

"Lord I Call..." – Tone 3

Reader: In the Third 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, receive 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!

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of men, being saved by faith, //
always offers You a song.

By Your Cross, O Christ our Sa - viour, death's dominion has been shat - tered;
the devil's de - lu - sion de - stroyed! The race of men being saved by faith,
al - ways of - fers You a song!

The musical score consists of three systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The first system covers the first two lines of text. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final line of text and ends with a double bar line.

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again. //
All creation, praising You, always offers You a song.

All has been enlightened by Your Resur - rec - tion, O Lord! Paradise has been
o - pened a - gain. All creation, praising You, always of - fers You a song!

The musical score consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. Each system has a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The first system covers the first two lines of text. The second system covers the next two lines and ends with a double bar line.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead, //
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

I glorify the power of the Fa - ther and the Son! I praise the authority of
the Holy Spi - rit! The undivided, uncreated God - head,
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns for - e - ver!

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

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

We bow down in worship before Your Precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resur - rec - - tion



for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

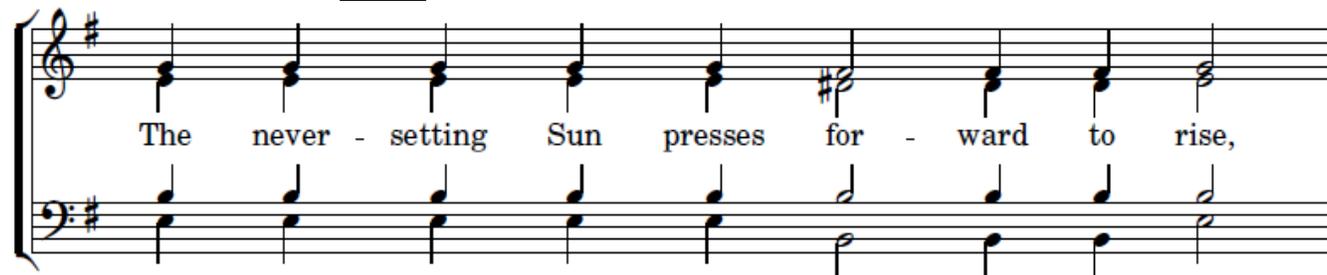
v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 6

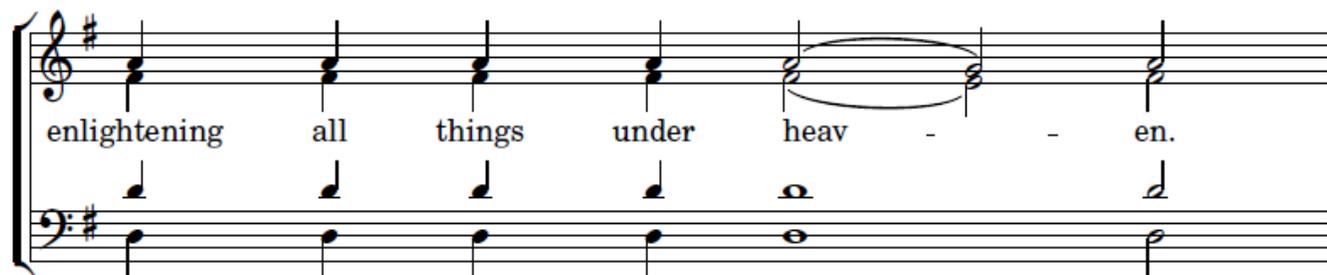
(for the Forefeast)

(Having placed all their hope)

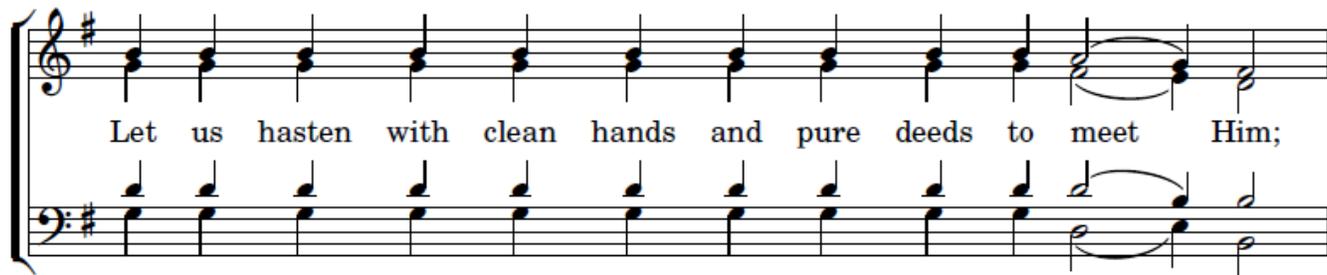
The never-setting Sun presses forward to rise,
 enlightening all things under heaven.
 Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;
 let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spirit!
 Let us beseech Him in His compassion,
 that, as He comes in His good pleasure to His own strange birth,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



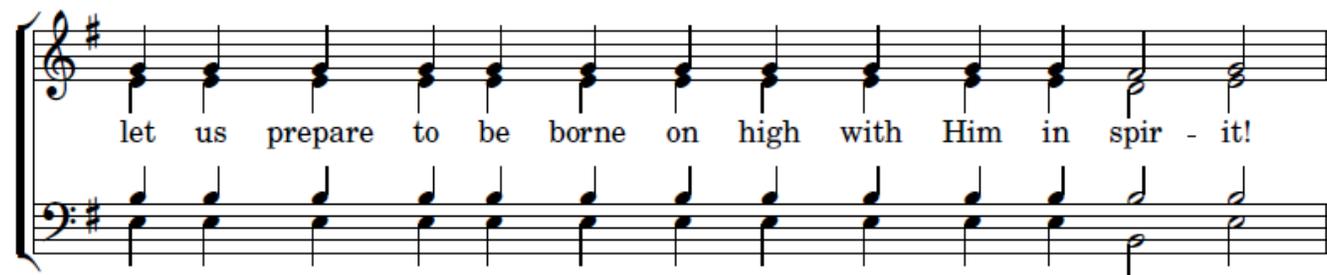
The never - setting Sun presses for - ward to rise,



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 com - pas - - sion,

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

that, He may lead us, who have become stran - gers

to the path of life in E - den, into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

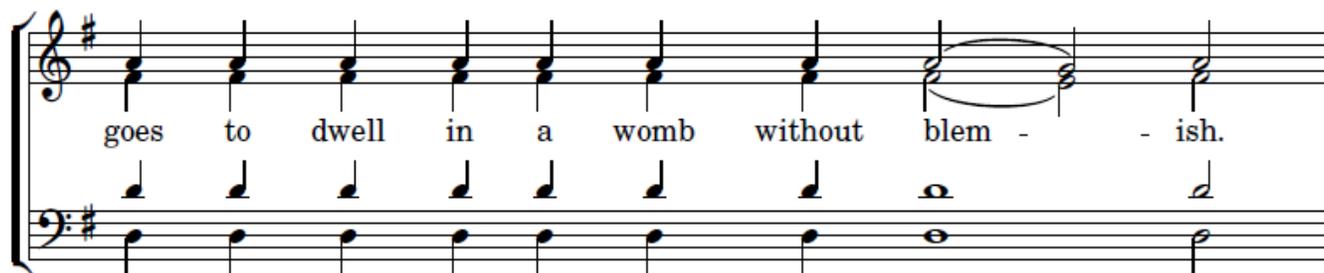
v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cherubim,
goes to dwell in a womb without blemish.

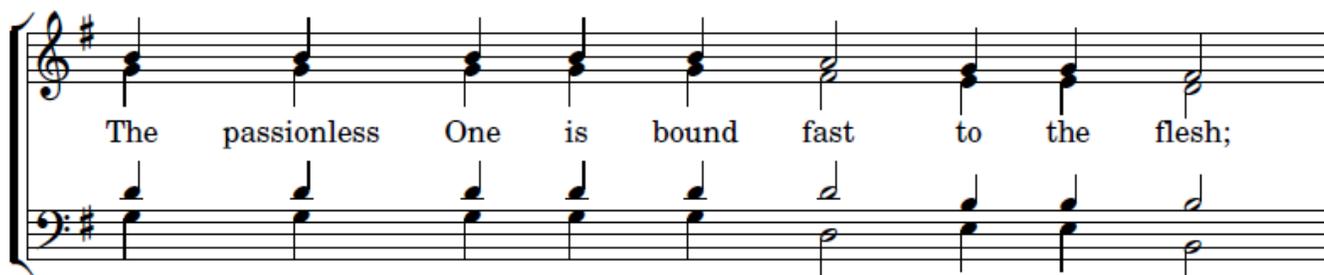
The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;
He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Judah.

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.

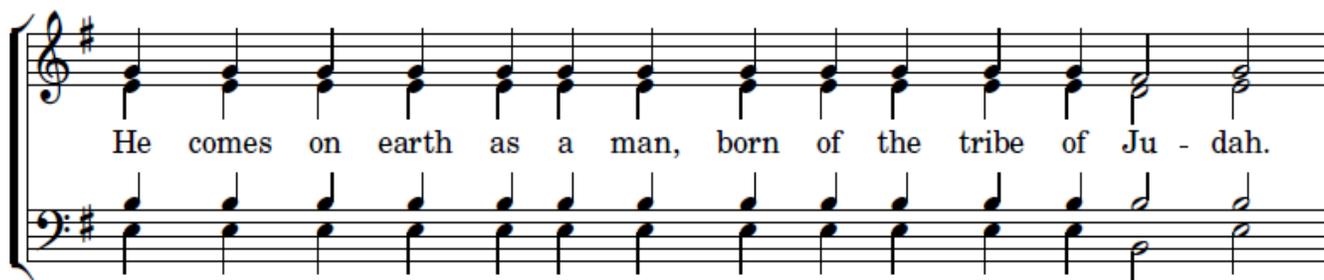
The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cher - u - bim,



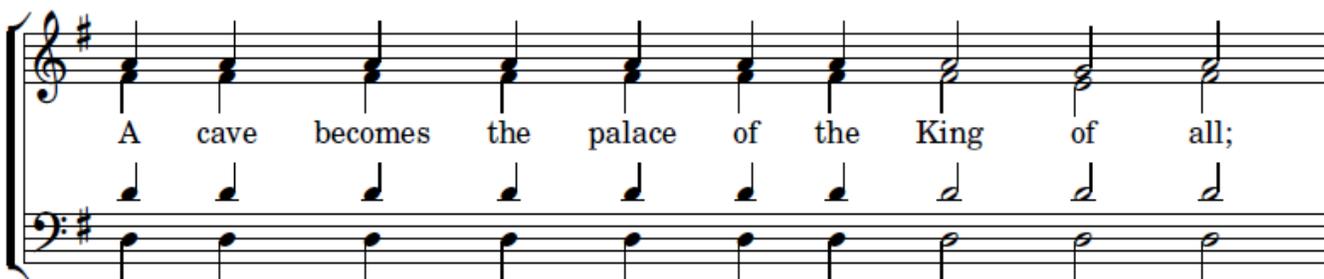
goes to dwell in a womb without blem - - ish.



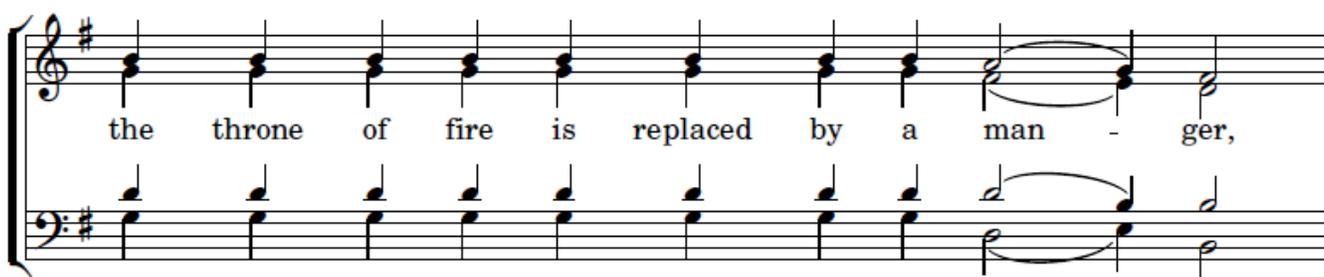
The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;



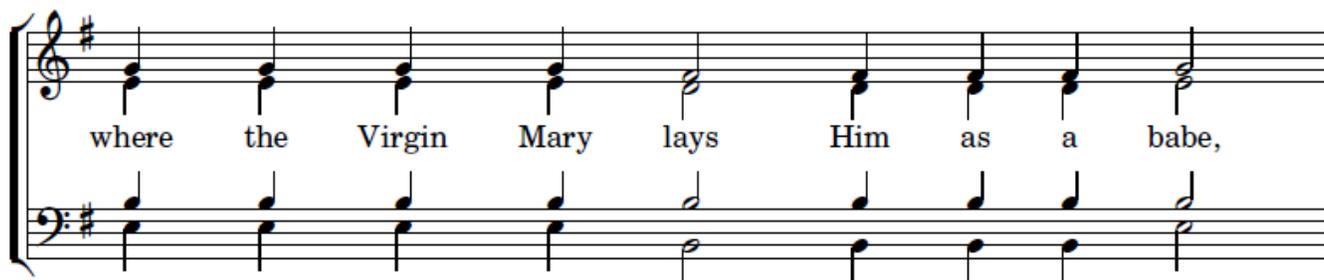
He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Ju - dah.



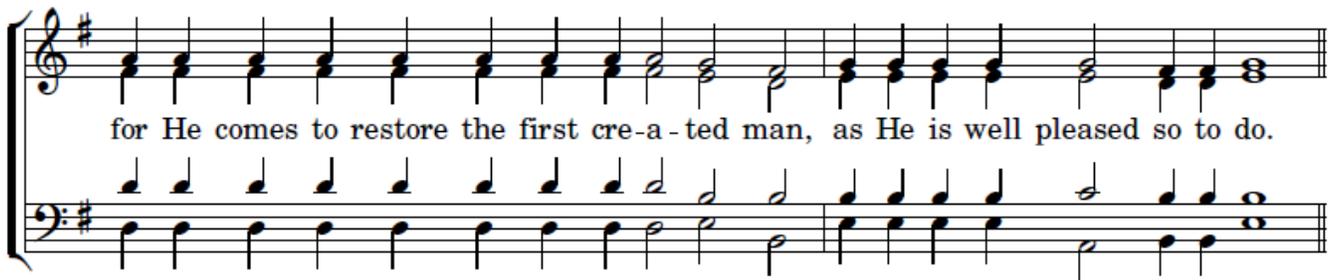
A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;



the throne of fire is replaced by a man - ger,



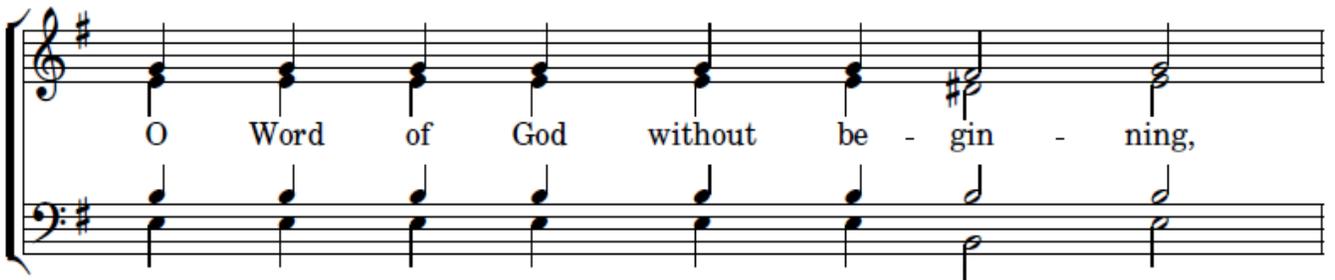
where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,



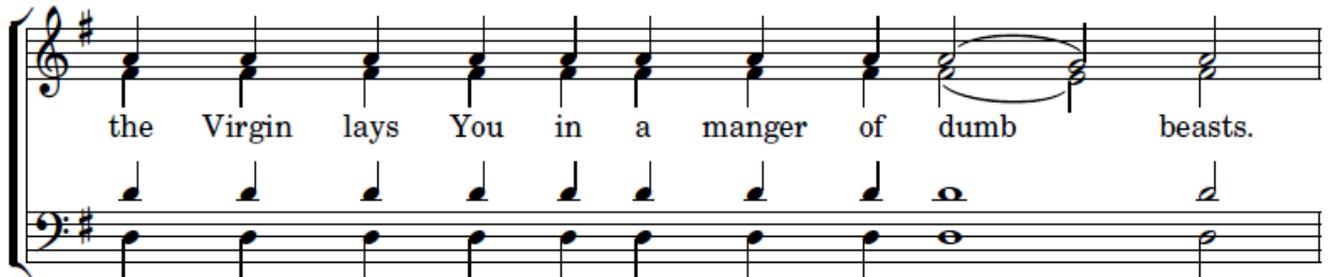
for He comes to restore the first cre-a-ted man, as He is well pleased so to do.

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

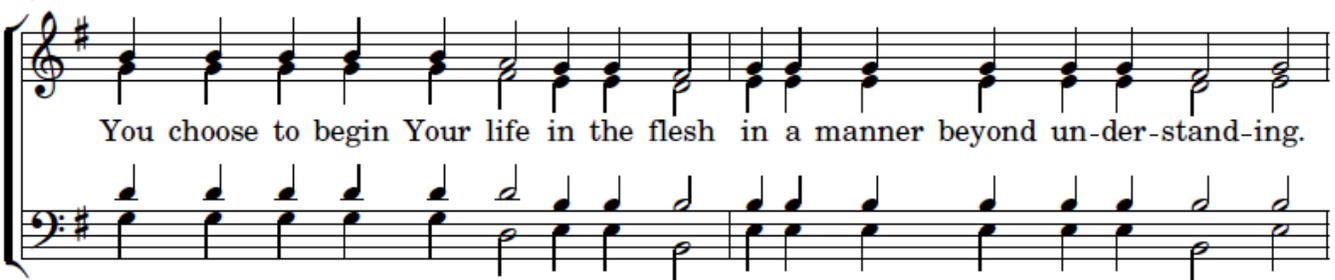
O Word of God without beginning,
 the Virgin lays You in a manger of dumb beasts.
 You choose to begin Your life in the flesh
 in a manner beyond understanding.
 You have come to loose me from the fetters of evil
 with which the envious serpent bound me.
 O Lover of mankind, You are wrapped in swaddling 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.



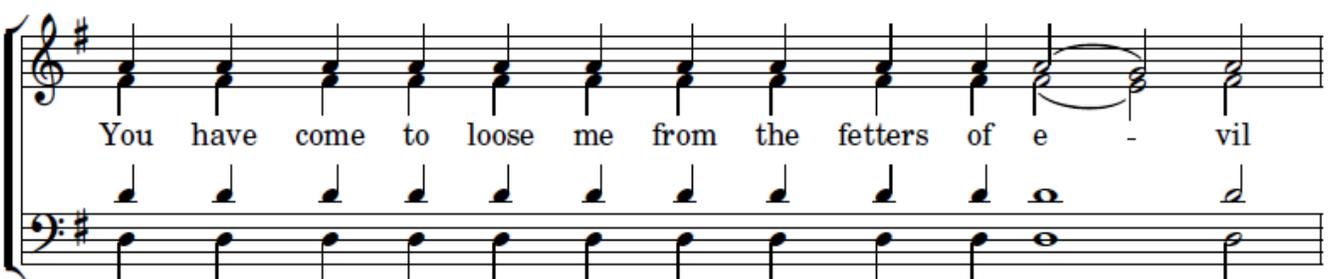
O Word of God without be - gin - ning,



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

with which the envious serpent bound me.

O Lover of mankind, You are wrapped in swad - dling clothes,

tearing to pieces the bonds of my count - less sins.

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

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

Tone 6

(for the Holy Fathers)

(Having placed all their hope)

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 - fes - tal praise!

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

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 En-och makes glad;

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

Mel-chi-ze-dek beholds from afar the birth that is without a fa-ther.

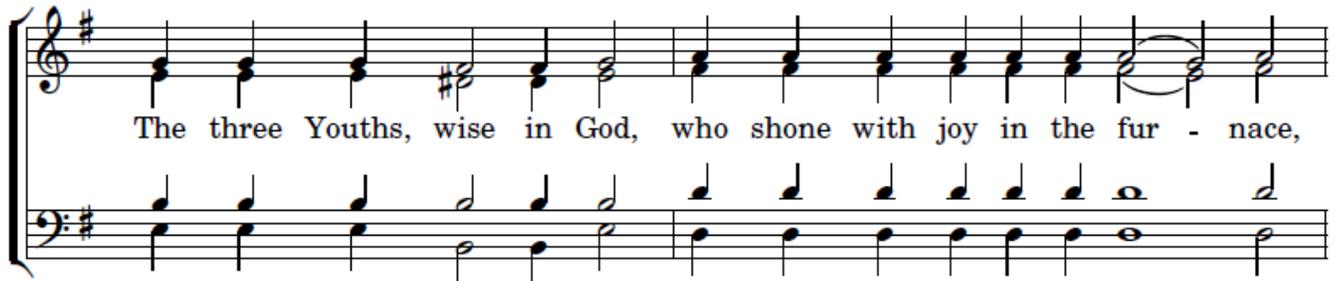
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Fore-fa-thers of Christ,



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

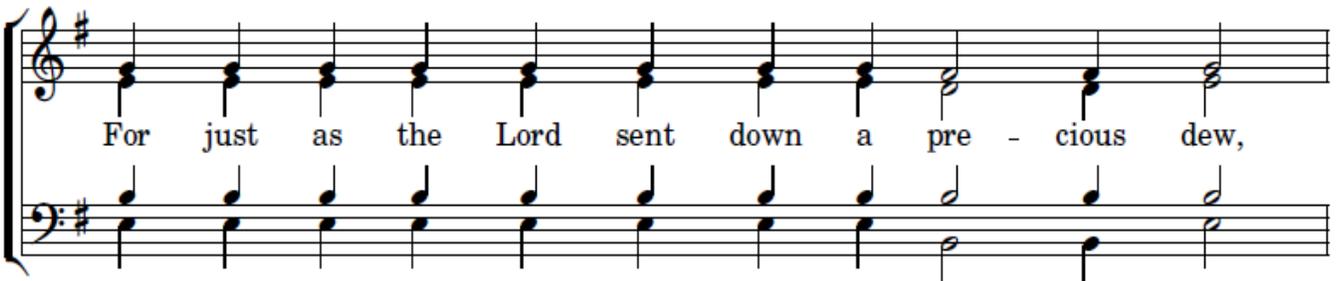
v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

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.



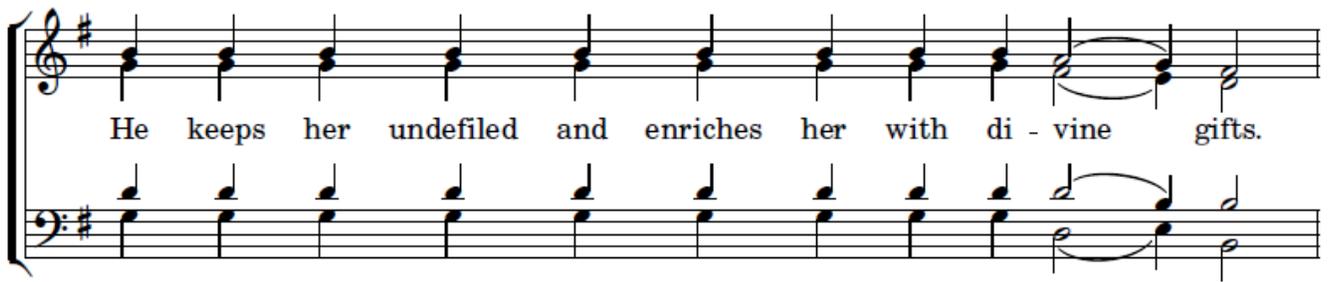
The three Youths, wise in God, who shone with joy in the fur - nace,

proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;

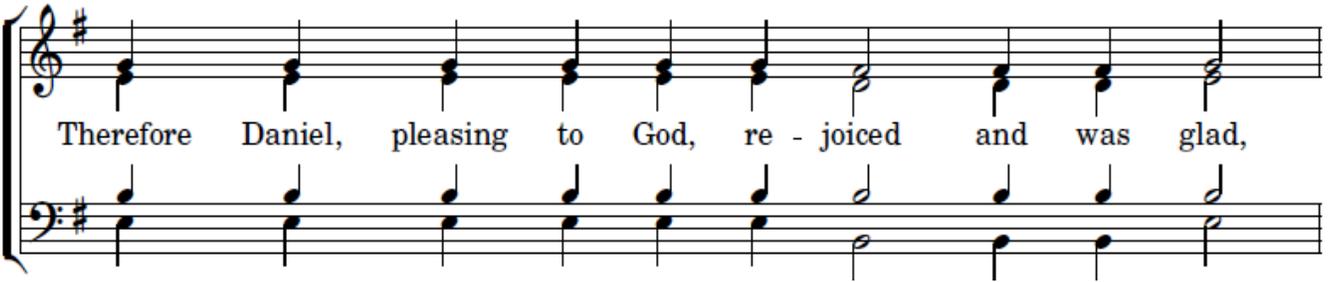


For just as the Lord sent down a pre - cious dew,

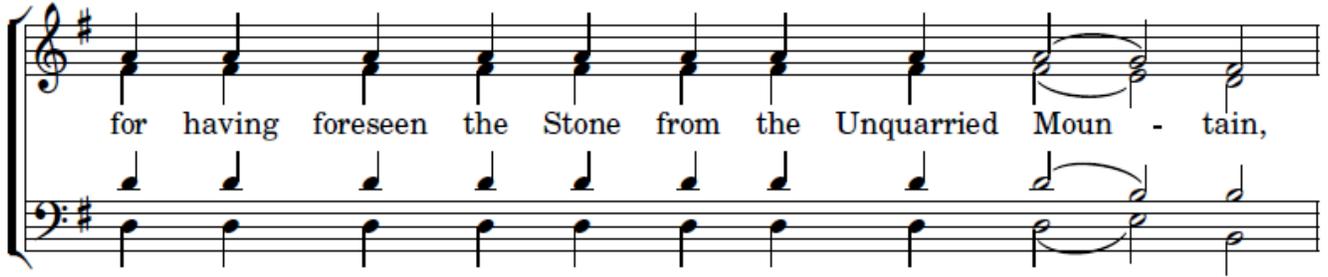
He preserved from the flame her who gave birth;



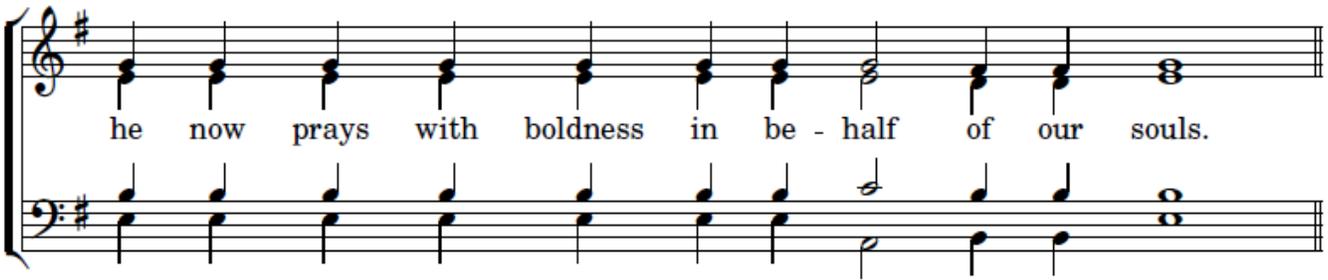
He keeps her undefiled and enriches her with di - vine gifts.



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



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



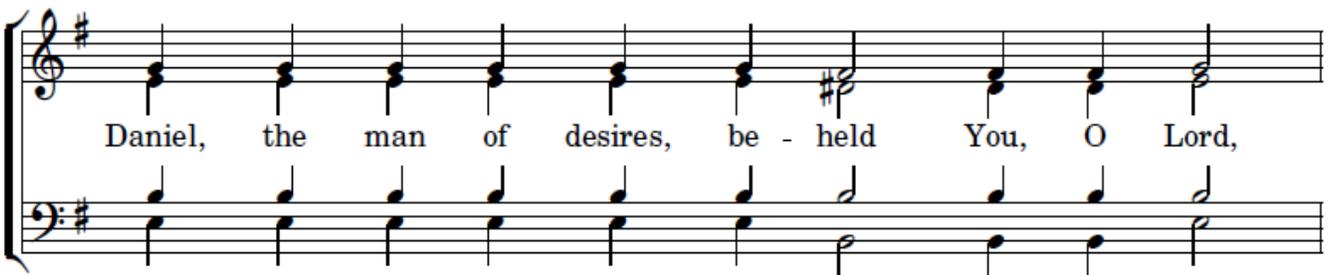
he now prays with boldness in be - half of our souls.

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, be - held You, O Lord,



the Stone cut without human hands from the Moun - tain.

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 Byzantius)*

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 hand - maid - en,

worshipped Him as He lay in her arms, say - ing to Him:

How were You sown as seed in me?



Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ... (p. 16)

Prokeimenon of the Day, three readings

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

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 Chobal, 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 Sabi; 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, 15-17)

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 10:14-21)

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 judgment 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 (p.18)

Aposticha – Tone 3

The sun was darkened by your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

The sun was darkened by Your Pas - sion, O Christ, but all creation was

enlightened by the light of Your Resur - rec - tion! Accept our evening

song, O Lov - ver of Man.

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
"Almighty Lord, glory to You!"

Your life-bearing resur - rec - tion, O Lord, enlightened the whole u - ni - verse,

recalling Your cre - a - tion. Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing:

O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

You are the changeless God,
 Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.
 Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.
 It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.
 By descending to Hades and rising on the third day, //
 You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

You are the changeless God, Who, suffering in the flesh were changed!

Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross. It was filled with fear

while praising Your patience! By descending to Hades and rising on the

third day, You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

You endured death, O Christ,
 to deliver the race of man from death.
 You rose from the dead on the third day,
 raising with Yourself those who knew You as God //

and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

You endured death, O Christ, to deliver the race of man from death.

The first system of musical notation features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

You rose from the dead on the third day, raising with Yourself those

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

who knew You as God and enlightening the world — glo - ry to You!

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

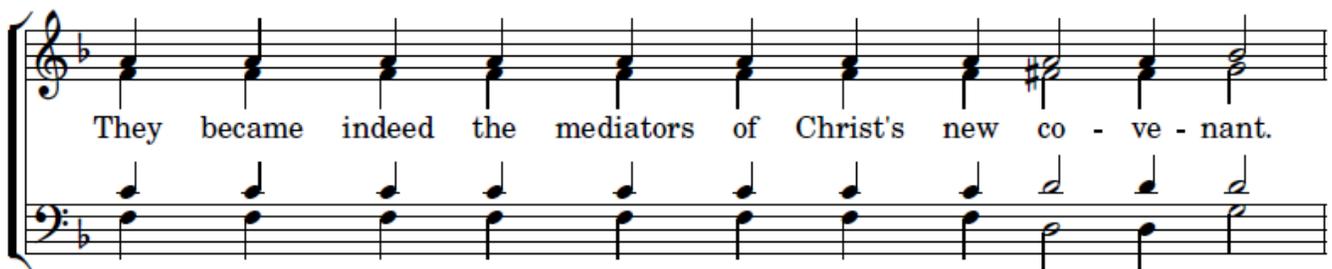
Rejoice, honored Prophets,
who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,
and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!
They became indeed the mediators of Christ's new covenant.
Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven, //
intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and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

Rejoice, honored Pro - phets who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,

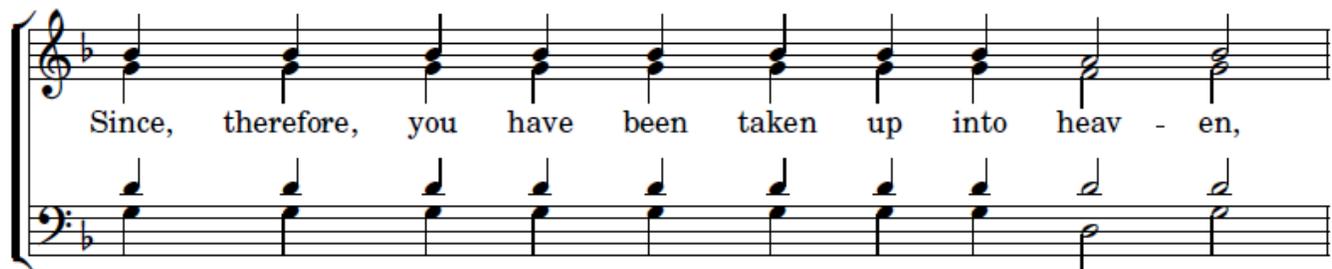
The first system of musical notation for the second hymn features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

and were re - vealed as firm and un - shak - en pil - lars of faith!

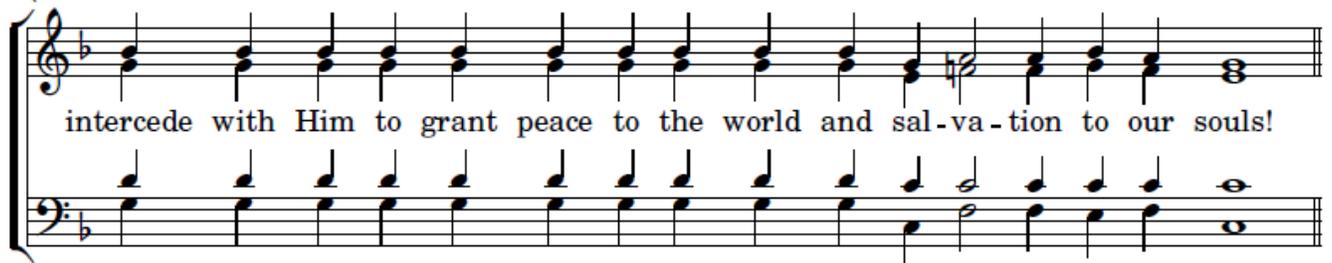
The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.



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!

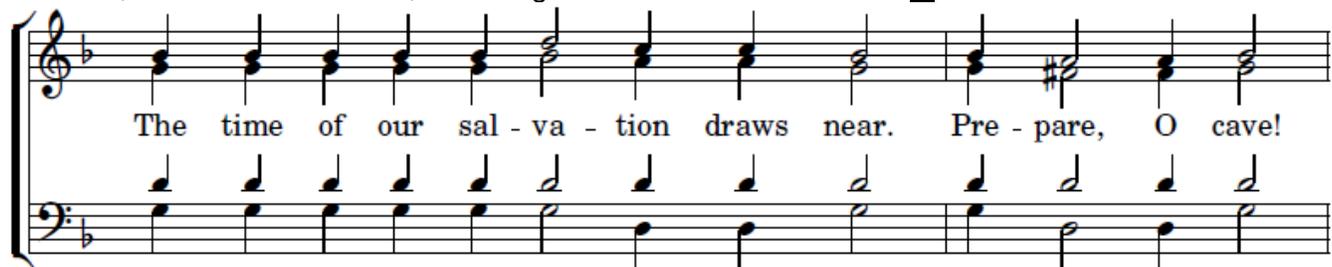
The Virgin draws near to bear the Christ.

Be glad, and rejoice, O Bethlehem, land of Judah,

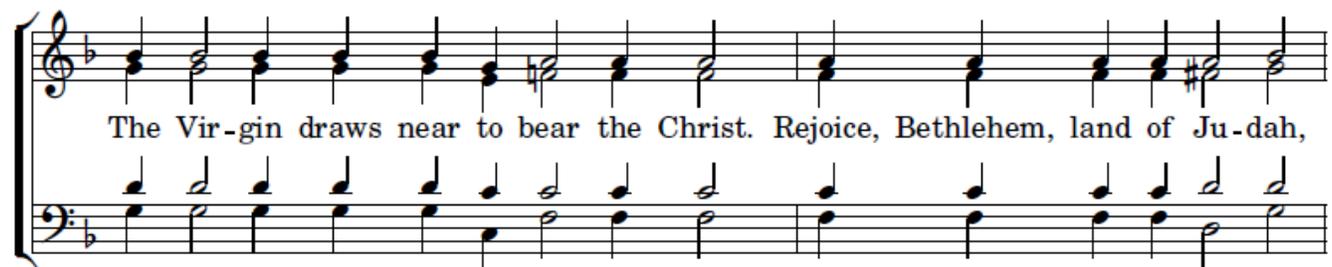
for our Lord has come from you!

Hearken, O mountains and hills, and lands around Judea, //

for Christ, the Lover of mankind, is coming to save those whom He created!



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!

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of two staves: a vocal line on a treble clef and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

St. Symeon's Prayer (p. 25)

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 3

Troparion

(Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Let the heavens rejoice! — Let the earth — be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down

death by death! He has become the first - born of the dead!

He has delivered us from the depths — of hell,

and has grant - ed to the world great — mer - cy!

Tone 2

Troparion

(Holy 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

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

Tenor
Bass

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

(Forefeast)

(Troparion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//
Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been o - pened

to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life

blossoms forth from the Vir - gin in the cave! Her womb is

a spiritual paradise planted with the Di - vine_ Fruit: if we

eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Ad - am.

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the

be - gin - ning!

Then, the dismissal (p. 26)

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 3

Troparion

(Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Let the heavens rejoice! — Let the earth — be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down

death by death! He has become the first - born of the dead!

He has delivered us from the depths — of hell,

and has grant - ed to the world great — mer - cy!

Tone 4

Troparion

(Forefeast)

*(Troparion for the Forefeast – Tone 4)*Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been o - pened

to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life

blossoms forth from the Vir - gin in the cave! Her womb is

a spiritual paradise planted with the Di - vine Fruit: if we

eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Ad - am.

Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the

be - gin - ning!

Tone 2

Troparion

(Holy 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

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

Tenor
Bass

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!

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

Tone 1**Kontakion***(Fathers)**(Kontakion for the Fathers – Tone 1)*

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)**(Kontakion for the Forefeast – Tone 3)*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

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

Tenor
Bass

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!

(then, p. 83)

Tone 4

Prokeimenon

(Holy 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 to 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.

Priest: Peace be to you.

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: (1) Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sunday before the Nativity*) Page 309

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

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

Priest: Let us Attend!

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.

Sermon

(then p. 89)

Communion Hymn

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!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Praise the Lord from the heav - ens! Praise Him in the high - est!

Re - joice in the Lord, O you right - eous; praise be - fits the just!

Detailed description: This block contains the first two systems of a musical score. The first system is for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass voices. The Soprano/Alto part is written in a soprano clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The Tenor/Bass part is written in a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise the Lord from the heav - ens! Praise Him in the high - est!". The second system continues the vocal parts and includes piano accompaniment for both hands. The lyrics are: "Re - joice in the Lord, O you right - eous; praise be - fits the just!". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

1. Praise the Lord with the lyre, make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings.
2. Sing to Him a new song, play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
3. For the word of the Lord is upright; and all His work is done in faithfulness.
4. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
5. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of His mouth.
6. He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; He put the deeps in storehouses.
7. Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!
8. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood forth.

Al - le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, —

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the word "Alleluia". It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, — Al - le - lu - ia, —". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.

Al - le - lu - ia!

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the word "Alleluia". It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a bass clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple melodic lines.