The Order of Great Compline for the Feast of the NATIVITY of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ



Together with the Propers for the Divine Liturgy of the Nativity, and Traditional Hymns for the Feast in English and Slavonic

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
December 2010

In the tradition of the Byzantine Rite, the night-time vigil for the feast of the Nativity consists of :

- the service of Great Compline
- the litija procession, with prayers for the world
- the service of Matins, with the Gospel of the Nativity, and the Great Doxology which begins with the words of the angels, announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem: “Glory to God in the highest!”

This booklet provides that portion of the service which was printed by Father William Levkulic in 1969, bearing the title “Christ is born – Glorify Him.”

The texts used by Father Levkulic have been updated where necessary to bring them into conformity with translations officially promulgated for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. The music has been prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, following the standard established by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission.

Until such time as the full vigil of Christmas is officially promulgated for use in our churches, we hope that this booklet will serve as a useful replacement for Monsignor Levkulic's service book. To that aim, the other materials in the previous booklet – the propers for the Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day, and a selection of carols and hymns in English and Slavonic – have also been included.

See the website of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute for more information about the services for the Nativity and their music:

www.metropolitancantorinstitute.org

The icon image on the cover is taken from the Roman edition of the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (1950).

Troparion of the Nativity

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Roždestvó Tvojé, Christé Bóže naš, vozsijá mírovi svít rázuma: v nem bo zv’izdám služáščii zvizdóju učáchusja, Tebí kláňatisja Sólncu právdy, i Tebé víď iti s vysotý Vostóka: Hóspodi, sláva Tebí.

Hymn of Great Compline

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

S námi Boh, razumíjte jazýci, i pokarjájtesja: jáko s námi Boh.

Troparion of Theophany

At your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father’s voice bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you appeared and enlightened the world. Glory to you!

Vo Jordáňi kreščájuščusja Tebí Hóspodi, Trójčeskoje javísja poklonénije: rodítelev bo hlas svid’ítel’stvovaše Tebí, vozl’úblennaho Ťa Sýna imenúja, i Duch v víď i holubíňi, izvístvovaše slovesé utverždénije, javléjsja Christé Bóže, i mir prosviščéj, sláva Tebí.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Christós raždájetsja! Slávite Jeho!

O little town of Bethlehem

P. Brooks – L. H. Redner

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O, morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God our King, and peace to men on earth.

Silent night

Joseph Mohr – Franz Gruber

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth!
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

The Celebrant, vested in bright epitrachilion and phelonion, incenses the Holy Table, Icon Screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The Celebrant then stands before the Holy Doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands to his right and says:

Deacon: Give the command!.

People:



or if there is no deacon:

People:



While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the celebrant says:

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

Response:



Come let us worship our King and God.
Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.
Come, let us worship and bow down before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and ***our*** God.

Then the people chant the psalms of Great Compline. (Three of the six appointed psalms are given here). The psalms may be chanted antiphonally - that is, one side of the church taking the first verse, and the other side of the church the next verse, and so on. The deacon returns to the altar.

Psalm 4

Joyful confidence in the Lord

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.
We have been signed, O Lord, with the light of ***your*** face.
You have put into my heart a greater joy
than they have from abundance of wheat, wine, ***and*** oil.

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

Psalm 6

Prayer in times of trial

Lord, do not reprove me in your anger;
punish me not in ***your*** rage.
Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength;
Lord, heal me, my body is racked;
my soul is racked ***with*** pain.

But you, O Lord, how long?
Return, Lord, rescue ***my*** soul.
Save me, O Lord, in your merciful love;
for in death no one remembers you;
from the grave, who can give ***you*** praise?

I am exhausted with my groaning;
every night I drench my pillow with tears;
I bedew my bed ***with*** weeping.
My eye wastes away with grief;
I have grown old surrounded by ***my*** foes.

Leave me, all you who do evil;
for the Lord has heard ***my*** weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
The Lord will accept ***my*** prayer.

Joy to the world

Isaac Watts – G. F. Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heavn', and heav'n
and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
rocks, hill and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

O come, all ye faithful

John F. Wade

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Traditional English Christmas Carols

Angels we have heard on high

Anonymous

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hark! the herald angels sing

C. Wesley – Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled."
  Joyful, all ye nations rise,
  Join the triumph of the skies.
  With angelic hosts proclaim:
  Christ is born in Bethlehem!
  Hark! the herald angels sing,
  "Glory to the newborn King!

It came upon the midnight clear

E. Sears – R. S. Willis

It came upon the midnight clear
The glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heav'n's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

All my foes will retire in confusion,
  foiled and suddenly ***con***founded.

Psalm 12

Prayer of a sorrowful man

How long, O Lord, will you forget me?
  How long will you hide ***your*** face?
How long must I bear grief in my soul,
  this sorrow in my heart day ***and*** night?

How long shall my enemy prevail?
  Look at me, answer me, Lord ***my*** God!
Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
  lest my enemy say: "I have overcome him";
  lest my foes rejoice to see ***my*** fall.

As for me, I trust in your merciful love.
  Let my heart rejoice in your sav***ing*** help:
Let me sing to the Lord for his goodness to me,
  singing psalms to the name of the Lord, the ***Most*** High.

And again:
Look at me, answer me, Lord my God!
  Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
  lest my enemy say: "I have o***ver***come him."

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
  Now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(reverence)*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(reverence)*

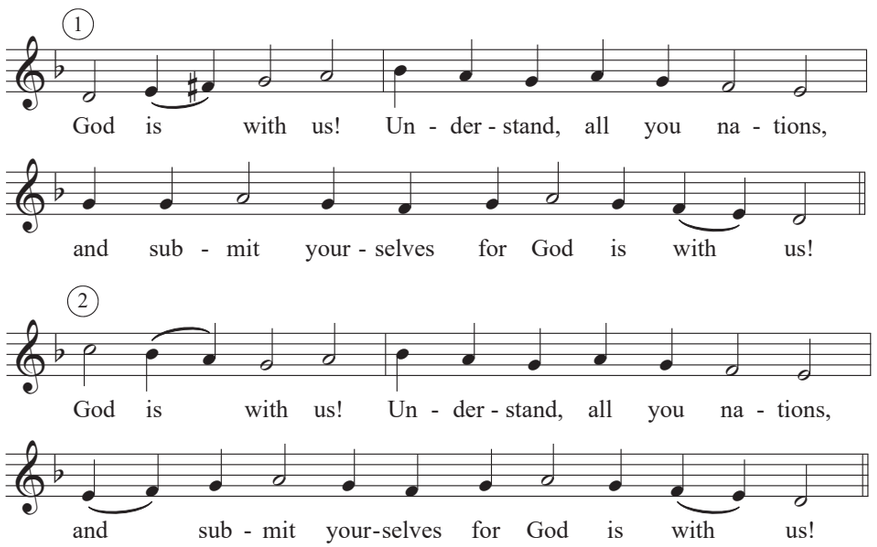
And the last time, all sing together:

reverence



God is with us

The faithful STAND. The clergy sing the following hymn using the first melody, and the people repeat is using the second melody. The people then sing the hymn as a refrain after each verse that the celebrant (or, in some places, the cantor) intones.



Verses:

Give ear all you distant lands, for God is with us. (1)

You mighty ones, submit yourselves, for God is with us. (2)

If you strengthen yourselves again, again you will be defeated, for God is with us. (1)

Form a plan, but the Lord will thwart it, for God is with us. (2)

To Jordan's Water

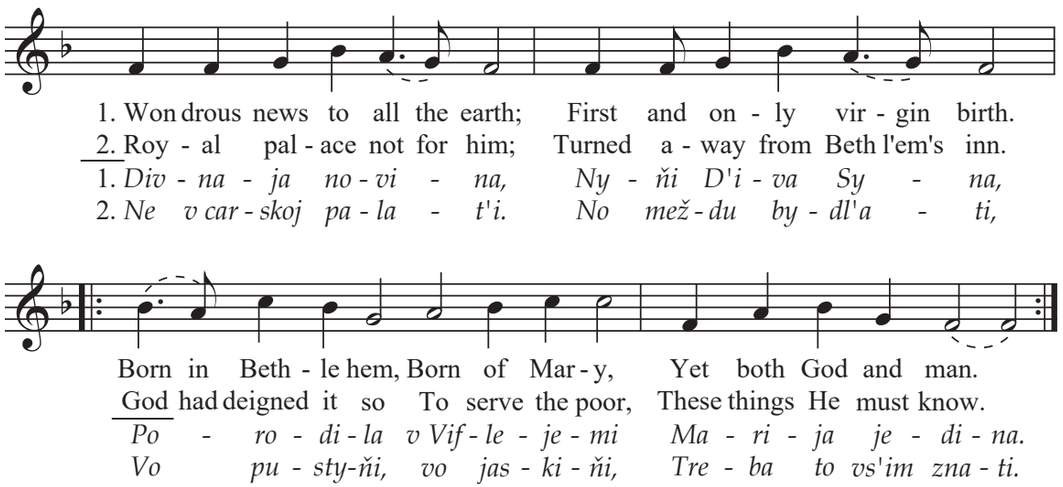
THEOPHANY



Wondrous News

Divnaja novina

NATIVITY



Whatever word you speak will not stand even among yourselves, for God is with us. (1)

We will not fear what you fear nor shall we be dismayed,for God is with us. (2)

Hallow the Lord our God and He will be your fear, for God is with us. (1)

If you trust in Him, He will be your refuge, for God is with us. (2)

We will hope in Him and by Him will we be saved, for God is with us. (1)

Here am I with the children God has given me, for God is with us. (2)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, for God is with us. (1)

Upon you who dwelt in the shadow of death a light has shone, for God is with us. (1)

For a child is born to us; a son is given to us, for God is with us.(2)

Upon His shoulder dominion rests, for God is with us. (1)

Of His peace there is no end, for God is with us. (2)

They call Him Angel of Great Counsel, for God is with us. (1)

Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us. (2)

Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace, for God is with us. (1)

Father of the age to come, for God is with us. (2)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, for God is with us. (1)

Now and ever and forever. Amen, for God is with us. (2)

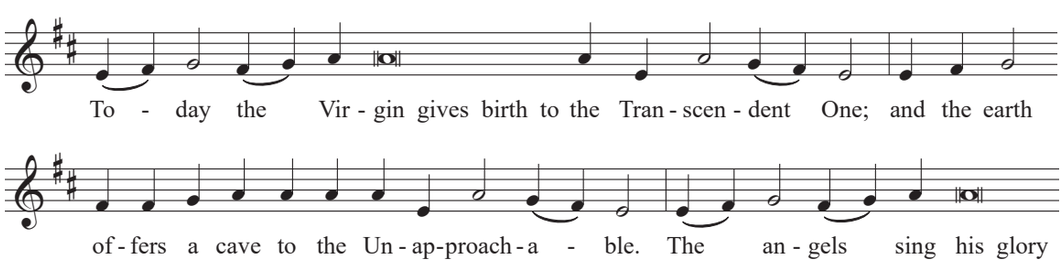
Then the clergy (or cantors) sing "God is with us" once more to the first melody, and the people repeat is using the second melody.

Then the people sing the troparion and kontakion of the Nativity:

Troparion of the Nativiy - *Tone 4*



Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*



Rejoice All Nations

Christos rodilsja, Boh voplotilsja

NATIVITY

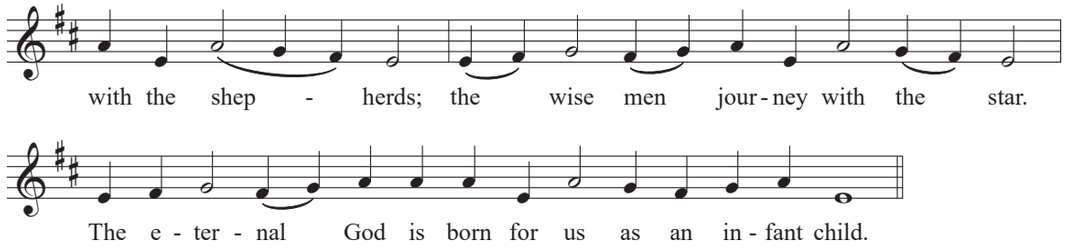


Joyful Tidings Come Our Way

Radost' nam sja javl'ajet

NATIVITY



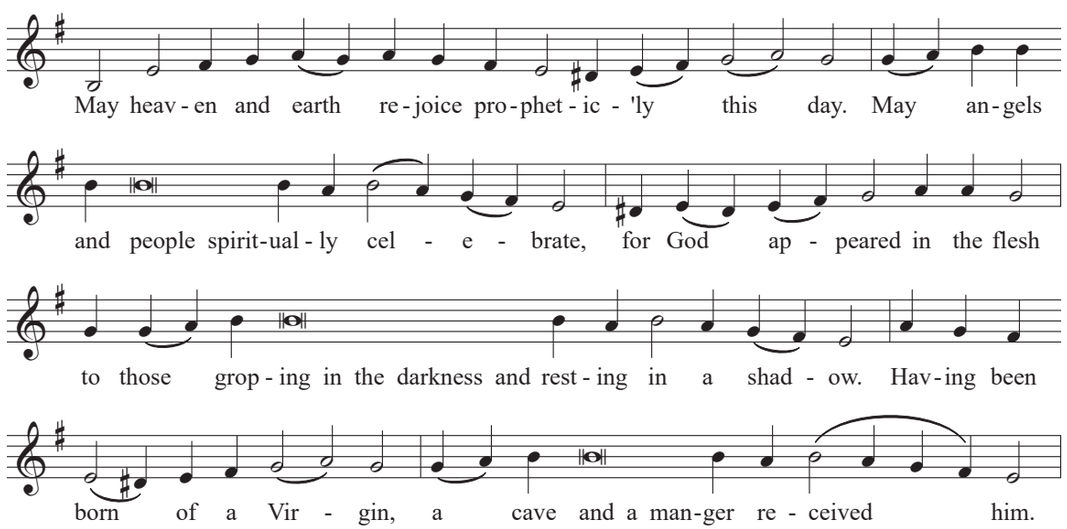


Litija

At this point in the service, the clergy, servers and people go in procession to the narthex (porch or vestibule of the church) to pray for the needs of the whole world. The celebrant takes the hand cross, and the deacon the censer. (If there is no deacon, a server takes the censer.) The celebrant and deacon go around the Holy Table, then through the Royal Doors, and through the center of the Church to the narthex, followed by the servers and people. The Hymns of the Litija are sung during this procession:

By tradition, the Bolhar or Bulgarian melodies are used for these hymns. For settings of these hymns to the samohlasen melodies, see pages 21-22

Tone 1 Bolhar





Joyful News

Nova radost' stala

NATIVITY

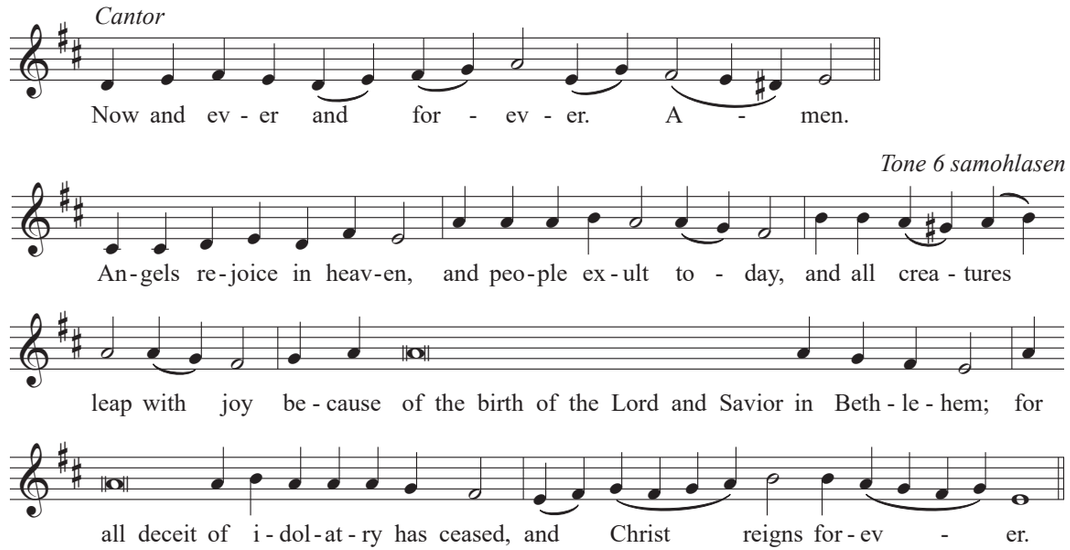


Jesus Came From Heaven

Spas naš narodilsja

NATIVITY



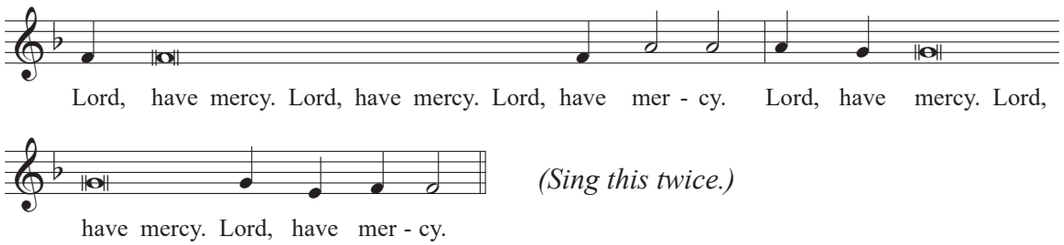


Then the deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) censes the people, and intones the Litany of the Litija:

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 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 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, of the holy _____, patron of this church; of the holy _____ *(saint of the day)*, and of all

the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Response:



(Sing this twice.)

Deacon: 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"*, twelve times, as above.*

Deacon: 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 for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and 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:

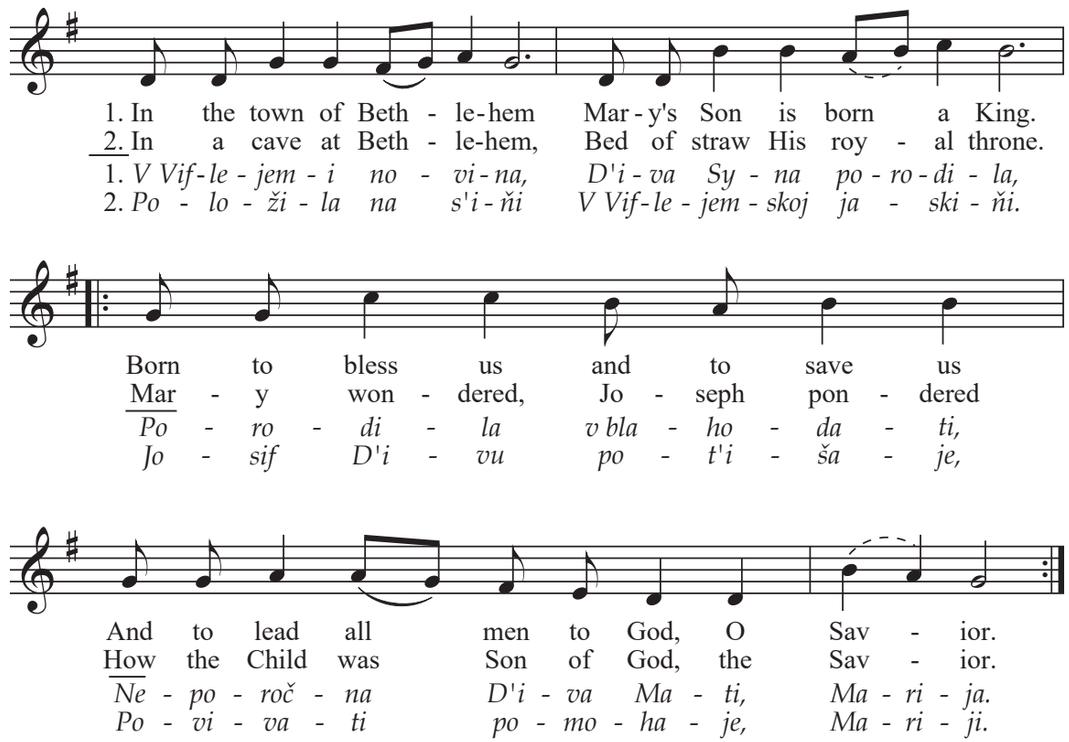
Response: "Lord, have mercy"*, twelve times, as above.*

Celebrant: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and 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.

In the Town of Bethlehem

V Viflejemi novina

NATIVITY



Heaven and Earth

Nebo i zeml'a

NATIVITY



Response:



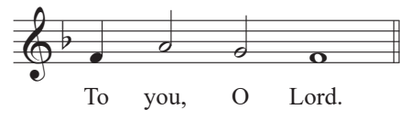
Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response:



Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response:



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; 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; grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far 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 you love us all.

Response:



The clergy, servers, and people make their way in procession back into the nave of the church, as the hymns of the Aposticha (below) are sung. The clergy and servers stand at the tetrapod.

Aposticha

Tone 2 samohlasen



God's Son is Born

Boh sja raždajet

NATIVITY



God the Lord Eternal

Hospod' Boh predvìnyj

NATIVITY



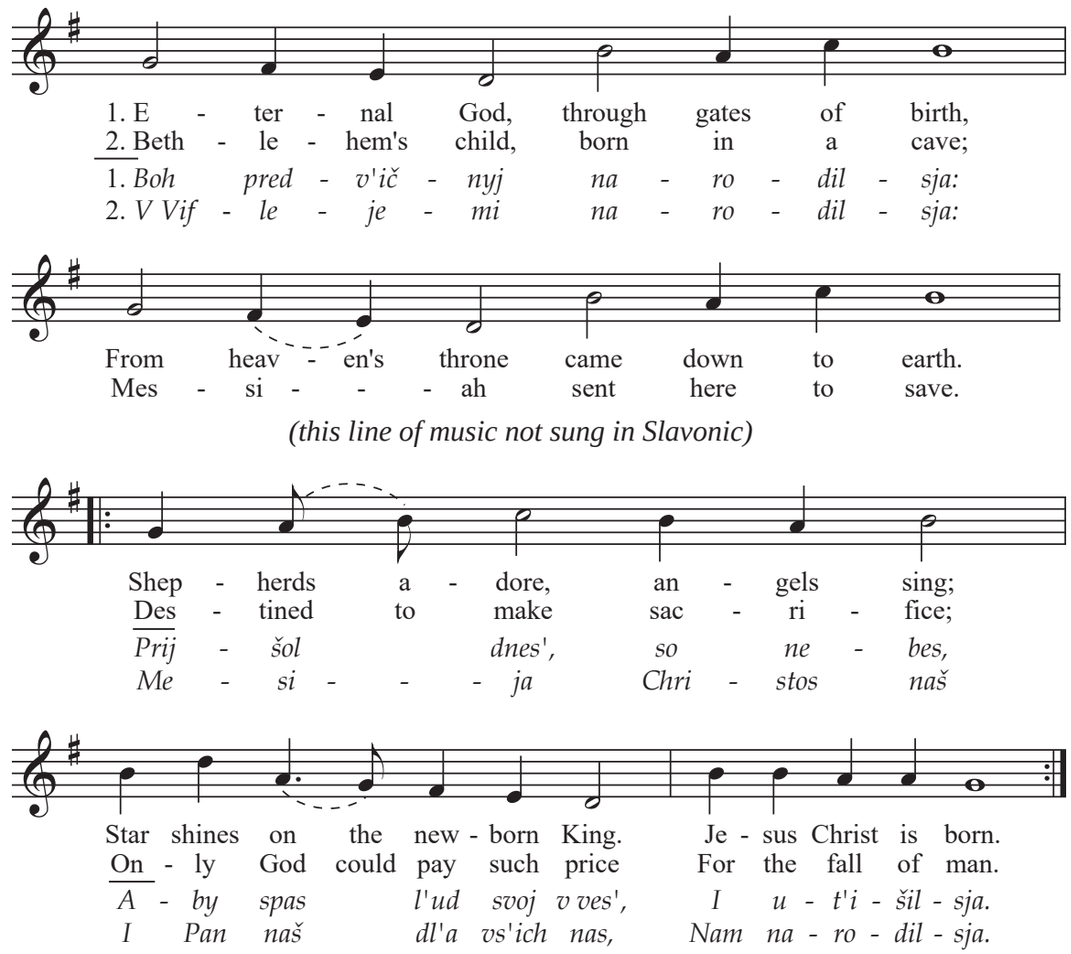




Eternal God

Boh predv'ičnyj narodilsja

NATIVITY



Angels From Heaven

So nebes Anhel

NATIVITY





*The faithful **STAND** while they (or according the local custom, the celebrant) sing the*

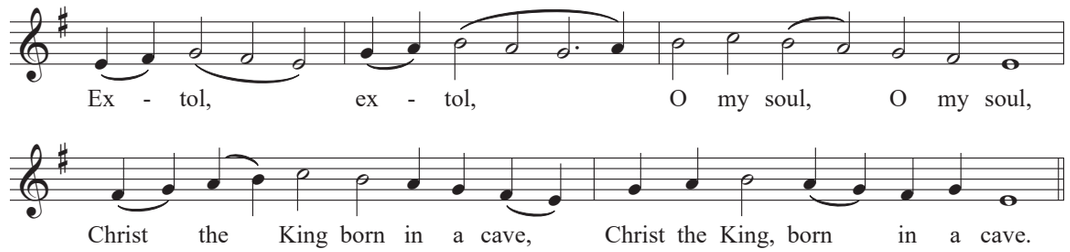
The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon



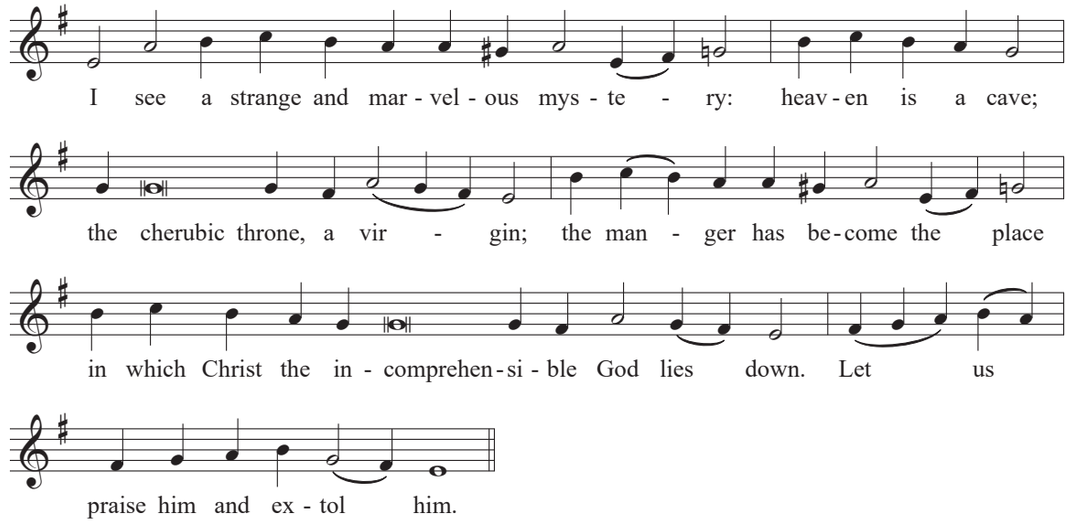
Three times

Instead of "It is truly proper…"

Magnification

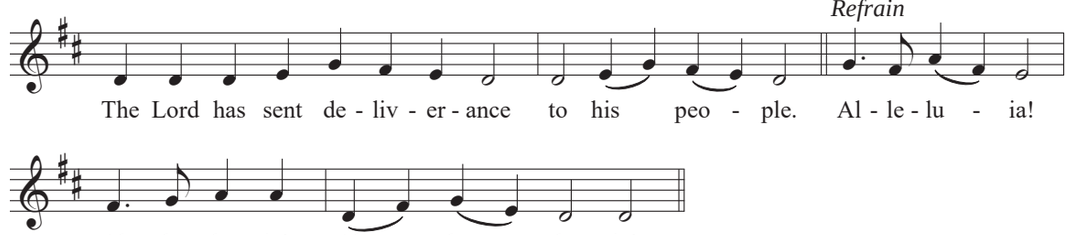


Irmos *Tone 1 samopodoben*



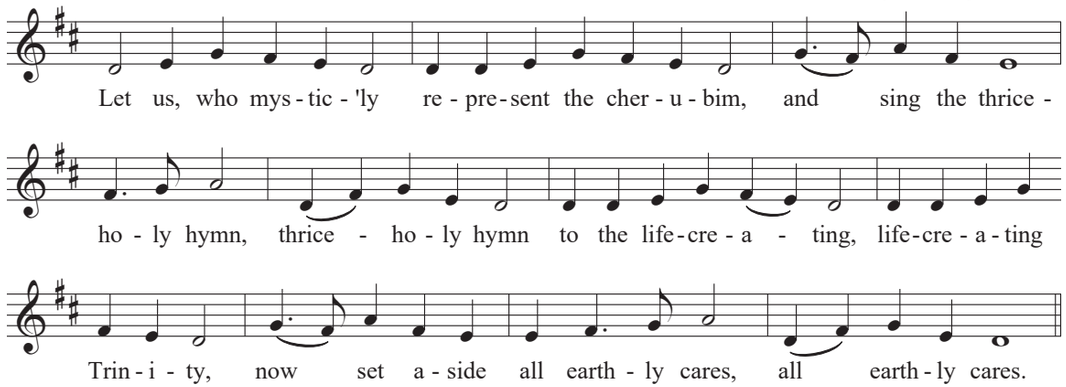
Communion Hymn of the Nativity

Refrain

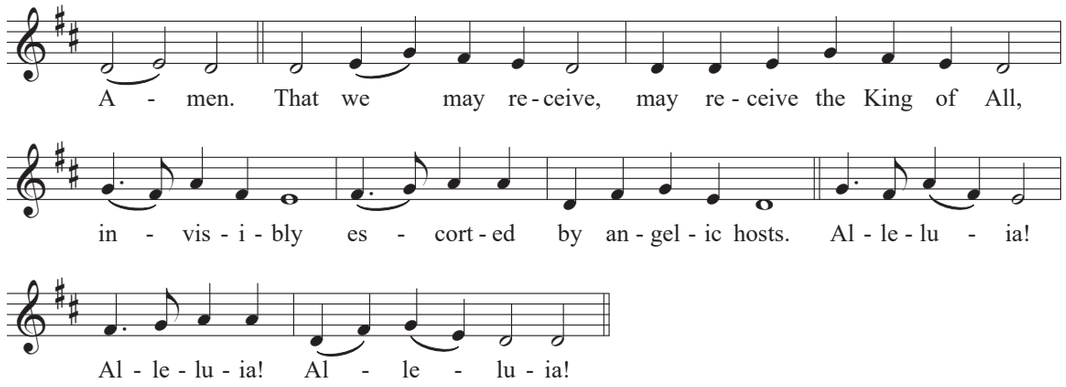


Cherubic Hymn

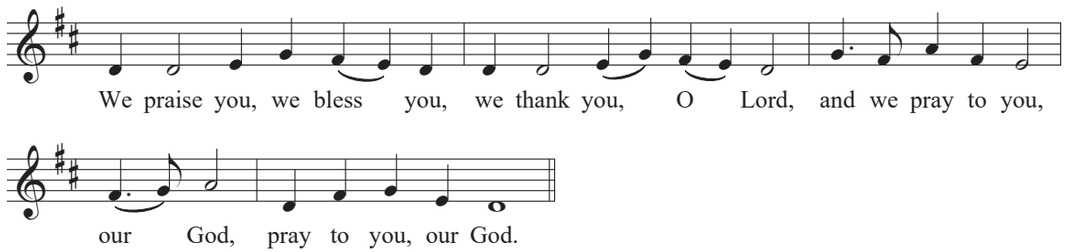
melody: Divnaja novina



After the commemorations:



Anamnesis Acclamation



All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

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. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, ***have*** mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

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.

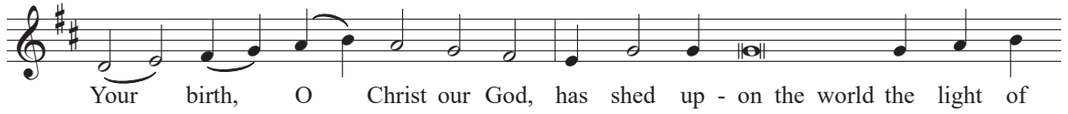
Celebrant: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

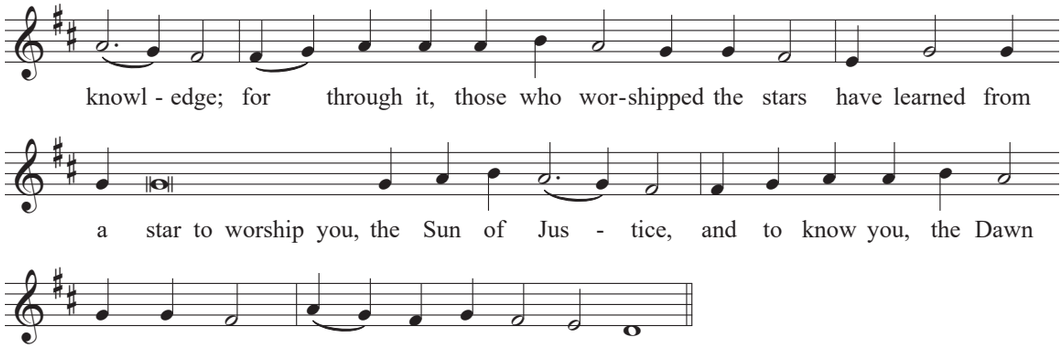
Response:



The Troparion of the Nativity is now sung three times (once by the Celebrant and twice by the faithful) while the Celebrant incenses the four sides of the tetrapod, on which has been placed bread, wheat, wine, and oil.

Troparion of the Nativiy - *Tone 4*





Blessing of Bread

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



Celebrant: 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.

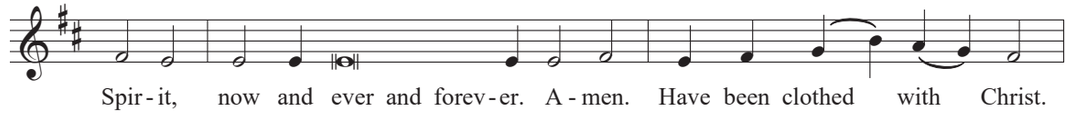
Response:



The celebrant now sings the following:



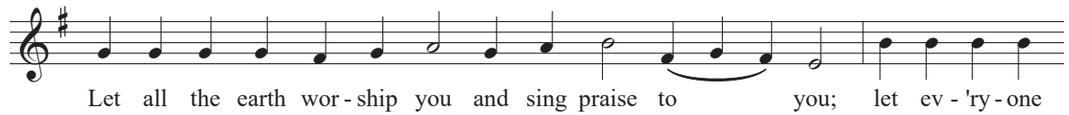
And the people respond with:

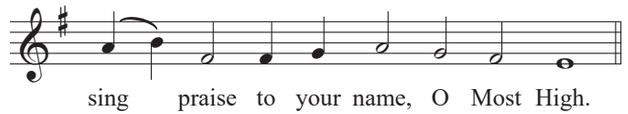




D.C. al Fine

Prokeimenon - *Tone 8* (Psalm 65:4,1,2):





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

Alleluia - *Tone 1* (Psalm 18:2,3):



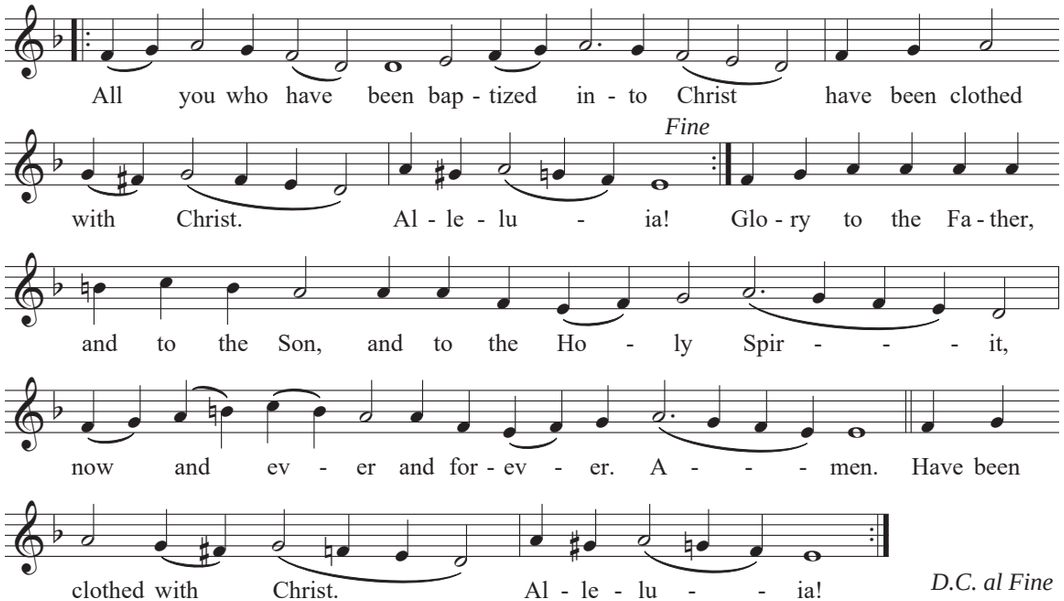


Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Verse: Day unto day pours out the word and night unto night imparts knowledge.



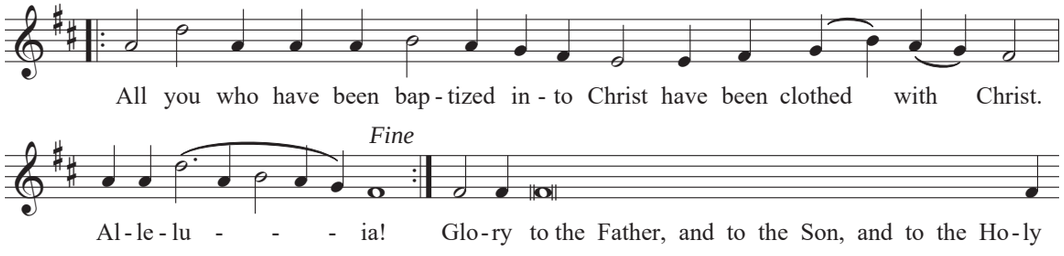
Instead of "Holy God"

Three times: *Rusyn chant*



Or this melody:

Three times: *Galician chant*





The cantor and faithful chant Psalm 33:

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 ***a***bashed.
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 ***re***vere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack ***no*** blessing.

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

Response: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



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

Response:



O God, strengthen the true faith
forever ***and*** ever.

Celebrant: O 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 Theotokotos, we mag***ni***fy.

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

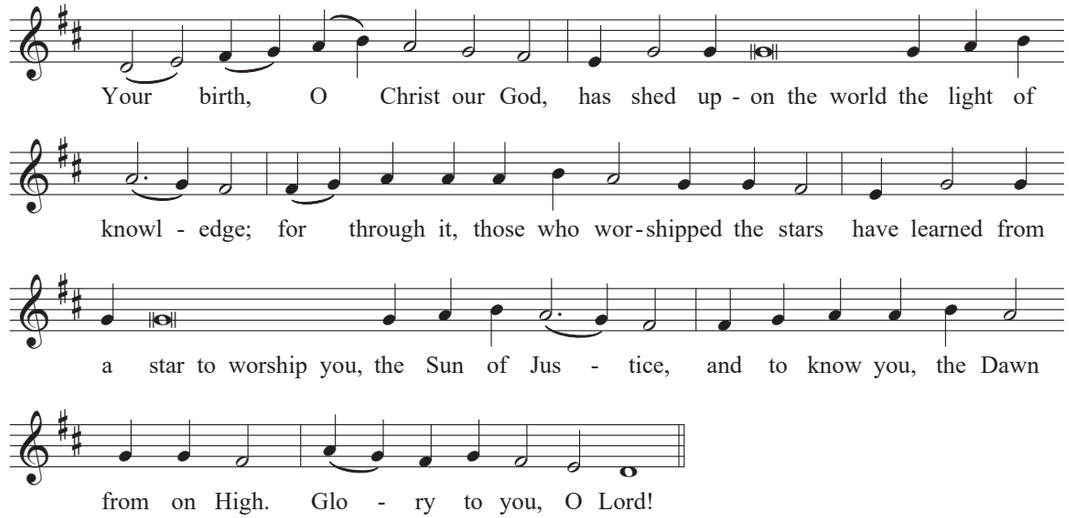
Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Give ***the*** blessing.

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, who for our salvation deigned to be born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea and lay in a manger, have mercy on us and save us … for Christ is good and loves us all.

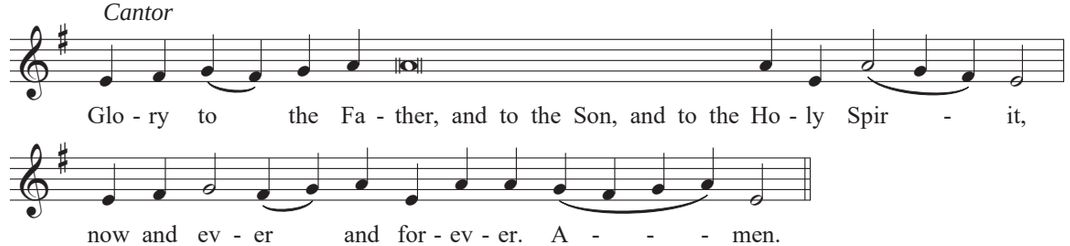
Response:



Troparion of the Nativiy - *Tone 4*



Cantor



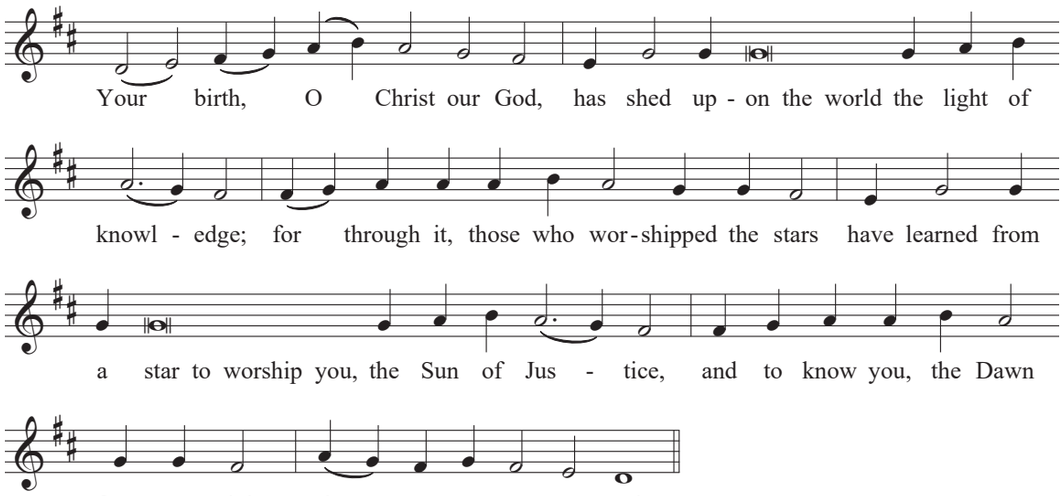
Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*



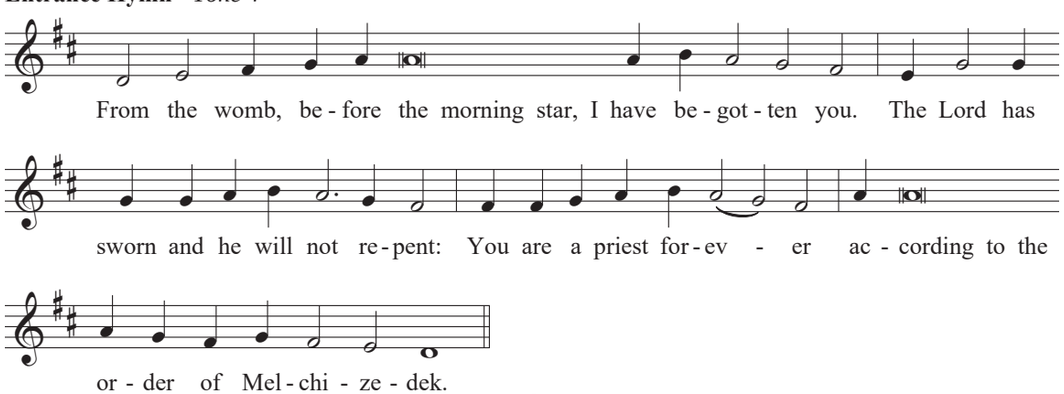
Third Antiphon



Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4*

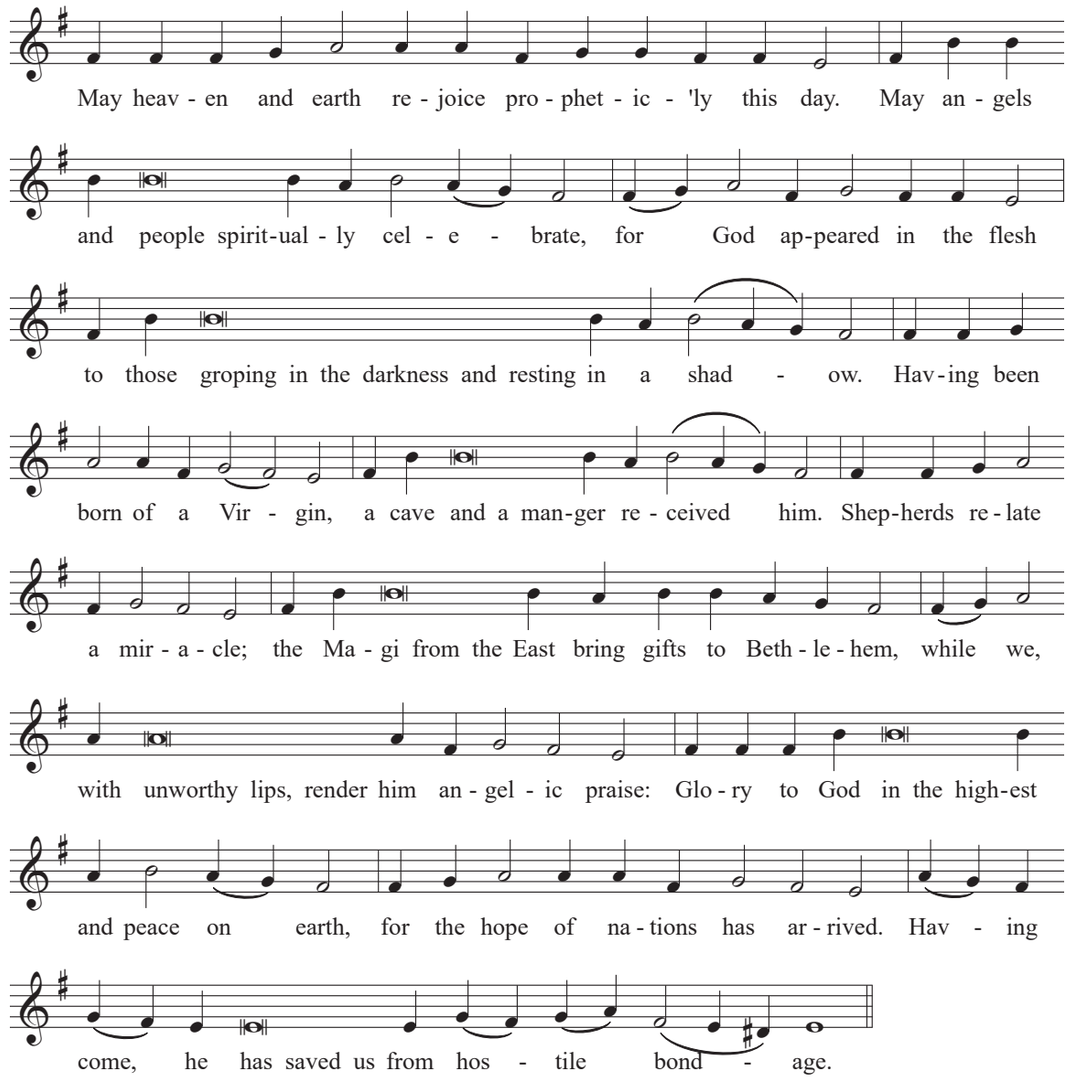


Entrance Hymn - *Tone 4*



Hymns of the Litija (samohlasen melodies)

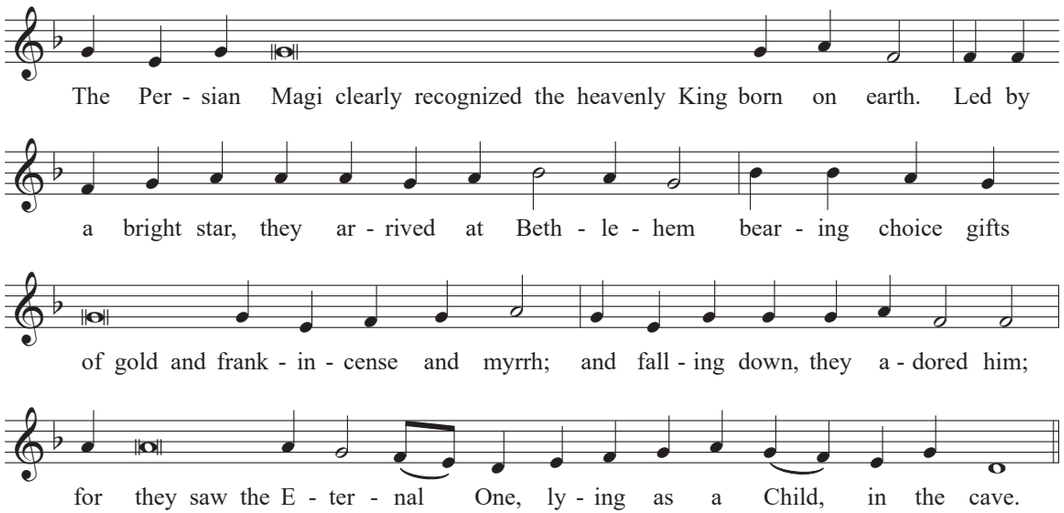
Tone 1 samohlasen



Cantor



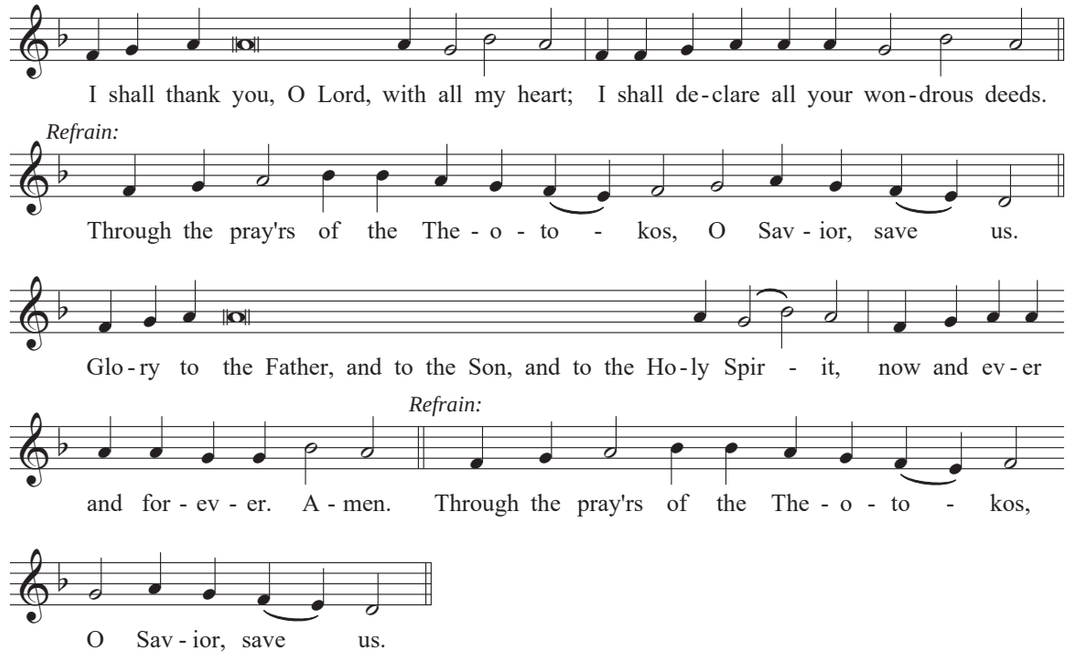
Tone 5 samohlasen



Continue with "Now and ever" at the top of page 9.

Divine Liturgy propers, December 25
Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

First Antiphon



Second Antiphon

