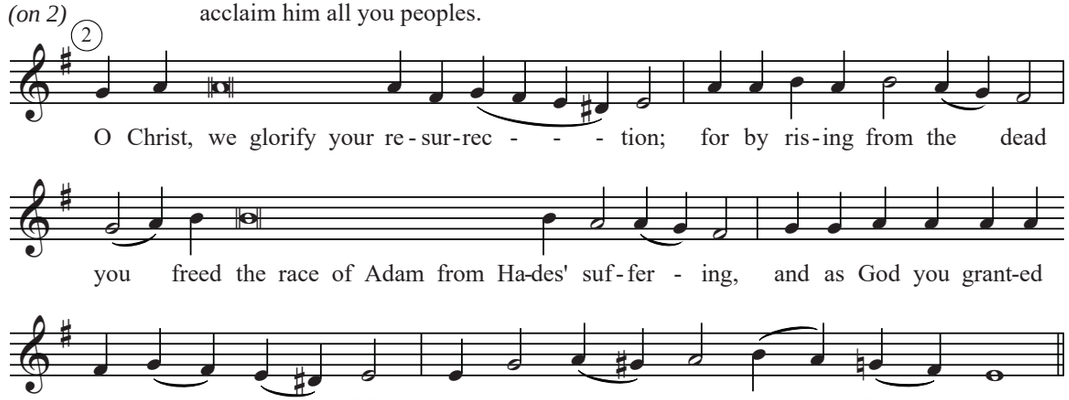


Deacon: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

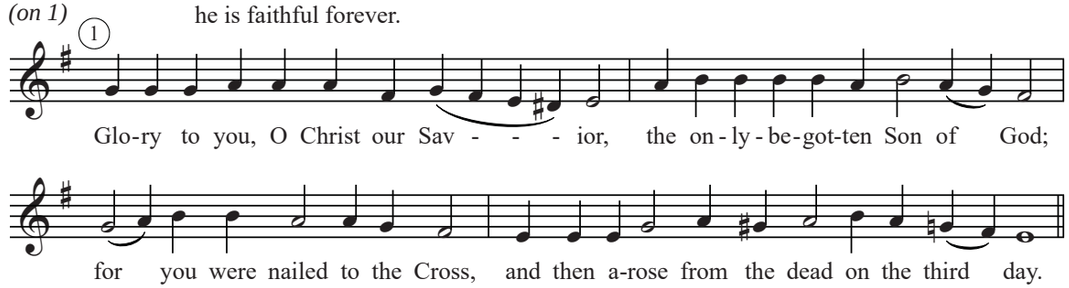
Response:



Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

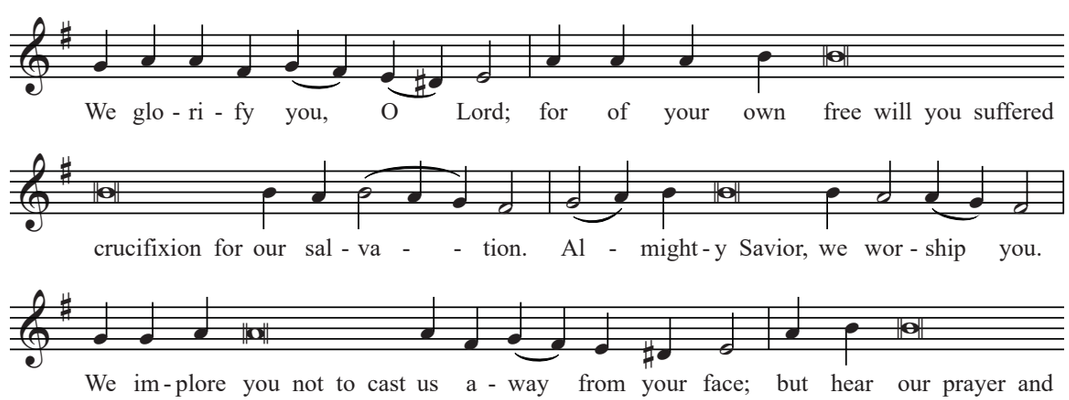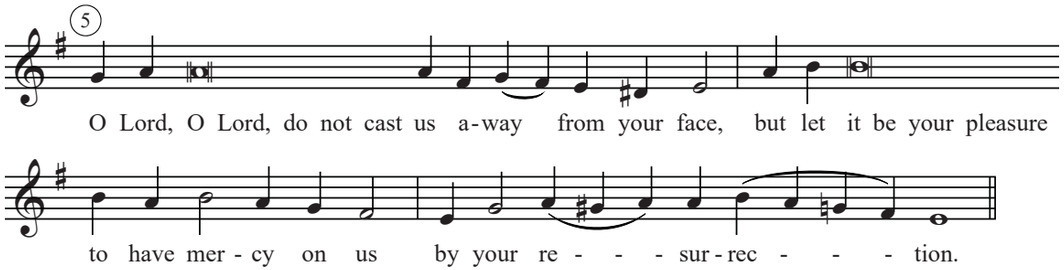


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



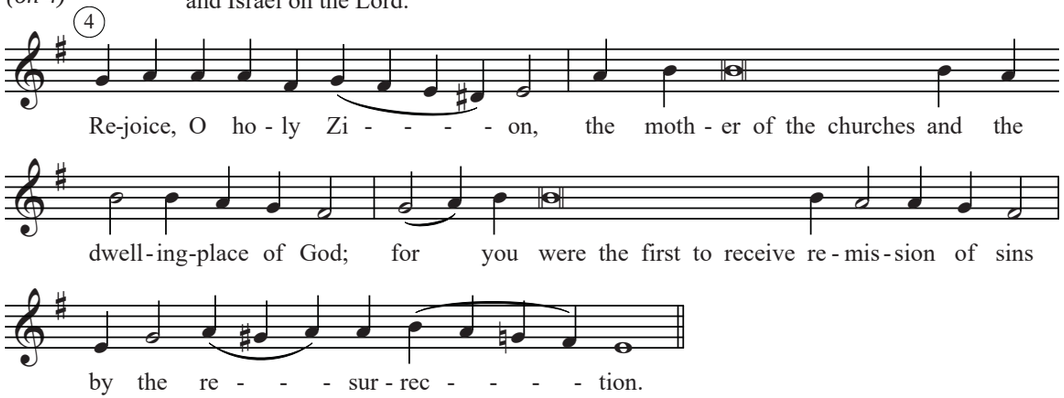
Cantor: *8*Glory…

Doxastikon - *Tone 8*

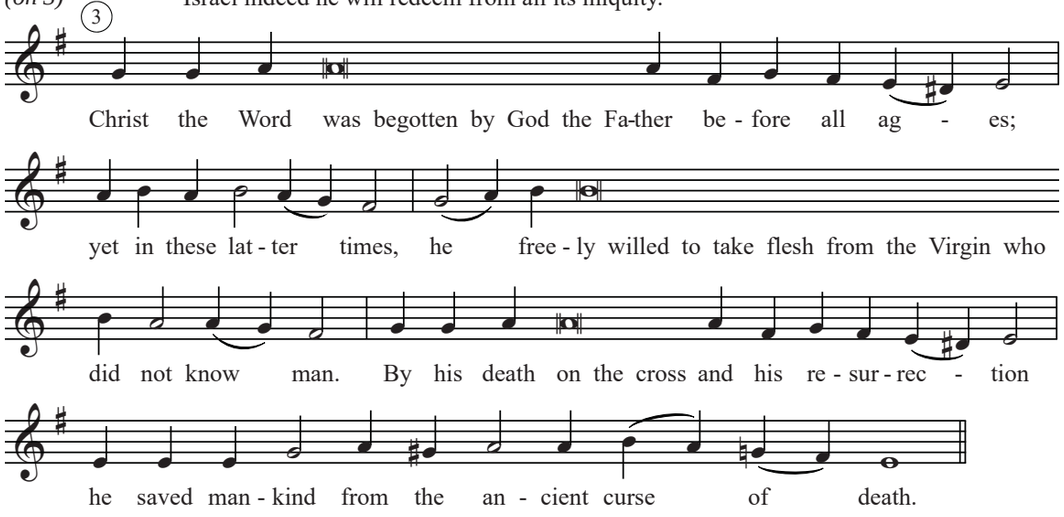




Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.



Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father *(Name)*, pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.
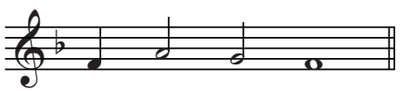
Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

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.

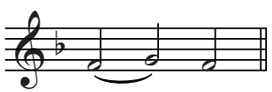
Response:



Priest: 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:



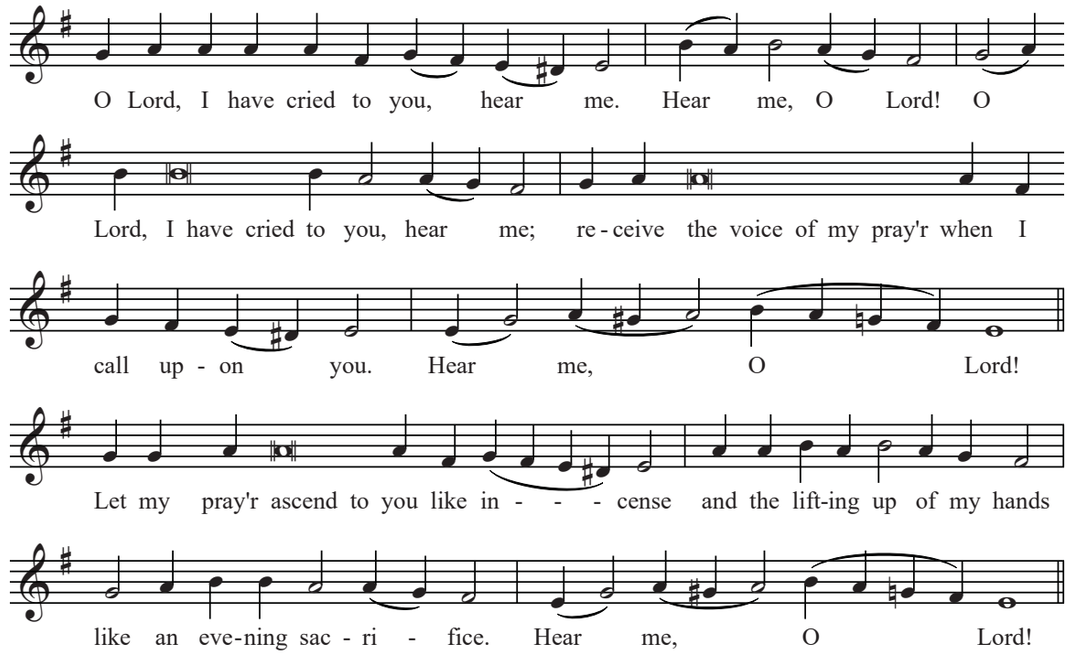
The Lamplighting Psalms

The Lamp-lighting Psalms and their stichera are now sung. The opening verses of Psalm 140 (text at the top of the next page) are sung according to the tone of the day:

Evening of Pascha	Tone 2 - page 21	Wednesday evening	Tone 5 - page 39
Monday evening	Tone 3 - page 28	Thursday evening	Tone 6 - page 46
Tuesday evening	Tone 4 - page 33	Friday evening	Tone 8 - page 51

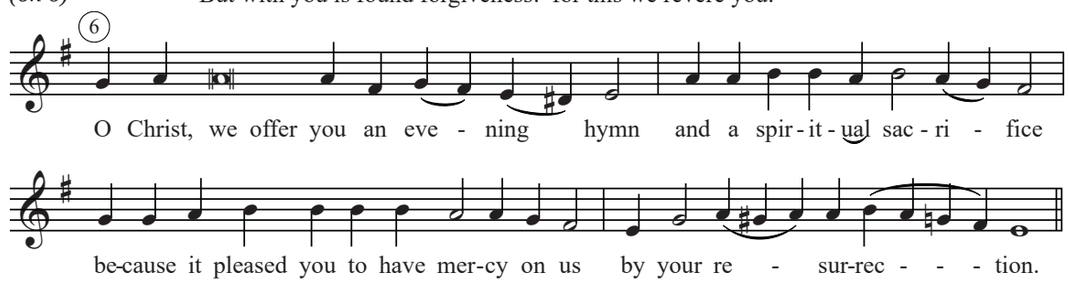
On Friday evening

Psalm 140 - *Tone 8 samohlasen*



The recited verses begin on page 7.
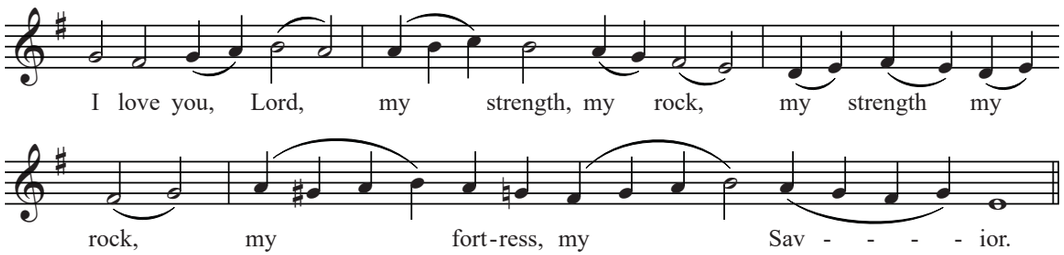
Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.



Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

Prokeimenon (Thursday evening)

Great Prokeimenon of Bright Thursday - *Tone 7* (Psalm 17: 2-4, 7)



Deacon: My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

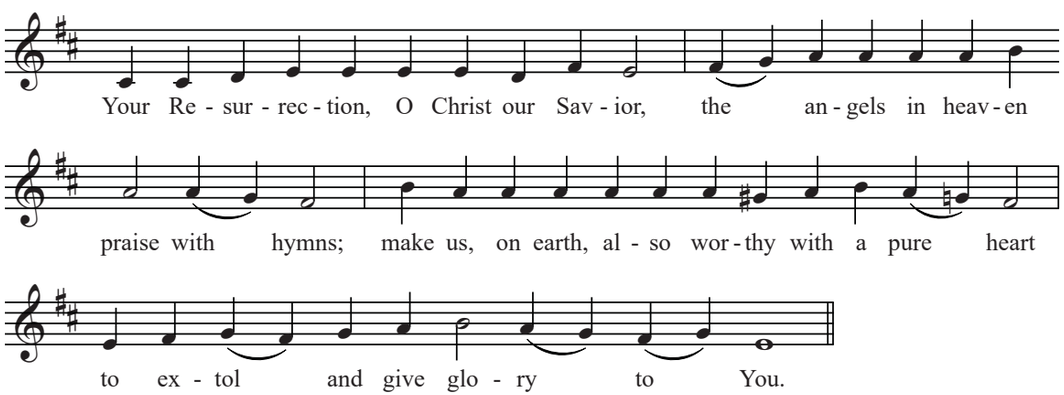
Deacon: The Lord is worthy of all praise; when I call I am saved from my foes.

Deacon: From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears.

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.

Aposticha

Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 6*



Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.

Psalm 140

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me:
Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me:
receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you.
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer ascend to you like incense,
and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice.
Hear me, O Lord!

The remaining verses are chanted antiphonally.

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of ***my*** lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuse for the sins I ***com***mit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it ***is*** kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against ***their*** malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words ***were*** kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of ***the*** grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare ***my*** soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who ***do*** evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way ***un***harmed.

Psalm 141

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat ***the*** Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints ***with***in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to ***en***trap me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes ***my*** part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for ***my*** soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of ***the*** living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of ***dis***tress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger ***than*** I.

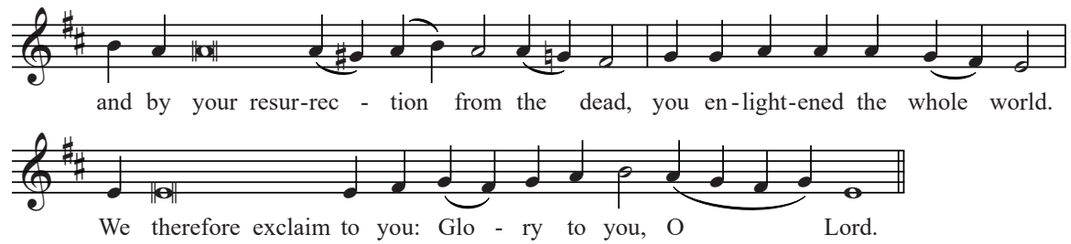
Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise ***your*** name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness ***to*** me.

Psalm 129
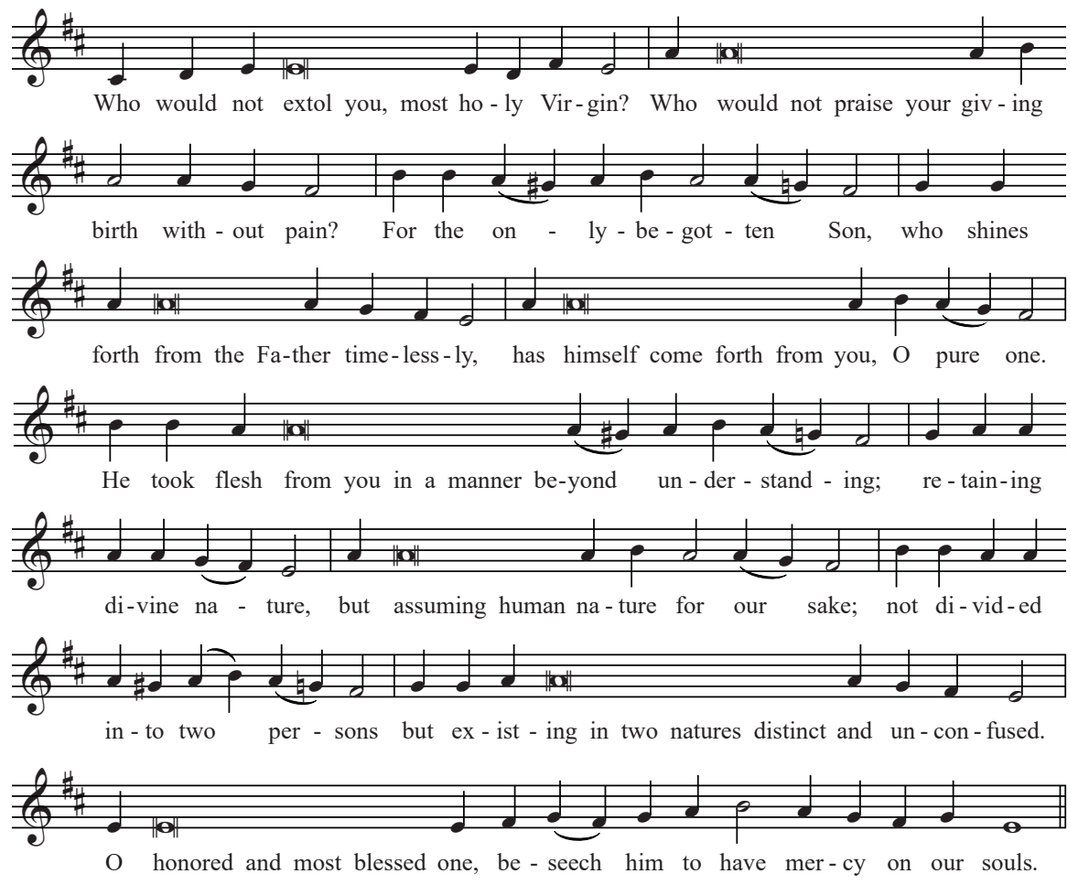
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear ***my*** voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of ***my*** pleading.



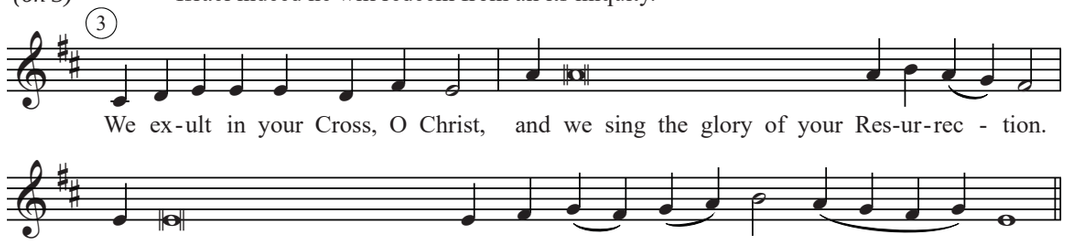
Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon - *in the same tone*

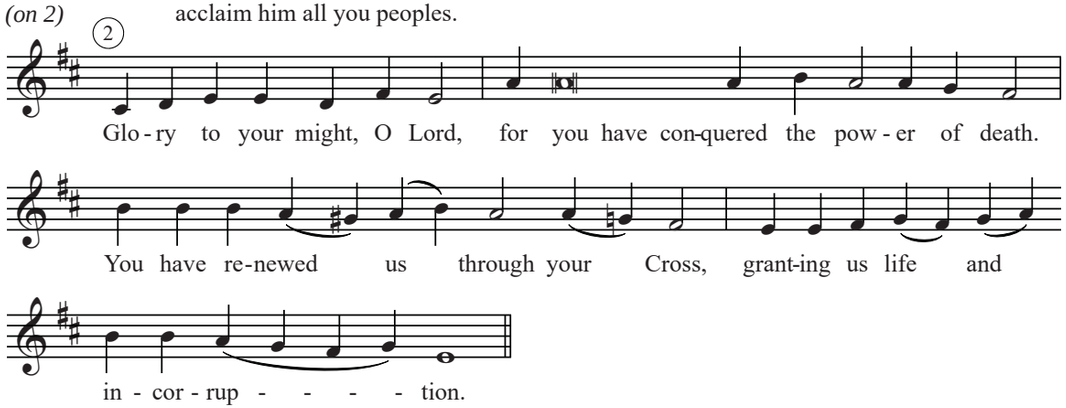


Continue on page 9.
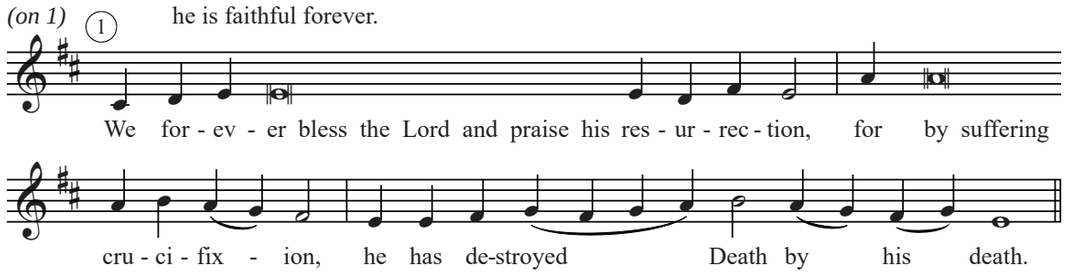
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.



Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.
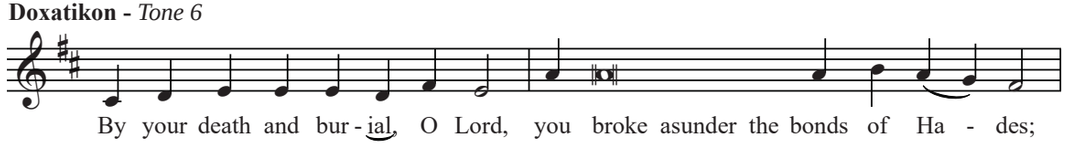


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



Cantor: Glory…

Doxatikon - *Tone 6*



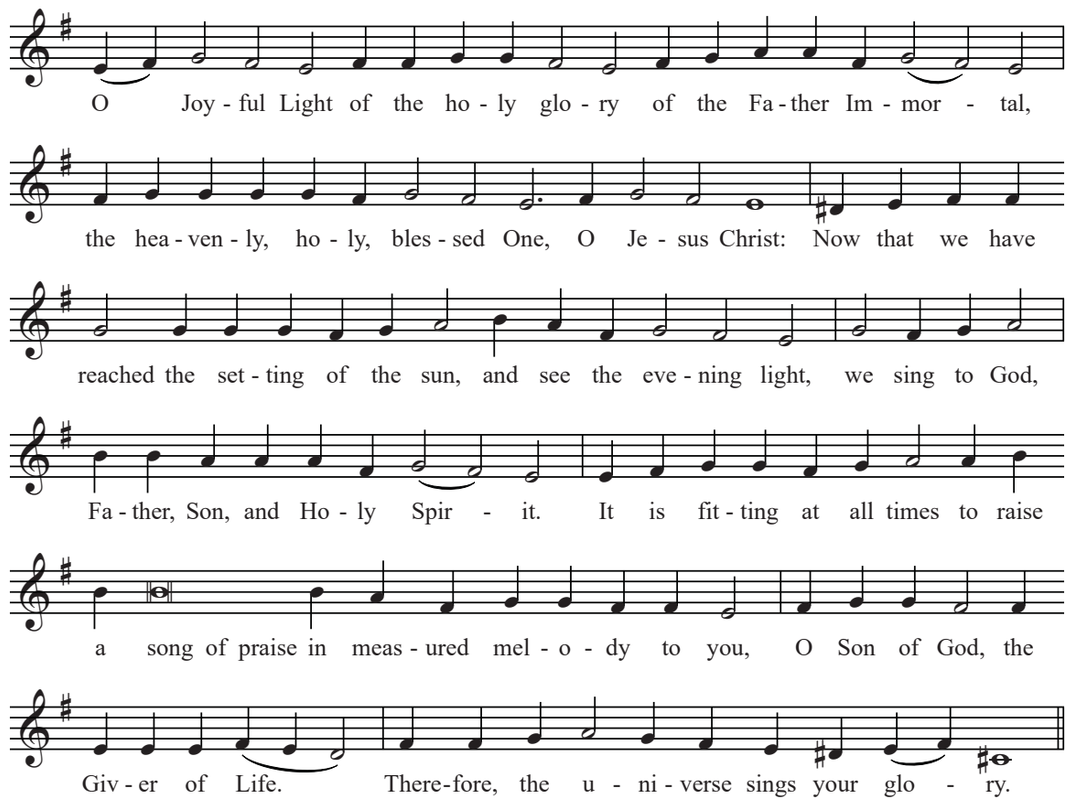
The Lamplighting stichera are now sung according to the tone of the day:

Evening of Pascha	Tone 2 - page 21	Wednesday evening	Tone 5 - page 39
Monday evening	Tone 3 - page 28	Thursday evening	Tone 6 - page 46
Tuesday evening	Tone 4 - page 33	Friday evening	Tone 8 - page 51

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung.
The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.



The Evening Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The evening prokeimenon is now sung; the deacon (or priest) chants the verses.

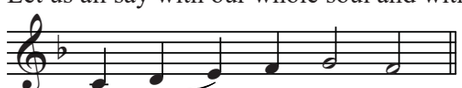
Evening of Pascha	Tone 7 - page 25	Wednesday evening	Tone 7 - page 44
Monday evening	Tone 7 - page 31	Thursday evening	Tone 7 - page 50
Tuesday evening	Tone 8 - page 38	Friday evening	Tone 8 - page 55

On the evening of Pascha, there is also a reading from the Holy Gospel.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

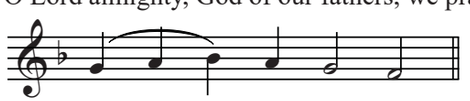
Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response:
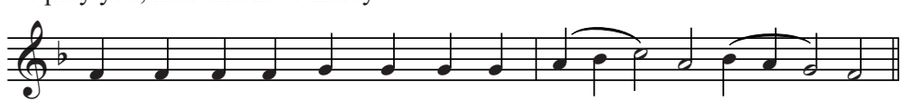


Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:
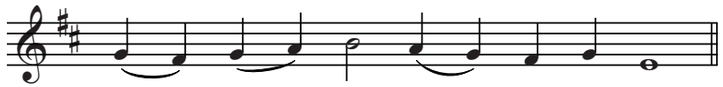


Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy,
we pray you, hear and have mercy.

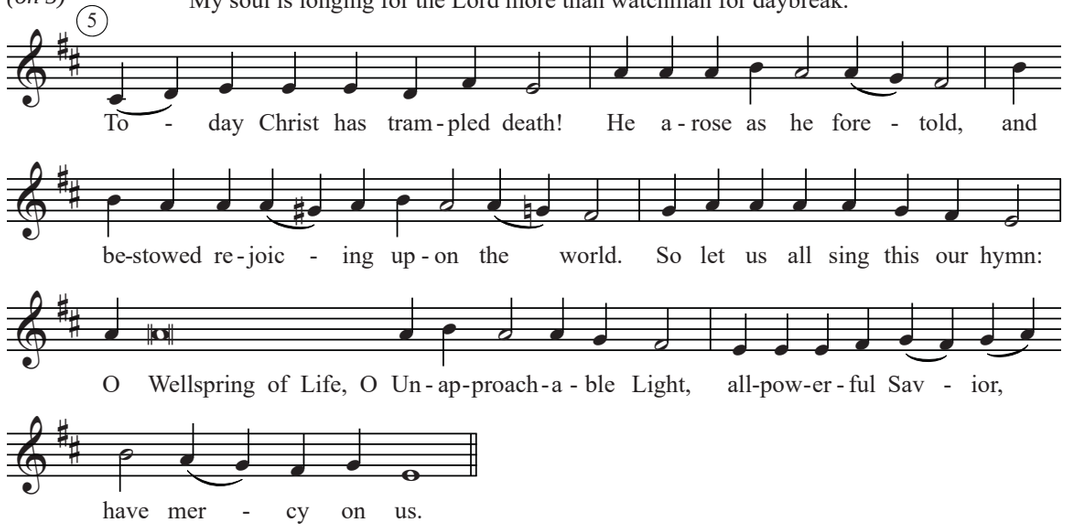
Response:



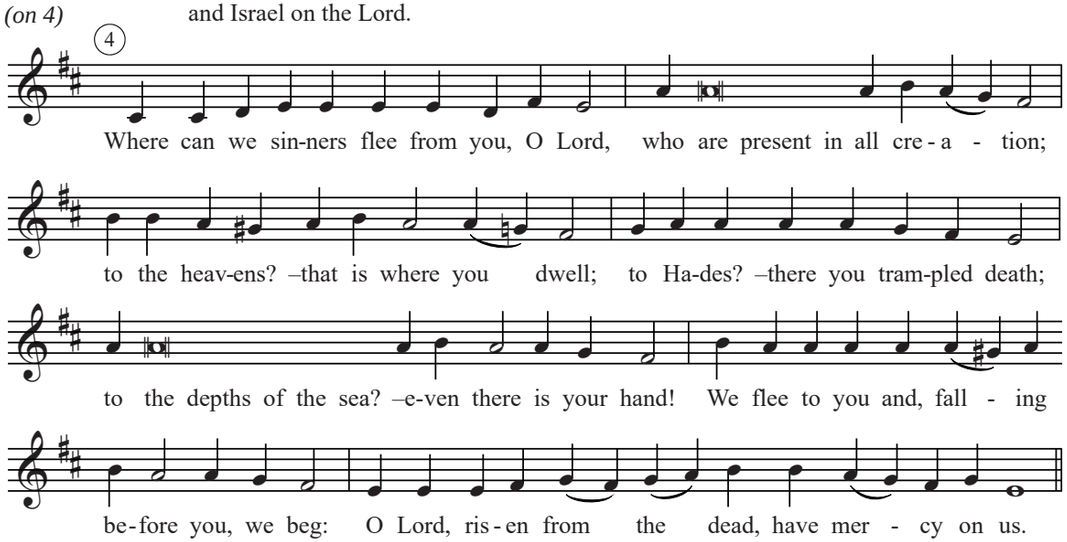
Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, *(Name),* pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop, *(Name),* for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

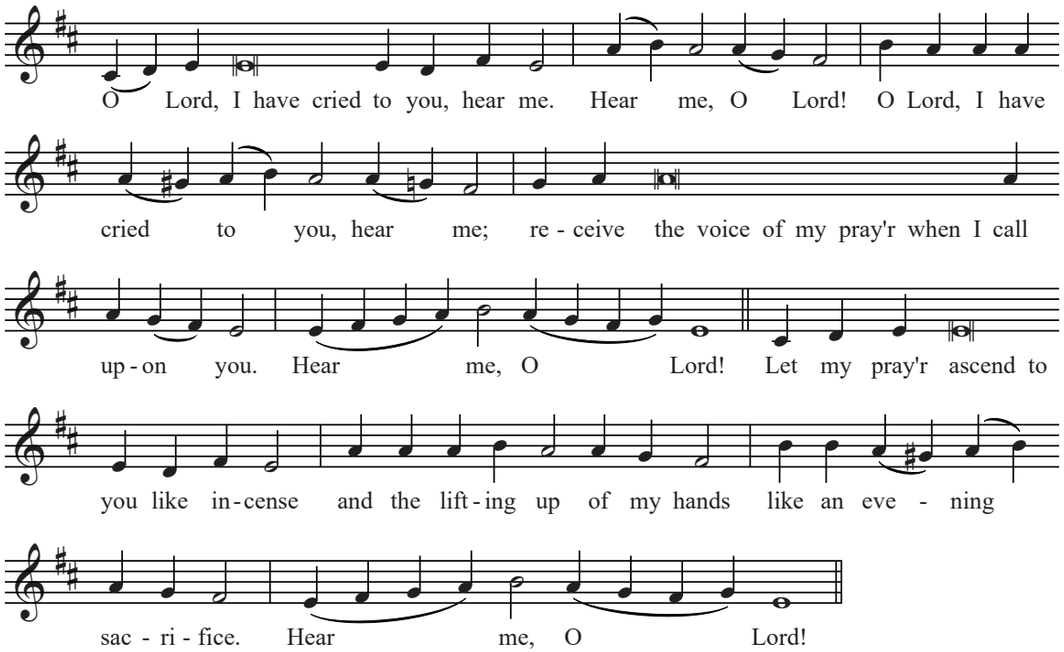


Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



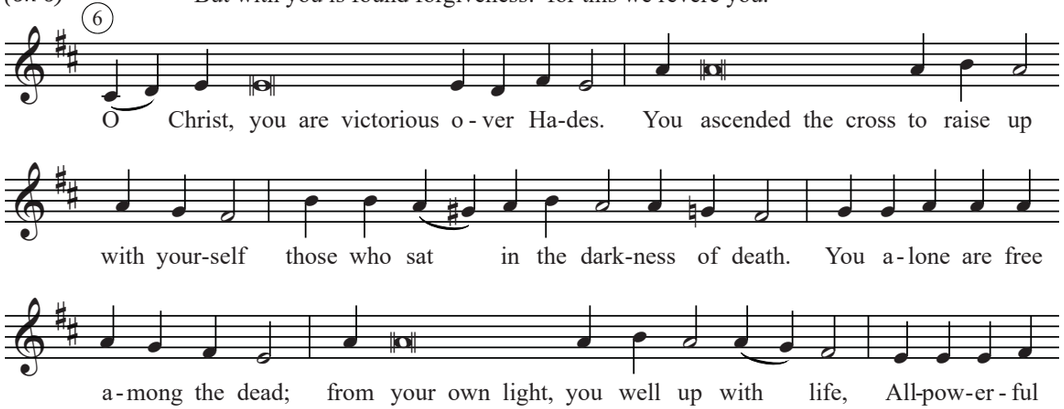
On Thursday evening

Psalm 140 - *Tone 6 samohlasen*
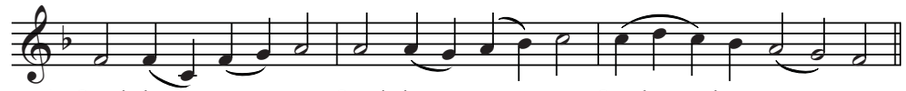


The recited verses begin on page 7.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.



Response:



Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.
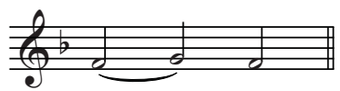
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times, using response 4.)*

Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

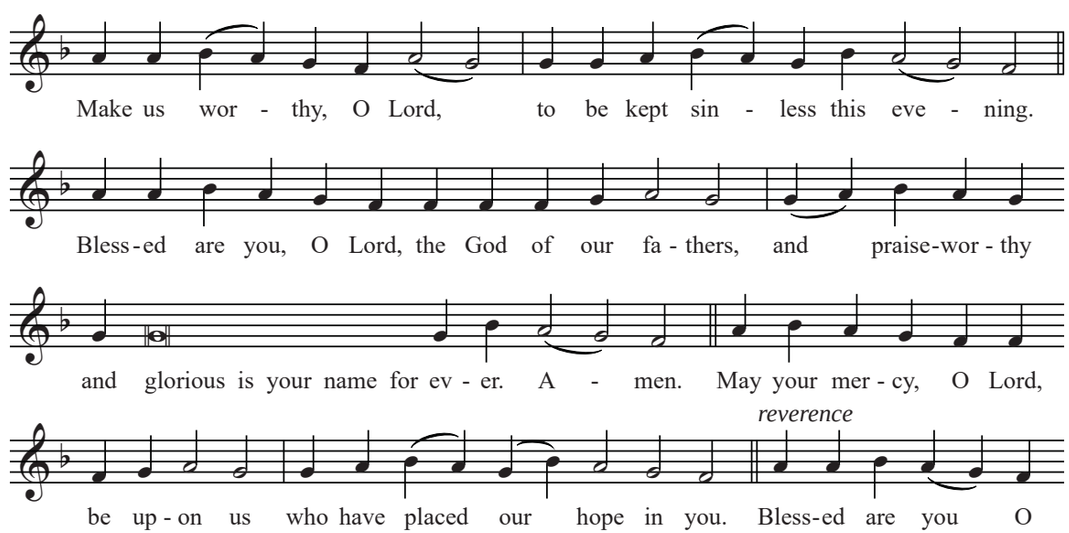
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times, using response 3.)*

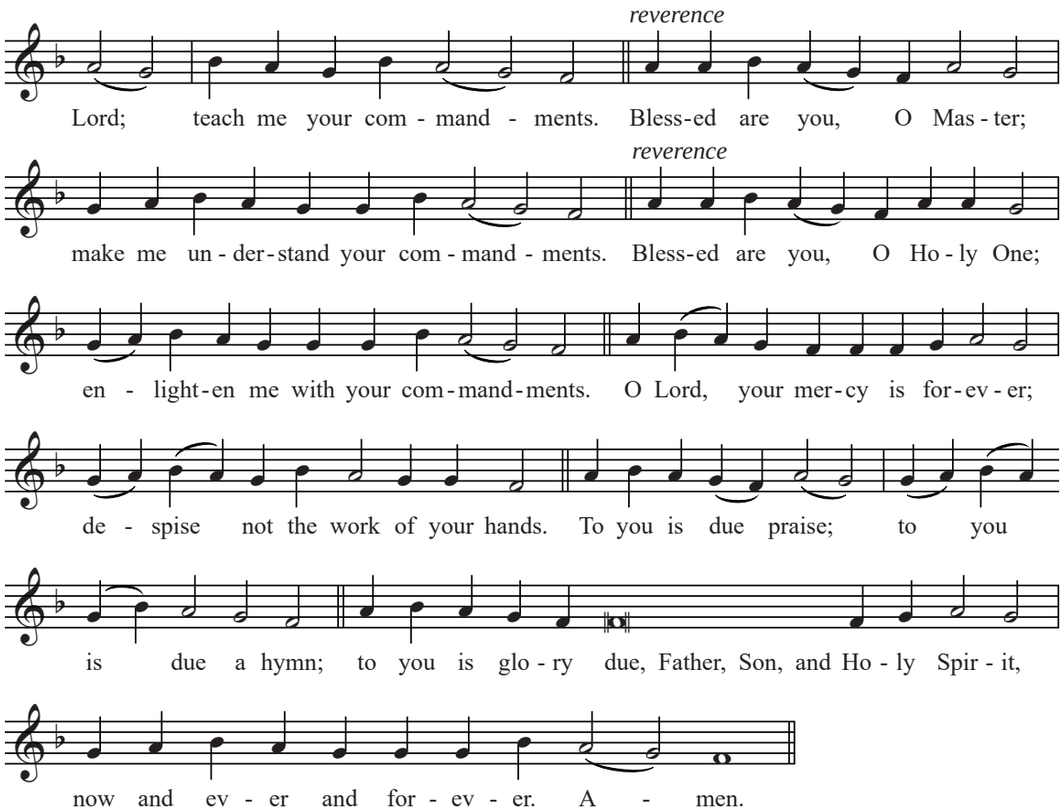
Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Hymn of Glorification
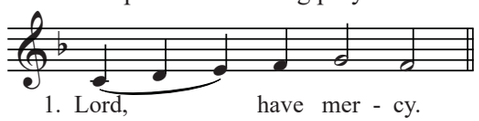




Litany of Supplication
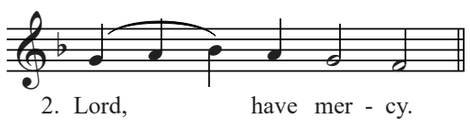
Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response:



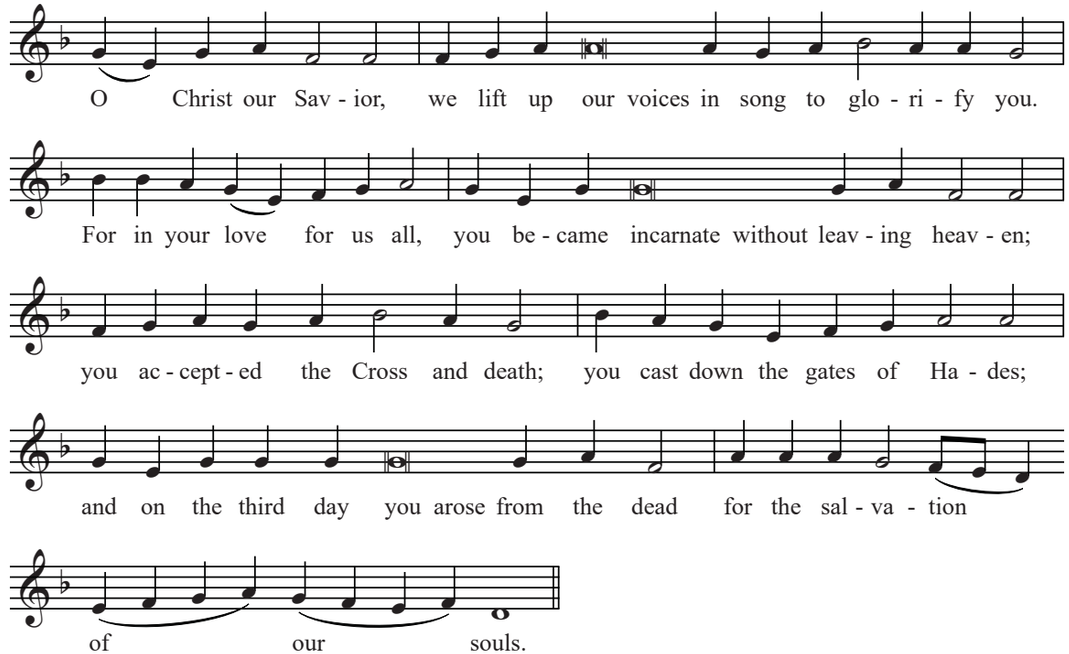
Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:

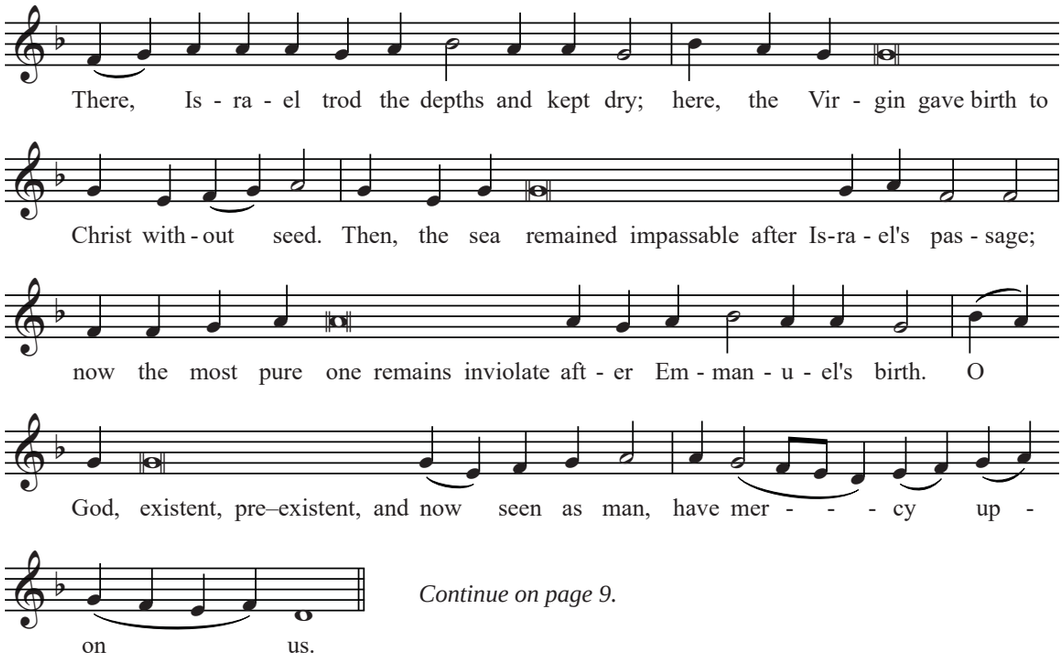


Aposticha

Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 5*



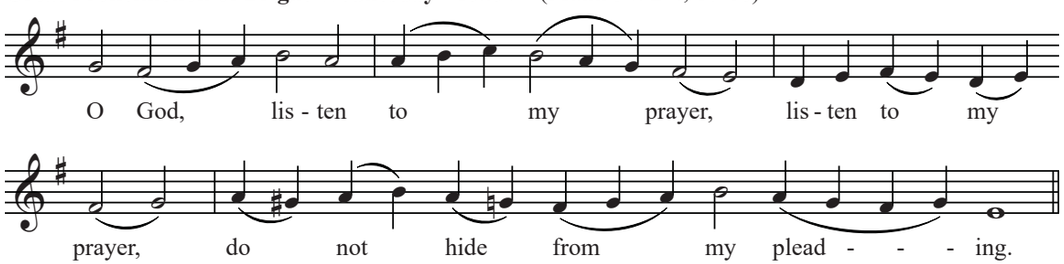
Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.



Continue on page 9.

Prokeimenon (Wednesday evening)

Great Prokeimenon of Bright Wednesday - *Tone 7* (Psalm 54: 2-4, 17-18)



Deacon: Attend to me and reply.

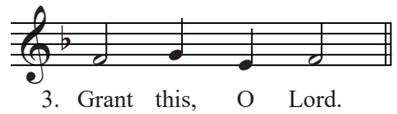
Deacon: For they bring down evil upon me.

Deacon: As for me, I will cry to God, and the Lord will save me, evening, morning, and at noon.

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.

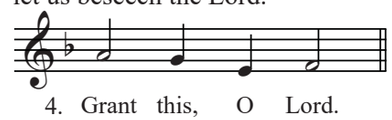
Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response:



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

Response:



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

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

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

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

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

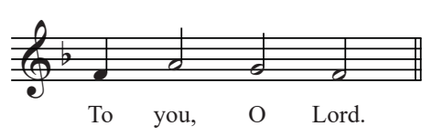
Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: 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.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

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.
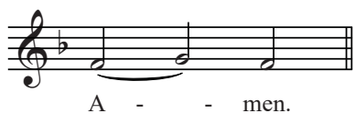
Response:



Celebrant: Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O loving Lord, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering to your compassion prayers and supplications for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.
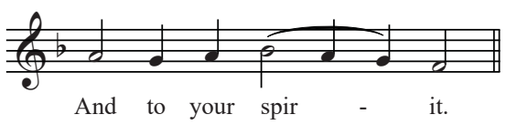
For you are a good and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



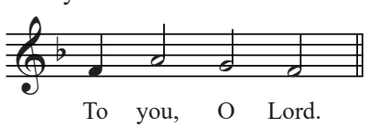
Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Response:

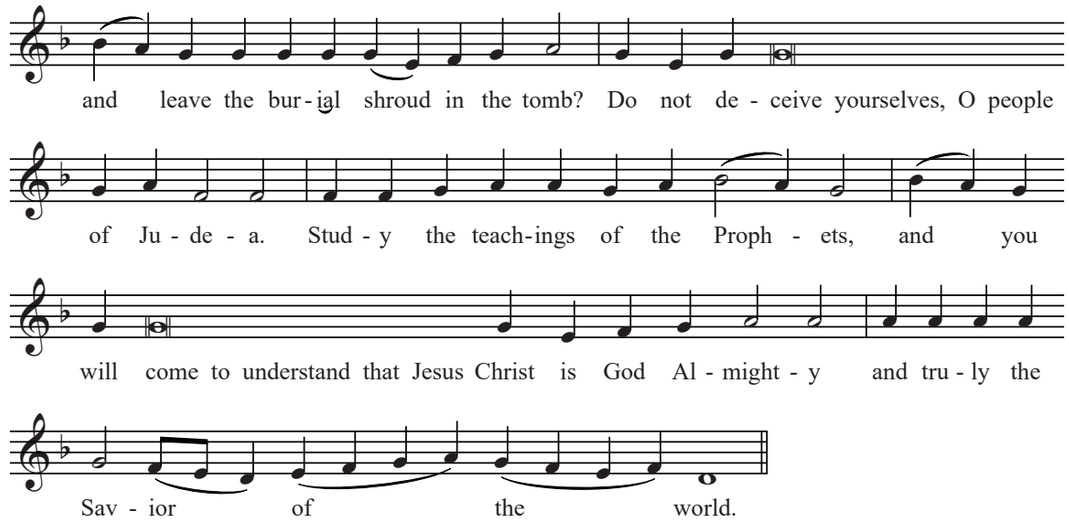


Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:

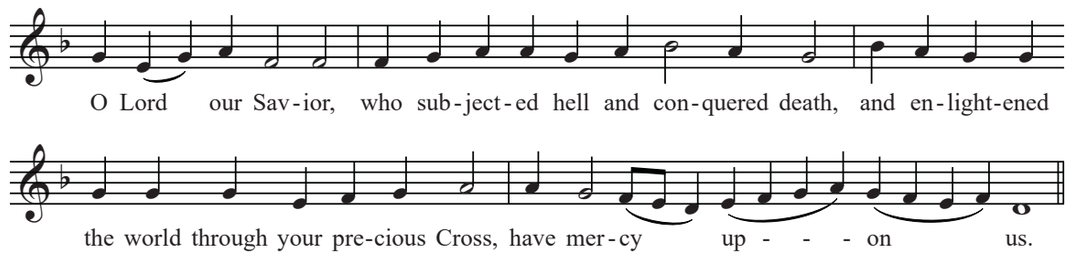


Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts, and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.



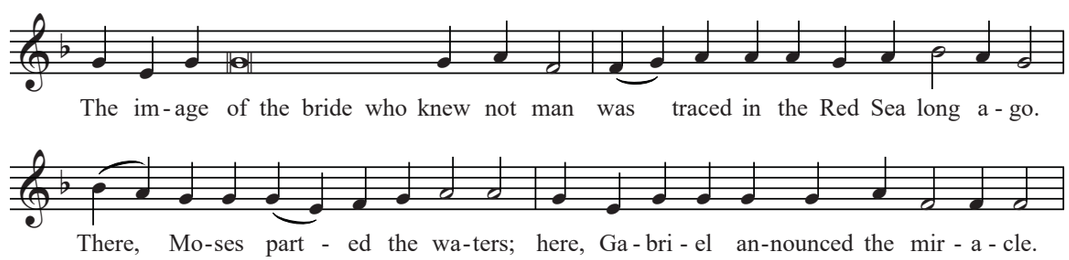
Cantor: Glory…
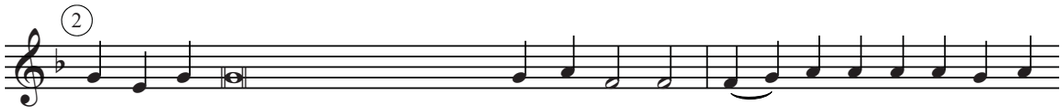
Doxastikon - *Tone 5*

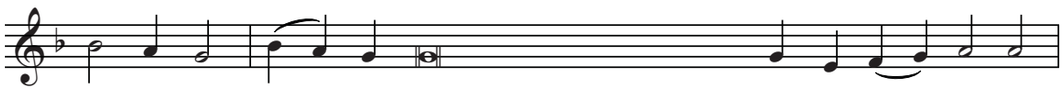


Cantor: Now and ever...
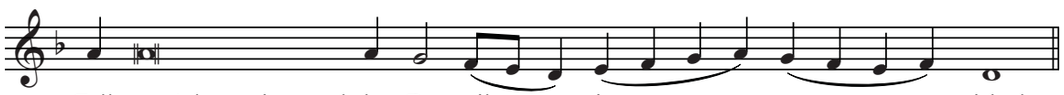
Dogmatikon - *in the same tone*
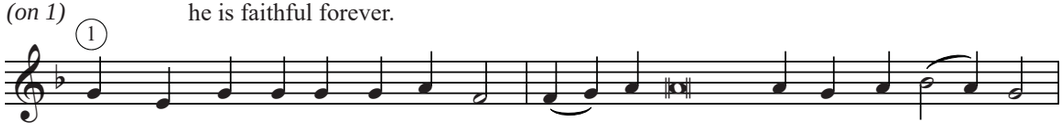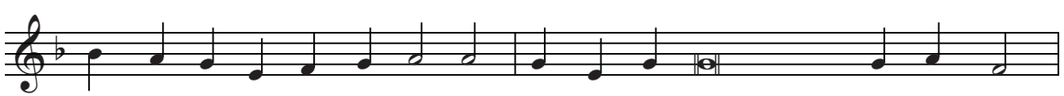






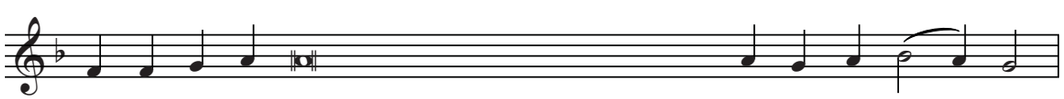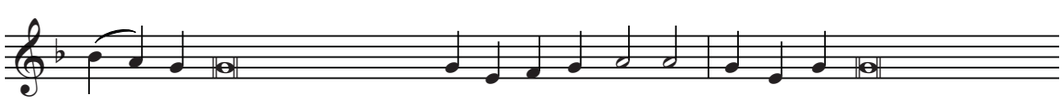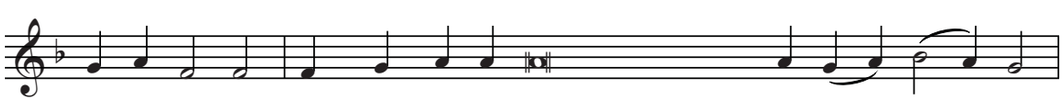




Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.











Response: A - men.

Aposticha

On each day, a single proper sticheron is taken:
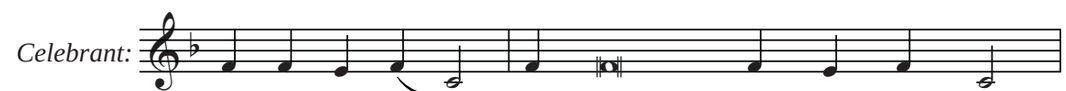
Evening of Pascha	Tone 2 - page 27	Wednesday evening	Tone 5 - page 45
Monday evening	Tone 3 - page 32	Thursday evening	Tone 6 - page 50
Tuesday evening	Tone 4 - page 38	Friday evening	Tone 8 - page 55
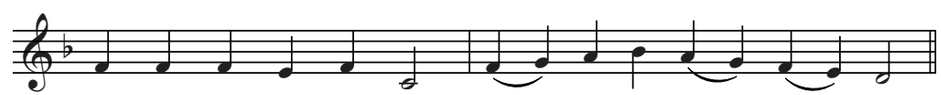
The aposticha continue with the Paschal stichera. The celebrant (or an appointed person) sings the verses and the faithful respond with the stichera. During the singing of the stichera, the faithful approach to kiss the holy cross, the gospel book, and the icon of the Resurrection. The celebrant stands outside the holy doors, holding the handcross and greeting each of the faithful as they come to kiss the cross and holy articles, saying to each:
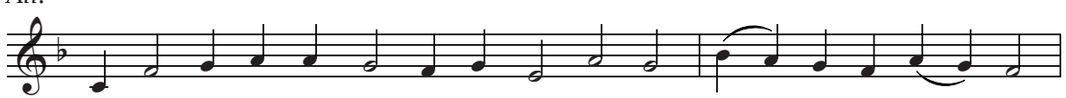
Celebrant: Christ is risen! **Celebrant:** Christos voskrese!
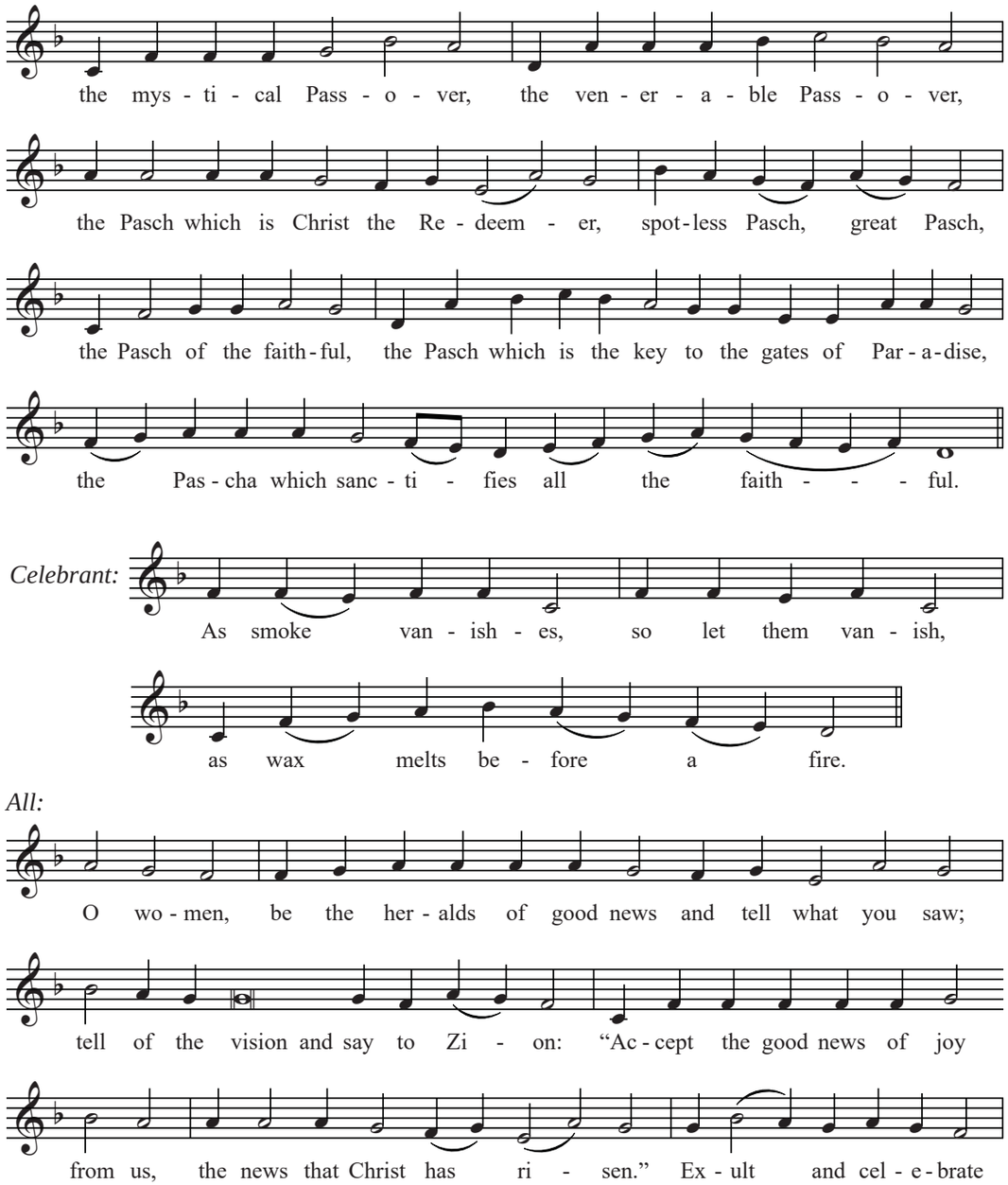
Response: Indeed he is risen! **Response:** Voinstinnu voskrese!
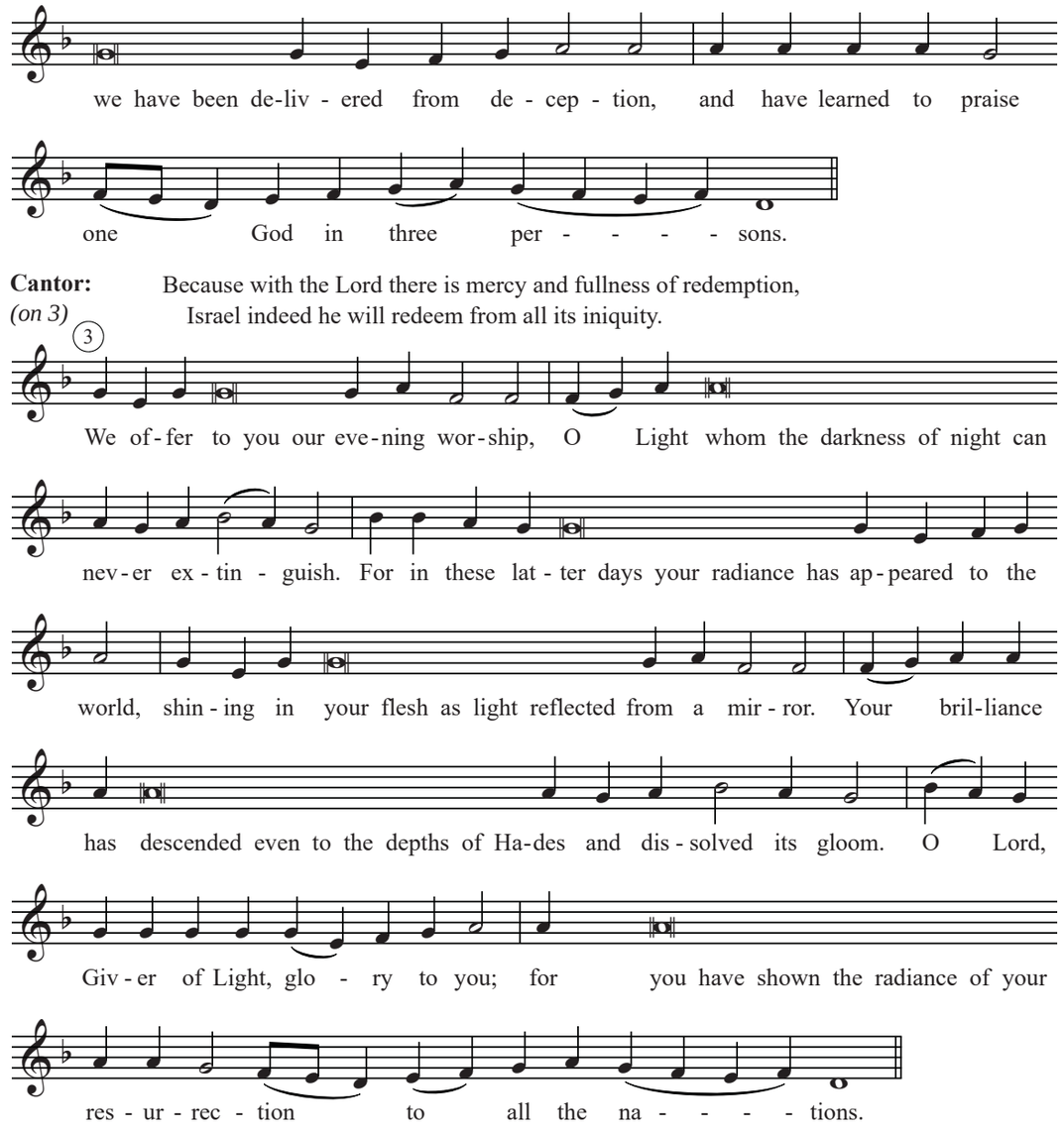
The Paschal Stichera







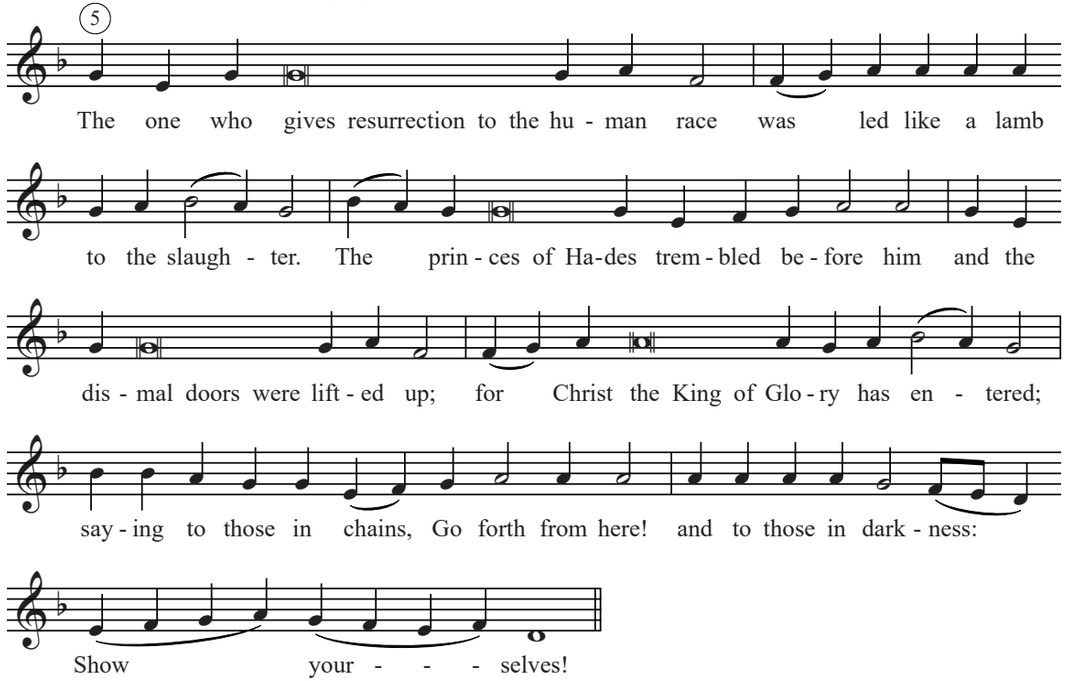




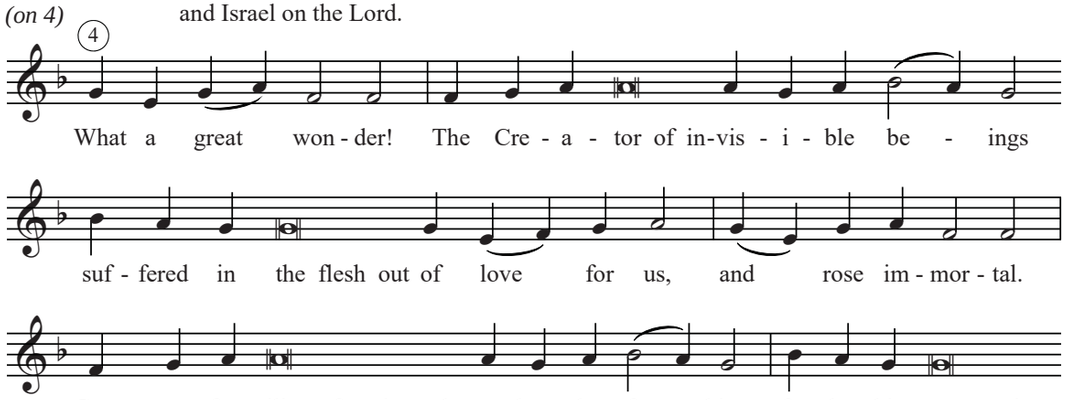
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

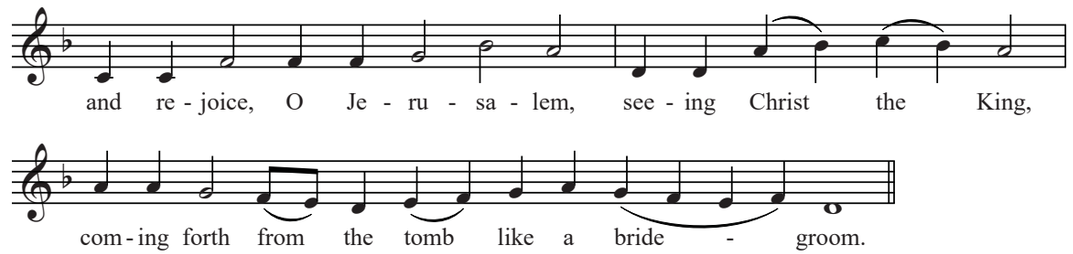
Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

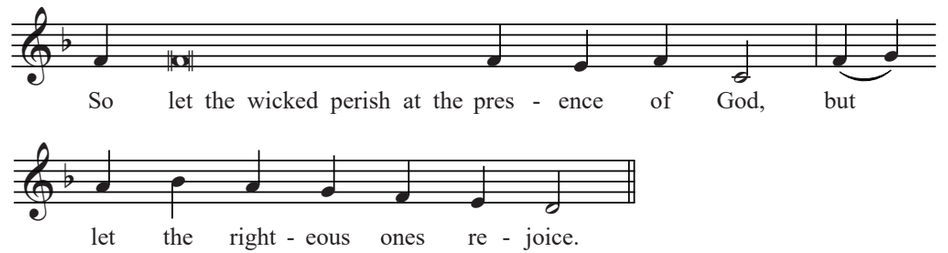


Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

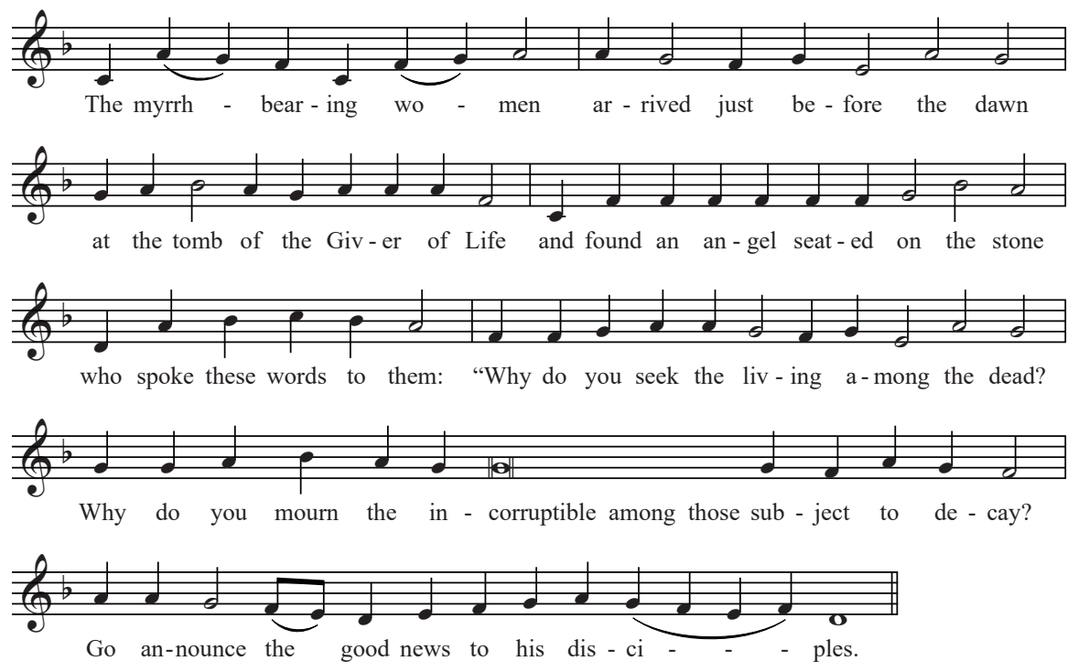




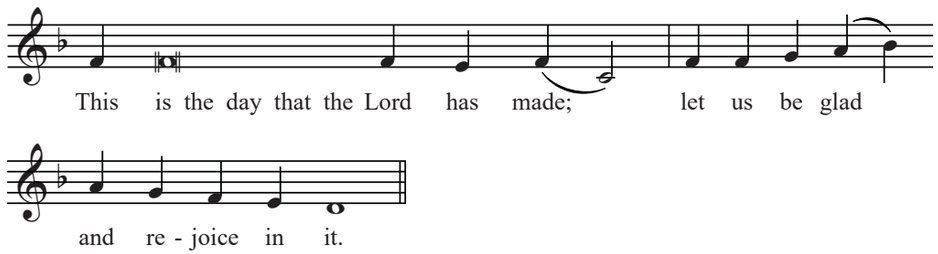
Celebrant:
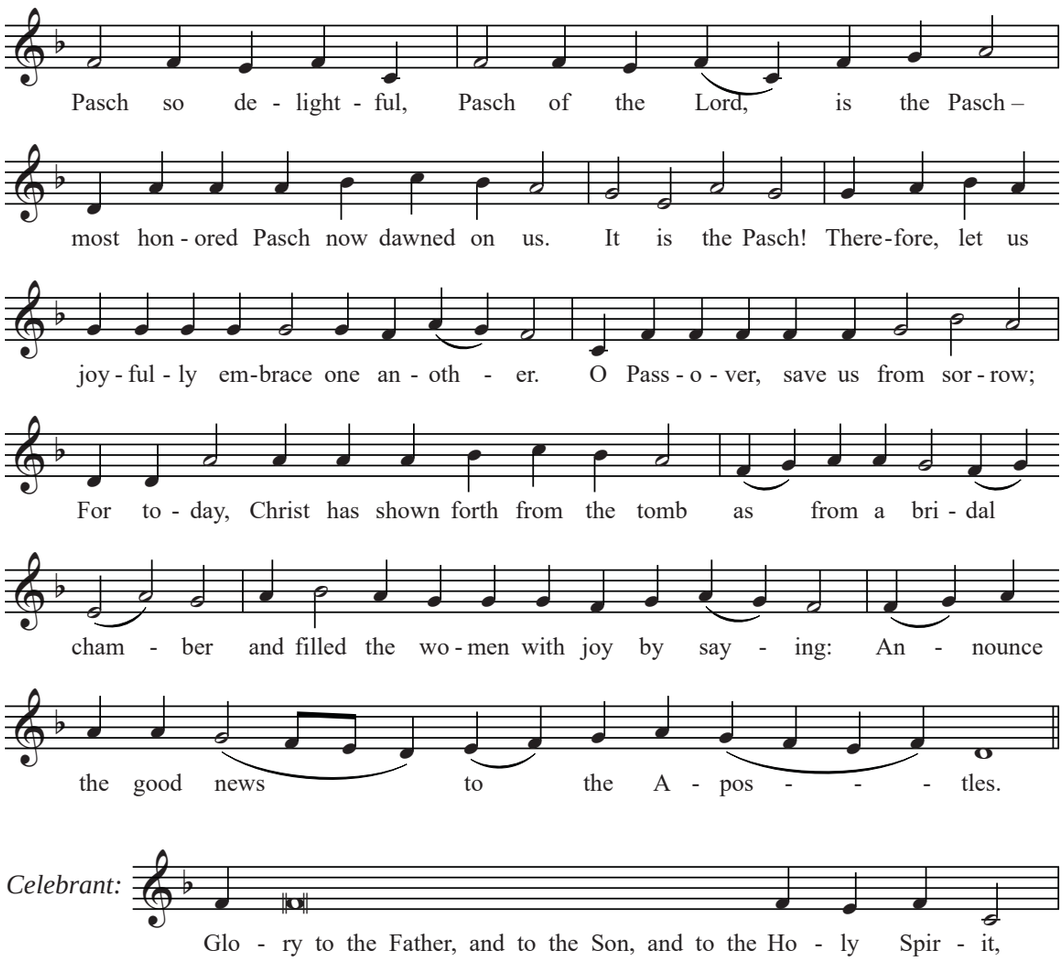


All:



Celebrant:



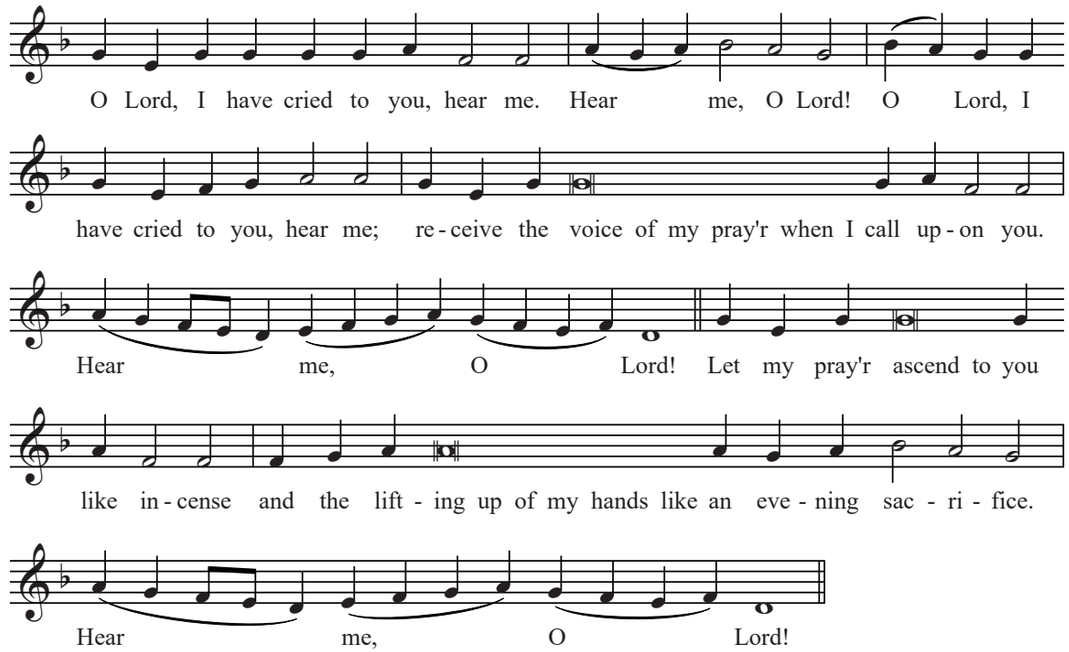
All:



Celebrant:

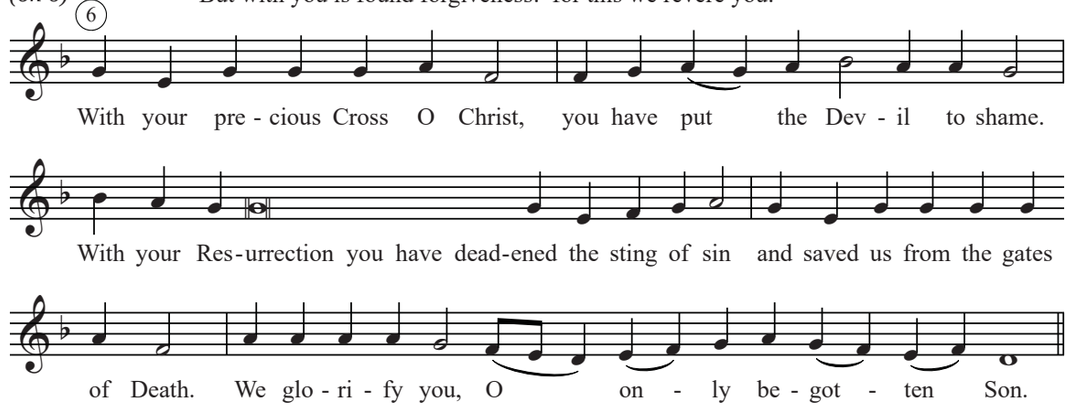
On Wednesday evening

Psalm 140 - *Tone 5 samohlasen*
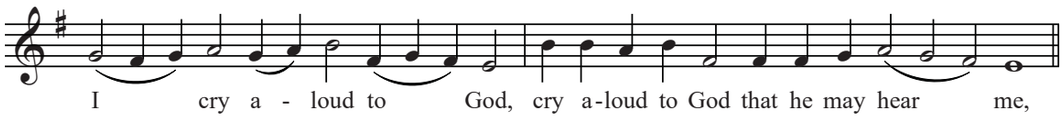


The recited verses begin on page 7.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.



Prokeimenon (Tuesday evening)

Great Prokeimenon of Bright Tuesday - *Tone 8* (Psalm 76: 2, 3, 14)



Deacon: In the day of my distress I sought the Lord.

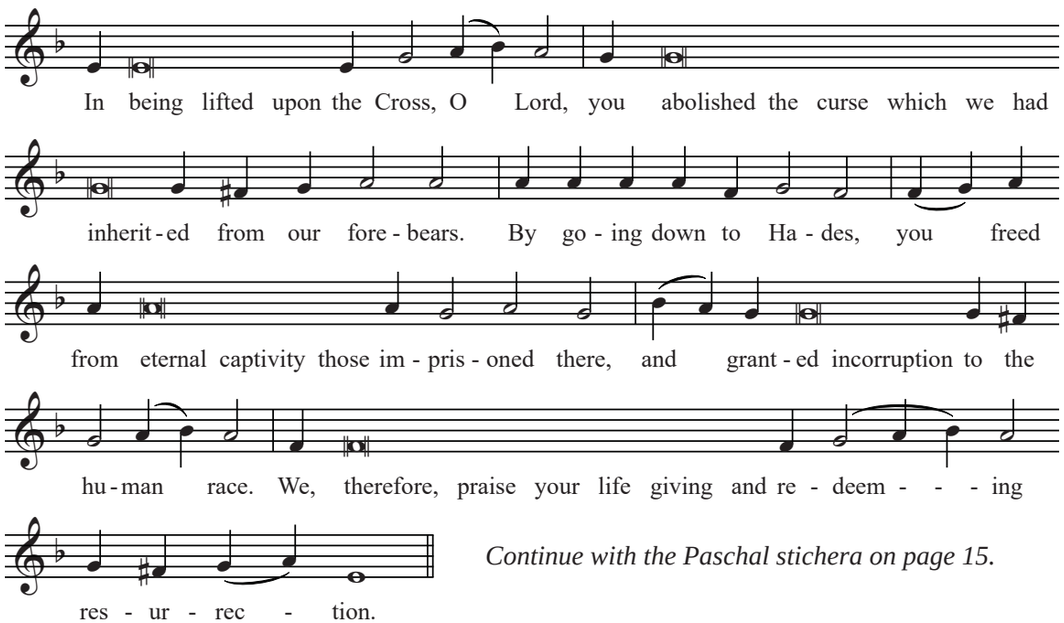
Deacon: My soul refused to be consoled.

Deacon: Your ways, O God, are holy.
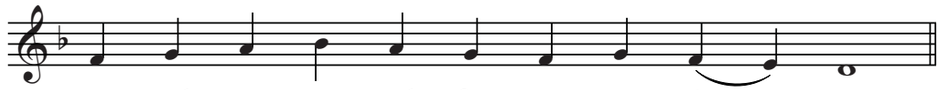
The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.

Aposticha

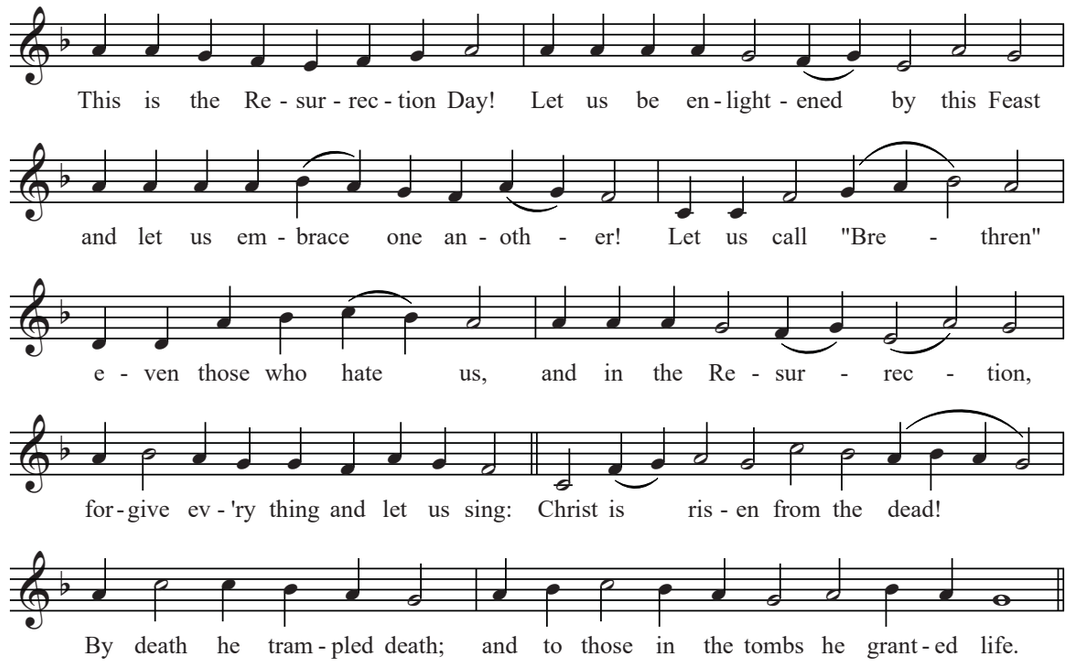
Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 4*



Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.
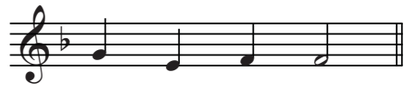


All:



Paschal Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



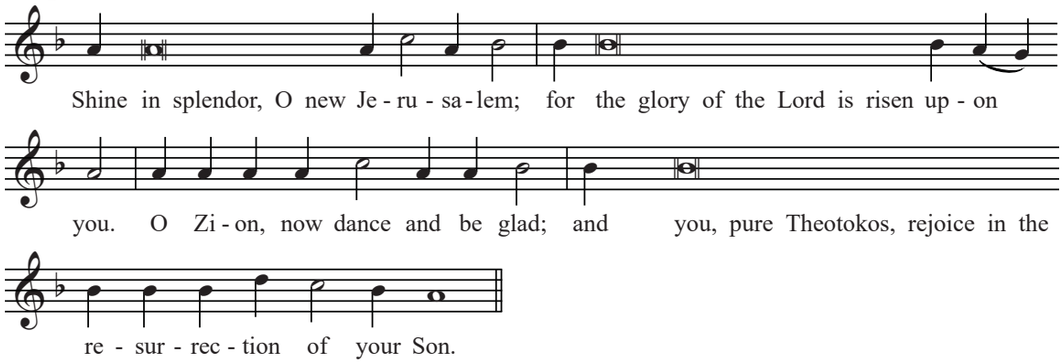
Celebrant: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



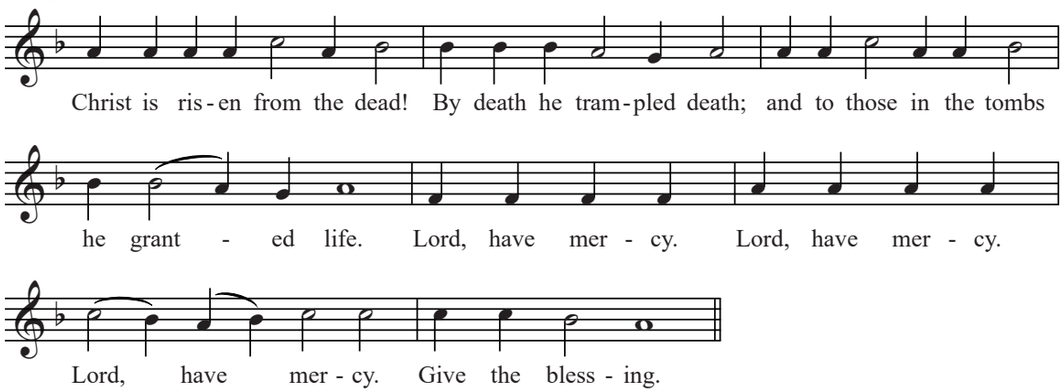
Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:
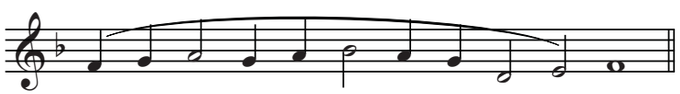


Celebrant: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

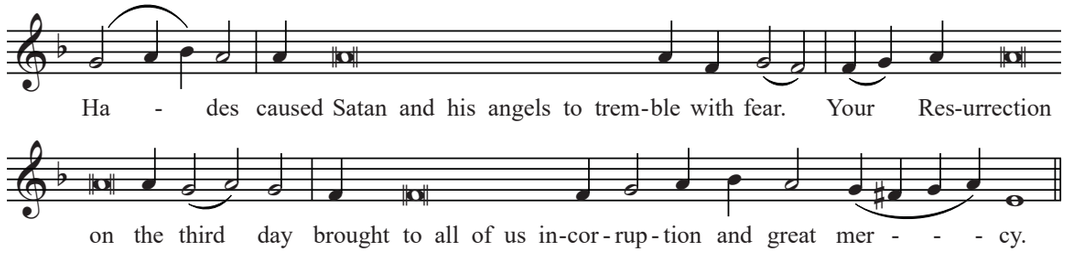
Response:



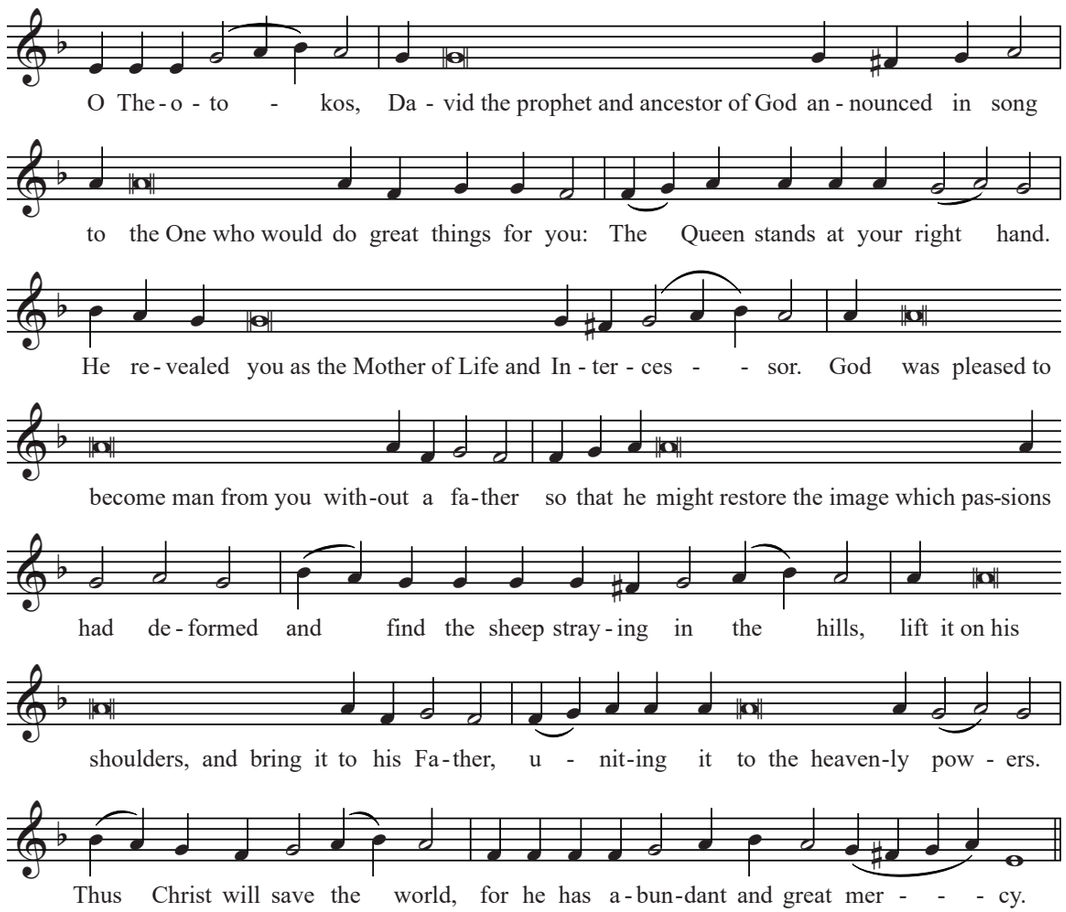
Celebrant: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling death and giving life to those in the tombs, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother and all the saints; for he is gracious and loves us all.

Response:

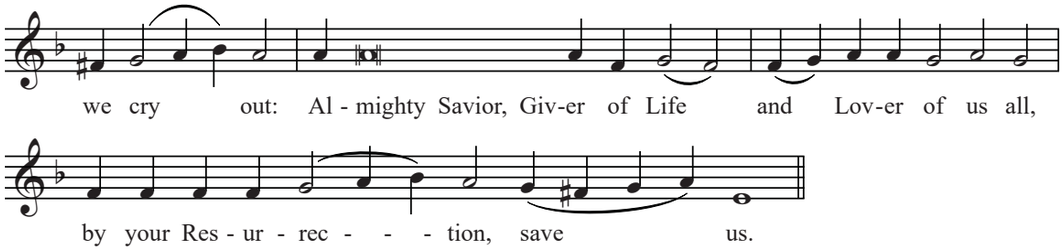




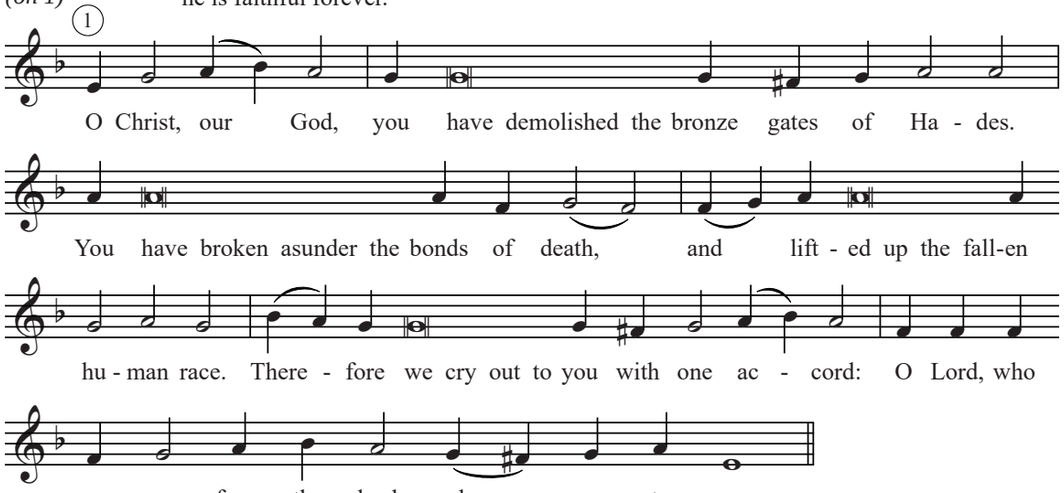
Cantor: Now and ever...



Continue on page 9.

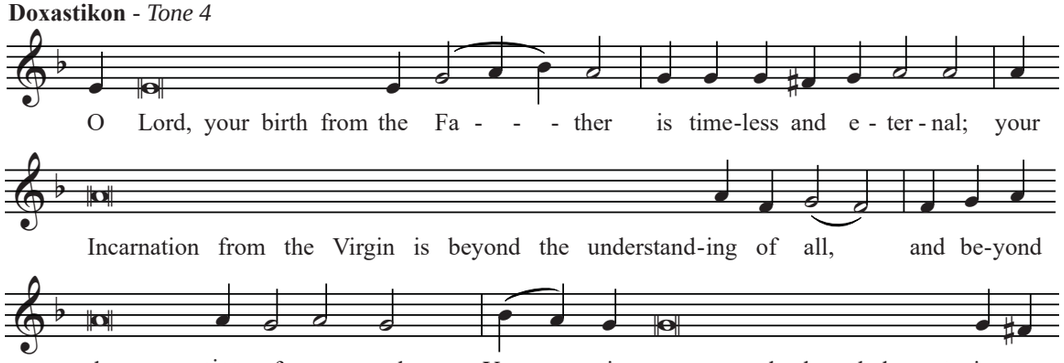


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



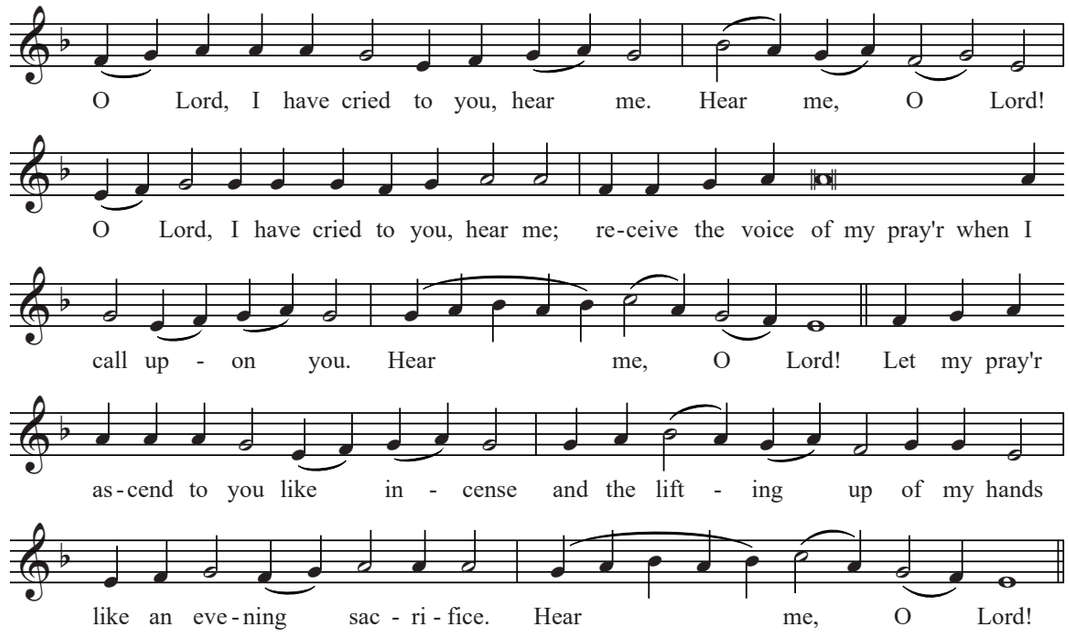
Cantor: Glory…

Doxastikon - *Tone 4*



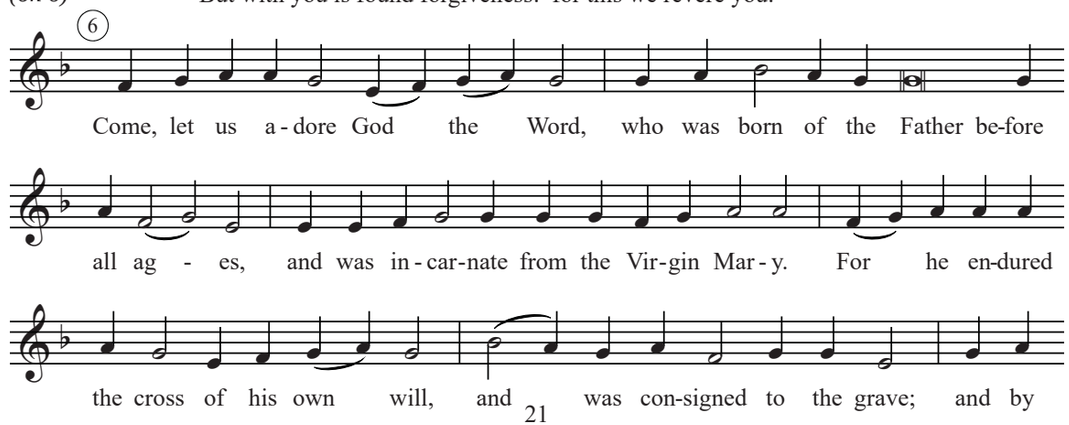
On the evening of Pascha
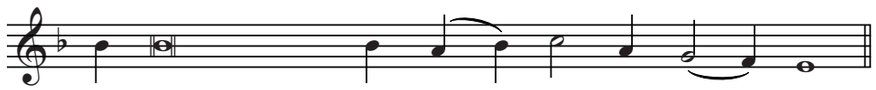
Psalm 140 - *Tone 2 samohlasen*



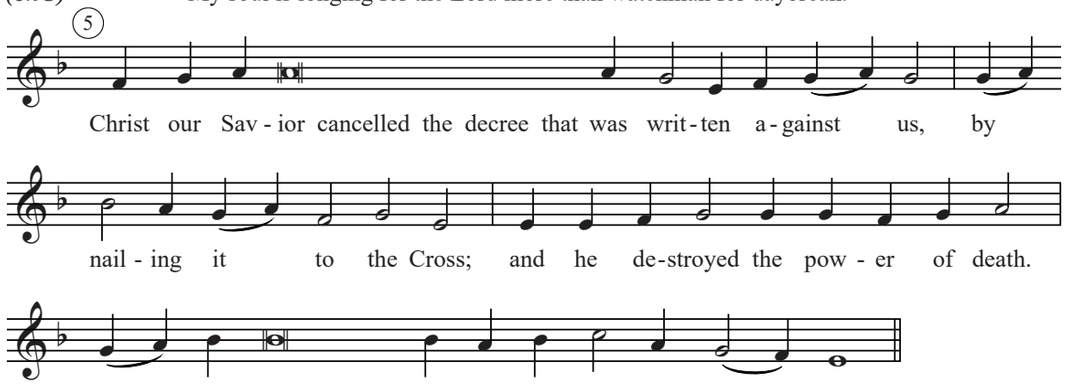
The recited verses begin on page 7.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

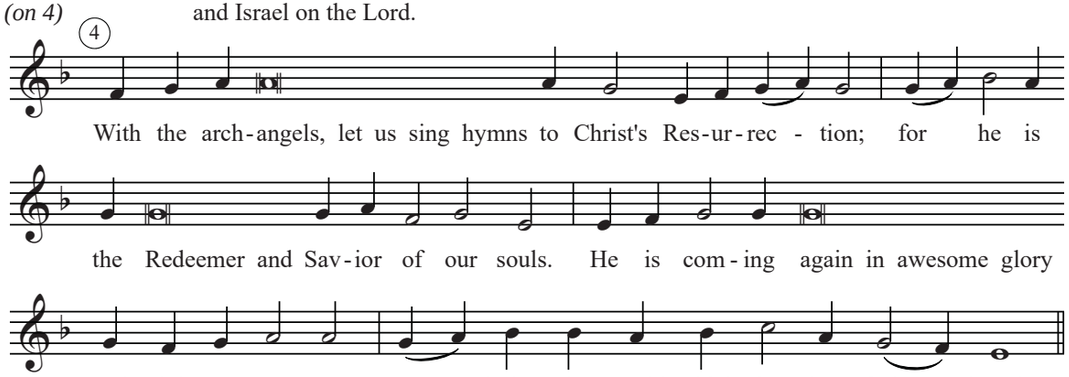




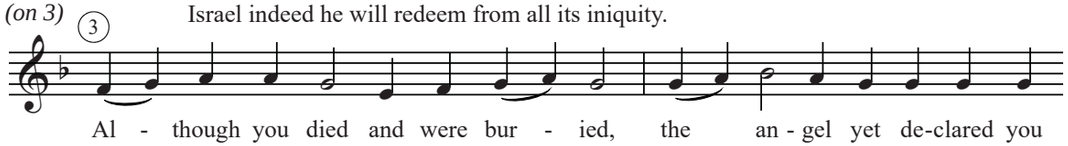
Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.



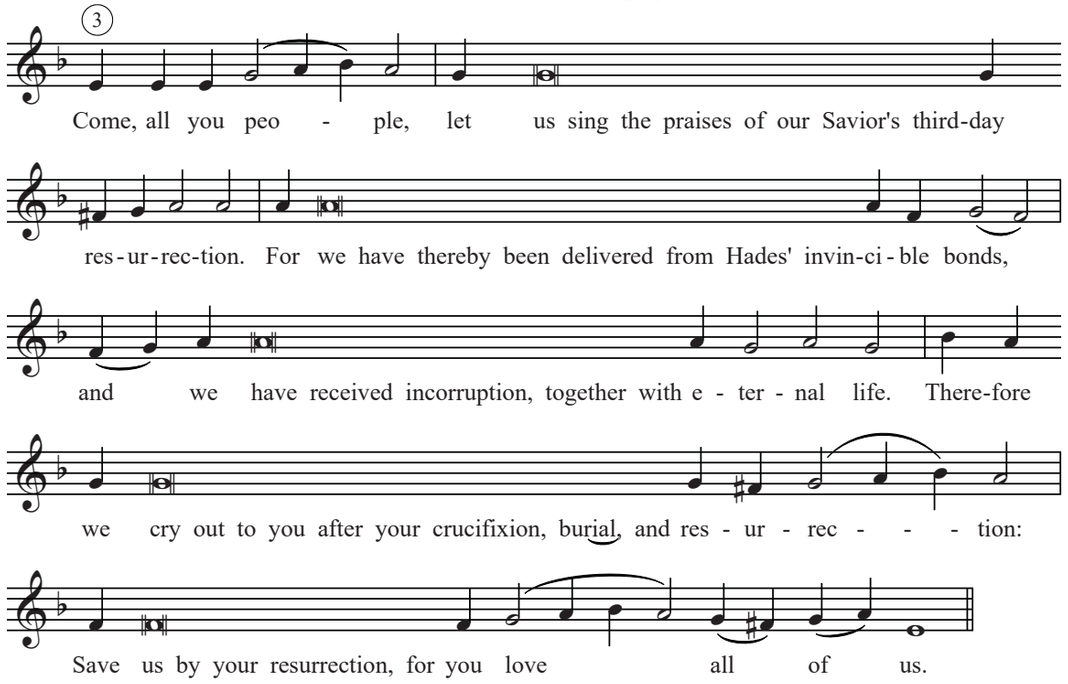
Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.



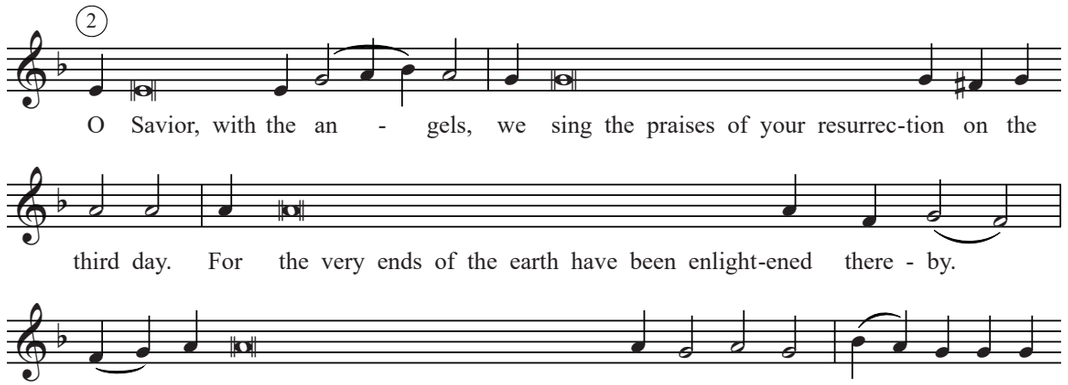
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
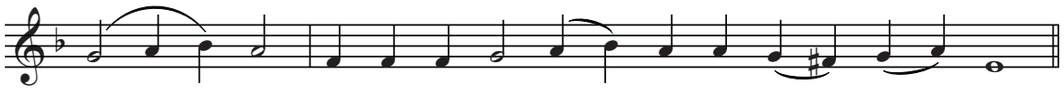


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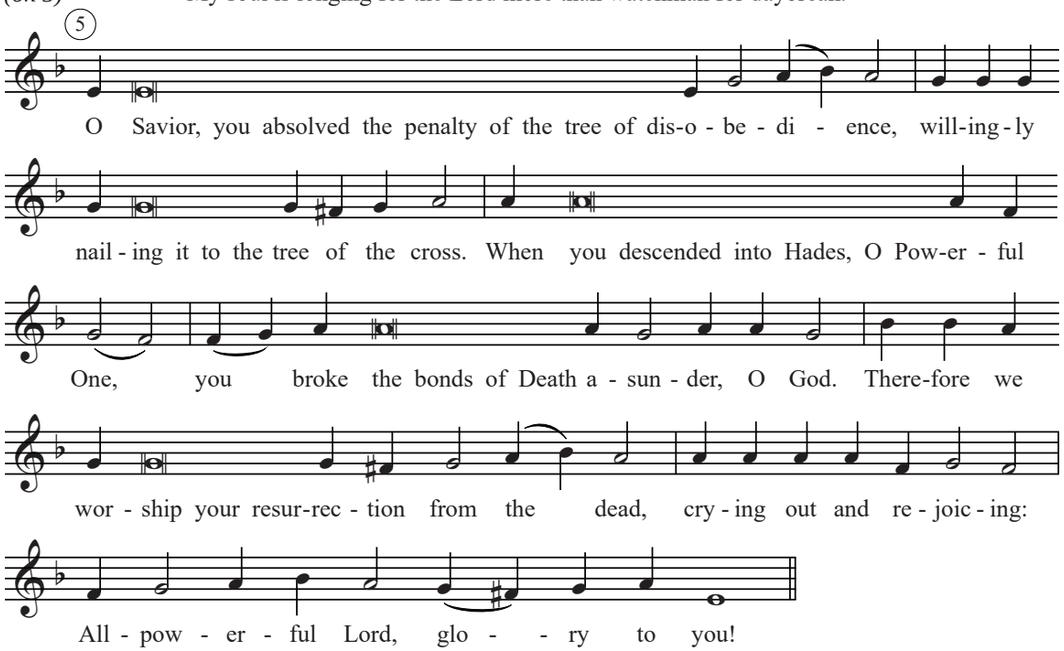


Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

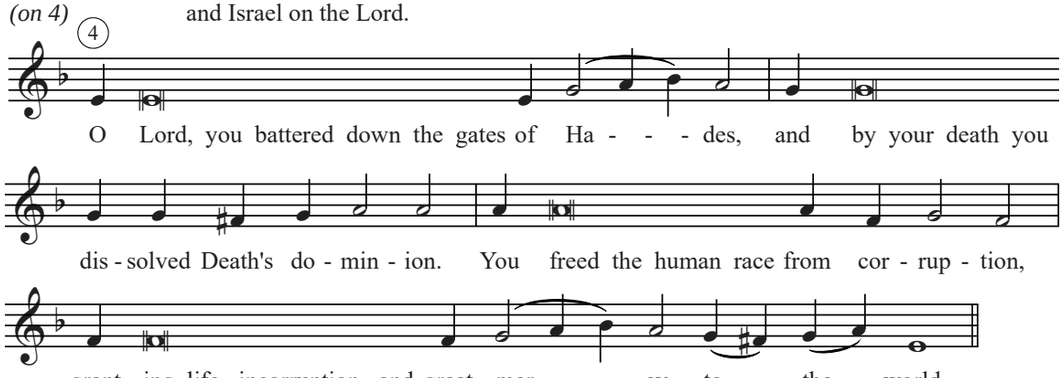


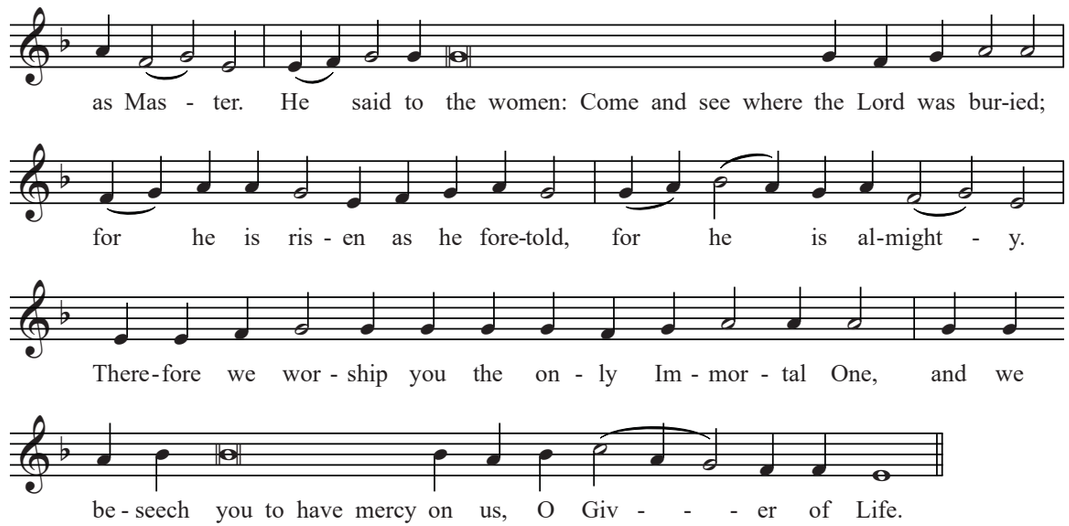


Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

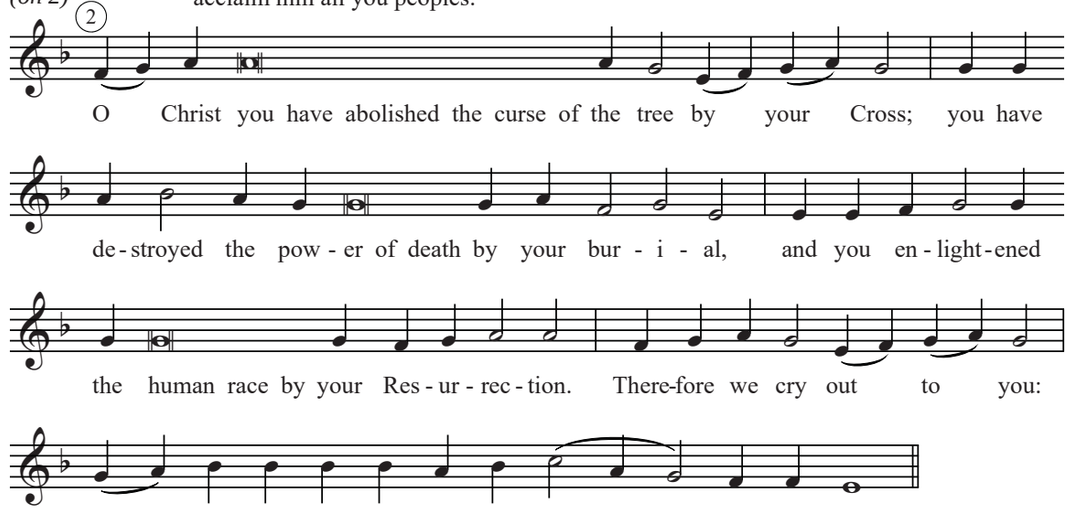


Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

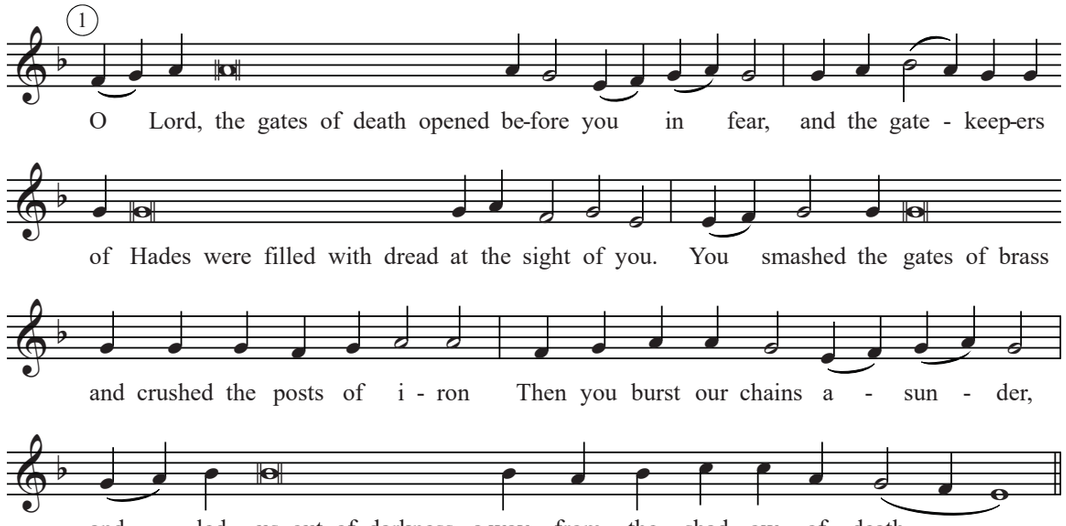




Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

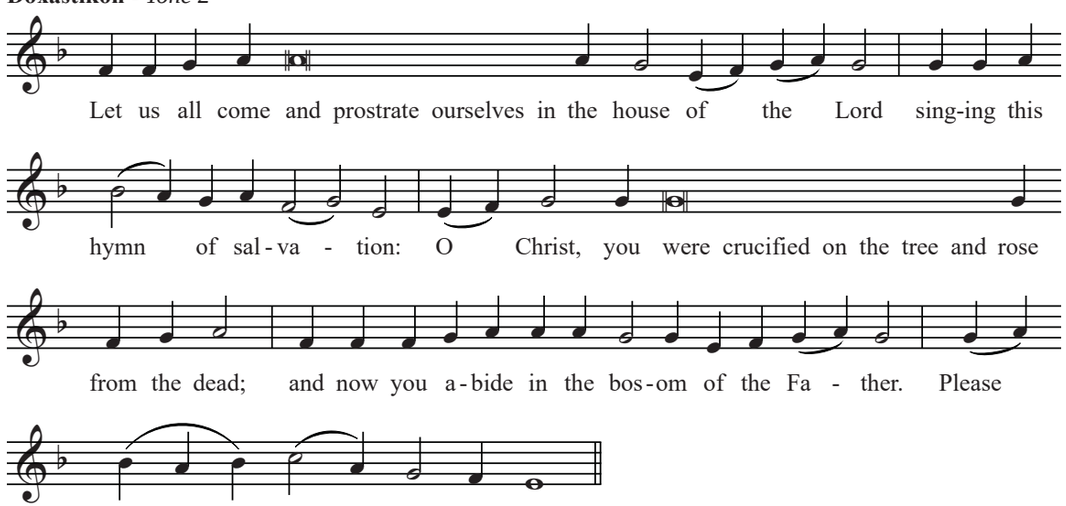


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



Cantor: *(Tone 2)* Glory…

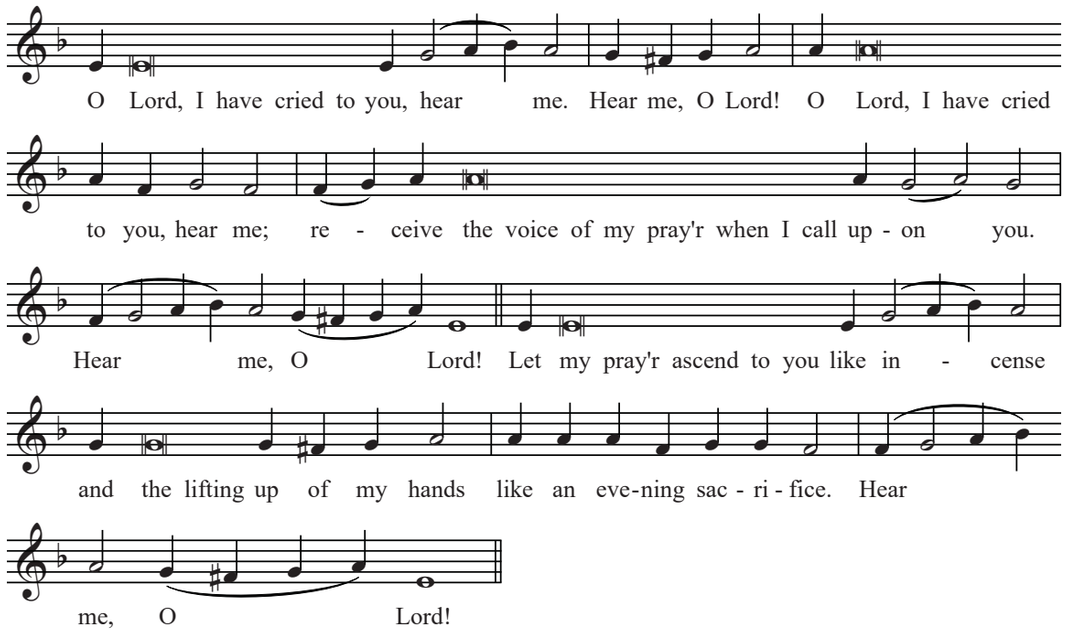
Doxastikon - *Tone 2*



Cantor: Now and ever...

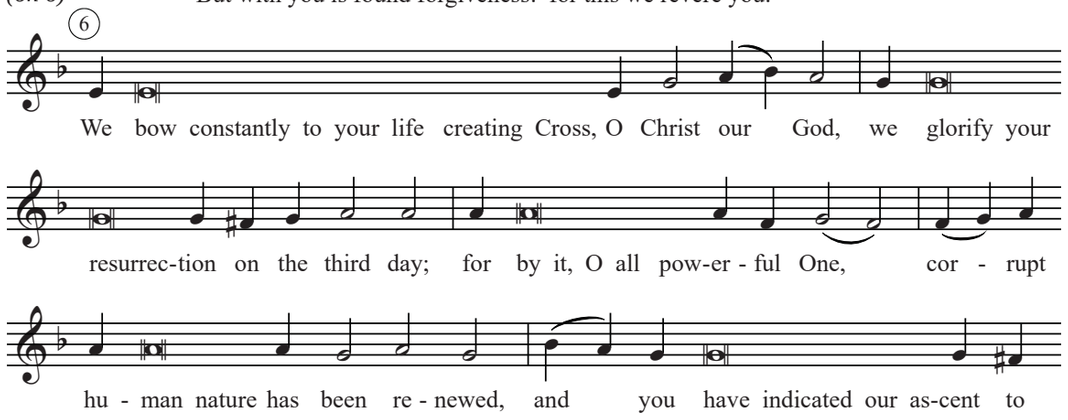
On Tuesday evening

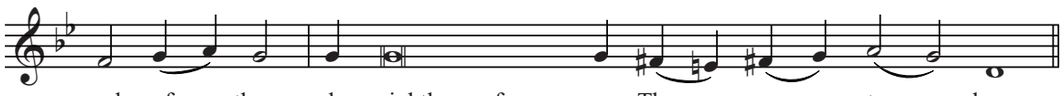
Psalm 140 - *Tone 4 samohlasen*



The recited verses begin on page 7.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

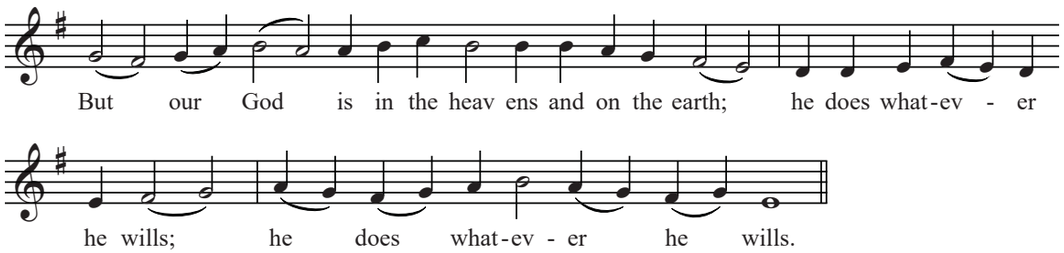




The service continues on page 9.

Prokeimenon (Monday evening)

Great Prokeimenon of Bright Monday - *Tone 7* (Psalm 113: 11, 1-3, 5)



Deacon: When Israel came forth from Egypt, Jacob's sons from an alien people,
Judah became the Lord's temple.

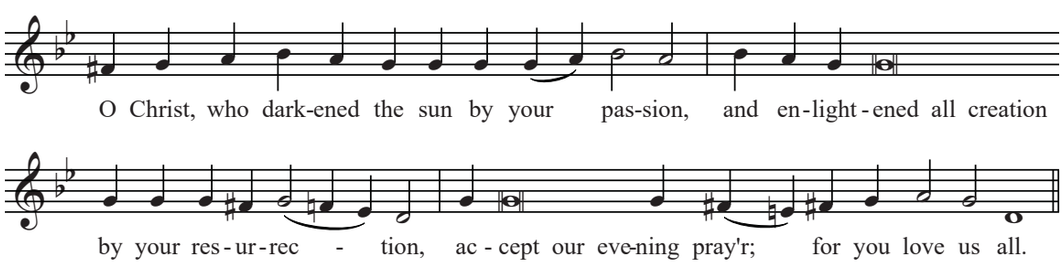
Deacon: The sea fled at the sight; the Jordan turned back on its course.

Deacon: Why was it, sea, that you fled? that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.

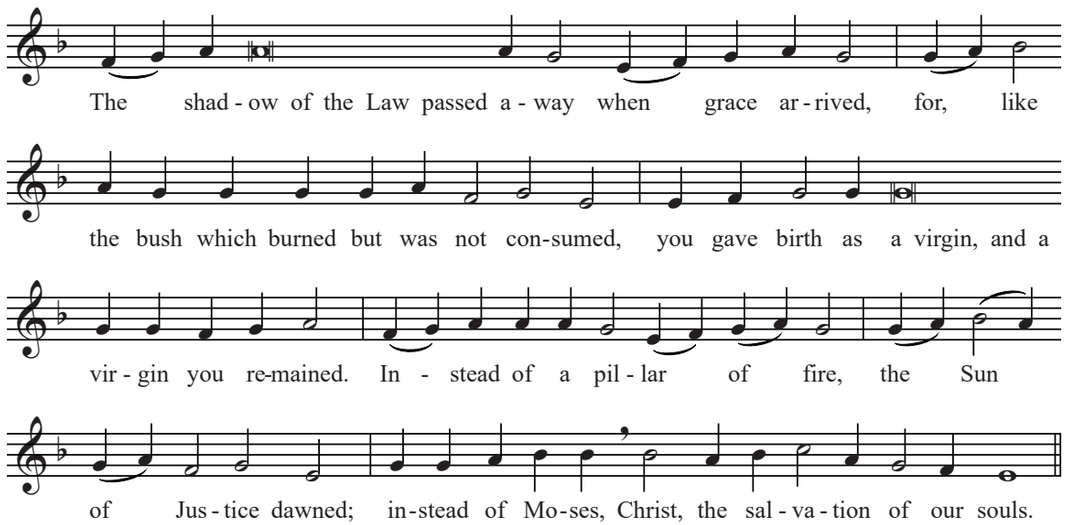
Aposticha

Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 3*



Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.
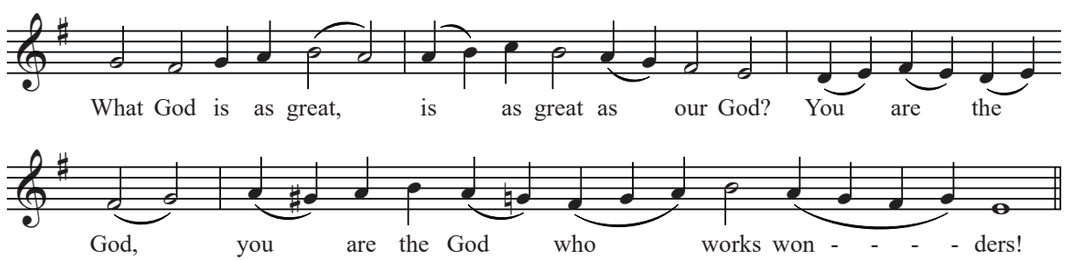
Dogmatikon - *in the same tone*



The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening on page 9.

Prokeimenon and Gospel (Evening of Pascha)

Great Prokeimenon of Pascha - *Tone 7* (Psalm 76: 14-16, 11, 12)
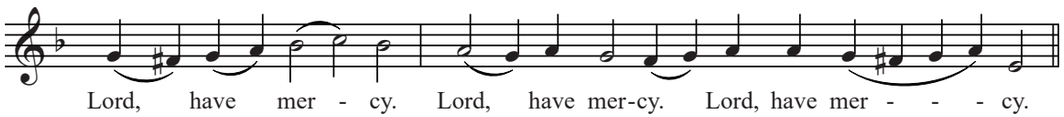


Deacon: You showed your power among the peoples.

Deacon: I said: Now I begin, and this is the will of the Most High

Deacon: I remember the deeds of the Lord. I remember your wonders of old.

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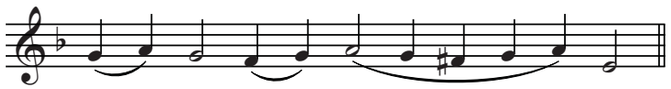
Response:



Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
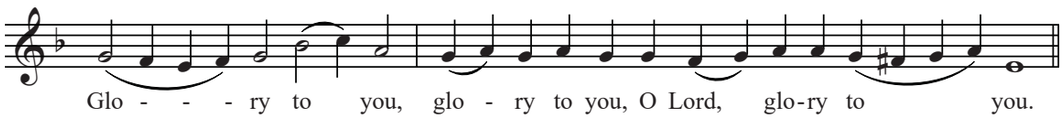
Priest: Peace ✠ be to all!

Response:



Priest: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist John.
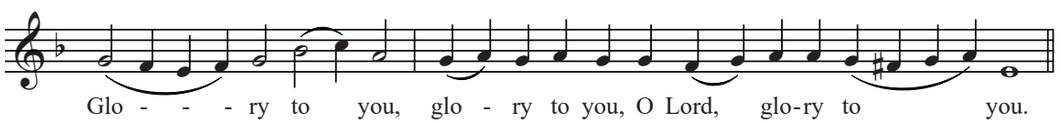
Response:



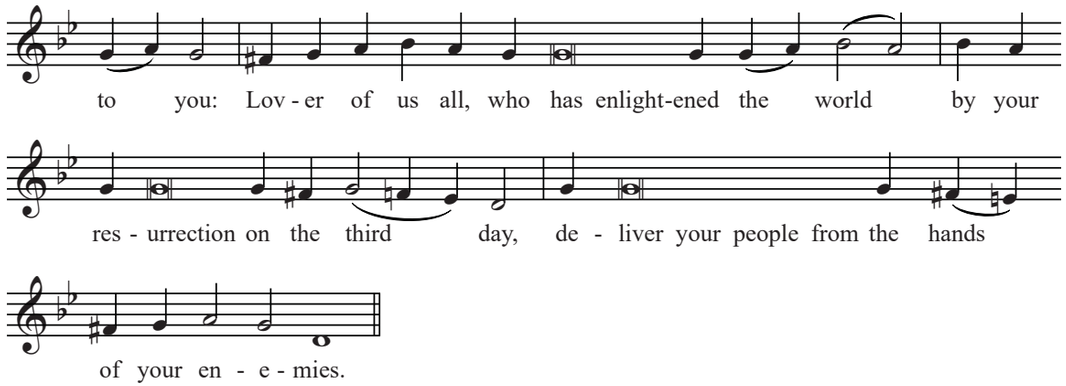
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The priest reads John 20: 19 - 25.

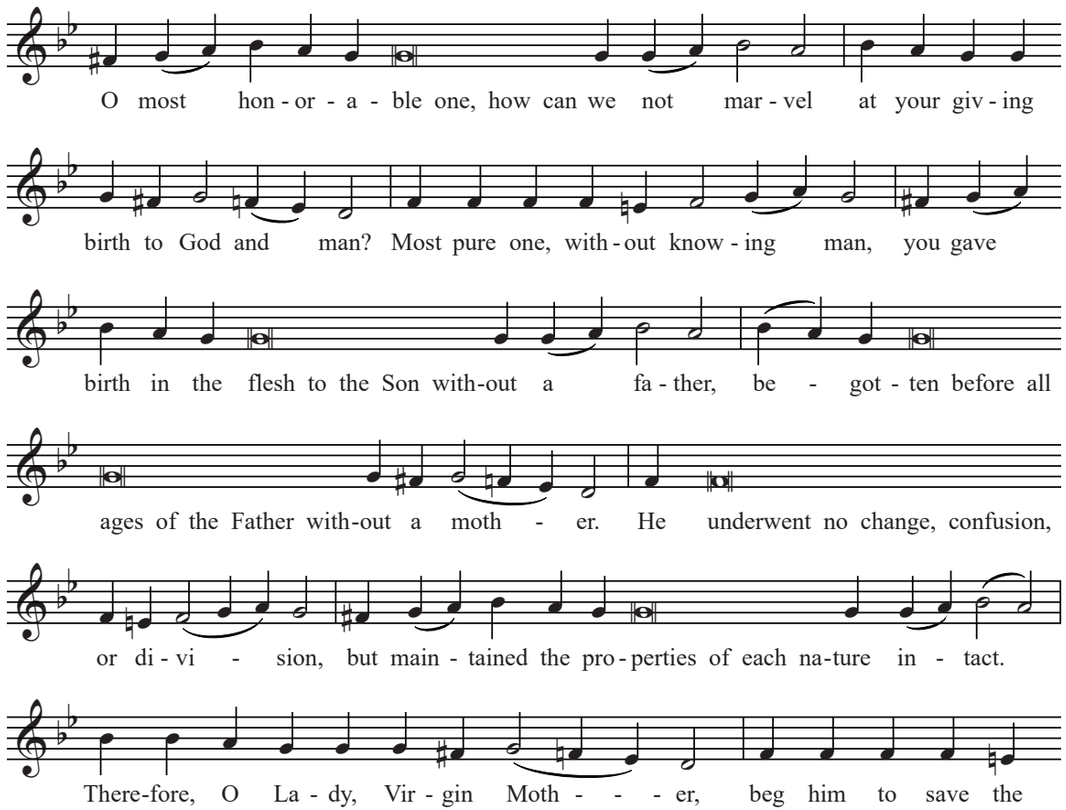
Response:



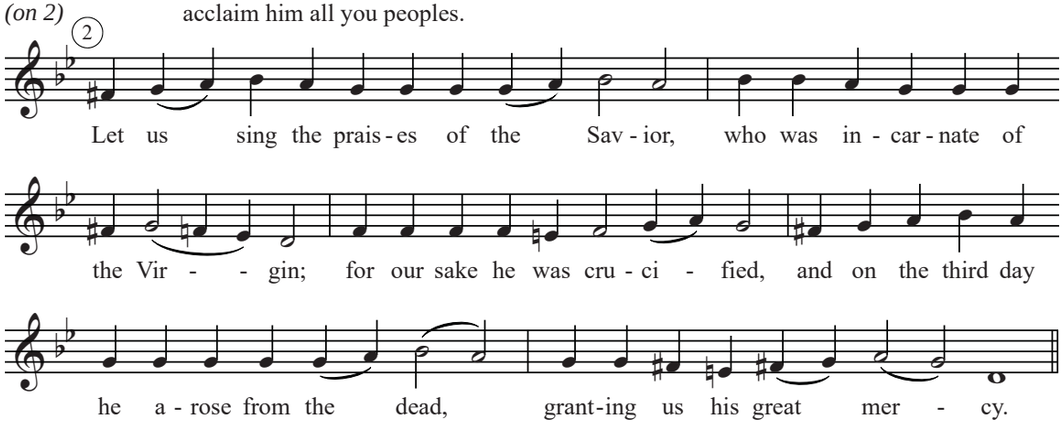
The service continues with the Litany of Fervent Supplication on page 10.



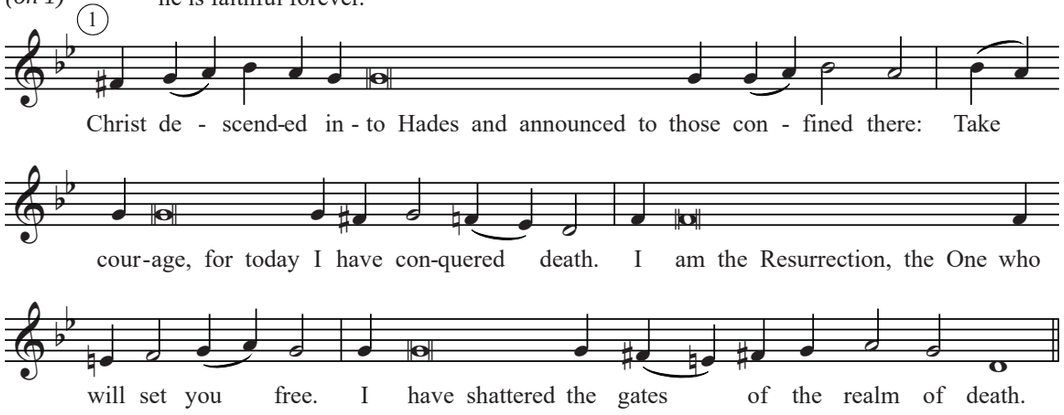
Cantor: Now and ever...



Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.

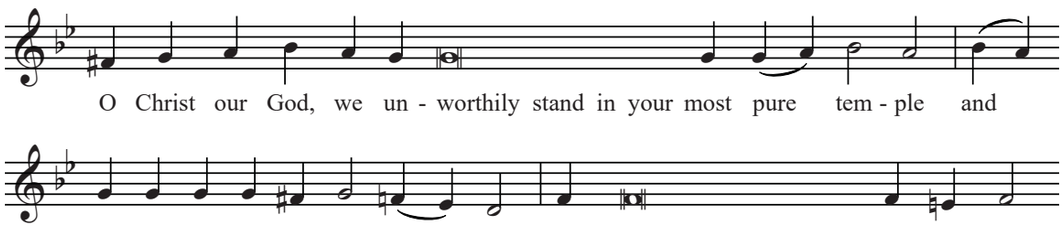


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
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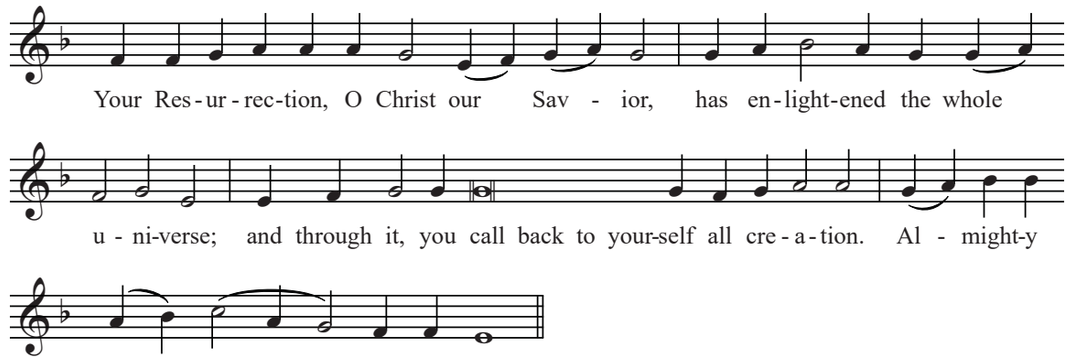
Cantor: Glory…

Doxastikon - *Tone 3*



Aposticha

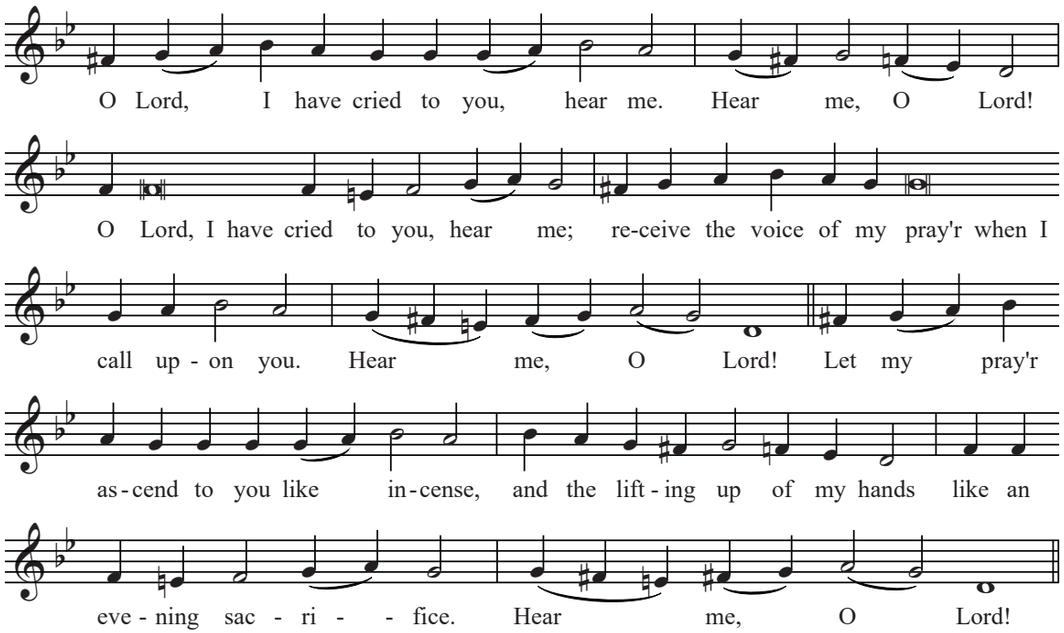
Apostichon of the Resurrection - *Tone 2*



Continue with the Paschal stichera on page 15.

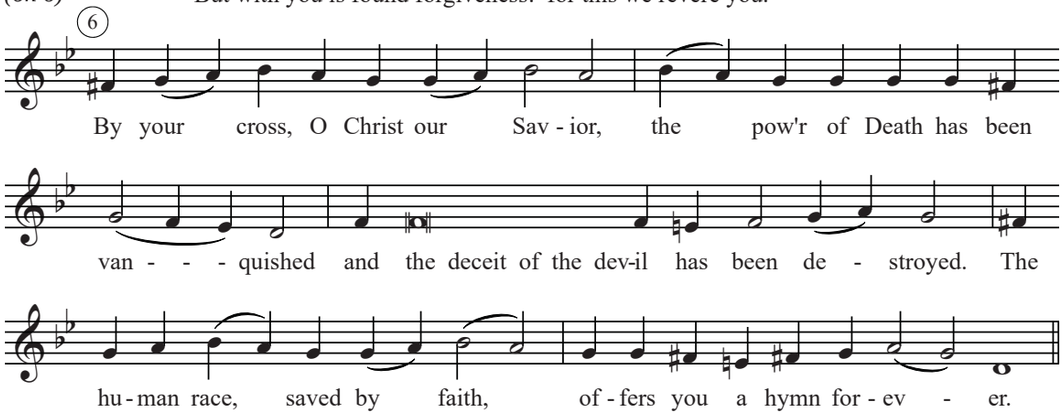
On Monday evening

Psalm 140 - *Tone 3 samohlasen*

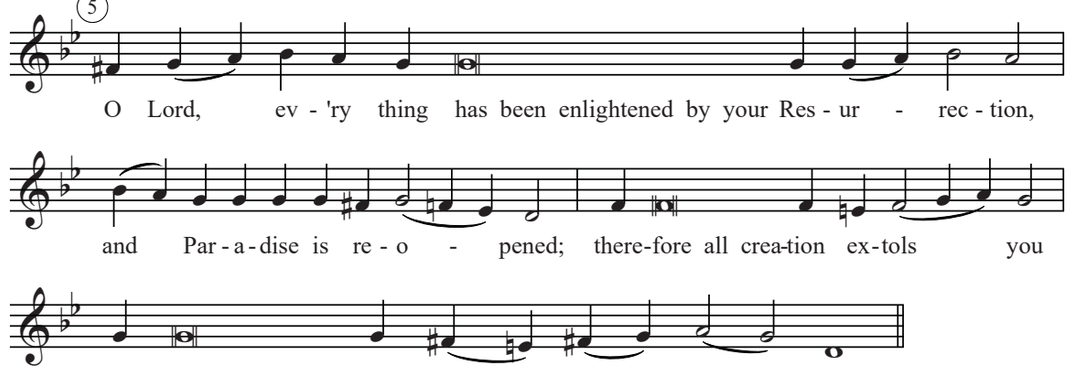


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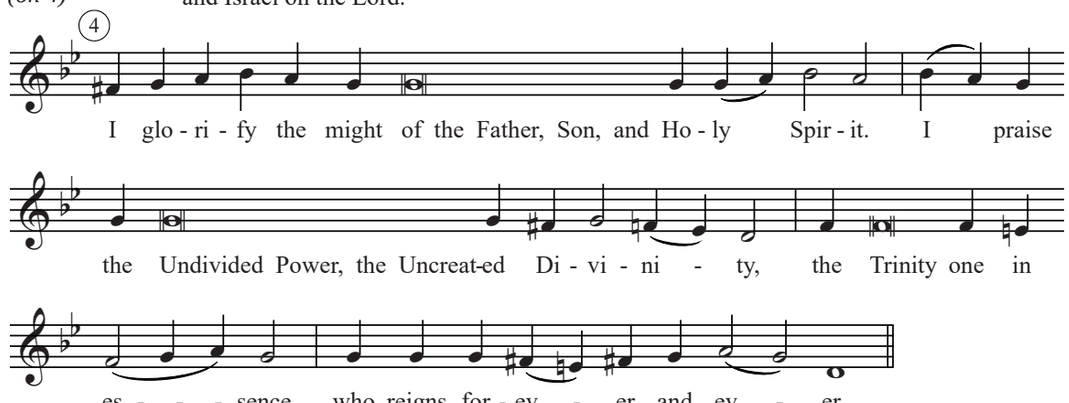
Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.



Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
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Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
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Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

