

"Lord I Call..." – Tone 6

Reader: In the Sixth Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon You, hear me:

re - ceive the voice of my prayer when I call u - pon You.

Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer a - rise

in Your sight as in - cense, and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: (Reads text from service book)

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends of the world,
truly filling it with light
and making known the dawning of grace.
For Christ shined forth from afar, brighter than the sun,
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth, //
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends of the world,

This system contains the first line of musical notation. It features a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

truly fill - ing it with light and making known the dawn - ing of grace.

This system contains the second line of musical notation, continuing the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

For Christ shined forth from afar, bright - er than the sun,

This system contains the third line of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch for the word 'brighter'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

the leading rank of stars shin - ing with Him;

This system contains the fourth line of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch for the word 'shining'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

and the divine - human birth was revealed to take place in Beth - le - hem.

This system contains the fifth line of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch for the word 'Bethlehem'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Therefore with faith let us all gath - er at this birth,

This system contains the sixth and final line of musical notation on the page. The melody concludes with a final chord. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre - fest - al praise!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends of the world,
truly filling it with light
and making known the dawning of grace.
For Christ shined forth from afar, brighter than the sun,
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth, //
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

The memory of the Ancestors has been manifested to the ends of the world,

truly fill - ing it with light and making known the dawn - ing of grace.

For Christ shined forth from afar, bright - er than the sun,

the leading rank of stars shin - ing with Him;

and the divine - human birth was revealed to take place in Beth - le - hem.

Therefore with faith let us all gath - er at this birth,
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre - fest - al praise!

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam rejoices today,
as he is the foundation and the support of the wise Ancestors.
With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;
Seth dances, and with him Noah;
the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;
Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ, //
we pray for the salvation of our souls.

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam re - joic - es to - day,
as he is the foundation and the support of the wise An - ces - tors.
With him Abel leaps with joy, and E - noch makes glad;
Seth dances, and with him No - ah; the all-praiseworthy Patriarch A - bra - ham sings;

Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.

Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ,

we pray for the salvation of our souls.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam rejoices today,
 as he is the foundation and the support of the wise Ancestors.
 With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;
 Seth dances, and with him Noah;
 the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;
 Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.
 Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ, //
 we pray for the salvation of our souls.

Adorned with the glory of divine communion, Adam rejoices today,

as he is the foundation and the support of the wise Ancestors.

With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;

Seth dances, and with him No - ah; the all-praiseworthy Patriarch A - bra-ham sings;

Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a fa - ther.

Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Fore - fath - ers of Christ,

we pray for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

The three Youths, wise in God,
 who shone with joy in the furnace,
 proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;
 For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,
 He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;
 He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with divine gifts.
 Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,
 for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Mountain,//
 he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

The three Youths, wise in God, who shone with joy in the fur - nace,

proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth; For just as the Lord sent down a pre-cious dew,

He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;

He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with di - vine gifts.

Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, re - joiced and was glad,

for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Moun - tain,

he now prays with boldness in be - half of our souls.

v. (5) For Your name's sake have I waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

The three Youths, wise in God,
 who shone with joy in the furnace,
 proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;
 For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,
 He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;
 He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with divine gifts.
 Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,

for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Mountain,//
he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

The three Youths, wise in God, who shone with joy in the fur - nace,

proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth; For just as the Lord sent down a pre-cious dew,

He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;

He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with di - vine gifts.

Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, re - joiced and was glad,

for having foreseen the Stone from the Unquarried Moun - tain,

he now prays with boldness in be - half of our souls.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,
enlightening all things under heaven.
Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;
let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spirit!
Let us beseech Him in His compassion,
that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,
He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in Eden, //
into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of seven systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The final system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

The never-setting Sun presses for-ward to rise, enlightening all things under heav - en.

Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;

let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spir-it! Let us beseech Him in His compas - sion,

that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,

He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in E - den,

into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,
enlightening all things under heaven.
Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;
let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spirit!
Let us beseech Him in His compassion,
that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,
He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in Eden,//
into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

The never-setting Sun presses for-ward to rise, enlightening all things under heav - en.

Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;

let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spir-it! Let us beseech Him in His compas - sion,

that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,

He may lead us, who have become strangers to the path of life in E - den,

The musical score consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal melody.

into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

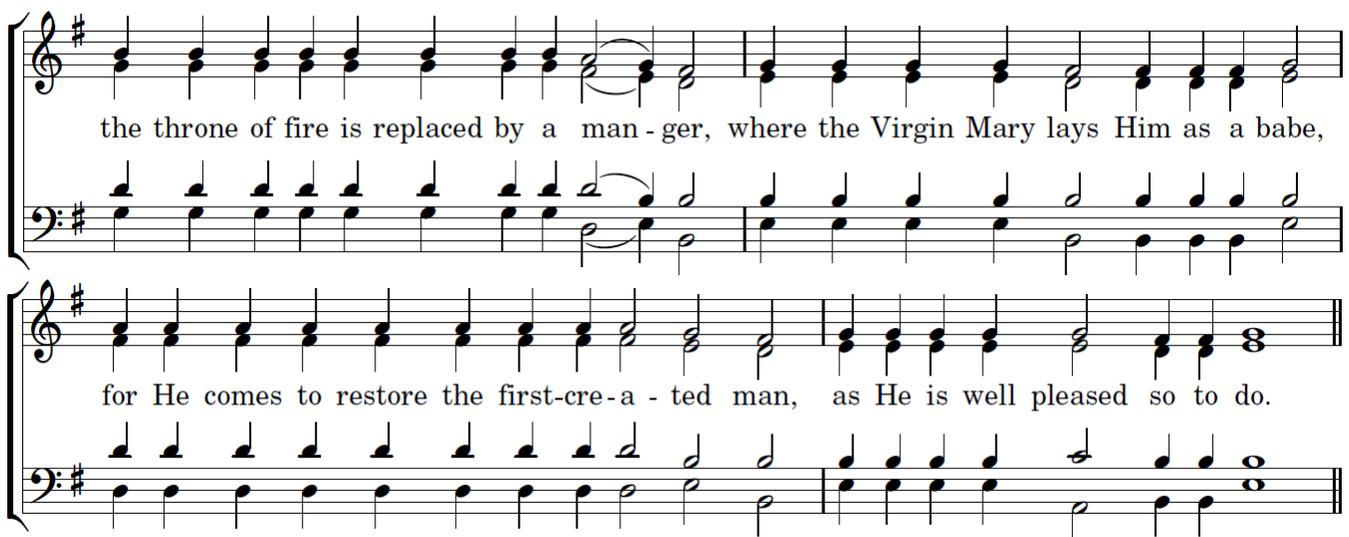
The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cherubim,
 goes to dwell in a womb without blemish.
 The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;
 He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Judah.
 A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;
 the throne of fire is replaced by a manger,
 where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,
 for He comes to restore the first-created man, //
 as He is well pleased so to do.

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cher - u - bim,

goes to dwell in a womb without blem - ish. The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;

He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Ju - dah.

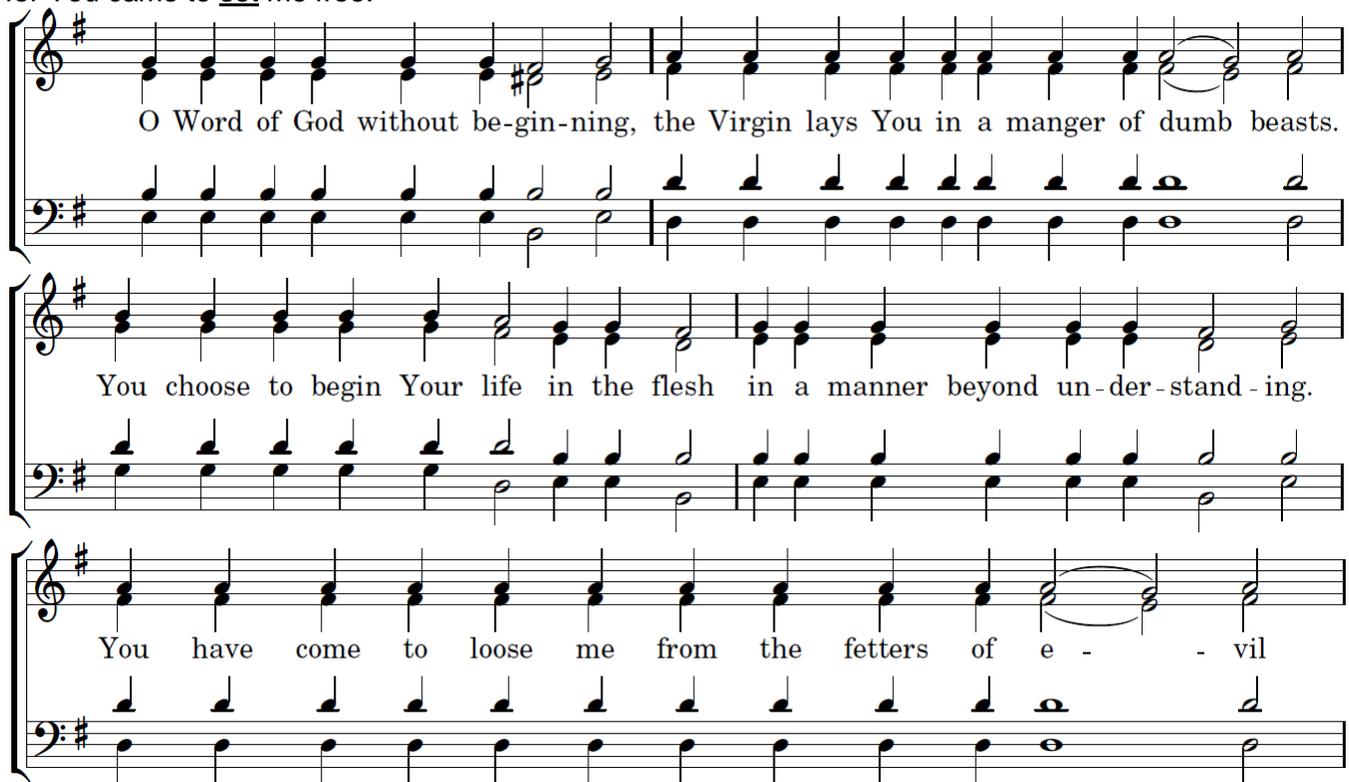
A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;



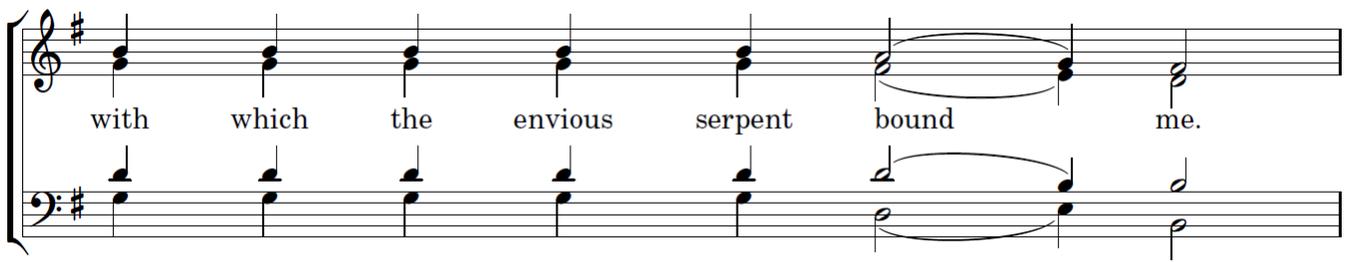
the throne of fire is replaced by a man-ger, where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,
for He comes to restore the first-cre-a - ted man, as He is well pleased so to do.

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

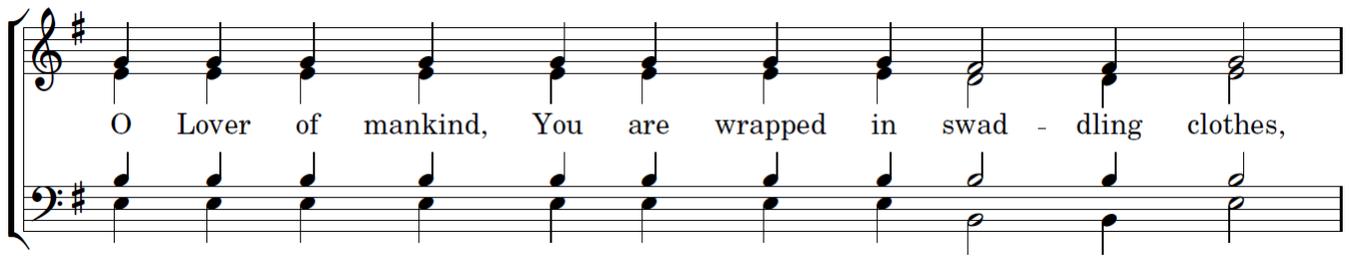
O Word of God without beginning,
the Virgin lays You in a manger of dumb beasts.
You choose to begin Your life in the flesh
in a manner beyond understanding.
You have come to loose me from the fetters of evil
with which the envious serpent bound me.
O Lover of mankind, You are wrapped in swaddling clothes,
tearing to pieces the bonds of my countless sins.
Therefore I joyfully praise and worship your holy birth, //
for You came to set me free.



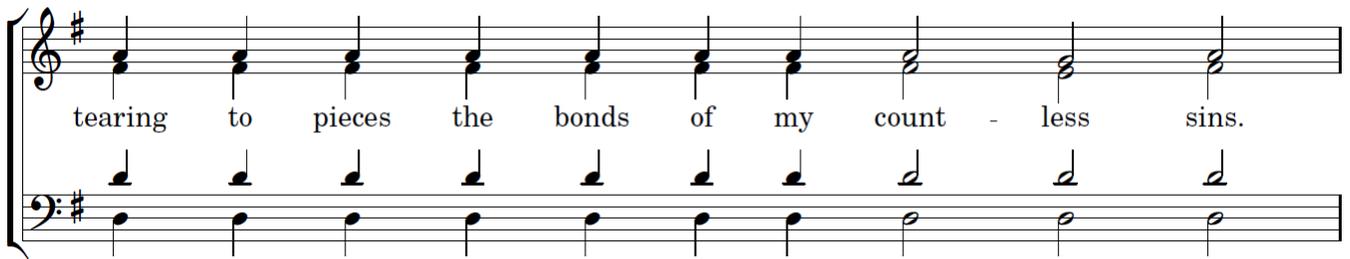
O Word of God without be-gin-ning, the Virgin lays You in a manger of dumb beasts.
You choose to begin Your life in the flesh in a manner beyond un-der-stand-ing.
You have come to loose me from the fetters of e - - vil



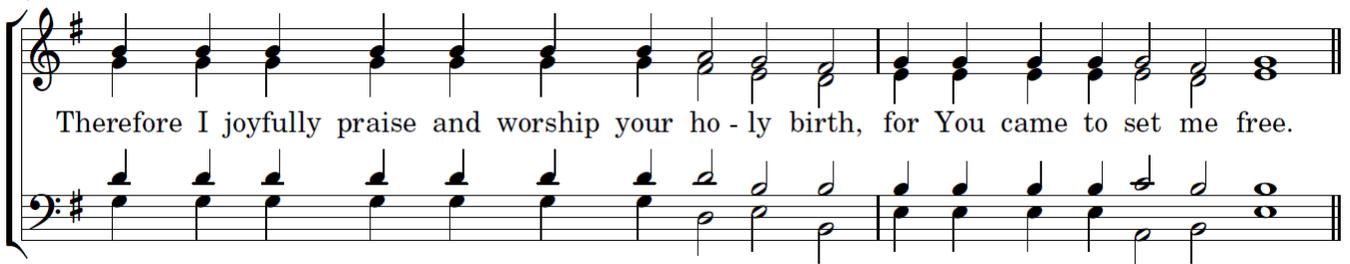
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O Lover of mankind, You are wrapped in swaddling clothes,



tearing to pieces the bonds of my countless sins.



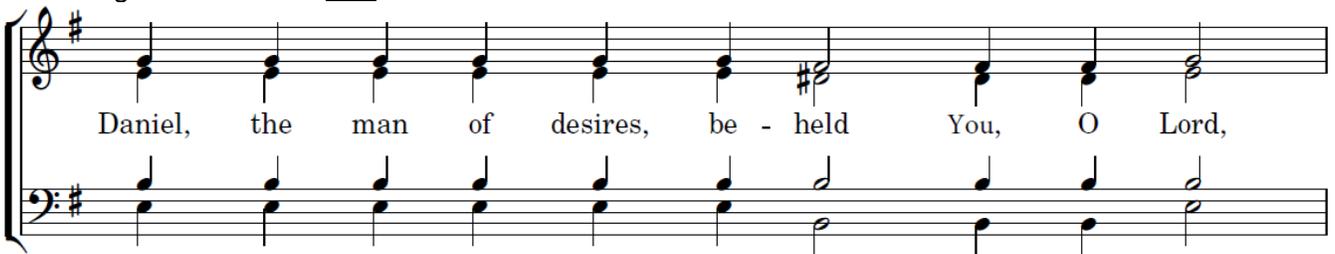
Therefore I joyfully praise and worship your holy birth, for You came to set me free.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

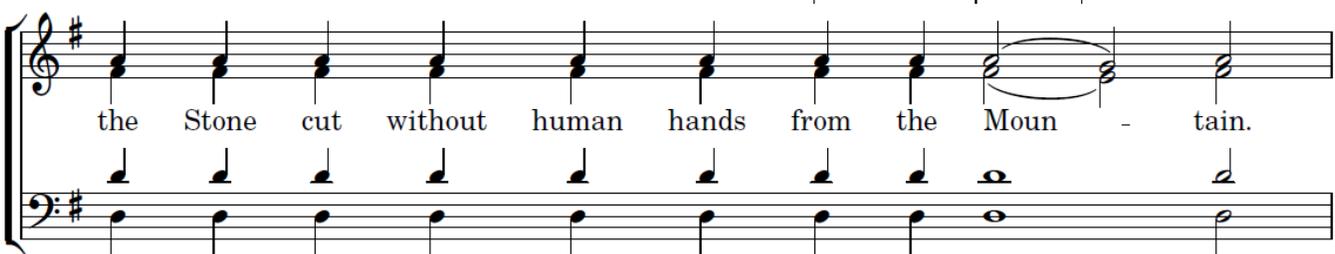
Tone 6

(for the Holy Fathers)

Daniel, the man of desires, beheld You, O Lord,
 the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.
 Thus, he foretold that You would take flesh without seed,
 O Word of God, born of the Virgin, //
 the changeless God and Savior of our souls!



Daniel, the man of desires, beheld You, O Lord,



the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.

Thus, he foretold that You would take flesh with - out seed,

O Word of God, born of the Vir - gin, the changeless God and Sav - ior of our souls!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6

(for the Forefeast, by Byzantium)

O cave, make ready, for the Ewe Lamb comes, bearing Christ in her womb!
 O manger, receive Him Who by a word has released the dwellers of earth from lawlessness!
 Shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful wonder!
 You magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh and frankincense,
 for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Mother!
 And she, bending over Him as a handmaiden,
 worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, saying to Him:
 "How were You sown as seed in me?
 How have You grown within me, //
 my Deliverer and my God?"

O cave, make ready, for the Ewe Lamb comes, bearing Christ in her womb!

O manger, receive Him Who by a word has released the dwellers of earth from law-less-ness!

Shepherds, abiding in the fields, bear witness to the fearful won - der!

You magi from Persia, offer to the King gold, myrrh and frank - in - cense,
 for the Lord has appeared from a Virgin Moth-er! And she, bending over Him as a handmaiden,
 worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, say-ing to Him: "How were You sown as seed in me?
 How have You grown with - in me, my De - liv - 'rer and my God?"

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ...

Great Prokeimenon, Three readings

Old Testament Readings (*Premia*)

Genesis 14:14-20; Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17; Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Prokeimenon of the Day, three readings

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis. (Genesis 14:14-20)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Now when Abram heard that Lot his nephew had been taken captive, he numbered his own home-born servants three hundred and eighteen, and pursued the enemy as far as Dan. And he fell upon them by night, he and his servants, and smote them and pursued them as far as Cho-bal, which is on the left of Damascus. And he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and he brought back Lot his nephew and all his goods and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom came out to meet him, after his return from the slaughter of Cho-do-lo-go-mor and the kings with him, to the valley of Sha-veh this was the plain of Kings. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was Priest of the Most High. And he blessed Abram and said: Blessed is Abram by the most high God, who created the heaven and the earth. And blessed is the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Fifth Book of Moses called Deuteronomy. (Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17b)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Moses said to the sons of Israel: See, I have delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land which I swore to your fathers, to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob, to give it to them and to

their seed after them. And I spoke to you at that time saying: I alone shall not be able to bear you. the Lord your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are to-day as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord the God of our fathers multiply you a thousand times more than you are, and bless you as he has spoken to you. And I took from you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you, captains of thousands and hundreds and fifties and tens and recorders for your judges. And I commanded your judges at that time, saying: Hear cases between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother and the stranger who is with him. You shall not have respect to persons in judging. You shall hear the small as well as the great. You shall not shrink before any man's person; for the judgement is God's.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Fifth Book of Moses called Deuteronomy. (*Deuteronomy 10:14-18, 20-21*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold the heaven and the highest heaven belong to the Lord your God, the earth and all that is in it. The Lord preferred your fathers, to love them: and he chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is at this day. So circumcise the hardness of your heart and stiffen your neck no longer. For the Lord your God is God of Gods and the Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality, who takes no bribe. He executes judgement for the stranger, the orphan and the widow; and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve him, and to him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in his name. He is your boast, he your God, who has done for you the great and wonderful things which your eyes have seen.

Then, the Augmented Litany

Aposticha

Tone 2

(for the Forefeast)

(Automelon)

O house of Ephratha,
the holy city,
the glory of the prophets,
beautify the house//
in which God is being born!

v. God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the mountain overshadowed by the forest.

Bethlehem, land of Judah,
prepare the divine cavern
as a dwelling for God to be born in the flesh
from a Virgin who knew not a man//
to save the human race!

Bethlehem, land of Ju - dah, prepare the divine cav - ern
 as a dwell - ing for God to be born in the flesh
 from a Virgin who knew not a man to save the hu - man race!

v. Lord, I have heard the report of You, and Your work, Lord, do I fear.

O, come all you faithful

and let us celebrate

the coming feast of the Nativity.

Being led by the star, together with the Magi and the shepherds let us mystically sing://

"Salvation comes from the Virgin's womb, summoning all the faithful."

O, come all you faith - ful and let us cel - e-brate the coming feast of the Na-tiv - i-ty.
 Being led by the star, together with the Magi and the shepherds let us mys-ti-cal-ly sing:
 "Salvation comes from the Virgin's womb, summoning all the faith - ful."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 2

(for the Fathers, by Cyprian)

Rejoice, honored Prophets,
 who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,
 and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!
 They became indeed the mediators of Christ's new covenant.
 Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven,//
 intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

Rejoice, honored Pro - phets who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,
 and were re - vealed as firm and un - shak - en pil - lars of faith!
 They became indeed the mediators of Christ's new co - ve - nant.
 Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heav - en,
 intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and sal - va - tion to our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 *(for the Forefeast, by Cyprian)*

The time of our salvation draws near.
 Prepare, O cave!
 The Virgin draws near to bear the Christ.
 Rejoice, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 for our Lord has come from you!
 All you lands, know the coming of Christ
 Who comes as the Lover of mankind

to save mankind whom He has made!

The time of our sal - va - tion draws near. Pre - pare, O cave!
The Vir - gin draws near to bear the Christ. Rejoice, Bethlehem, land of Ju - dah,
for our Lord has come from you! All you lands, know the com - ing of Christ
Who comes as the Lov - er of man - kind to save man - kind whom He has made!

St. Symeon's Prayer

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 4

Troparion

(Resurrection)

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel
the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the an - gel

the joyous message of Your Re-sur-rec - tion; they cast away the an-ces-tral curse

and elatedly told the a - pos - tles: Death is o - ver - thrown!

Christ our God is ri - sen, granting the world great mer - cy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2

Troparion

(Fathers)

Troparion for the Fathers – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
 for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;
 and the Prophet Daniel appeared
 a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
 So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Great are the ac - com - plish - ments of faith, for the

Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though
in the wa - ters of rest; and the pro - phet Dan - iel ap - peared,
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by
their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4

Troparion of the Forefast

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Mary was of Da - vid's seed, so she went with

Joseph to register in Beth - le - hem. She bore in her womb
the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was
at hand. Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful pal - ace for the Queen.
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 4

Troparion

(Resurrection)

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 4

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel
the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the an - gel
the joyous message of Your Re-sur-rec - tion; they cast away the an-ces-tral curse
and elatedly told the a - pos - tles: Death is o - ver - thrown!
Christ our God is ri - sen, grant-ing the world great mer - cy!

Tone 2

Troparion

(Fathers)

Troparion for the Fathers – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Great are the ac - com - plish - ments of faith, for the

Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though
in the wa - ters of rest; and the pro - phet Dan - iel ap - peared,
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by
their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4

Troparion of the Forefeast

Troparion of the Forefeast – Tone 4

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Mary was of Da - vid's seed, so she went with

Joseph to register in Beth - le - hem. She bore in her womb
the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was
at hand. Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful pal - ace for the Queen.
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 1

Kontakion

(Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Soprano
Alto

Re-joyce, O Bethlehem! Prepare your-self, O E-phra-tha!

Tenor
Bass

The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd

she car-ries in her womb. The God-bear-ing forefathers will

re-joyce, be-hold-ing Him, and with the shepherds, they

will glorify the Virgin nurs-ing Him.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3

Kontakion

(Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

To-day the Vir - gin comes to the cave to give birth

to the E - ter - nal Word. Hear the glad tidings and

re - joice, O u - ni - verse! Glorify with the angels and

the shep - herds the Eternal God, who is willing to

ap - pear as a lit - - - - - tle child!

Tone 4

Prokeimenon

(Song of the Fathers)

Priest: Let us attend! +Peace be unto all!

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Prokeimenon, Tone 4

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone, the Song of the Fathers: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Choir: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Blessèd are You O Lord God of our fa - thers, and praised and

glo - ri - fied is Your name for - ev - - - er.

Reader: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

Choir: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

Blessèd are You O Lord God of our fa - thers, and praised and

glo - ri - fied is Your name for - ev - - - er.

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers, ...

Choir: ... and praised and glorified is Your Name forever!

and praised and

glo - ri - fied is Your name for - ev - - - er.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Epistle

(328) Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (*Sunday before Nativity*)

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the **Hebrews**.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brothers and sisters, by faith Abraham lived as an alien in the land of the promise, as in a land that was not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. Indeed, Abraham looked for the city which has foundations and whose architect and builder is God. By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac in sacrifice. Yes, he who had joyfully received the promises was now offering up his uniquely loved son, the very one of whom it was said, "In Isaac will your seed be called." Abraham concluded that God was even able to raise up the dead and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead.

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding future events. By faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's sons and bowed down, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith, Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of the children of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith, Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw that he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

What more shall I say? Time would fail me if I mentioned Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith, the saints overpowered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became strong in weakness, grew mighty in war and caused foreign armies to flee.

Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, by chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn apart, they were tempted and they were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated. And yet the world was not worthy of them! They wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. All of them received a testimony through their faith but they did not receive the promise because God had made provision for us to have something better, and they were not to reach perfection apart from us.

Alleluia: Tone 4

*Reader: **And to Your spirit.*** In the 4th Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sunday before the Nativity*)

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. **Matthew**

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Priest: The book of the origins of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Isaac became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron. Hezron became the father of Ram. Ram became the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon. Nahshon became the father of Salmon. Salmon became the father of Boaz by Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed by Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of King David. David became the father of Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam became the father of Abijah. Abijah became the father of Asa. Asa became the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat became the father of Joram. Joram became the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham. Jotham became the father of Ahaz. Ahaz became the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh. Manasseh became the father of Amon. Amon became the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel became the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel became the

father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim. Eliakim became the father of Azor. Azor became the father of Sadoc. Sadoc became the father of Achim. Achim became the father of Eliud. Eliud became the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan. Matthan became the father of Jacob. Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. And so, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Christ, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened like this: after his mother, Mary, was promised in marriage to Joseph but before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her betrothed, who was a righteous man did not want to make her a public spectacle and so intended to put her away quietly. But as he was thinking about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for what is conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you shall give him the name Jesus because he will be the one to save his people from their sins."

Now all this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son. They shall call his name Emmanuel; which means, 'with us is God.'

Joseph arose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him: he took his wife to live with him, and had no relations with her before she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he named him Jesus.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!