The Office of Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil for Holy and Great Thursday

The faithful STAND when the preparatory rites are completed and the clergy quietly say the prayers before commencing the Divine Liturgy. The holy doors remain closed until the Little Entrance.
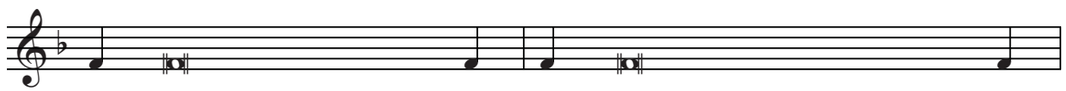
Deacon: Reverend Father, give the blessing.

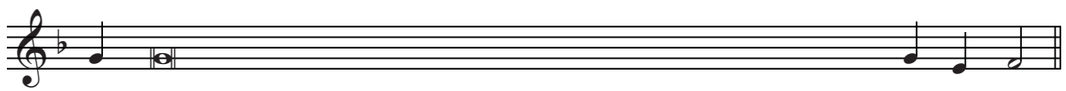
Celebrant: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:



Call to Worship





Psalm 103



clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in ***a*** robe

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
Above the rains you build ***your*** dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of ***the*** wind;

you make your angels spirits
and your ministers a flam***ing*** fire.

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age ***to*** age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:
the waters stood higher than ***the*** mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;
at the voice of your thunder ***they*** fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down
to the place which you had ***ap***pointed.

You set limits they might not pass
lest they return to cover ***the*** earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between ***the*** hills.

They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
the wild asses quench ***their*** thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing ***their*** song.

From your dwelling you water the hills;
earth drinks its fill of ***your*** gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve ***man's*** needs,

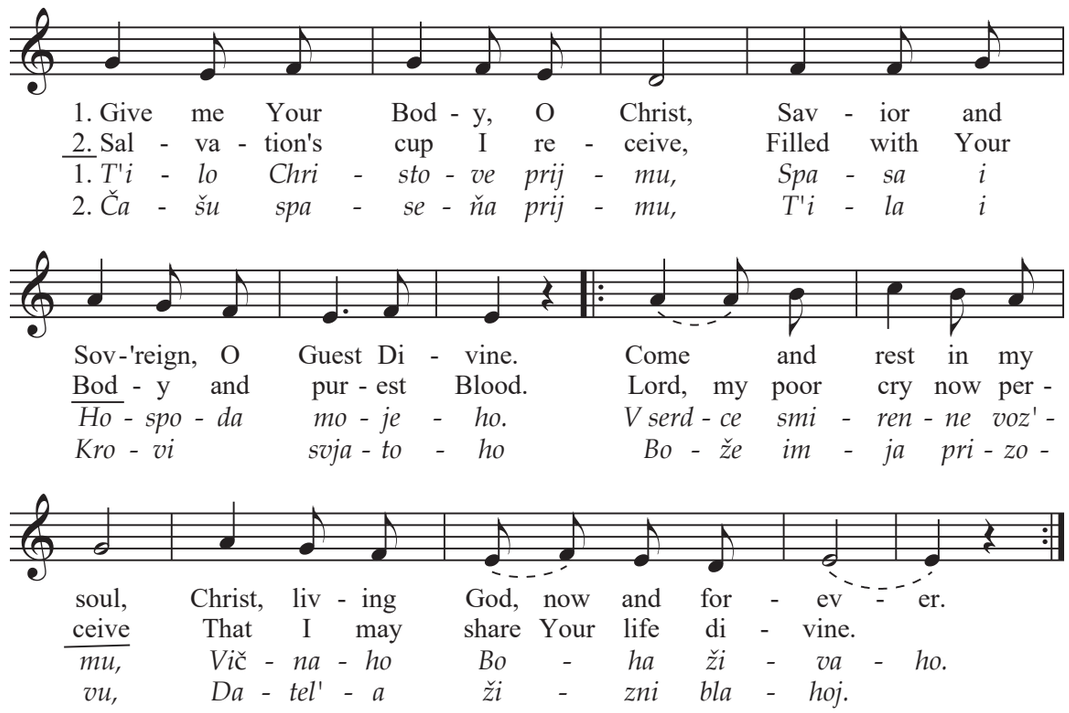
that he may bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer ***man's*** heart;

oil, to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen ***man's*** heart.

Give Me Your Body, O Christ

T'ilo Christove
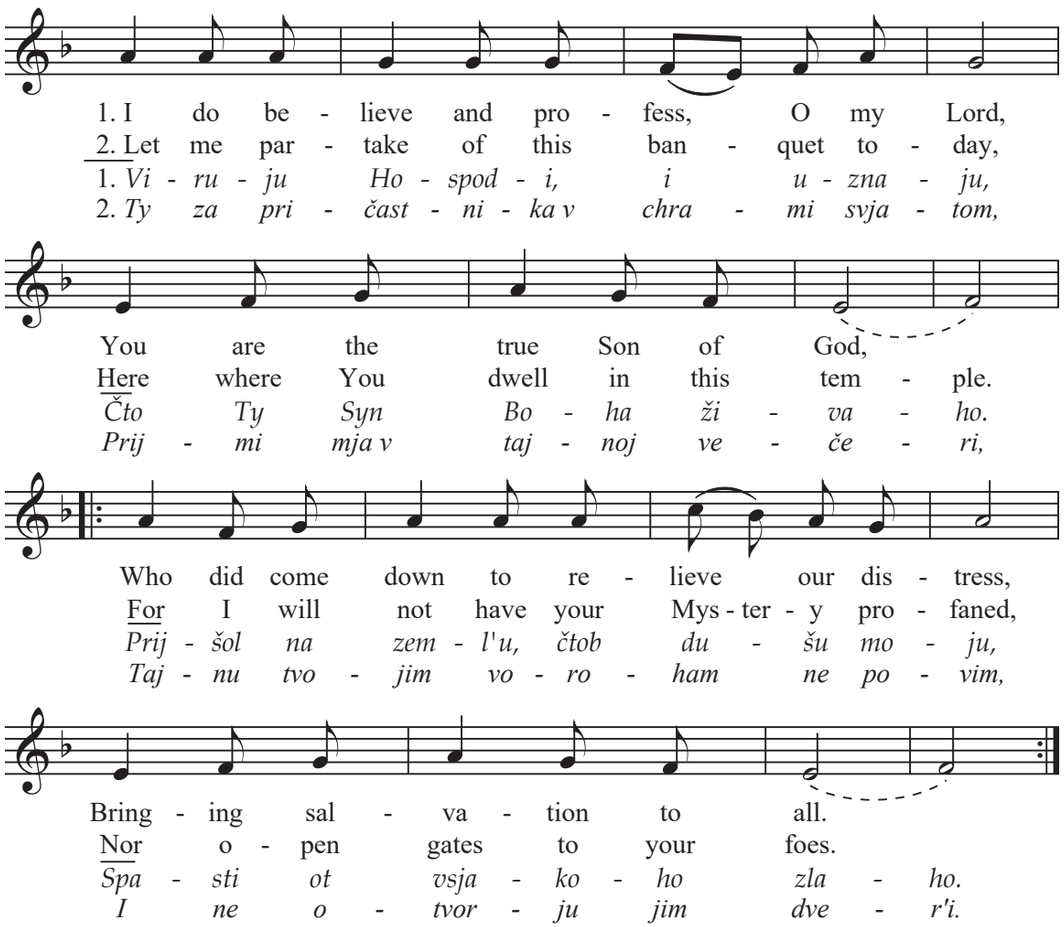
HOLY COMMUNION



I Do Believe

Viruju Hospodi

HOLY COMMUNION



The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
the cedars he planted ***on*** Lebanon;

there the birds build their nests;
on the treetop the stork has ***her*** home.

The goats find a home on the mountains
and rabbits hide in ***the*** rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for ***its*** setting.

When you spread the darkness it is night
and all the beasts of the forest ***creep*** forth.

The young lions roar for their prey
and ask their food ***from*** God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away
and go to rest in ***their*** dens.

Man goes out to his work,
to labor till eve***ning*** falls.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of ***your*** riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great ***and*** small.

The ships are moving there,
and the monsters you made ***to*** play with.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in ***due*** season.

You give it, they gather it up;
you open your hand, they have ***their*** fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which ***they*** came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of ***the*** earth.

May the glory of the Lord last forever!
May the Lord rejoice in ***his*** works!

He looks on the earth and it trembles;
the mountains send forth smoke at ***his*** touch.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while ***I*** live.

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in ***the*** Lord.

Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
Bless the Lord, O ***my*** soul.

And again:

You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for ***its*** setting.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made ***them*** all.

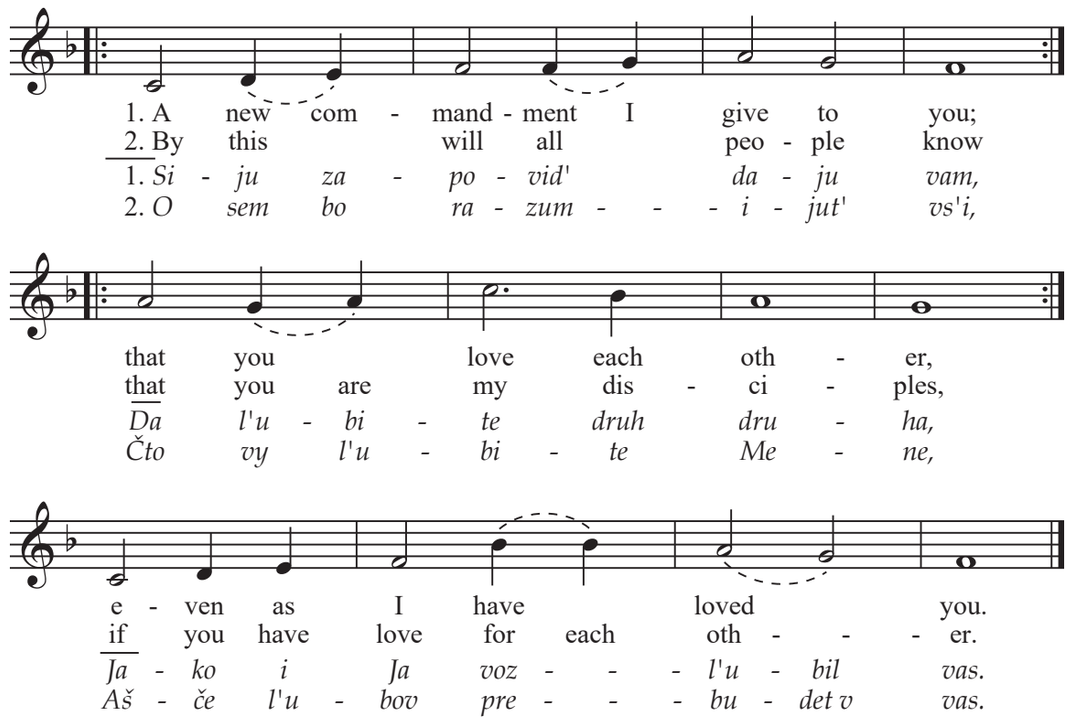
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

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

A New Commandment

Siju zapovid' daju vam
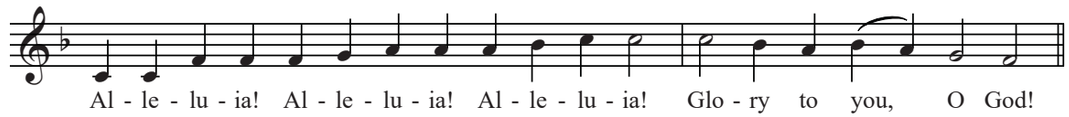
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



For the Communion Hymn, "Accept me today..." (above). If desired, the hymns at the end of this leaflet may also be sung during Holy Communion.

After Holy Communion, "Accept me today..." is sung in place of "We have seen the true light..." and "May our lips be filled..."

And the third time, with melody:
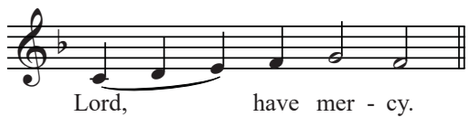


Litany of Peace

The faithful may SIT as the Litany of Peace begins:
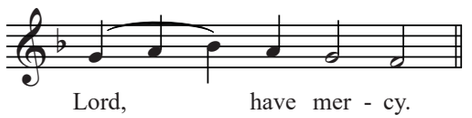
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



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

Response:



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)

Special petitions may be inserted here.

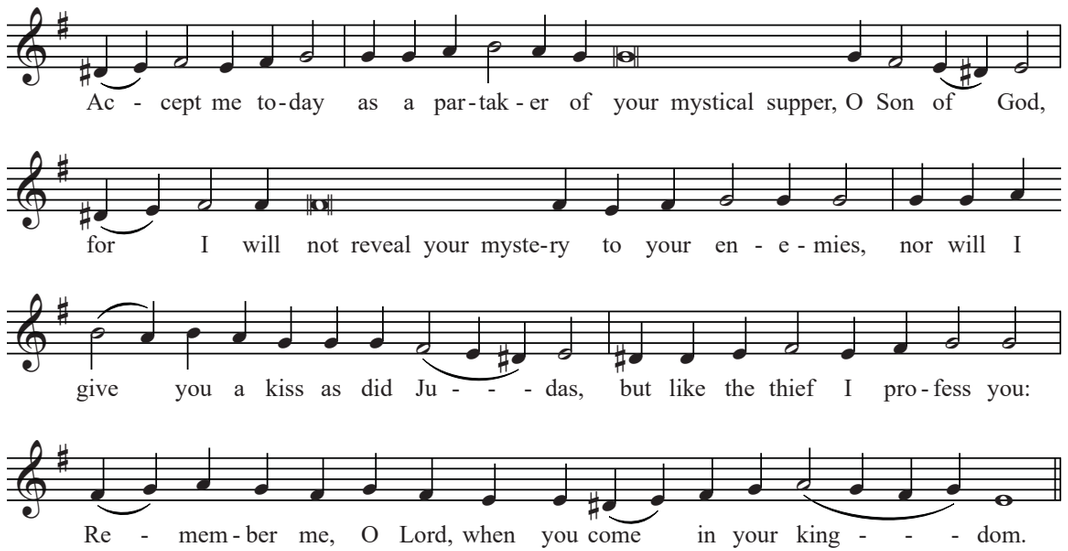
Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

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)

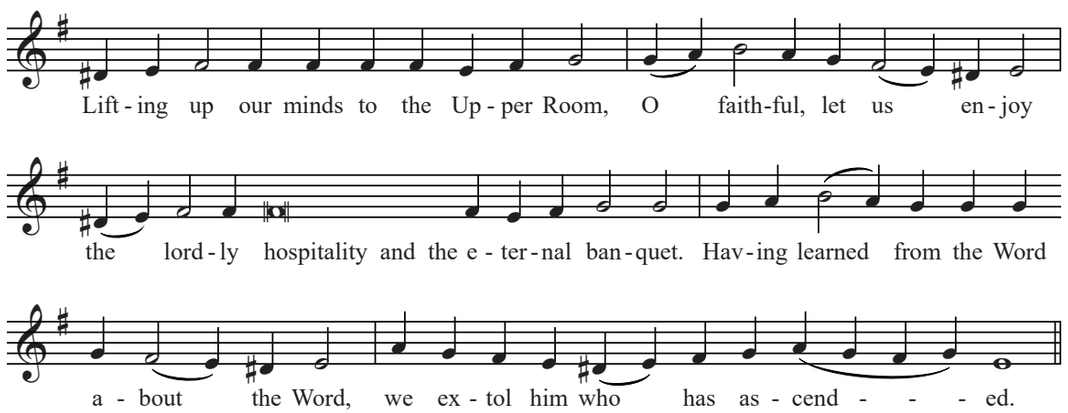
The following is sung in place of the Cherubic Hymn, both before and after the commemorations:



The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great is celebrated.

Instead of "It is truly proper . . .":
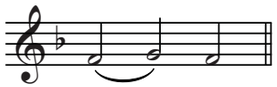
Irmos of Holy and Great Thursday - *Tone 6 Irmos variant (same as"Accept me today")*



Celebrant: For you are holy, our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever

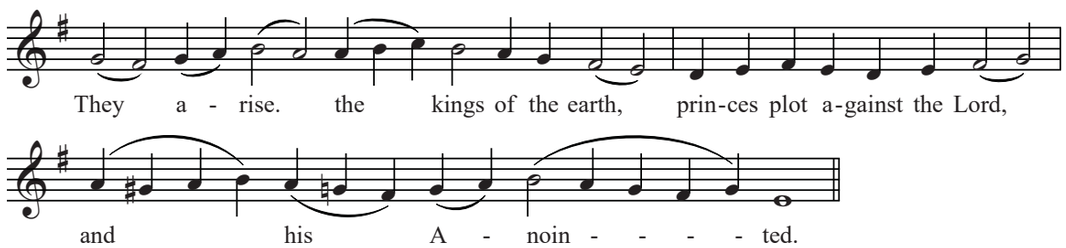
Deacon: And forever.

Response:



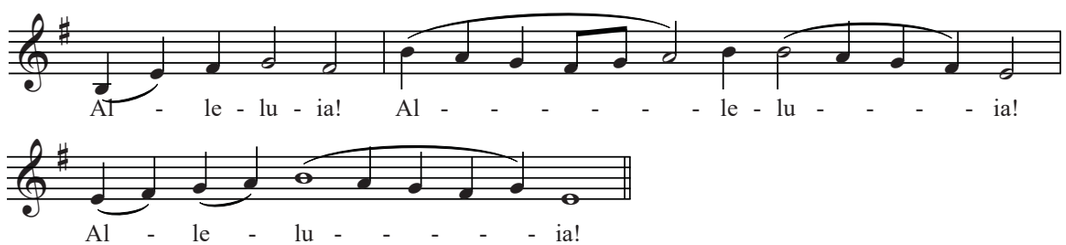
The service continues with the Trisagion ("Holy God") of the Divine Liturgy; music can be found on pp. 27-30 of the Divine Liturgies book.

Third Prokeimenon (before the Epistle) - *Tone 7* (Ps. 2: 2, 1)



Verse: Why this tumult among nations,
among peoples this use***less*** murmuring?
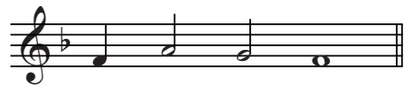
Alleluia - *Tone 6* (Ps. 40: 2, 6, 10b)



Verse: Happy the man who considers the poor and weak; * the Lord will save him on the ev***il*** day.
Verse: My foes are speaking evil against me; * how long before he dies and his name be ***for***gotten?
Verse: My friend, who ate my bread, * has turned ***a***gainst me.

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: 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.

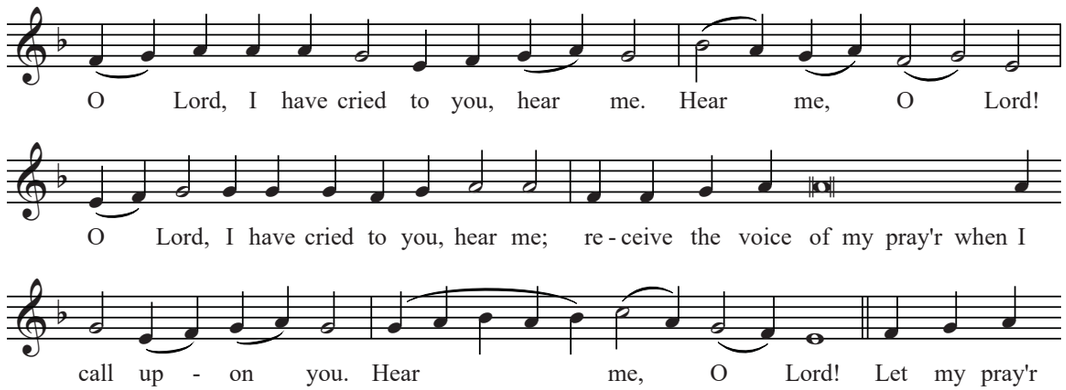
Response:

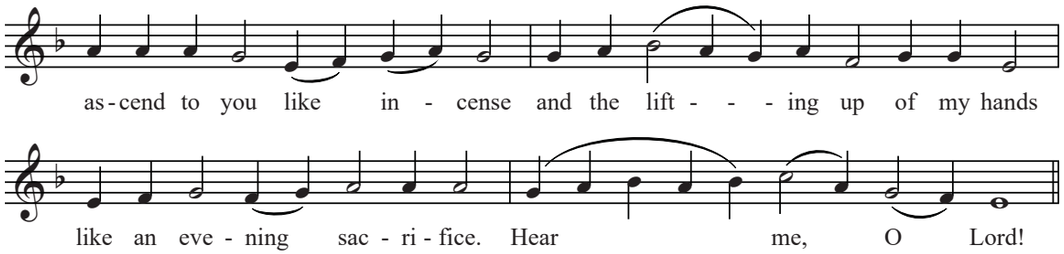


The Lamp-lighting Psalms

The faithful STAND for the great incensation of the church. They may SIT when the great incensation is complete.

Psalm 140 - *Tone 2 samohlasen*





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.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Book of Job.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Job 38:1-22; 42:1-5]

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.
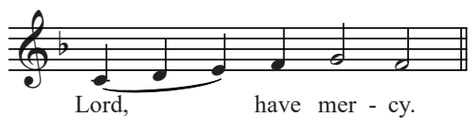
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Isaiah 50:4-11]

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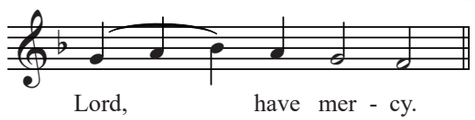
Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response:



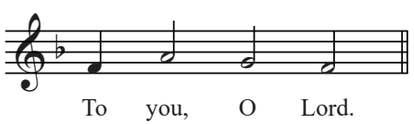
Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:



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:
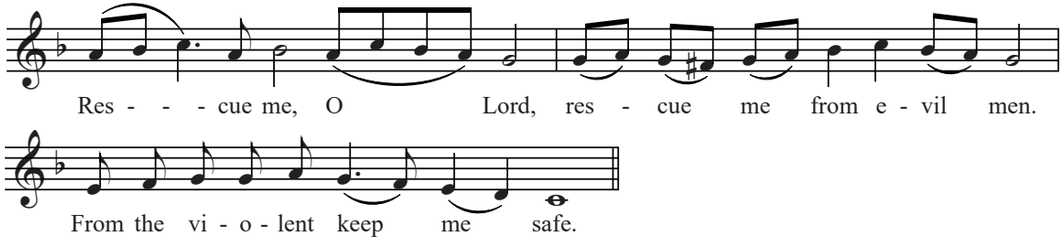


The Readings of Great Vespers

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ✠ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

First Prokeimenon - *Tone 1* (Ps. 139:2-3)



Verse: Who plan evil in their heart * ev***ery*** day.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from Exodus.
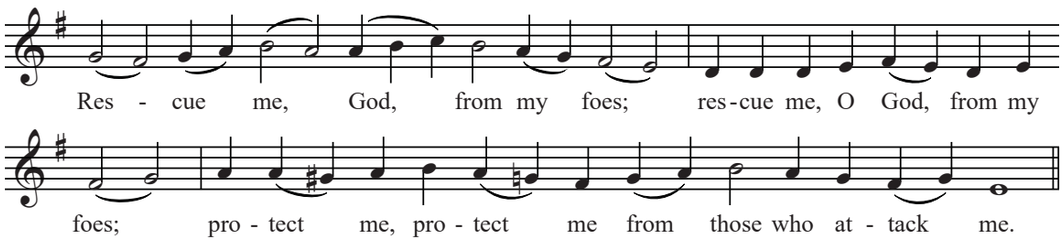
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The faithful SIT while the lector chants the reading.

Lector: [Exodus 19:10-19]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Second Prokeimenon - *Tone 7* (Ps. 58:2-3)



Verse: O rescue me * from those who ***do*** evil

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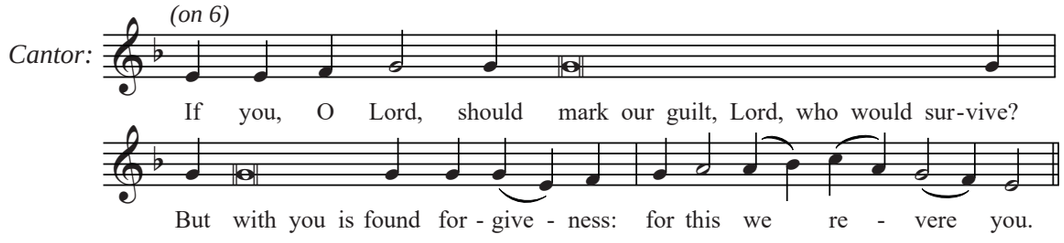
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness ***to*** me.

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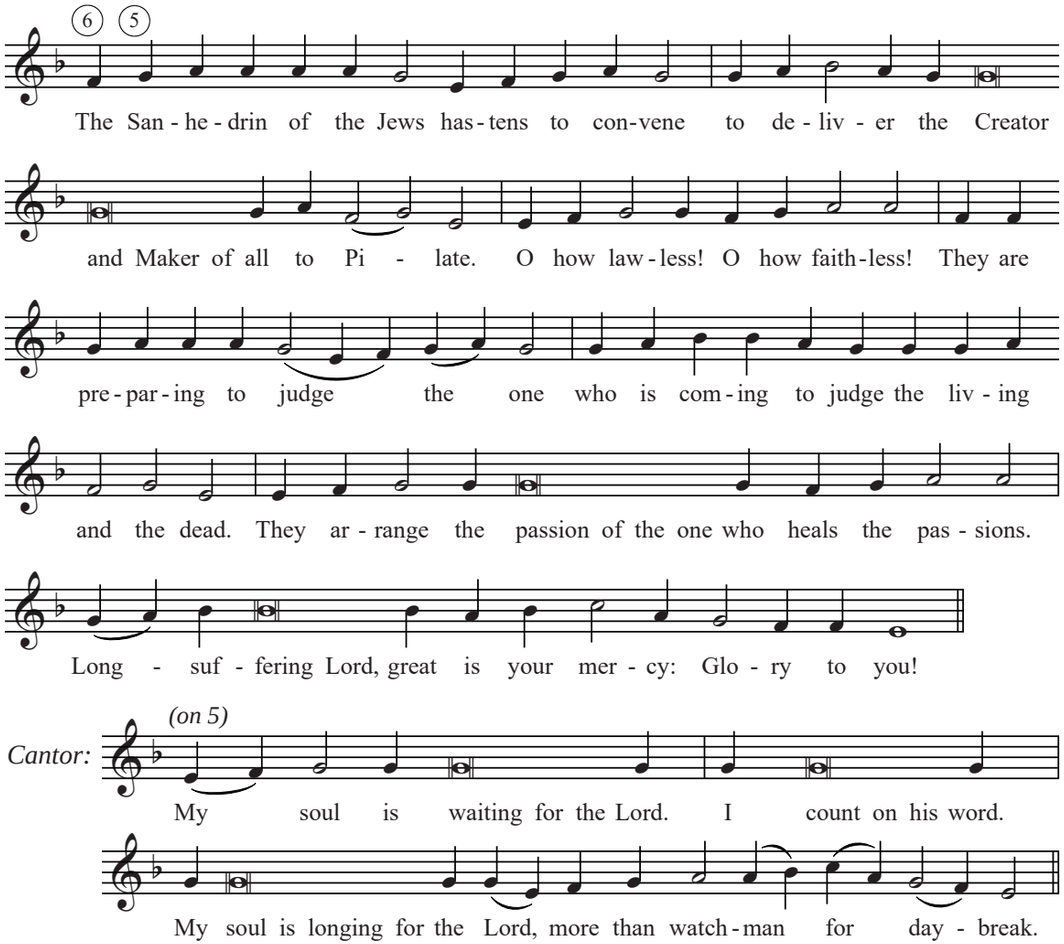
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear ***my*** voice!

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

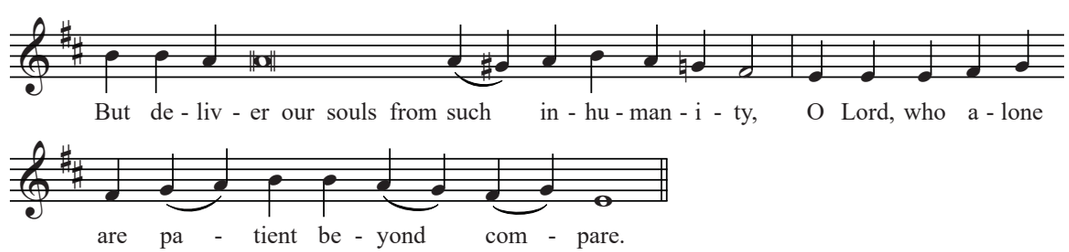
Then the hymns (stichera) of Holy and Great Thursday are sung.



Stichera of Holy and Great Thursday - *Tone 2 samohlasen*
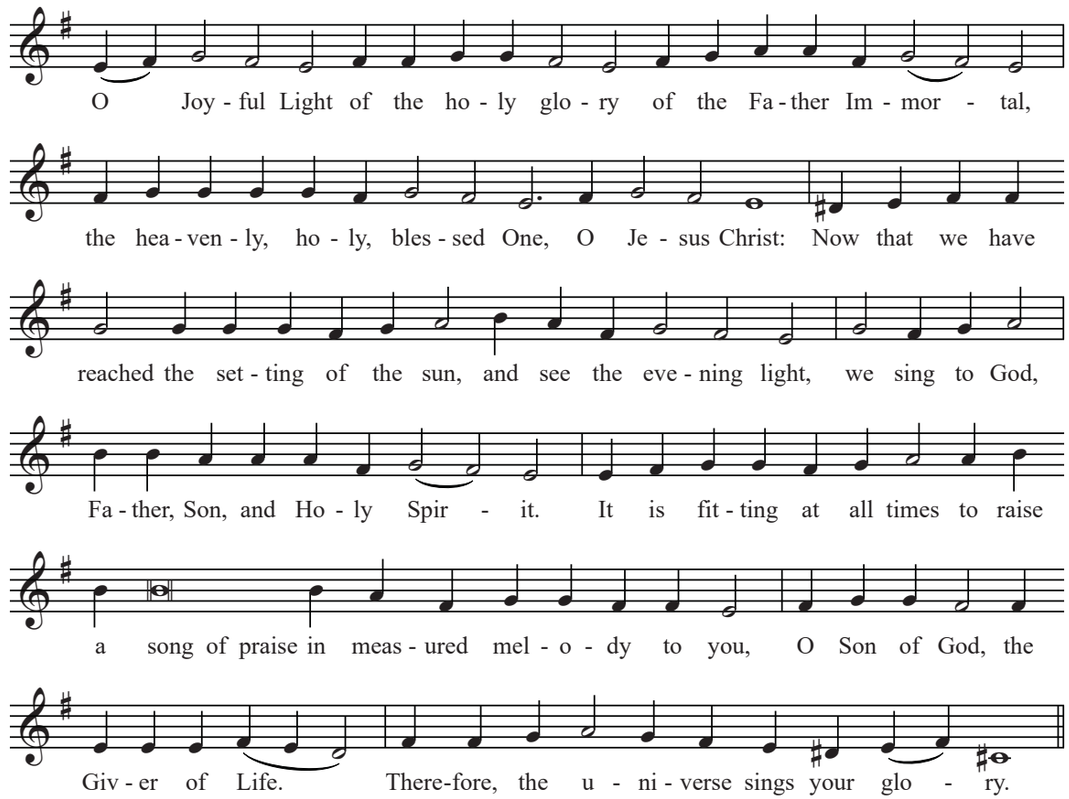


The faithful repeat, "The Sanhedrin of the Jews..".



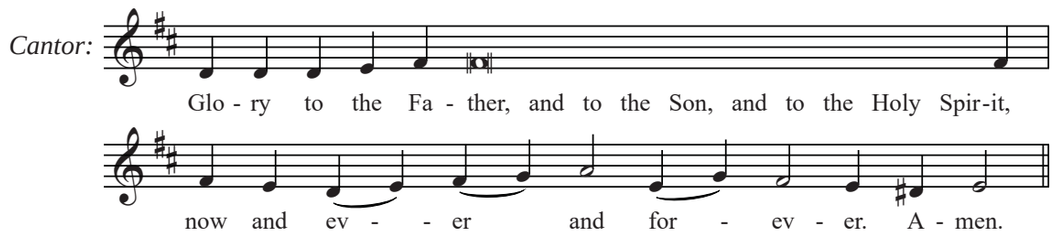
The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!
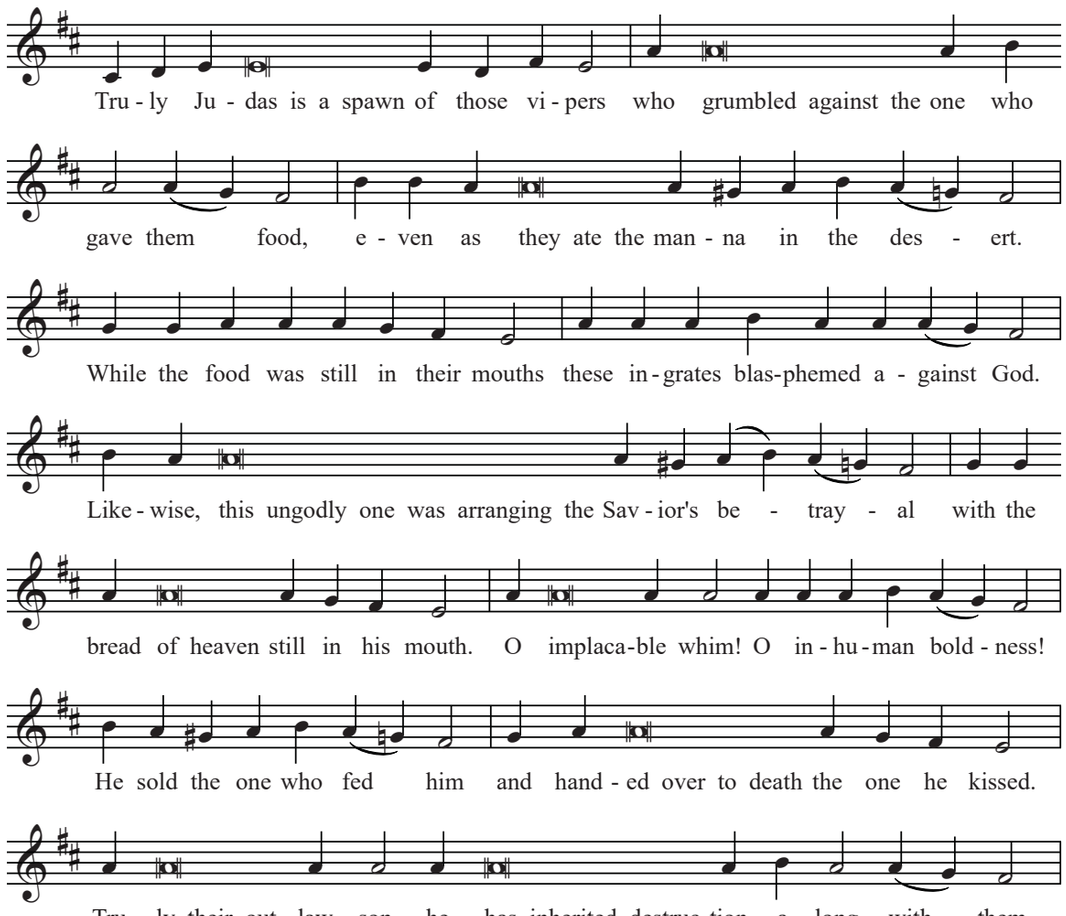
The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung.
The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.
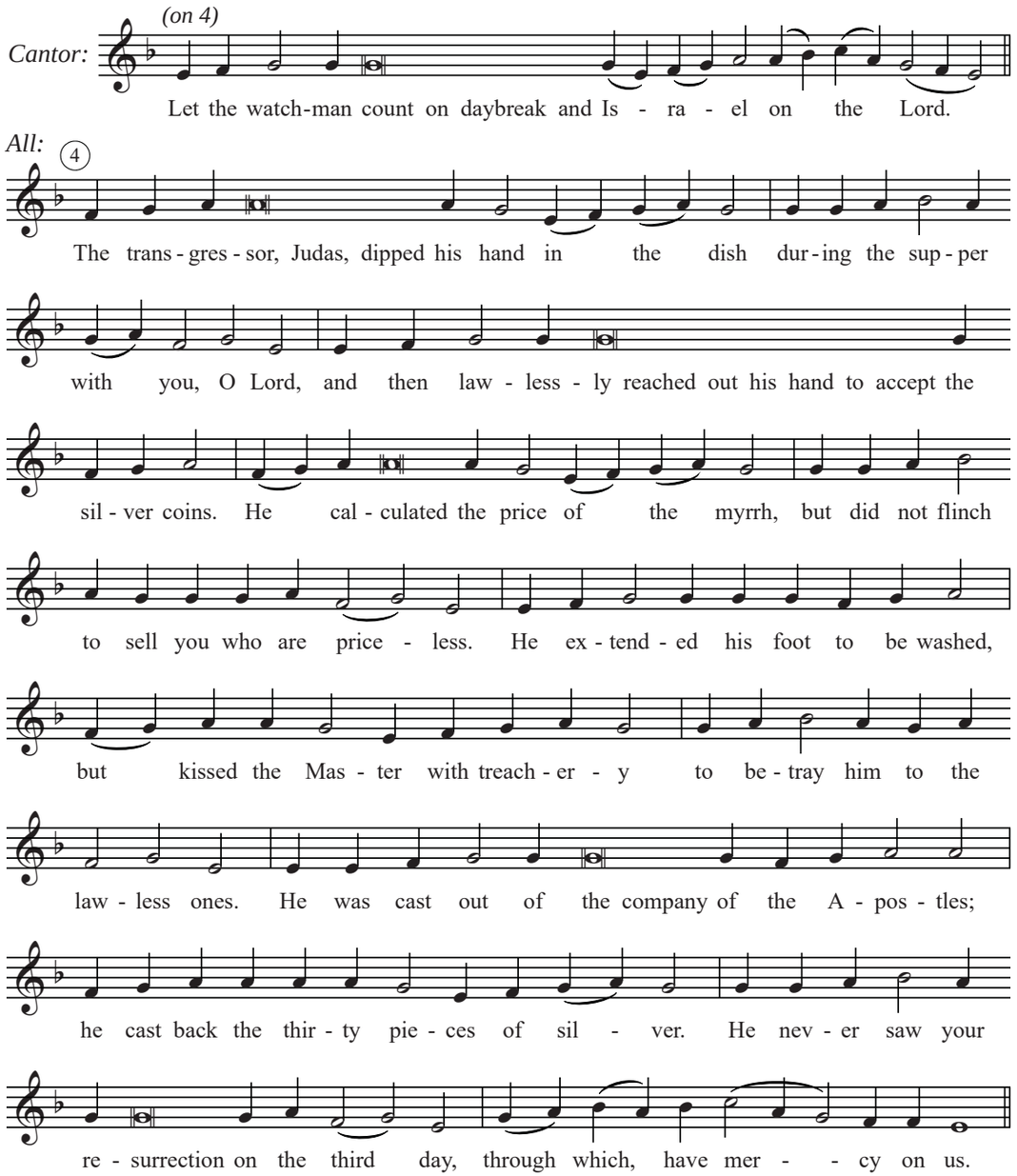


The faithful STAND when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:



Doxastikon of Holy and Great Thursday - *Tone 6 samohlasen*





Cantor: *(on 3)*

Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,

Is - ra - el in - deed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

All: ③

Ju - das, the trai - tor, be - ing treach-er - ous, treach - er - ous - ly betrayed the Lord and

Sav - ior with a kiss. He sold the Mas - ter of all to the law-less like a slave;

but like a sheep to the slaugh - ter, will - ing - ly, went the Lamb of God,

the Son of the Fa - ther, the on - ly all - mer - ci - ful One.

Cantor: *(on 2)*

Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac-claim him all you peo - ples!

All: ②

Ju - das, the a - pos - tle and a - pos - tate, serv - ant and conspirator, friend and

dev - il, is be-trayed by his deeds, for he fol - lowed the Master while plot - ting his

be - tray - al. He said to him - self: I will hand him over and gain the col-lect - ed

mon - ey. He tried to sell the myrrh and to have Jesus seized by de - ceit.

He gave a kiss and gave Christ a - way. But the on - ly com - passionate Lover

of hu - man - i - ty went like a sheep to the slaugh - ter.

Cantor: *(on 1)*

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful for - ev - er.

All: ①

The Lamb whom I - sai - ah fore - told comes will - ing - ly to the

slaugh - ter. He gives his back to be beat - en and gives his cheeks

to be slapped. He did not turn his face away from shame - ful spit - ting.

He is con-demned to a shame - ful death, and though sin - less, ac - cepts

all this will - ing - ly to grant re - sur - rec - tion from the dead to all.