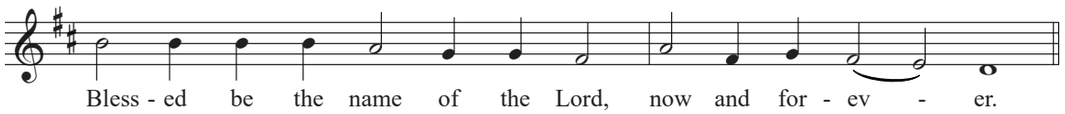All:



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 ***dis***tress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, ***to*** rescue them.
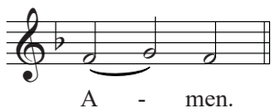
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge ***in*** him.

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.

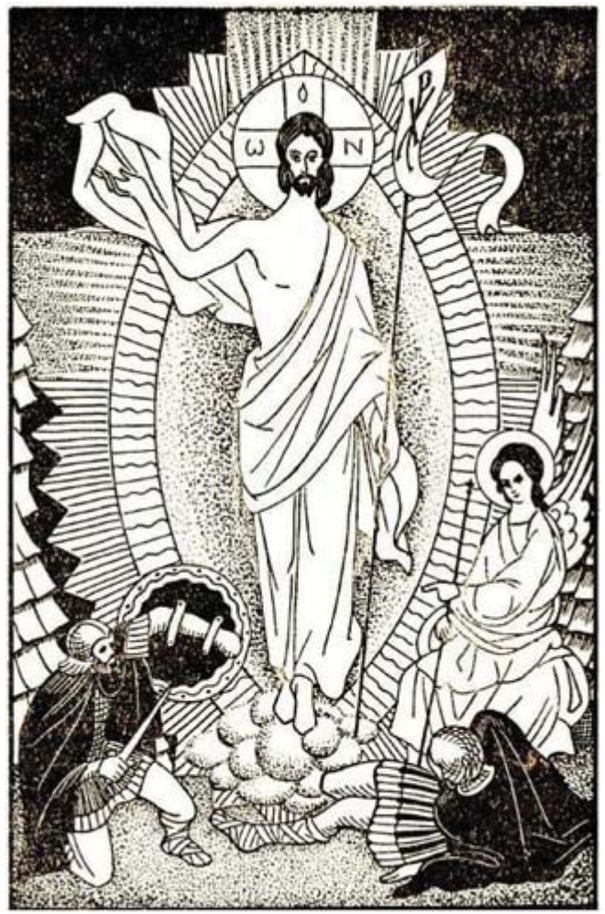
Priest: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness, always, now and ever and forever.

Response:



The service continues on page 21

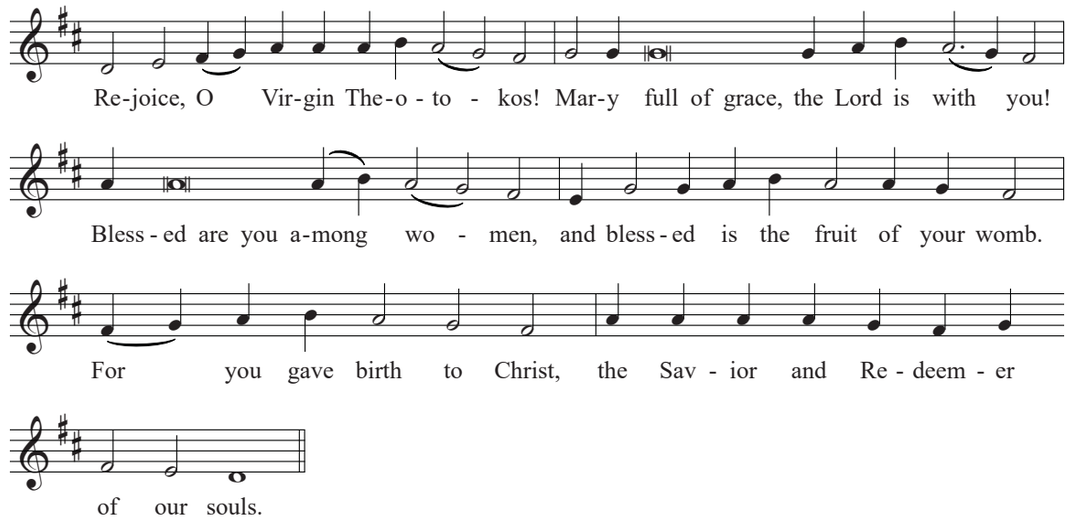
The Order of Vespers on Saturdays from Thomas Sunday to the Leave-taking of Pascha



Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2026
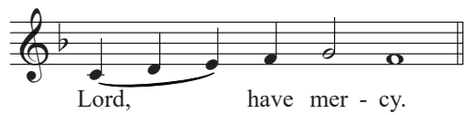
Blessing of Bread

The following troparion is often used at the blessing of bread: *Tone 4*
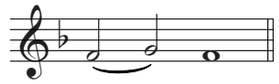


Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

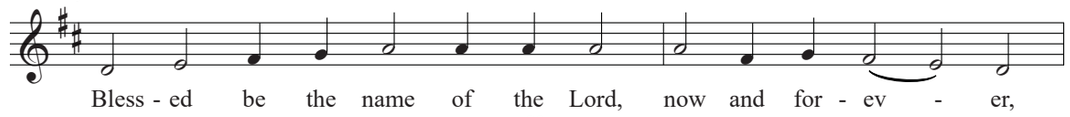


Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
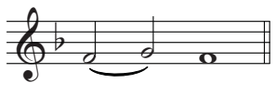


Priest, then All:



Priest: 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 Muka‹evo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Preäov, 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:
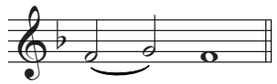


The service continues with the Aposticha of the feast, found in the insert.
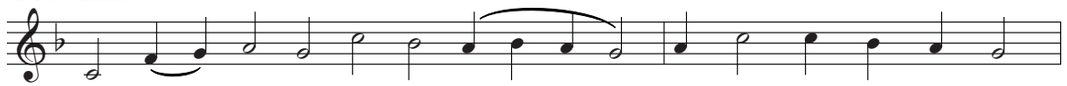
THE ORDER OF VESPERS

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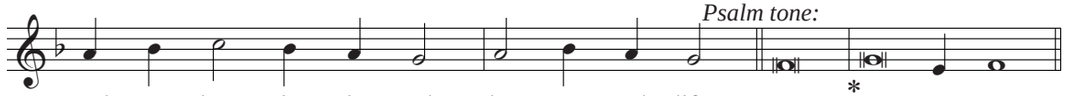
Response:



Three times:



Psalm tone:



Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy ***on*** us. *(3 times)*

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.
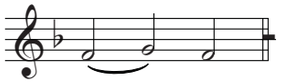


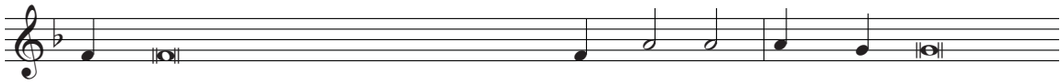
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.
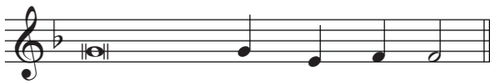
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us ***from*** evil.

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

Response:
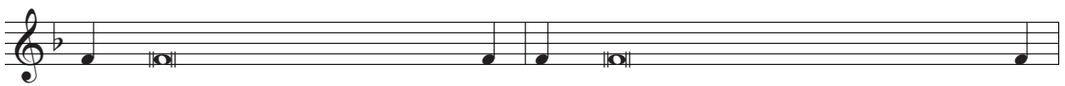






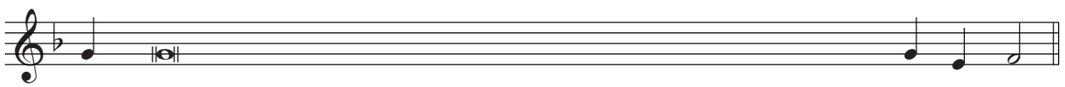
(sung twice)

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

Call to Worship
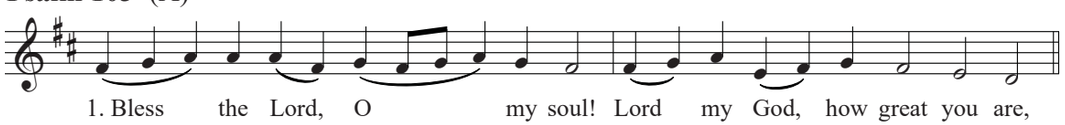
Each time with a reverence:





Psalm 103 is sung. On Saturdays and feast days, the melodic version (A) may be used if so desired; or the whole text of Psalm 103 (B) may be chanted to the psalm tone.

Psalm 103 (A)
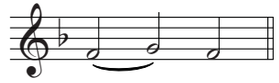


Deacon: Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan *(Name)*, for our God-loving bishop *(Name)*; for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this 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. *(as above)*

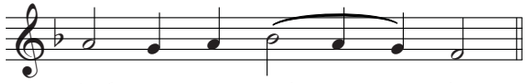
Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
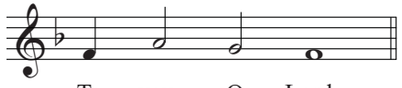


Priest: Peace ✠ be to all!

Response:



Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

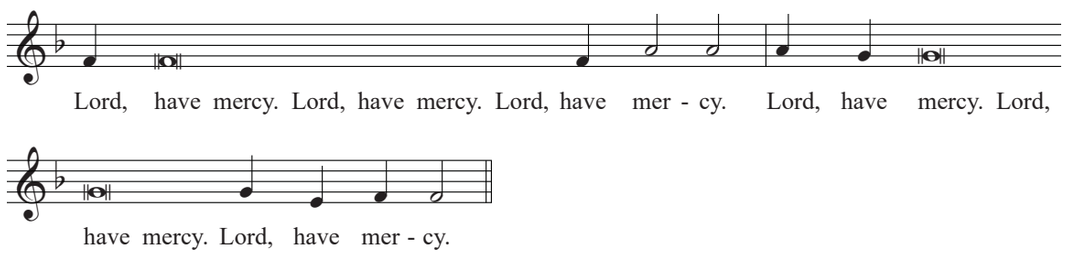
Response:



Litany of the Litija
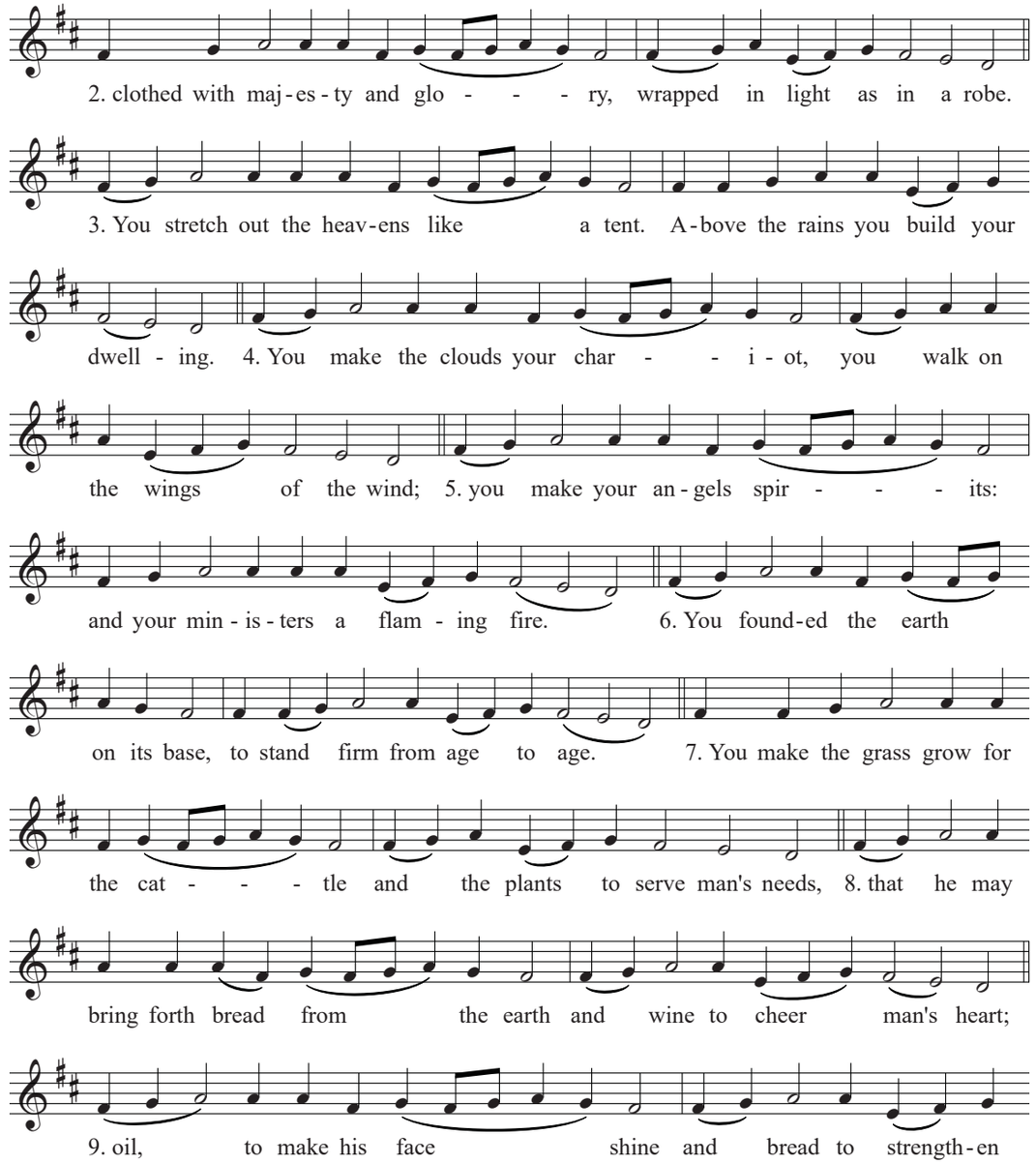
Deacon: Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, 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 Muka‹evo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Preäov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.
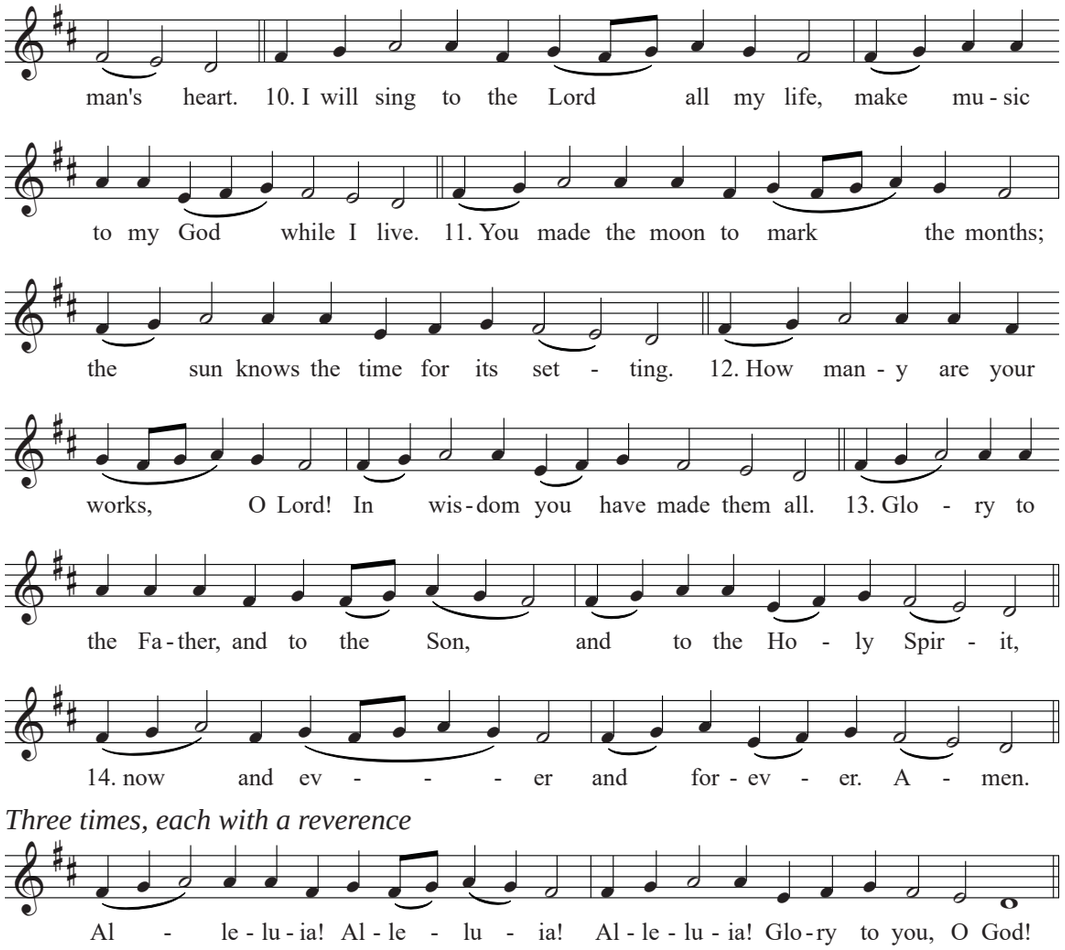
Response:



Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father ____, 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. *(as above)*





Three times, each with a reverence

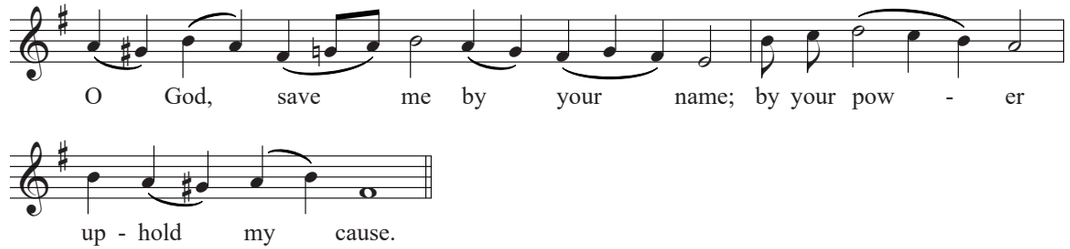
Please go to page 8

Psalm 103 (B)

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Lord my God, how great ***you*** are,

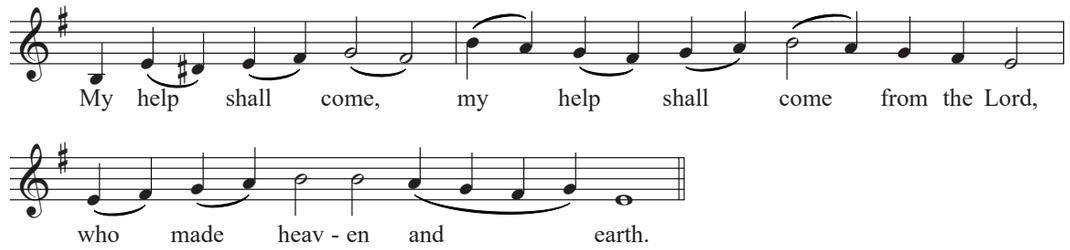
clothed with majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in ***a*** robe.

Wednesday - *Tone 5 (Psalm 53: 1; 2)*



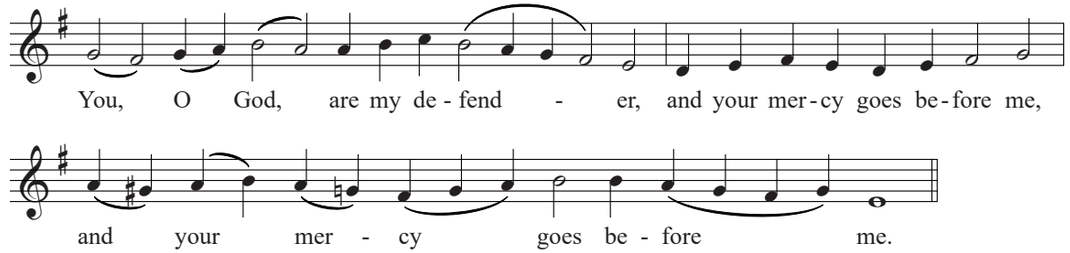
Deacon: O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

Thursday - *Tone 6 (Psalm 120: 2; 1)*



Deacon: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

Friday - *Tone 7 (Psalm 58: 9-10; 1)*

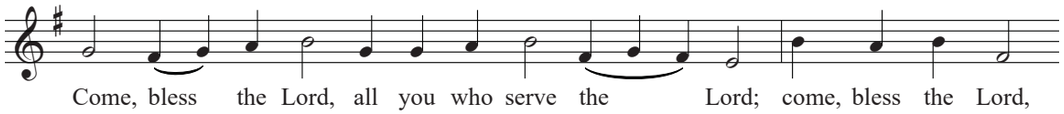


Deacon: Rescue me, O God, from my foes; protect me from those who attack me.

Weekday Prokeimena
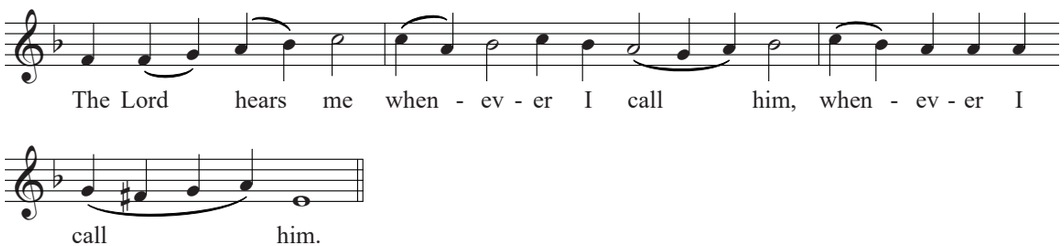
After singing the Prokeimenon for the day of the week, the service continues on page 13.

Sunday - *Tone 8* (Psalm 133:1; 2)



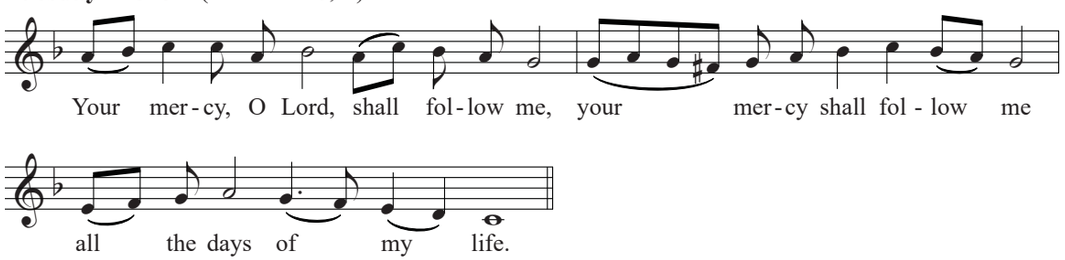
Deacon: Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

Monday - *Tone 4* (Psalm 4:3;1)



Deacon: When I call, answer me, O God of justice.

Tuesday - *Tone 1* (Psalm 22:6; 1)



Deacon: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want;
fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

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 they 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.

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.
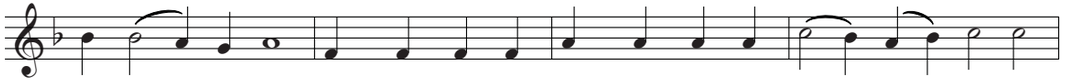
You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which ***they*** came.
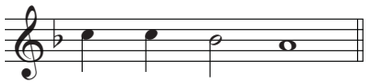
Appendix:
Additional Material for Feasts

1. Weekday Prokeimena.....page 24

2. Litany of the Litija.....page 26
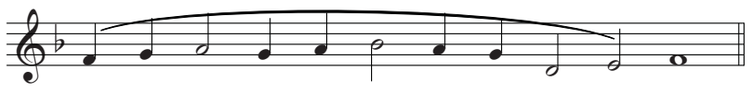
3. Blessing of Bread.....page 29
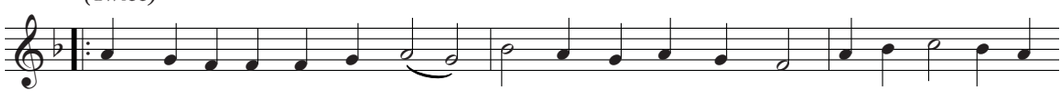




Priest: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, through the might of the precious & life-creating Cross, through the prayers of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy _____ *(patron of this Church)*, and of the holy _____ *(commemorated this day)*, and through the prayers of all the saints; for he is gracious and loves us all.
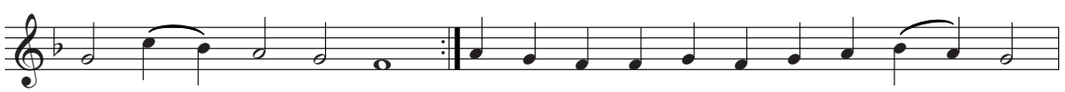
Response:
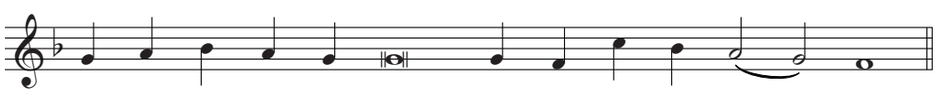


After the Dismissal, the celebrant says three times: "Christ is risen!" *and the faithful respond each time:* "Indeed he is risen!" *The celebrant then sings once:* "Christ is risen from the dead! By death . . .," *and the faithful sing:*

(Twice)







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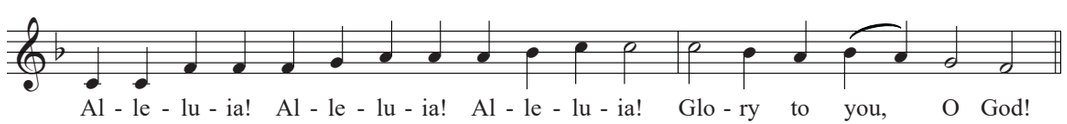
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made ***them*** all.

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

Three times, each with a reverence:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, ***O*** God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, ***O*** God!
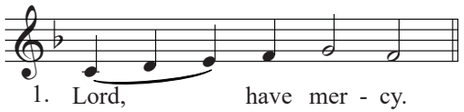
At the last, with melody:



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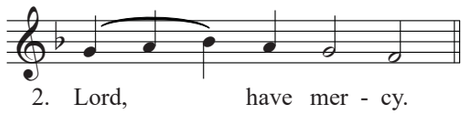
Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



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

Response:



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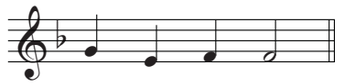
Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Paschal Dismissal

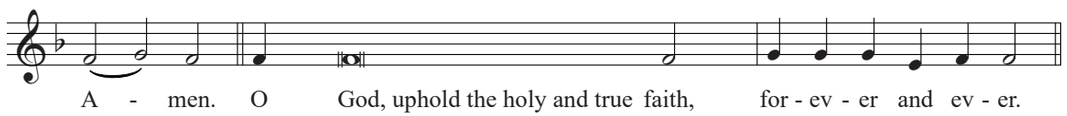
Deacon: Wisdom!

Response:



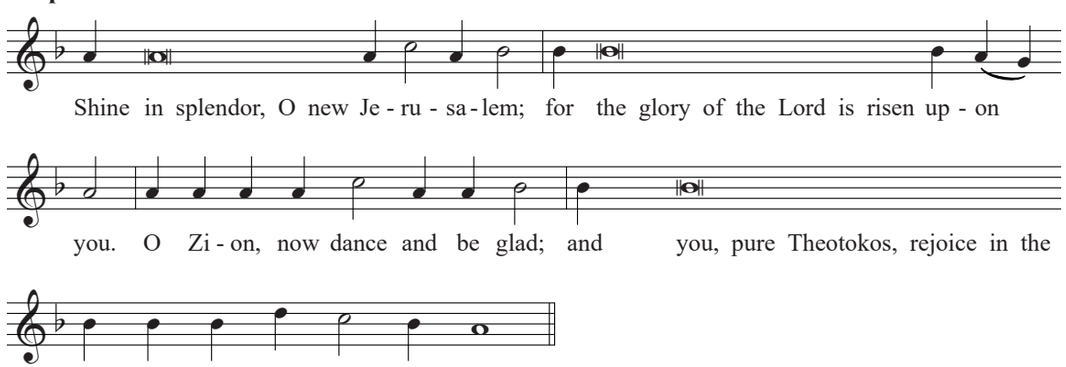
Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever
and forever.

Response:



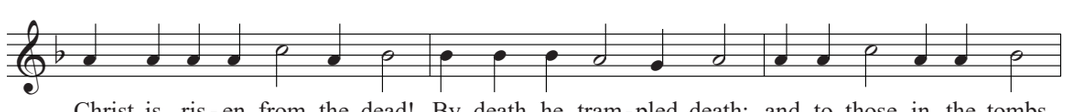
Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:



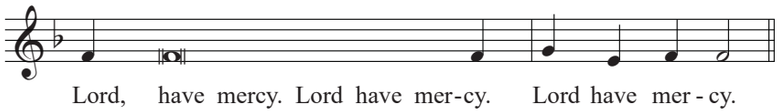
Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:



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

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.
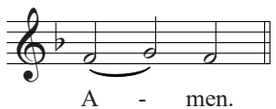


Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

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.

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

Response:



The Troparia are found in the insert

On feasts, after the Troparia, the blessing of bread takes place, followed by the singing of Psalm 33, which is found on page 29 in the Appendix

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.

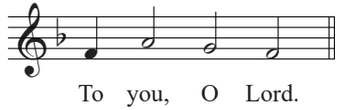
Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)
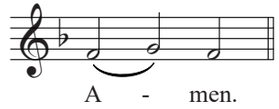
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:
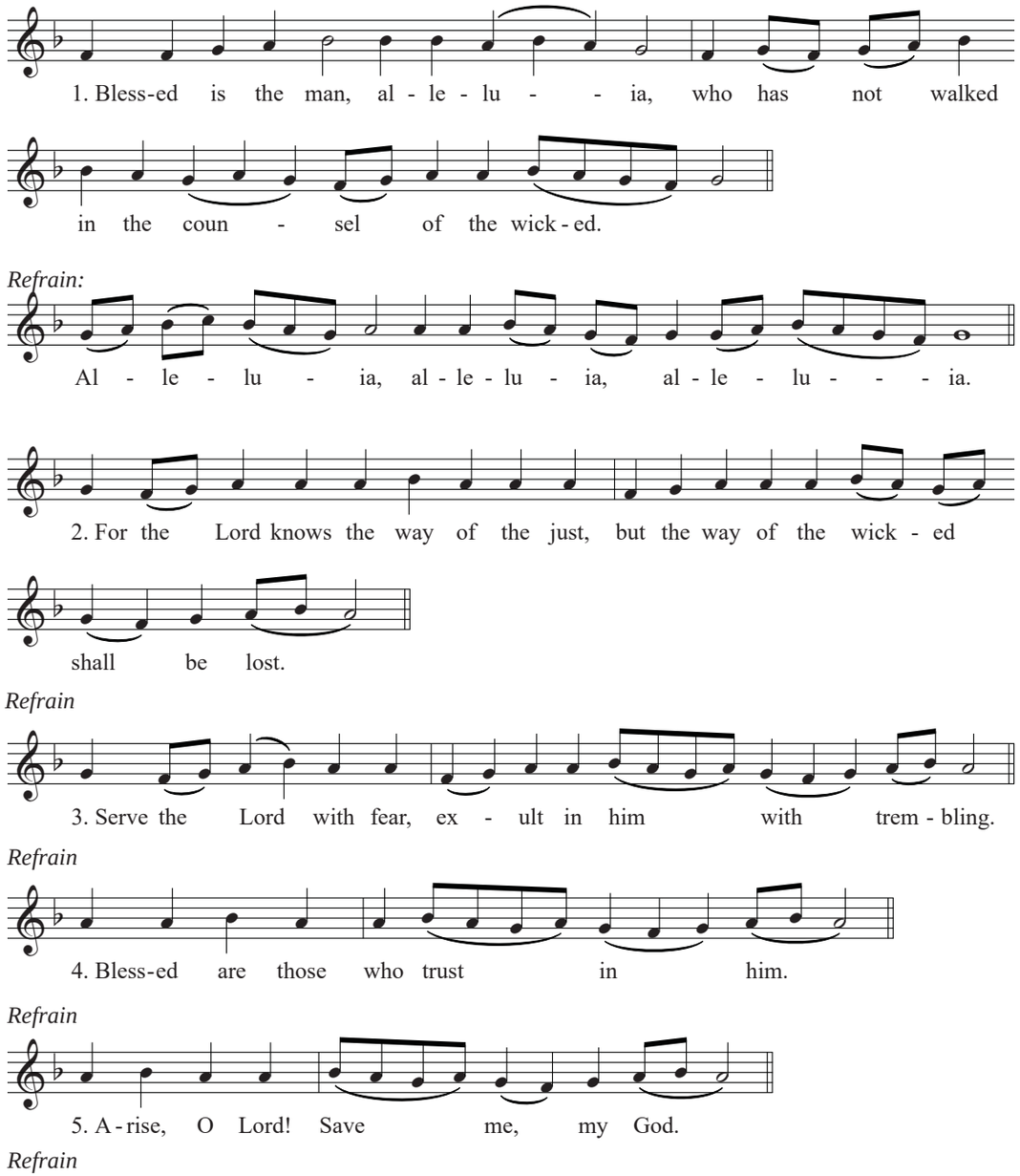


Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you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

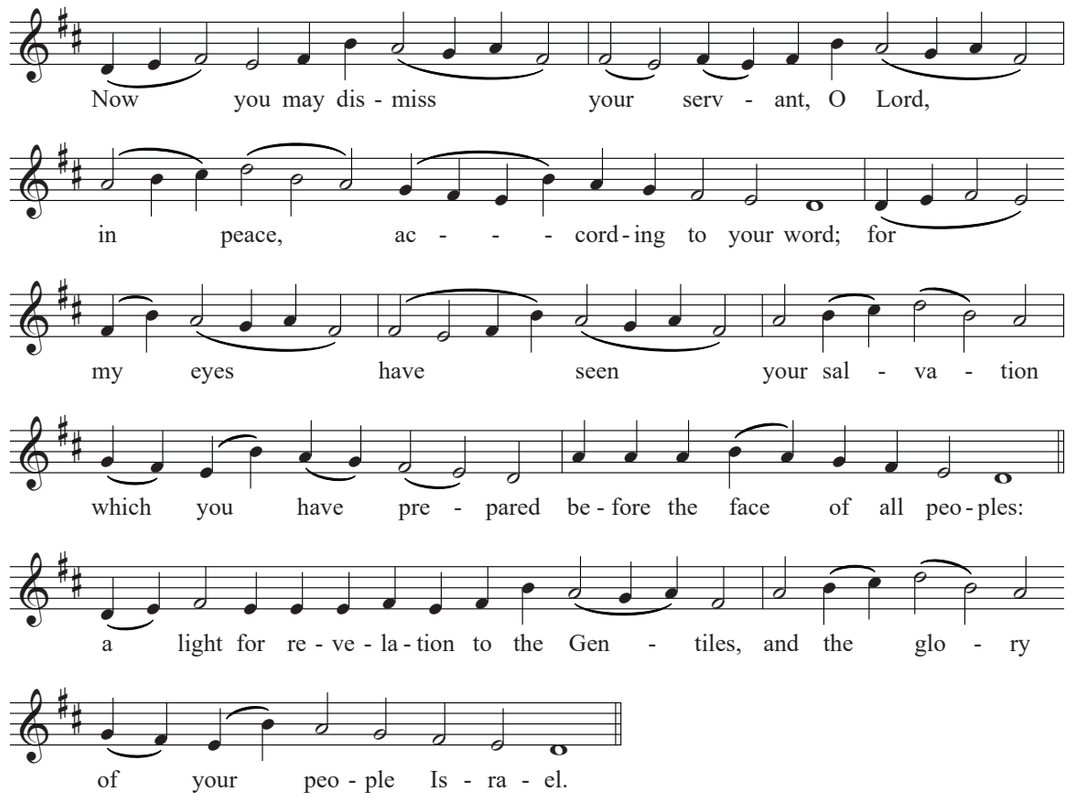
Response:



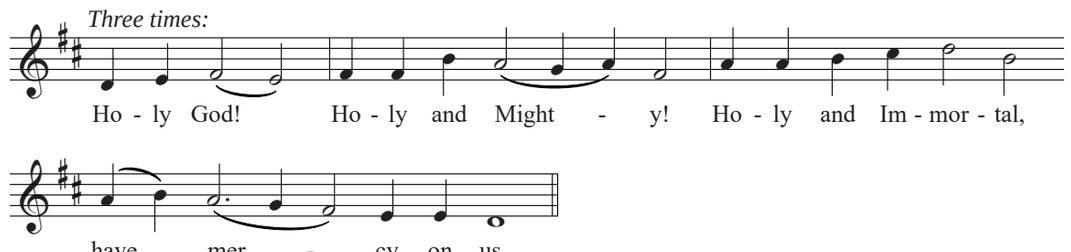
The First Kathisma
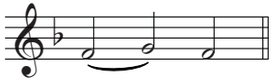


The Prayer of St. Simeon



The Trisagion Prayers
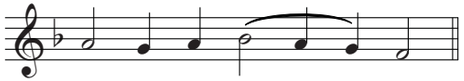


Response:
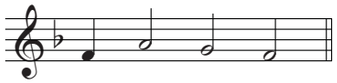


Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Response:
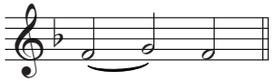


Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response:
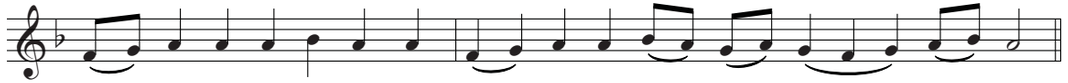


Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome judge who love us all. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long 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.

Response:
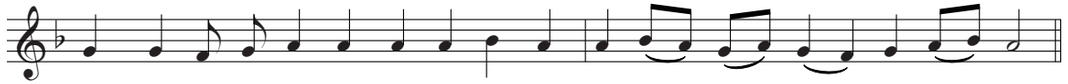


If there is Litija, the hymns are found in the insert. The Litany of the Litija is found in the Appendix on page 26.
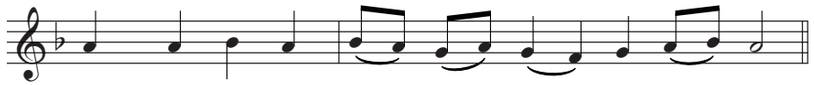
The Aposticha are found in the insert.



Refrain
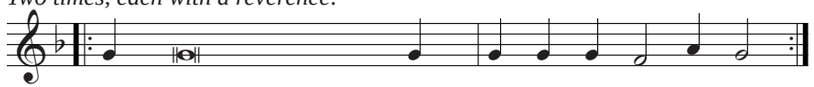


Refrain
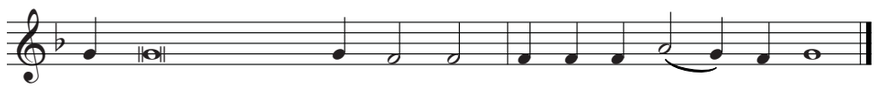


Refrain

Two times, each with a reverence:



Last time, with a reverence:
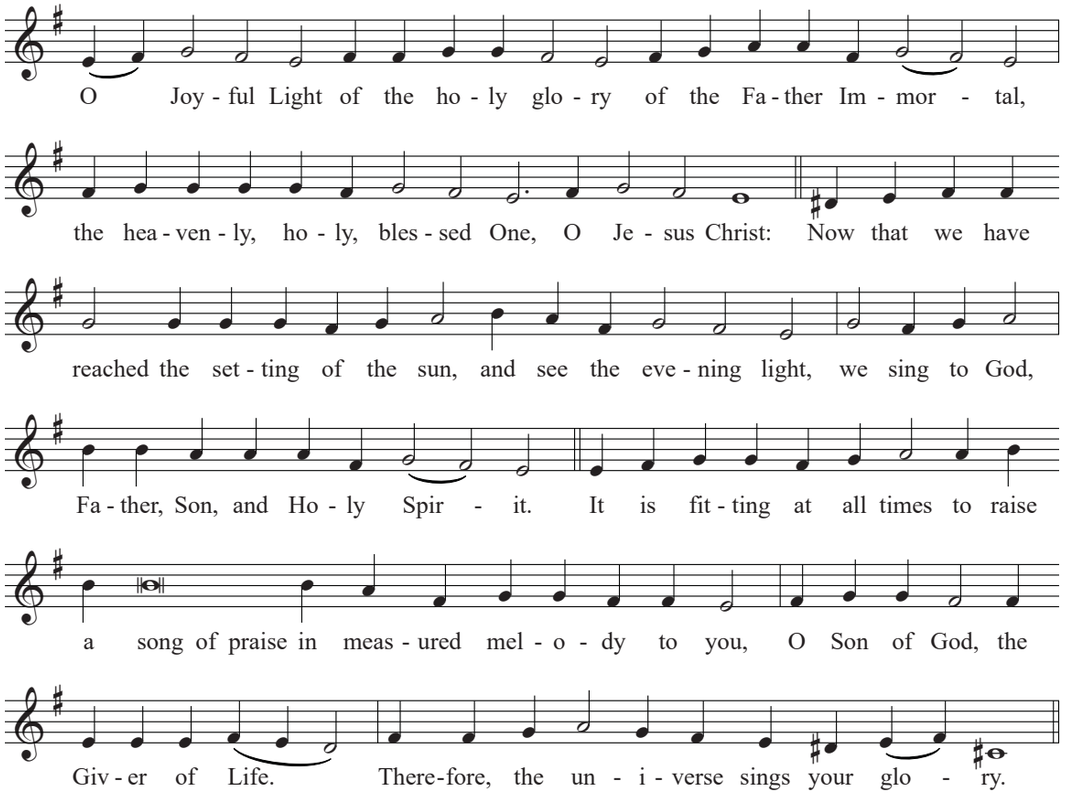


See the insert for the Lamplighting Psalms and stichera.

The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening



Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

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

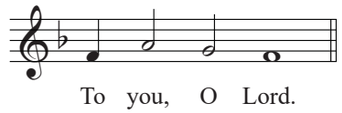
Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

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:
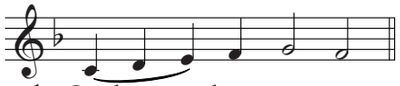


Priest: Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with 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.

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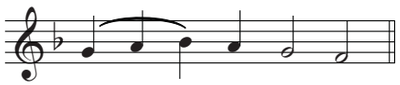
Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response:
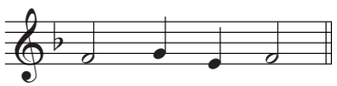


Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:
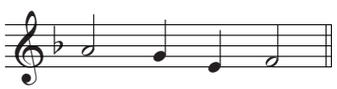


Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

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.
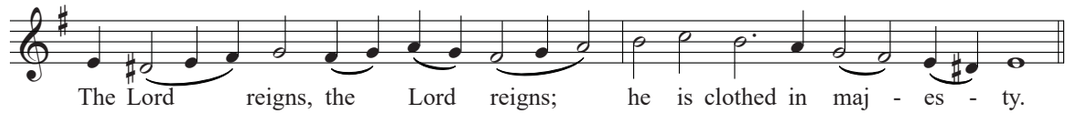
Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

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)

The Evening Prokeimenon

Saturday, from Psalm 92: Tone 6 samopodoben



The Deacon chants the verses as follows:

a. Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

b. The world he made firm, not to be moved.

c. Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.
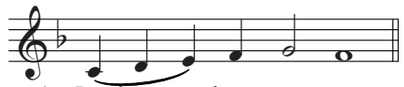
If Vespers is being sung on any night other than Saturday, the Prokeimenon of the day of the week is sung. Please turn to page 24 in the Appendix for these Prokeimena.

[Readings]

Litany of Fervent Supplication
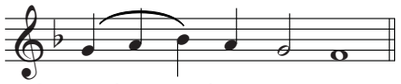
Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response:
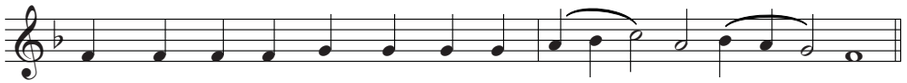


Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:
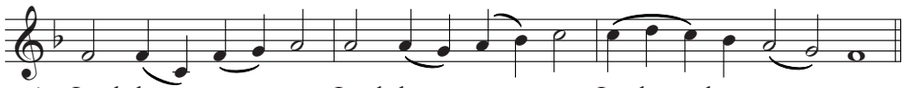


Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response:



Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, *(Name),* pope of Rome, and for our most reverend archbishop and 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.

Response:



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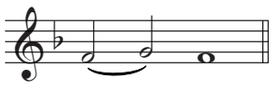
Response: Lord, have mercy. *(three times , using response 4.)*

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:


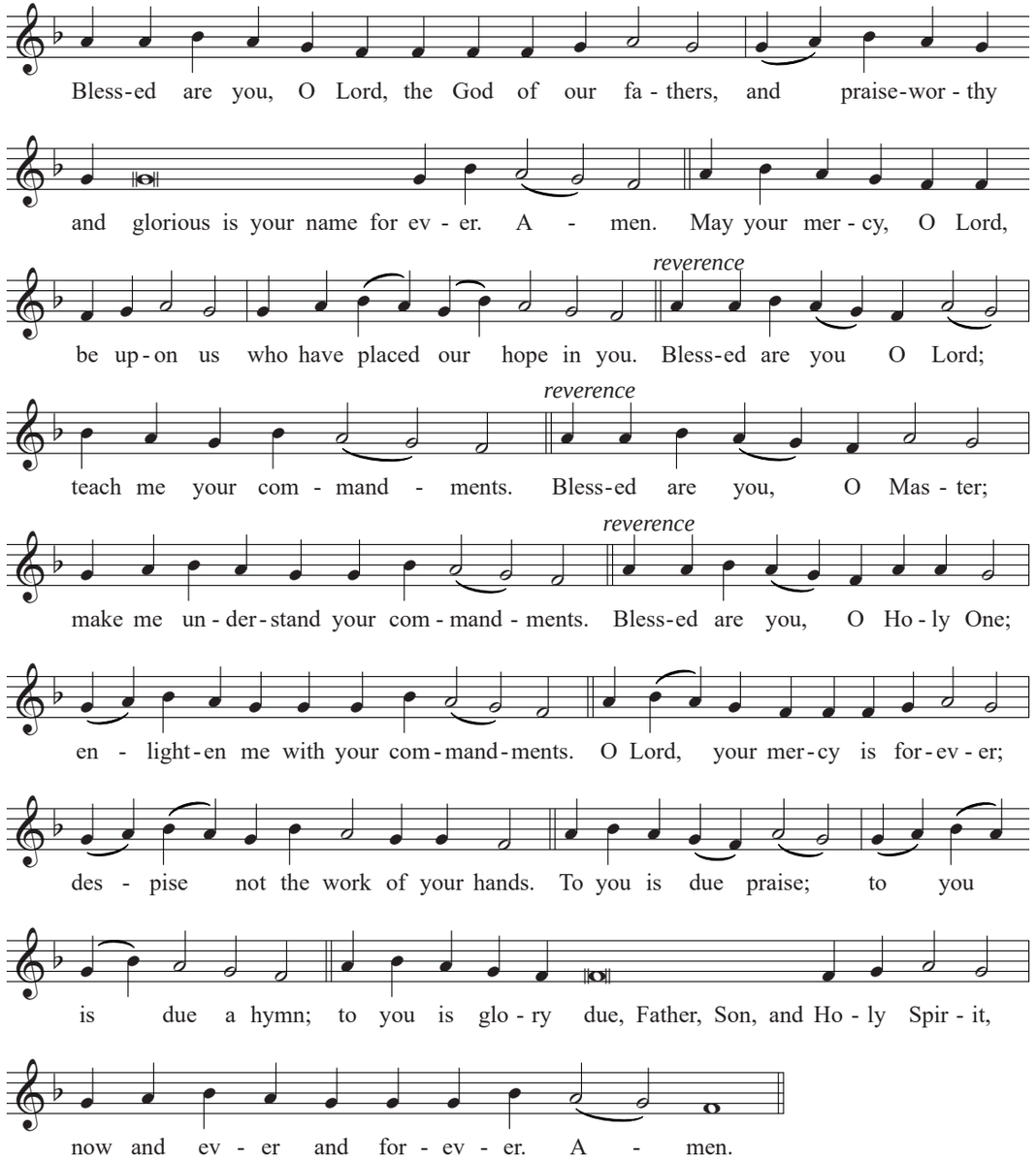
Hymn of Glorification

