

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Glory to You, our God; glory to You! Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. **(3x)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

Lord, cleanse our sins!

Master, pardon our transgressions!

Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **(3x)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All: 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 the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **(12x)**

* Vespers should begin in the early afternoon on December 24.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

At the end of the Ninth Hour, there is no dismissal. The priest remains before the Holy Doors, bows three times, and says:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

Psalm 103(4) is typically read (chanted) at Daily Vespers.

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, You are very great:

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment,

Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters,

Who makes the clouds His chariot,

Who walks on the wings of the wind,

Who makes His angels spirits,

His ministers a flame of fire.

You who laid the foundations of the earth,

So that it should not be moved forever,

You covered it with the deep as with a garment;

The waters stood above the mountains.

At Your rebuke they fled;

At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.

They went up over the mountains;

They went down into the valleys,

To the place which You founded for them.

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over,

That they may not return to cover the earth.

He sends the springs into the valleys;
They flow among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field;
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.

By them the birds of the heavens have their home;
They sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His upper chambers;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the service of man,
That he may bring forth food from the earth,
And wine that makes glad the heart of man,
Oil to make his face shine,

And bread which strengthens man's heart.
The trees of the LORD are full of sap,

The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Where the birds make their nests;

The stork has her home in the fir trees.
The high hills are for the wild goats;

The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.
He appointed the moon for seasons;

The sun knows its going down.
You make darkness, and it is night,
In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.

The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God.

When the sun rises, they gather together
And lie down in their dens.

Man goes out to his work

And to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

In wisdom You have made them all.

The earth is full of Your possessions –
This great and wide sea,

In which are innumerable teeming things,
Living things both small and great.
There the ships sail about;
There is that Leviathan
Which You have made to play there.
These all wait for You,
That You may give them their food in due season.
What You give them they gather in;
You open Your hand, they are filled with good.
You hide Your face, they are troubled;
You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
May the LORD rejoice in His works.
He looks on the earth, and it trembles;
He touches the hills, and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
May my meditation be sweet to Him;
I will be glad in the LORD.
May sinners be consumed from the earth,
And the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
The sun knows its going down.
You make darkness, and it is night,
O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both
now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.
Alliluia, Alliluia, Alliluia. Glory to You, O God! (x3)

Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff.

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part, identical to the first one. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part, identical to the previous ones. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' are written below the treble staff.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

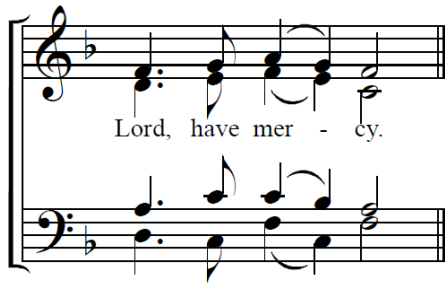
People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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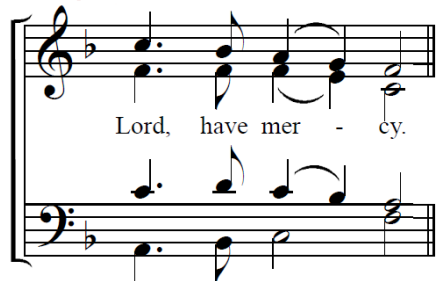
For our Archbishop *Alexander*, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



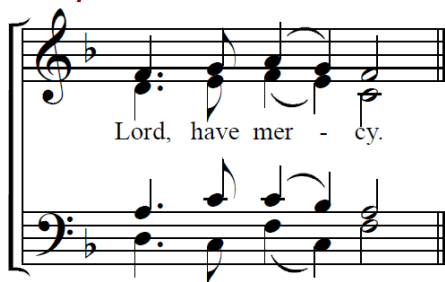
For the civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



For this city, for every monastery, city, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



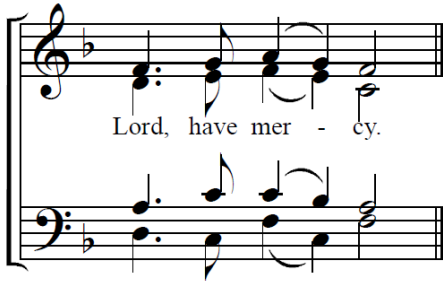
For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



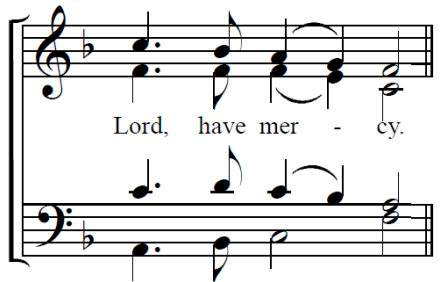
For travelers by land, sea, and air, the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



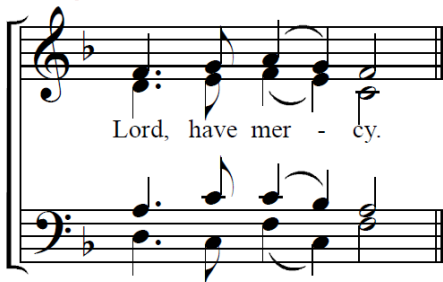
For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.



Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

People: To You O Lord.

Musical score for the text "To you, O Lord." The score is written for a single melodic line in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of four measures: "To you," (two measures), "O" (one measure), and "Lord." (one measure). The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Priest (Ekphonisis): For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.

Musical score for the text "A - men." The score is written for a single melodic line in a key with two flats. The melody consists of two measures: "A -" (one measure) and "men." (one measure). The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

"Blessed is the man..." is sung.

Kathisma / "Blessed is the man ..."

People:

Musical score for the text "Bless-ed is the man_ who walks not in the coun-sel of the wick - ed." The score is written for a single melodic line in a key with two flats. The melody consists of 12 measures. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Bless-ed is the man_ who walks not in the coun-sel of the wick - ed.

Refrain:

Musical score for the text "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia." The score is written for a single melodic line in a key with two flats. The melody consists of 12 measures. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

People:

Musical score for the text "For the Lord knows the way_ of the right - eous," The score is written for a single melodic line in a key with two flats. The melody consists of 8 measures. The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4.

For the Lord knows the way_ of the right - eous,

but the way of the wick - ed will per - ish.

Refrain

Serve the Lord _____ with fear, and re-joice in Him with trem - bling.

Refrain

Bless - ed are all who take ref - uge in Him. _____

Refrain

A - rise, _____ O Lord, _____ save me, O my God. _____

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs _____ to the Lord, Your _____ blessing be upon Your peo - ple.

Refrain

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Refrain

Now and ev - er, and un - to a - ges of a - ges. A - men.

Refrain

Then, Alliluia (x3) repeated three times:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, glo - ry to You, O God.

Little Litany

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

People: To You O Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "To you, O Lord." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords: a G major triad, an F major triad, an E major triad, and a D major triad. The bass staff contains a series of notes: G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G.

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.

Musical notation for the word "Amen." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords: a G major triad, an F major triad, and an E major triad. The bass staff contains a series of notes: G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G.

"Lord I Call..." – Tone 2

Reader: In the Second 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!

Musical notation for the phrase "Lord, I call upon You, hear me." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords: a G major triad, an F major triad, an E major triad, and a D major triad. The bass staff contains a series of notes: G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G.

Musical notation for the phrase "Lord, I call upon You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords: a G major triad, an F major triad, an E major triad, and a D major triad. The bass staff contains a series of notes: G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G.

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.

Lord, I Call . . . (continued)

Reader (chanted after the first sticharion is completed): Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins, with men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto You, O Lord, O Lord, are my eyes, in You have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then You knew my paths.

In this way where I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that knew me.

Flight has failed me, and there is none that watches out for my soul.

I have cried unto You, O Lord; I said: You are my hope, You are my portion in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Your name.

v. (9) The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You shall reward me.

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

Tone 2 *(by Germanus)*

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
as we sing of this present mystery:
the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
now feast on the delights of Paradise:
for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
has taken the form of a servant.
Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;
He was true God, and He remains the same,
but through His love for mankind,
He has become what He never was: true man.
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://
"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Come, — let us greatly re-joice in the Lord as we tell of this

Detailed description: This system shows the first two staves of the vocal score. The Soprano and Alto parts are written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Tenor and Bass parts are on a separate staff with a bass clef and the same key signature. The lyrics are: "Come, — let us greatly re-joice in the Lord as we tell of this". The music consists of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

pres - ent mys - ter - y! The di - vid - ing wall has been destroyed;

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal parts. The lyrics are: "pres - ent mys - ter - y! The di - vid - ing wall has been destroyed;". The musical notation includes chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

the flam - ing sword turns back, the Che - ru - bim withdraw from the

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal parts. The lyrics are: "the flam - ing sword turns back, the Che - ru - bim withdraw from the". The musical notation includes chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

Tree — of Life, and I partake of the delight of par - a - dise

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal parts. The lyrics are: "Tree — of Life, and I partake of the delight of par - a - dise". The musical notation includes chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

from which I was cast out through dis - o - be - dience. For the express

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal parts. The lyrics are: "from which I was cast out through dis - o - be - dience. For the express". The musical notation includes chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

im - age of the Father, the imprint of His e - ter - ni - ty,

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal parts. The lyrics are: "im - age of the Father, the imprint of His e - ter - ni - ty,". The musical notation includes chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

takes the form of a serv - ant, and with - out un - der - going change

He comes forth from an unwedded moth - er. For what He was,

He has re - mained: true_ God, and what He was not, He has taken up -

on Him - self, be - com - ing man_ through love for man - kind.

Un - to Him, let us cry_ a - loud: "O God_

born of a Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us!"

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

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,

as we sing of this present mystery:
 the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;
 the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
 the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;
 and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,
 now feast on the delights of Paradise:
 for today the Father's perfect Image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
 has taken the form of a servant.

Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;
 He was true God, and He remains the same,
 but through His love for mankind,
 He has become what He never was: true man.

Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him://

"O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Come, — let us greatly re - joice in the Lord as we tell of this

pres - ent mys - ter - y! The di - vid - ing wall has been destroyed;

the flam - ing sword turns back, the Che - ru - bim withdraw from the

Tree — of Life, and I partake of the delight of par - a - dise

from which I was cast out through dis-o-be - dience. For the express

im - age of the Father, the imprint of His e - ter - ni - ty,

takes the form of a serv - ant, and with - out un - der - going change

He comes forth from an unwedded moth - er. For what He was,

He has re-mained: true_ God, and what He was not, He has taken up -

on Him - self, be - com - ing man_ through love for man - kind.

Un - to Him, let us cry a - loud: "O God

born of a Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us!"

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

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
 the whole universe was filled with light.
 The shepherds watched in the fields.
 The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
 But Herod was troubled,
 for God had appeared in the flesh.//
 He is the Savior of our souls.

When the Lord Je - sus was born of the ho - ly Vir - gin, all the

world was en - light - ened. The shep - herds watched

in the fields, the Ma - gi a - dored and the angels praised

in song; but Herod was trou - bled: for God has ap -

peared in the flesh, the Sav - ior of our souls!

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

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
 the whole universe was filled with light.
 The shepherds watched in the fields.
 The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang.
 But Herod was troubled,
 for God had appeared in the flesh.//
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world was en - light - ened. The shep - herds watched

in the fields, the Ma - gi a - dored and the angels praised

in song; but Herod was trou - bled: for God has ap -

peared in the flesh, the Sav - ior of our souls!

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

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.

Your rule is from age to age.

Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,

made man of the ever-virgin Mary,

You have filled all creation with joy.

The light of Your coming has shone on us;

every living creature praises You,

the Image of the Father's glory.

Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,

the same yesterday, today, and forever,

You have shone forth from the Virgin://

O God, have mercy on us!

Your King - dom, O Christ our God, is a kingdom of all the a - ges,

and Your rule is from generation to gen - er - a - tion! Made flesh

of the Holy Spirit and made man of the ever-virgin Mar-y, You have en-

light - ened us by Your com - ing. Light of light, Brightness

of the Fa - ther, You have made the whole creation shine with

joy. All that has breath prais - es You, the image of the glory of the

Fa - ther! O God, You are and have ev - er been! As You have

shone forth from a Vir - gin have mer - cy on us!

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

Your Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God.

Your rule is from age to age.

Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,

You have filled all creation with joy.

The light of Your coming has shone on us;

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Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,

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Fa - ther! O God, You are and have ev - er been! As You have

shone forth from a Vir - gin have mer - cy on us!

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

What shall we offer You, O Christ,
 Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?
 Every creature made by You offers You thanks:
 the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
 the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
 the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
 and we offer You a virgin Mother!!!
 O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

What shall we of - fer You, O Christ, who for our sakes have

appeared on earth as a man? Eve - ry crea - ture made by You

of - fers You thanks, the an - gels offer You a hymn; the heav - ens a
 star; the Magi gifts; the shepherds, their won - der; the earth its
 cave; the wilderness, the man - ger; and we of - fer You a Virgin
 Moth - er! O pre - e - ter - nal God, have mer - cy on us!

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

What shall we offer You, O Christ,
 Who for our sakes have appeared on earth as a man?
 Every creature made by You offers You thanks:
 the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
 the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
 the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
 and we offer You a virgin Mother!!!
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star; the Magi gifts; the shepherds, their won - der; the earth its
cave; the wilderness, the man - ger; and we of - fer You a Virgin
Moth - er! O pre - e - ter - nal God, have mer - cy on us!

In the Same Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Entrance with the Gospel

Tone 2 *(by Cassia the nun)*

When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,
the many kingdoms of men came to an end,
and when You were made man of the pure Virgin,
the many gods of idolatry were destroyed.
The cities of the world passed under one single rule,

and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead.
 The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,
 and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the Godhead,
 When You, our God, were made man.
 Great is Your mercy, O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

When Au - gus - tus reigned a - lone up - on the earth, the many kingdoms
 of man - kind came to an end; and when You were made man of the
 pure Vir - gin, the man - y gods of i - dol - a - try were des - troyed.
 The cities of the world passed under one sin - gle rule, and the
 na - tions came to believe in one sovereign God - head. The peo - ples
 were enrolled by the decree of Cae - sar; and we, the faithful,

were enrolled in the name of the God - head, when You, our God, were
made a man. Great is Your mer - cy: glo - ry to You!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!
Choir: O Gladsome Light ...

“O Gladsome Light,” and the prokeimenon of the day.

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory
Of the immortal Father,
Heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
Now that we have come to the setting of the sun
And behold the light of evening
We praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God.
For meet it is at all times to worship You
With voices of praise, O Son of God
And Giver of Life!
Therefore all the world glorifies You.

O Glad-some Light of the ho-ly glo - ry of the im-mor-tal Fa -
ther, heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ!

Now that we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be -

hold the light of eve - ning we praise God: Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly

Spir - it. For meet it is at all times to wor-ship

You with voic - es of praise, O Son of God and

Giv - er of Life! Therefore all the world glo-ri-fies You.

The Priest, standing before the Holy Table facing the People, or the Deacon standing before the Holy Doors:

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: † Peace to all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

And then the prokimenon of the day:

Sunday: eighth tone

Priest: Wisdom. The prokimenon in the *Eighth* tone. Come, bless the Lord, * all you servants of the Lord.

People:



Musical score for the first system. It consists of a piano accompaniment on the left and a vocal line on the right. The piano part is in the bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal part is in the treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Come bless the Lord all you ser - vants of the Lord." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm.

Priest: You that serve in the house of the Lord, even in the courts of the house of our God.

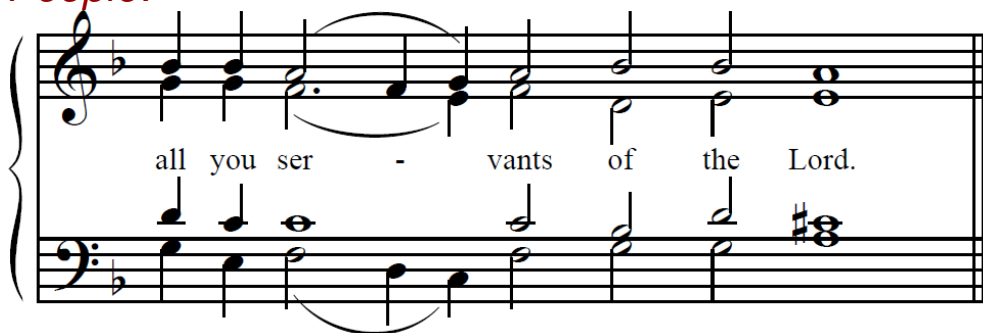
People:



Musical score for the second system. It consists of a piano accompaniment on the left and a vocal line on the right. The piano part is in the bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal part is in the treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Come bless the Lord all you ser - vants of the Lord." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm.

Priest: Come, bless the Lord ...

People:



Musical score for the third system. It consists of a piano accompaniment on the left and a vocal line on the right. The piano part is in the bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal part is in the treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "all you ser - vants of the Lord." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm.

The Holy Doors are closed.

Old Testament Readings

1. Genesis 1:1-13

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the First Book of Moses, called Genesis. (*Genesis 1:1-13*)

Priest: Let us attend!

In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. Now the earth was invisible and unformed, and darkness was upon the deep and the Spirit of God was borne upon the water. And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God made a separation between the light and the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night; and there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water and let there be a separation between the water and the water"; and it was so. And God made the firmament. And God made a separation between the water, which was below the firmament, and between the water which was above the firmament. And God called the firmament Heaven; and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, "Let the water below heaven be gathered together into one gathering, and let dry land appear"; and it was so. And the water below heaven was gathered together into their gatherings, and the dry land appeared. And God called the dry land Earth, and the accumulations of the waters he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout herb of grass, sowing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and fruiting tree making fruit, whose seed is in it according to its kind upon the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth herb of grass, sowing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and fruiting tree making fruit, whose seed was in it according to its kind upon the earth, and God saw that it was good. And there was evening and morning, a third day.

2. Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Fourth Book of Moses, called Numbers. (*Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18*)

Priest: Let us attend!

And the Spirit of God came upon Balaam, and he took up his discourse, and said, "How fair are your houses, O Jacob, your tents, O Israel . Like shady groves, like gardens beside a river, like tents that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. A man shall come forth from his seed and shall be lord over many nations, and his kingdom shall be exalted and increased. God led him out of Egypt; he has as it were the glory of the unicorn, he shall eat up the nations of his adversaries, and suck the marrow of their fat bones, and pierce the foe through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down like a lion, and like a young lion; who will rouse him? Blessed be every one who blesses you, and cursed be every one who curses you". A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a man shall rise out of Israel; and shall crush the princes of Moab, and plunder all the sons of Seth. Edom shall be an inheritance, Esau his foe shall be an inheritance, while Israel did valiantly.

3. Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Micah. (*Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4*)

Priest: Let us attend!

In those days, says the Lord, I will gather her that is bruised, and her that has been driven out I will receive, and those whom I have driven out; and her that has been bruised I will make into a remnant; and her that has been cast out into a strong nation; and the Lord shall reign over them in Mount Sion from this henceforth and for ever more. Thus says the Lord: And you Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, are not least among the thousands of Juda; for from you there shall come forth for

me the one who is to be ruler in Israel, and his goings out are from the beginning, from eternity. Because of this he will give them until the moment that she who bears child shall bring to birth; and the remainder of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And he will stand and shall see, and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, and they shall abide in the glory of the name of the Lord his God; for now they shall be magnified even to the extremities of the earth.

The Holy Doors are opened.

(Then we stand and sing the following troparion. The reader chants the verses and the choir responds. Sometimes the reader also chants the first line of the choral response. The choir then sings the last line.)

Tone 6 Troparion

You were born secretly in the cave,
but heaven spoke through a star and proclaimed You to all, O
Savior.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

The musical score is written in a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thou wast born secretly in the cave, but heaven spoke through a star and proclaimed Thee to all, O Savior. And it brought Magi, who worshipped Thee with faith;". The vocal line is in a soprano or alto range, and the piano accompaniment is in a lower range. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a steady rhythm.

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: His foundations are in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: Glorious things are spoken of you, O City of God. I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

v: Behold, O Philistia and Tyre and the people of Ethiopia!

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
You

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

v: "This one was born there," And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High Himself shall establish her."

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
You

have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

v: The Lord will record, when He registers the people and the princes born in her. All rejoice to have their dwelling in you.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
have mercy upon them and upon us!

And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You
 have mercy u - pon them and u - pon us!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

You were born secretly in the cave,
 but heaven spoke through a star and proclaimed You to all, O
Savior.

And it brought Magi, who worshipped You with faith;
 have mercy upon them and upon us!

Thou wast born se - cret - ly in the cave, but heav - en
 You were
 spoke through a star and pro - claimed Thee to all, O Sav - ior.
 You
 And it brought Ma - gi, who wor - shipped Thee with faith;
 You

The Holy Doors are closed.

Old Testament Readings

4. Isaiah 11:1-10

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 11:1-10*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Thus says the Lord: There shall come forth a rod from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall grow out of the root. And the Spirit of the Lord God shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and piety. The spirit of the fear of the Lord will fill him. He shall not judge by glory nor reprove by hearsay; but he will give judgement for the lowly with justice, and reprove with equity the glorious ones of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the word of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall destroy the wicked. And he will have his loins girt with righteousness, and his sides clothed with truth. Then the wolf shall feed with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the bull and the lion shall feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The ox and the bear shall feed together; their young shall be together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. An infant child shall put its hand over the hole of asps, and the weaned child its hand on the nest of the offspring of asps. They shall not hurt or be able to destroy anyone on my holy mountain; for the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as much water covers the sea. In that day there shall be the root of Jesse, and he that shall arise to rule nations; in him shall the nations hope, and his rest shall be honor.

5. Jeremiah (Baruch 3:35-4:4)

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah. (*Baruch 3:36-4:4*)

Priest: Let us attend!

This is our God, and there shall be none other reckoned in comparison with him. He has found out all the way of

knowledge, and given it to Jacob his servant and Israel his beloved. After this he appeared on earth and lived among men. This is the book of the commandments of God, and the law which exists unto the ages; all those who keep it fast shall have life; but those who abandon it shall die. Turn back Jacob, and lay hold of it, walk in the presence of its light to be illumined. Do not give your glory to another, and what is profitable to you to a foreign nation.

6. Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Daniel. (*Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was lightening. The head of this image was of pure gold, its hands, breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out from a mountain by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This was the dream; now we shall tell the king its interpretation. The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand unto the ages; just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has informed the king what shall be

hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy”.

The Holy Doors are opened.

(Then we stand and sing the following troparion in the same manner as above.)

Tone 6 Troparion

You have shone forth from a Virgin, O Christ,
Spiritual Sun of righteousness,
and a star showed You, Whom nothing can contain,
contained within a cave.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:

“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words placed below the piano line for better readability. The score ends with a double bar line.

Thou hast shone forth from a Vir - gin, O Christ, thou spir - i - tual Sun of
You have you
right - eous - ness, and a star showed Thee, Whom noth - ing can con - tain,
You
con - tained with - in a cave. Thou hast led Ma - gi to wor - ship Thee,
You have You
and join - ing them we mag - ni - fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor - y to Thee!
You You

v: The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty; the Lord has put on His apparel and girded Himself with strength.

You have led Magi to worship You,

and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have You

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee, You have You". The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee! You You". The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

*v: He has made the world so sure, that it cannot be moved;
Your throne is from of old; You are from everlasting.*

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have You

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You You

This musical score is identical to the one above, featuring two systems of staves with the same lyrics and musical notation.

*v: The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up
their voice; the floods lift up their waves at the voice of
many waters.*

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You

v: Wonderful are the mighty waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high. Your testimonies are very sure.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You

v: Holiness becomes Your house, O Lord, forever.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
You have led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,
and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!
You

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

You have shone forth from a Virgin, O Christ,
Spiritual Sun of righteousness,
and a star showed You, Whom nothing can contain,
Contained within a cave.

You have led Magi to worship You,
and joining them we magnify You:
“O Giver of Life, glory to You!”

Thou hast shone forth from a Vir-gin, O Christ, thou spir-i-tual Sun of

right-eous-ness, and a star showed Thee, Whom noth-ing can con-tain,

con-tained with-in a cave. Thou hast led Ma-gi to wor-ship Thee,

and join-ing them we mag-ni-fy Thee: O Giver of Life, glor-y to Thee!

The Holy Doors are closed.

Old Testament Readings

7. Isaiah 9:6-7

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 9: 6-7*)

Priest: Let us attend!

A child has been born for us, a son has been given to us; whose government is upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called “Angel of Great Counsel, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Potentate, Prince of Peace, Father of the age to come”. For I will bring peace upon princes, peace and health to him. Great his government, and of his peace there is no bound, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with judgement and with justice from henceforth and for ever more. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

8. Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 7:10-16 & 8:1-4, 8-10*)

Priest: Let us attend!

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; in the depth or in the height”. But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test”. And Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David . Is it a little thing for you to contend with men, and how do you contend with the Lord? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel. He shall eat butter and honey before he knows how to prefer evil or choose good. For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses the evil to choose the good. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Take for yourself a large new volume and write upon it in with a man’s pen, Of making a rapid plunder of spoils; for it is at hand. And get me witnesses,

reliable men, Urias the priest and Zachary the son of Barachias'. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, 'Call his name Despoil-quickly-plunder-rapidly; for before the child knows how to cry 'Father' or 'Mother,' he will take the power of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of the Assyrians'. Know you nations and be wasted; give ear, as far as the extremity of the earth; for if again you have become strong, again you shall be wasted. And whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it; and whatever word you speak, it shall not remain in you, for God is with us".

The Holy Doors are opened.

Then the Little Litany (NOTE: The Trisagion is NOT done), and immediately the Prokeimenon:

The Little Litany

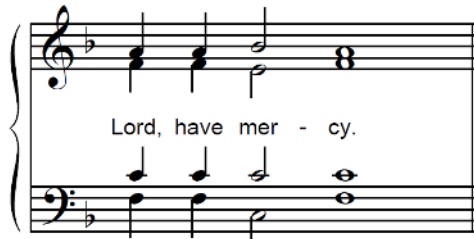
Second Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



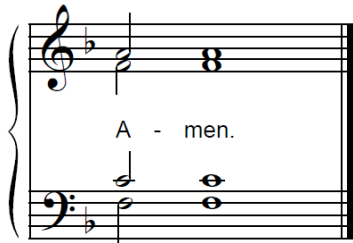
Commemorating our all-holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.



Priest: For holy are You, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



Tone 1 Prokeimenon

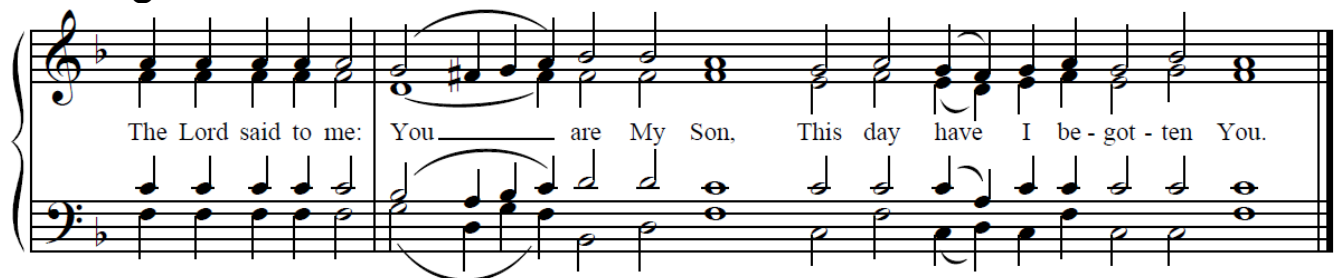
Priest: Let us attend! † Peace to all!

Second Deacon/Reader: And to your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

Second Deacon/Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone, The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son, this day have I begotten You.”

Choir: The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son, this day have I begotten You.”



Reader: Ask of Me, and I shall give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Your possession!

Choir: The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son, this day have I begotten You.”

The Lord said to me: You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You.

Reader: The Lord said to Me,...

Choir: ... "You are My Son, this day have I begotten You."

You are My Son, This day have I be - got - ten You.

First Deacon: Wisdom!

Epistle: (207) Galatians 3:15-22[†]

Reader/Second Deacon: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

First Deacon: Let us attend!

Brothers and sisters, speaking of a human example: even a human contract, once it has been confirmed, cannot be cancelled or altered. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Notice that he does not say, "to seeds," as if there were many, but as of one, "to your seed," which is Christ. What I am saying is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years after the covenant previously confirmed by God in Christ, does not cancel it to make the promise of no effect. If the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from the promise; but in fact, God granted it to Abraham by way of a promise.

What then is the law about? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was established through the angels, by the hand of a mediator. Now there is no mediator when

[†] When Vespers of the Nativity are sung separately from the Divine Liturgy on the Eve of the Nativity as on Saturday or Sunday, the Epistle reading is (207) Galatians 3:15-22, not (303) Hebrews 1:1-12.

there is only one party, and God is one. Therefore, is the law against God's own promises? Certainly not! If a law had been given which could make alive, then certainly, righteousness would have been from the law. But in fact, the Scriptures declared all things to be captive under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe—that is, by faith in Jesus Christ.

After the Epistle, the Priest: † Peace to you who read.

Second Deacon/Reader: **And to your spirit.** In the 5th

Tone, Alleluia! The Lord said to My Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool!"

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A musical score for a choir, consisting of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - - le - lu - ia! (x3)". The first two phrases are separated by a comma, and the third phrase is followed by "(x3)". The melody is a simple, rhythmic line, and the accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

verse: "The Lord shall send You a rod of strength out of Zion."

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A musical score for a choir, identical in notation to the one above. It consists of a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - - le - lu - ia! (x3)". The first two phrases are separated by a comma, and the third phrase is followed by "(x3)". The melody is a simple, rhythmic line, and the accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

verse: "From the womb before the morning star have I begotten You."

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A musical score for a choir, consisting of a treble and bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)". The score is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a simple, rhythmic sequence of notes, with the final phrase repeated three times.

Priest: Illuminate our hearts, O Master, Who loves mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things that are well pleasing to You. For You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest serving alone does NOT pick up Gospel book yet!

Second Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest (facing the people): † Peace to all.

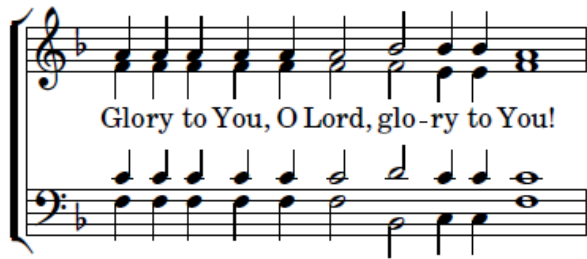
Choir: And to your spirit.

A musical score for a choir, consisting of a treble and bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "And to your spi-rit." The score is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a simple, rhythmic sequence of notes, with the final phrase repeated three times.

Priest serving alone can NOW pick up Gospel.

First Deacon: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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



Gospel: (5) Luke 2:1-20

Second Deacon/Priest: Let us attend!

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Because he was of the house and family of David, Joseph left the city of Nazareth in Galilee and went up to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem. He did so to enroll himself with Mary who was pledged to be married to him as wife and who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes. She laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

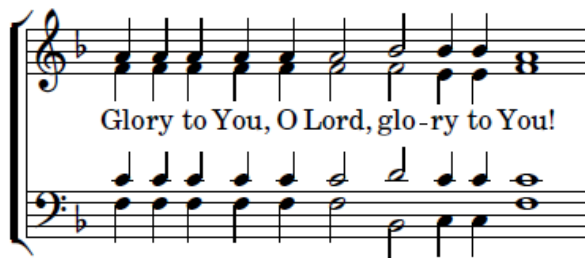
There were shepherds in the same countryside, staying in the field and keeping watch by night over their flock. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you Good News of great joy which will be for all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, and good will among mankind.*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem now and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” They came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph; and the baby was lying in the manger. After seeing it, they revealed the news which had been spoken to them about this child. All those who heard what the shepherds were saying were amazed, but Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, just as it was told them.

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



Then “Vouchsafe, O Lord...”, the Evening Litany, and the Dismissal.
Vouchsafe (Grant), O Lord ...

Vouchsafe, O Lord ... *is always read, not sung, at Daily Vespers.*

Priest exits by the North Door and stands before the Holy Doors.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin
Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised
and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our
hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your
commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your
precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. O despise not the works
of Your hands.

To You belong worship, to You belong praise, to You belong glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon out, if no deacon, the priest says the litany from inside the altar, before the Holy Table.

Evening Litany (of Fervent Supplication)

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.



Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.



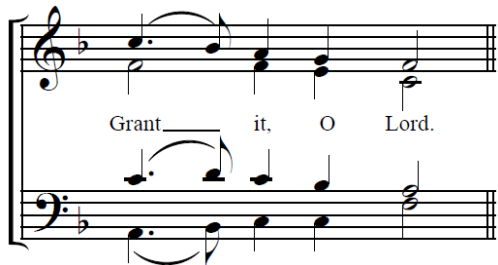
The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



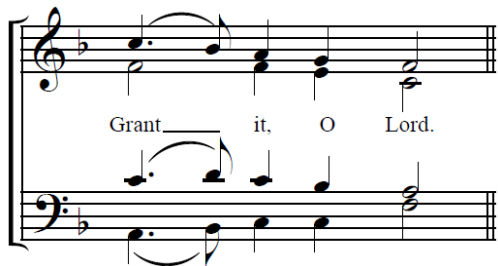
Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.



The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Musical score for the text "Grant it, O Lord." The score is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Grant it, O Lord.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

People: To You O Lord.

Musical score for the text "To you, O Lord." The score is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: To you, O Lord.

Priest (Ekphonisis): For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.

Musical score for the text "A - men." The score is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: A - men.

Priest (facing the people): † Peace to all.

People: And to Your spirit.

Musical score for the text "And to your spi - rit." The score is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: And to your spi - rit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

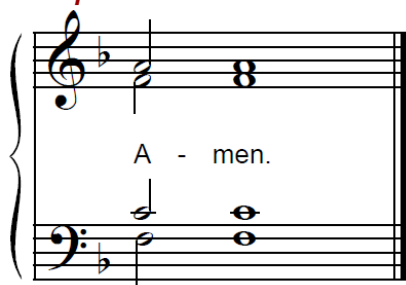
People: To You, O Lord.



Priest (Prayer at the Bowing of Heads): Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Priest (Ekphonisis): Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.



Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless!

At Vespers:

May He who was born in a cavern and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; of our holy and God-bearing fathers; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

PEOPLE: Amen.

A musical score for the word 'Amen'. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The word 'A - men.' is written below the notes.

Immediately after the Dismissal the clergy go to the center of the church where the icon of the feast has been placed. The Troparion and the Kontakion of the feast are sung.

Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

Musical notation for the first line of the Troparion. It is a two-part setting for Soprano and Alto (top line) and Tenor and Bass (bottom line). The lyrics are: "Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world". The music is in a key with one flat and a common time signature.

Musical notation for the second line of the Troparion. It is a two-part setting for Soprano and Alto (top line) and Tenor and Bass (bottom line). The lyrics are: "the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped". The music continues in the same key and time signature.

Musical notation for the third line of the Troparion. It is a two-part setting for Soprano and Alto (top line) and Tenor and Bass (bottom line). The lyrics are: "the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of". The music continues in the same key and time signature.

Right - eous - ness, and to know You, the O - rient from on

High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!

Angels with shepherds glorify Him!

The wise men journey with the star, //

since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

To - day the Virgin gives birth to the Tran - scen - dent One,

and the earth offers a cave to the Unap - proach - a - ble One!

An-gels with shep - herds glo - ri - fy Him, the wise men

jour - ney with a star, since for our sake the Eternal God

is born as a Lit - tle Child!

Priest: Christ is Born!

All: Glorify Him!

The First Antiphon

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Your wonders known.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

They are sought out according to His will.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

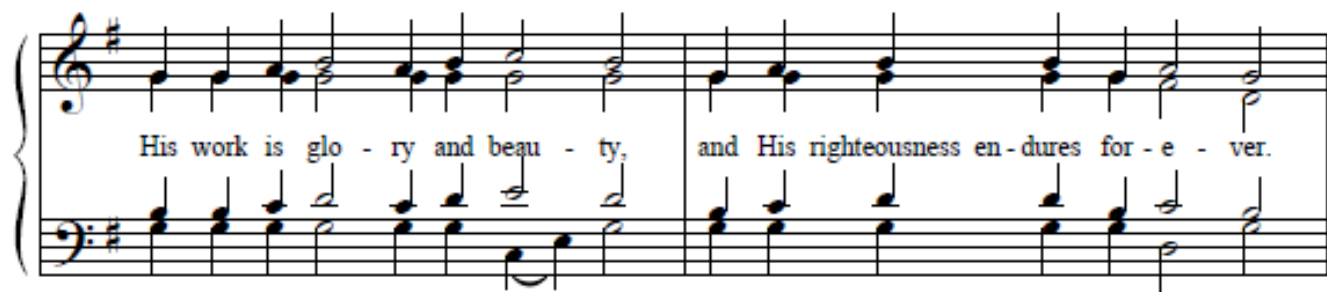
I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Your wonders known

Refrain:

Through the prayers of the The - o - to - kos, O Sa - viour save us.

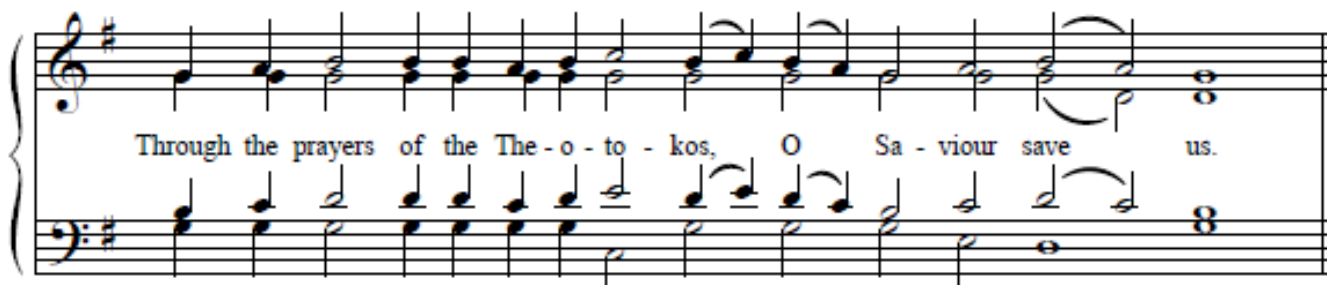
In the company of the upright, in the con - gre - ga - tion, great are the works of the Lord!

Refrain They are stud - ied by all who have plea - sure in them. Refrain

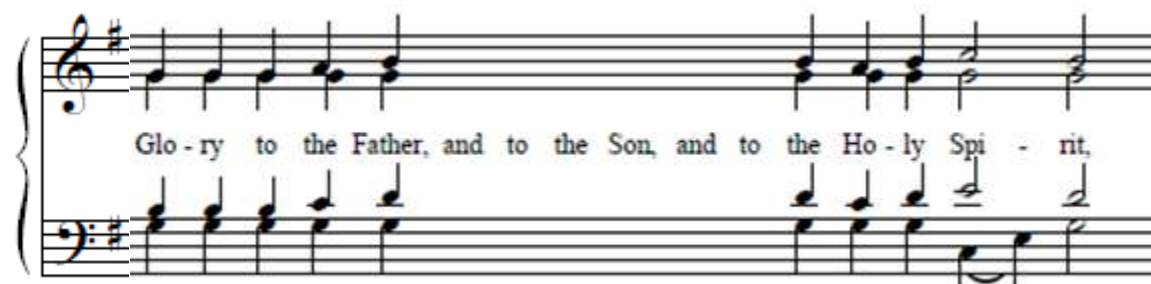


His work is glo - ry and beau - ty, and His righteousness en - dures for - e - ver.

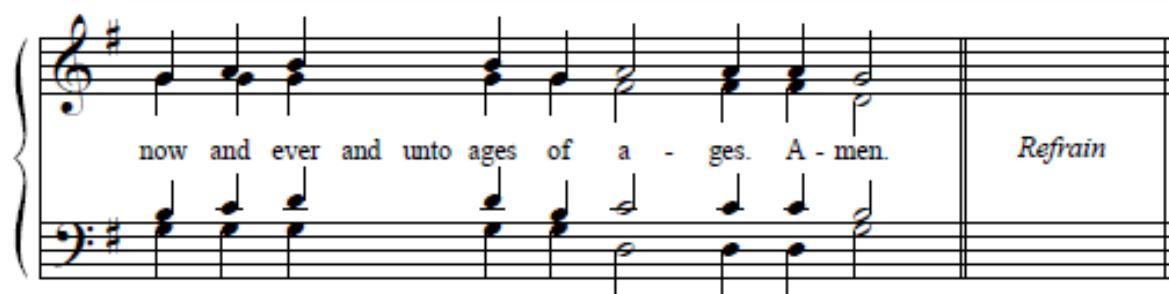
Refrain:



Through the prayers of the The - o - to - kos, O Sa - viour save us.



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



now and ever and unto ages of a - ges. A - men. *Refrain*

Then, the Little Litany

The Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous.

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Bless-ed is the man who fears the Lord! who greatly delights in His com-mand-ments!

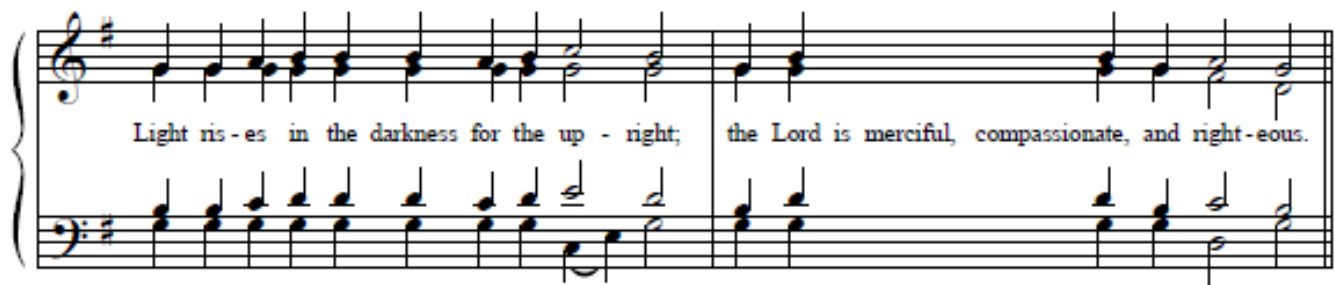
Refrain:

O Son of God born of the Vir - gin, save us who sing to You,

Al - le - lu - ia! His de - scen - dants will be migh - ty in the land;

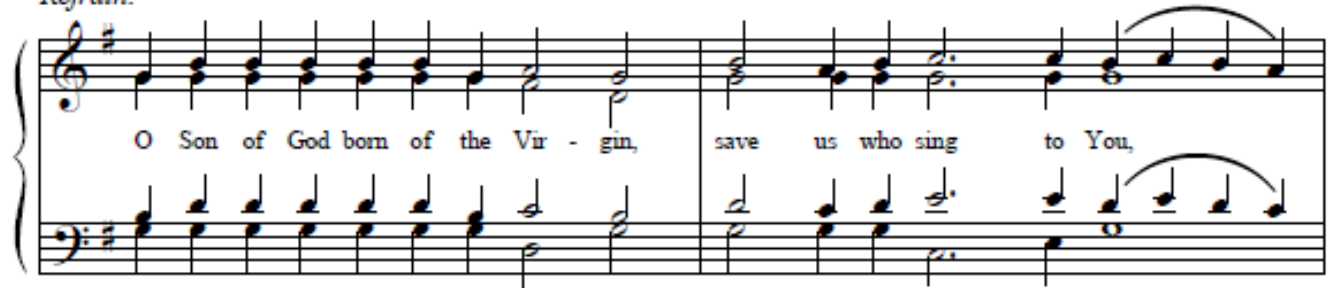
the generation of the up - right will be blessed. *Refrain*

Glo-ry and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness en-dures for - e - ver! *Refrain*



Light ris-es in the darkness for the up - ight; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and right-eous.

Refrain:



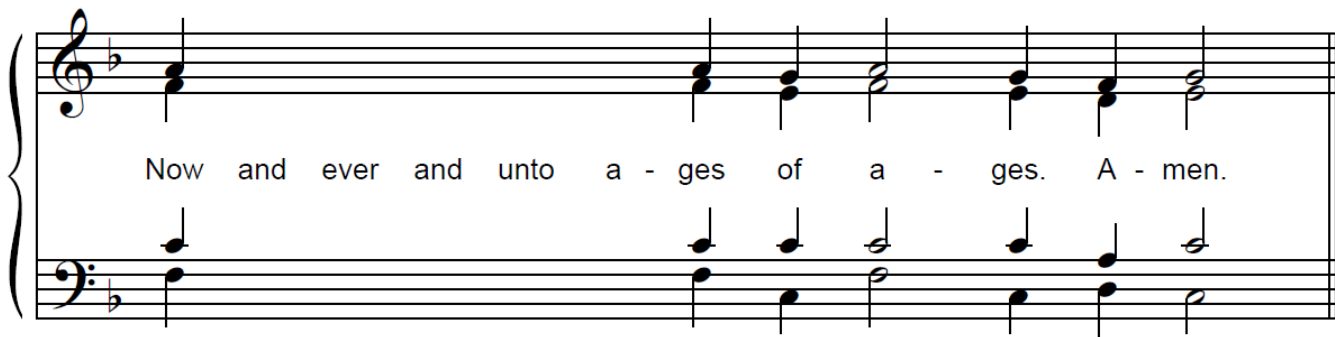
O Son of God born of the Vir - gin, save us who sing to You,



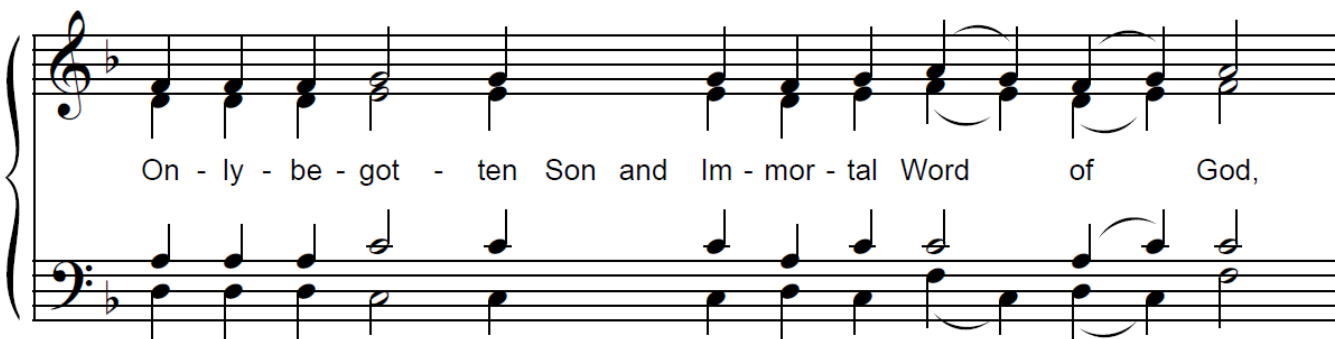
Al - le - lu - ia!

(then, "Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...")

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God,
 Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate
 of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary,
 Who without change become man and was crucified,
 O Christ our God, trampling down death by death
 Who are one of the Holy Trinity,
 glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit:
 Save us!



Now and ever and unto a - ges of a - ges. A - men.



On - ly - be - got - ten Son and Im - mor - tal Word of God,

Who for our sal - va - tion willed to be in - car - - - nate

of the Ho - ly Theotokos and ever - Vir - gin Ma - - - ry,

Who with - out change, be - came man and were cru - ci - fied,

O Christ our God, tramp - ling down death by death,

Who are one of the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty, glo - ri - fied with the Father, and

the Ho - ly Spi - rit: Save us!

The image shows a musical score for piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music is divided into two measures. The first measure contains the lyrics 'the Ho - ly Spi - rit:' and the second measure contains 'Save us!'. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with chords and accompaniment in the bass staff. There are various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and chords, with some notes beamed together and others held across measures.

Then, the Little Litany

The Third Antiphon

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand." (Ps. 109:1a)

Tone 4 Troparion

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

The musical score is written for Soprano and Alto voices. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the Light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You!" The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of 8/8. There are also some specific markings like a sharp sign and a double bar line with repeat dots.

Reader: "Until I make Your enemies Your footstool!" (Ps. 109:1b)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,

were taught by a star to adore You,
 the Sun of Righteousness,
 and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
 O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world
 the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped
 the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of
 Right - eous - ness, and to know_ You, the O - rient from on
 High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

Reader: The Lord will send You the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of Your enemies!"
 (Ps. 109:2)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
 has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
 For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
 were taught by a star to adore You,
 the Sun of Righteousness,
 and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
 O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world

the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped

the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of

Right - eous - ness, and to know You, the O - rient from on

High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

Reader: With You is dominion on the day of Your power, in the radiance of holiness.

(Ps. 109:3)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
were taught by a adore You,
the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world

the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped

the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of

Right - eous - ness, and to know You, the O - rient from on

High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

Entrance Verse

Priest: Wisdom! Upright! Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten You. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." (*Ps.* 109:4)

Tone 4**Troparion**

Your Nativity, O Christ our God,
 has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
 For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
 were taught by a star to adore You,
 the Sun of Righteousness,
 and to know You, the Orient from on high.//
 O Lord, glory to You!

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world
 the Light of wis - dom! For by it, those who wor - shipped
 the stars, were taught by a star to adore You, the Sun of
 Right - eous - ness, and to know You, the O - rient from on
 High. O Lord, glo - ry to You!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, amen.

Tone 3**Kontakion**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
 and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him;

The Wise Men journey with the star, //
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

To - day the Vir - gin gives birth to the tran - scen - dent One,

and the earth of - fers a cave to the un - ap - proach - a - ble One!

An gels with shep - herds glo - ri - fy Him! The wise men jour - ney with a star!

Since for our sake the e - ter - nal God was born as a lit - tle child!

Deacon/Priest 1: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest 1: For You are holy, O our God, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever...

If no deacon, Priest continues: and to the ages of ages.

People: Amin.

A - men.

(Instead of the Trisagion)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

(3 Times)

Obikhod

As ma - ny as have been bap - tised in - to Christ have put

on Christ: Al - le - lu - ia. **Fine** Glory to the Father, and to the

Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit, now and ever and unto ages of a - ges.

A - men. Have put on Christ: Al - le - lu - ia.

As ma - ny as have been bap - tised in - to Christ have put

on Christ: Al - le - lu - ia.

The Epistle

Deacon/Priest 2: Let us attend!*Priest 1:* † Peace to all!***Deacon 2/Reader:* And to Your spirit!***Deacon/Priest 2:* Wisdom!

***Reader:* The Prokeimenon, in the 8th Tone, Let all the earth worship you and praise you! Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!**

Choir: Let all the earth worship you and praise you! / Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

Let all the earth worship You and praise You!

Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

***Reader:* Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name! Give glory to His praise!**

Choir: Let all the earth worship you and praise you! / Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

Let all the earth worship You and praise You!

Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

Reader: Let all the earth worship you and praise you ...

Choir: Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!

Musical score for the text "Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!". The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Let it praise Your Name, O Most High!".

Priest: Wisdom!

Epistle: (209) – Galatians 4:4-7

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

Priest: Let us attend!

Brothers and sisters, when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that he might redeem those who were under the law and so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" Now you are no longer slaves, but children; and if you are children, then you are heirs of God through Christ.

Priest: † Peace to you who read!

Reader: And to your spirit! In the First Tone, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Musical score for the text "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!". The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)".

Reader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)

Reader: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declare knowledge.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! (x3)

Gospel: (3) – Matthew 2:1-12 p. 316

Priest 1: Master who love mankind, make the pure light of your divine knowledge shine in our hearts and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of your gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of your blessed commandments, so that, trampling down all fleshly desires, we follow a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing all things that are well-pleasing to you, for you are the illumination of our souls and bodies, Christ God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Gospel

Deacon/Priest 1: Wisdom! Upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest 1 (facing the people): † Peace to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Heads uncovered.

NOW the priest serving alone may pick up the Gospel Book

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord, glo - ry to You.

Deacon: Let us attend!

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying:

“Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and we have come to express adoration to him.” When King Herod heard about this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ would be born. They replied, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is written through the prophet:

*You Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are in no way least among the rulers of Judah:
for out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.*

Then Herod privately called the wise men, and learned from them exactly what time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child. When you have found him, bring me word, so that I also may come and express adoration to him."

After listening to the king, they continued on their journey and behold, the star which they had seen in the east was going ahead of them, until it came and stood over the place where the young child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with tremendous joy. Entering the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and expressed adoration to him. Opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But having been warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they returned to their own country using another way.

If a deacon reads, Priest: † Peace to you who have proclaimed the Gospel.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord, glo - ry to You.

Heads covered again. The people may be seated. A sermon is offered.

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

Mag - ni - fy, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more hon'able and more glorious than the hea - ven - ly hosts!

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven—the cave;
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay—
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

I BE - HOLD A STRANGE, MOST GLO - I - OUS MYS - TER - Y! HEA - VEN — THE CAVE!
THE CHERUBIC THRONE — THE VIR - GIN! THE MAN - GER — THE PLACE WHERE
CHRIST LAY, THE UNCONTAINABLE GOD WHOM WE MAG - NI - FY IN SONG.

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The musical notation is for a piano accompaniment in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter notes. The lyrics are: "The Lord has sent re - demp - tion to His peo - - - ple!"

1. I will confess You, O Lord, with my whole heart in the council of the upright and in the congregation.
2. Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all the things that He has willed.
3. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abides unto ages of ages.
4. He made a remembrance of His wondrous deeds; merciful and compassionate is the Lord; He has given food to them that fear Him.
5. He will be mindful forever of His covenant; the power of His works has He declared unto His people.
6. That He may give them the inheritance of the nations; the works of His hands are truth and judgement.
7. Faithful are all His commandments, confirmed unto ages of ages, made in truth and uprightness.
8. He has sent redemption to His people, He has enjoined His covenant forever; holy and terrible is His name.
9. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all they that foster this have a good understanding.
10. His praise abides unto ages of ages.
11. *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The musical notation continues the piano accompaniment. The right hand melody is: "Al - le - lu ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - - - ia!"