

Royal Hours for The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord



The First Hour

(The priest vested in epitrahelion and phelonion opens the curtain and begins:)

Priest: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver Life; Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who are 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 unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. **(12x)**

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 the Very Christ, our
King and our God.

*(As the psalms are chanted, the priest opens the royal
doors, takes the Gospel and places it in the center of the
Church, after which he makes a full censuring of the Church*

beginning by censuring around the Gospel and concluding by censuring before it)

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord, Hear my cry. Give heed to the voice of my supplication, My King and my God, For to You will I pray, O Lord. In the morning You shall hear my voice; In the morning I will stand before You, And I will watch. For You are not a God who wills lawlessness, Nor shall the evildoer dwell with You. The lawless shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all the workers of lawlessness; You shall destroy all who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of violence and deceit. But as for me, in the fullness of Your mercy I will come into Your house; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make straight Your way before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; Their heart is vain; Their throat is an open grave; They deal deceptively with their tongues. Judge them, O God. Let them fall by their false accusations; Cast them out in the multitude of their ungodliness; For they provoked You, O Lord. But let all who hope in You be glad; They will greatly rejoice forever, For You will dwell in them; And all who love Your name will boast in You. For You will bless the righteous; O Lord, You crowned us with the shield of Your

goodwill.

Psalm 44 (45)

Give ear to my words, O Lord, Hear my cry. Give heed to the voice of my supplication, My King and my God, For to You will I pray, O Lord. In the morning You shall hear my voice; In the morning I will stand before You, And I will watch. For You are not a God who wills lawlessness, Nor shall the evildoer dwell with You. The lawless shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all the workers of lawlessness; You shall destroy all who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of violence and deceit. But as for me, in the fullness of Your mercy I will come into Your house; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make straight Your way before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; Their heart is vain; Their throat is an open grave; They deal deceptively with their tongues. Judge them, O God. Let them fall by their false accusations; Cast them out in the multitude of their ungodliness; For they provoked You, O Lord. But let all who hope in You be glad; They will greatly rejoice forever, For You will dwell in them; And all who love Your name will boast in You. For You will bless the righteous; O Lord, You crowned us with the shield of Your goodwill.

Psalm 45 (46)

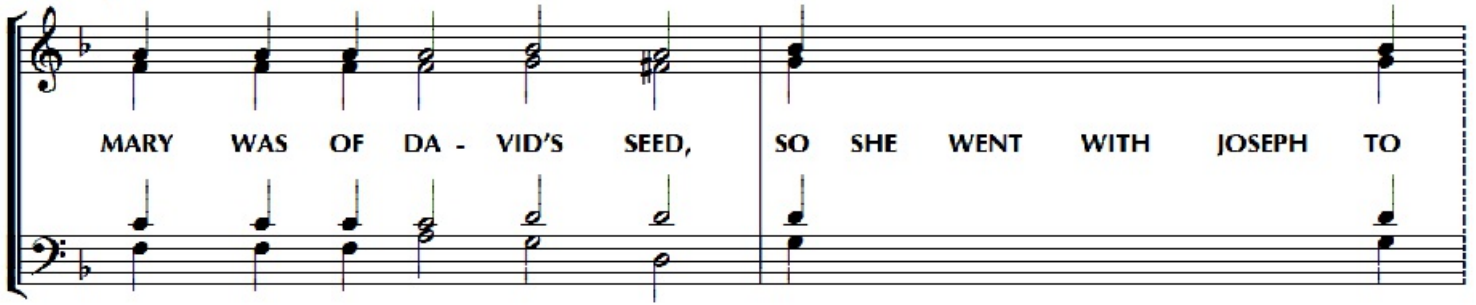
God is our refuge and power; A help in afflictions that severely befall us. Therefore we will not fear when the earth is troubled, And when the mountains are removed into the hearts of the seas. Their waters roared and were troubled; The mountains were troubled by His might. The torrents of the river gladden the city of God; The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. God is in her midst; she shall not be shaken; God shall help her early in the morning. The nations were troubled; kingdoms fell; He uttered His voice; the earth shook. The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our protector. Come, behold the works of the Lord, The wonders He wrought on the earth. When He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth, He will break the bow and shatter the weapon; And He will burn up the shields in fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us, The God of Jacob is our protector.

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

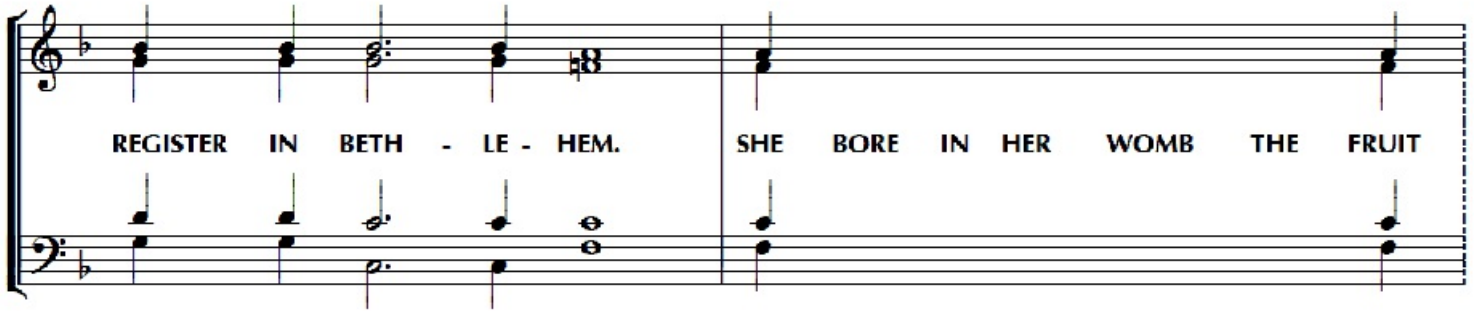
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! **(three times)**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.


Troparion Tone 4



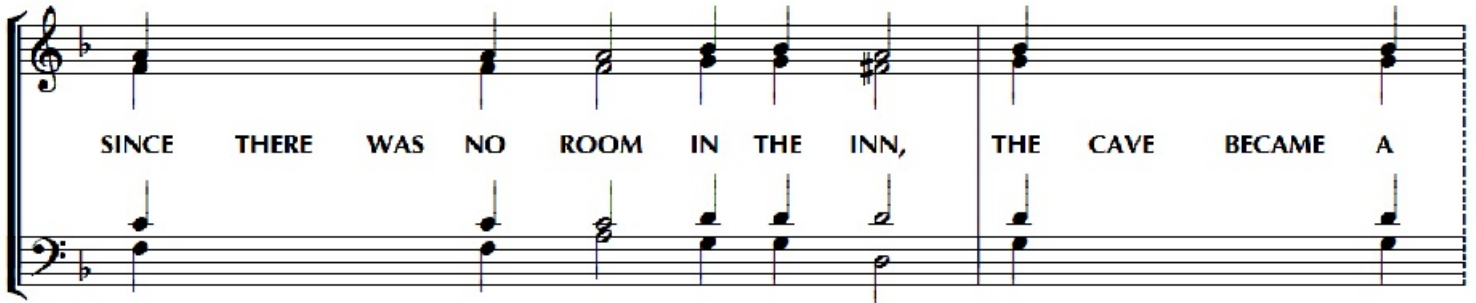
MARY WAS OF DA - VID'S SEED, SO SHE WENT WITH JOSEPH TO



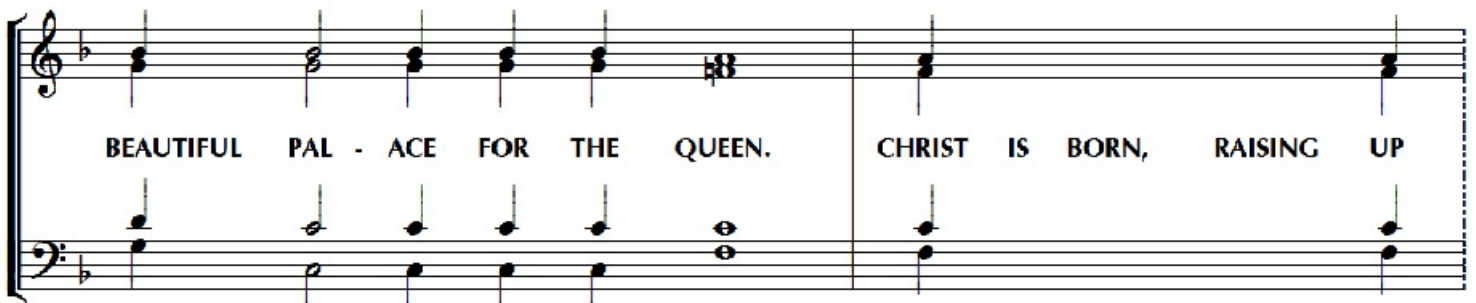
REGISTER IN BETH - LE - HEM. SHE BORE IN HER WOMB THE FRUIT



NOT SOWN BY MAN. THE TIME FOR THE BIRTH WAS AT HAND.



SINCE THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN, THE CAVE BECAME A



BEAUTIFUL PAL - ACE FOR THE QUEEN. CHRIST IS BORN, RAISING UP

THE IMAGE THAT FELL OF OLD!

When the Nativity falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22 or 23, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Tone 4

PREPARE, O BETH - LE - HEM, FOR EDEN HAS BEEN O - PENED TO ALL.

ADORN YOURSELF, O EPH - RA - THA, FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

BLOSSOMS FORTH FROM THE VIR - GIN IN THE CAVE. HER WOMB IS

A SPIRITUAL PARADISE PLANTED WITH THE FRUIT DI - VINE IF WE

EAT OF IT, WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND NOT DIE LIKE A - DAM.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

CHRIST IS COMING TO RESTORE THE IMAGE WHICH HE MADE IN THE BE -

The second system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

GIN - NING.

The third system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Reader: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. What shall we call you, O full of Grace? Heaven, for from you shone forth the Sun of Righteousness; Paradise, for you have budded forth the flower of immortality; Virhin, for you have remained undefiled; Pure Mother, for you have held in your arms the Son, Who is God of all. Beseech Him to save our souls.

Tone 8

MAKE REA - DY, O BETH - LE - HEM. LET THE MAN - GER BE PRE - PARED.

LET THE CAVE SHOW ITS WEL - COME. THE TRUTH COMES AND THE

SHA - DOW FLEES. GOD IS BORN OF A VIRGIN AND RE - VEALD

TO MEN. HE IS CLOTHED IN OUR FLESH AND MAKES IT DI - VINE.

THEREFORE ADAM IS RENEWED, AND CRIES OUT WITH EVE, THY FAVOR

HAS AP - PEARED ON EARTH, O LORD. FOR THE SALVATION OF THE

HU - MAN RACE.

VERSE: God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done, and am filled with awe.

Tone 3

NOW THE PROPHECY APPROACHES ITS FUL - FILL - MENT. FOR IT HAD

MYS - TI - C'LLY PRO - CLAIMED "YOU, O BETHLEHEM, IN THE LAND OF JU -

DAH, ARE BY NO MEANS THE LEAST AMONG JU - DAH'S RU - LERS

PRE - PARE YOUR CAVE! FROM YOU THE RULER OF THE NATIONS COMES

TO ME IN THE FLESH: CHRIST OUR GOD, BORN OF A YOUNG VIR - GIN!

HE WILL FEED HIS FLOCK, THE NEW IS - RA - EL. LET US ALL

GIVE HIM GLO - RY.

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

Tone 8

JO - SEPH SAID TO THE VIR - GIN: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU,

O MA - RY? I AM TROUBLED; WHAT CAN I SAY TO YOU?

DOUBT CLOUDS MY MIND; DE - PART FROM ME! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO

YOU, O MA - RY? INSTEAD OF HON - OR YOU BRING ME SHAME.

INSTEAD OF JOY, YOU FILL ME WITH GRIEF. MEN WHO PRAISED ME

WILL BLAME ME. I CANNOT BEAR CONDEM - NA - TION FROM

EV - ERY SIDE I RECEIVED YOU, A PURE VIRGIN IN THE SIGHT

OF THE LORD. WHAT IS THIS THAT I NOW SEE.

The Prophecy and Epistle Readings

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the 4th tone:
The Lord said to Me: “Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.”

Tone 4

THE LORD SAID TO ME: THOU ART MY SON, THIS DAY HAVE I BE -

GOT TEN THEE.

Reader: Ask of me, and I shall give Thee the nations for

Thine inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Thy possession.

Choir: The Lord said to Me ...

Reader: The Lord said to Me: "Thou art My Son,

Choir:

A musical score for a choir part. The score is written on two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some notes in the bass clef. The lyrics are: THIS DAY HAVE I BE - GOT - TEN THEE. The word 'GOT' is followed by a long dash, and 'TEN' is followed by a short dash. A large oval is drawn around the notes for 'BE - GOT -' in the treble clef. The score ends with a double bar line.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading from the Prophet Micah. (Micah 5:2-4, Study Bible 5:1-3)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Thus says the Lord: "And you, O Bethlehem, House of Ephrathah, though you are fewest in number among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the One to be ruler of Israel. His goings forth were from the beginning, even from everlasting."

Therefore He shall give them up until the appointed time for her to give birth, and then the remnant of their brothers will return to the sons of Israel. And He shall stand and see, and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they will dwell in the glory of the name of the Lord their God, for now they will be magnified unto the ends of the earth.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 1:1-12)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren. God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever

say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You" ? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son" ? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

The Gospel Reading

Priest: That we may be accounted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Kievan

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Kievan

And to thy spir - it.

The image shows a musical score for the text 'And to thy spir - it.' It is labeled 'Kievan' at the top left. The score 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 a simple, homophonic style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (Matthew 1:18 25)

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

The image shows a musical score for the text 'Glo - ry to Thee, O Lord, glo - ry to Thee.' 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 a simple, homophonic style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Priest: Let us attend. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought 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 to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in

her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Choir: Glory to Thee...

Reader: Order my steps in Your word, and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me. Deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men, and so shall I keep Your commandments. Show the light of Your countenance upon Your Servant, and teach me Your statutes. Let my mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord, that I may sing of Your glory and honor all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse
us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O
Holy One, visit an heal our infirmities for Your Name's
sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

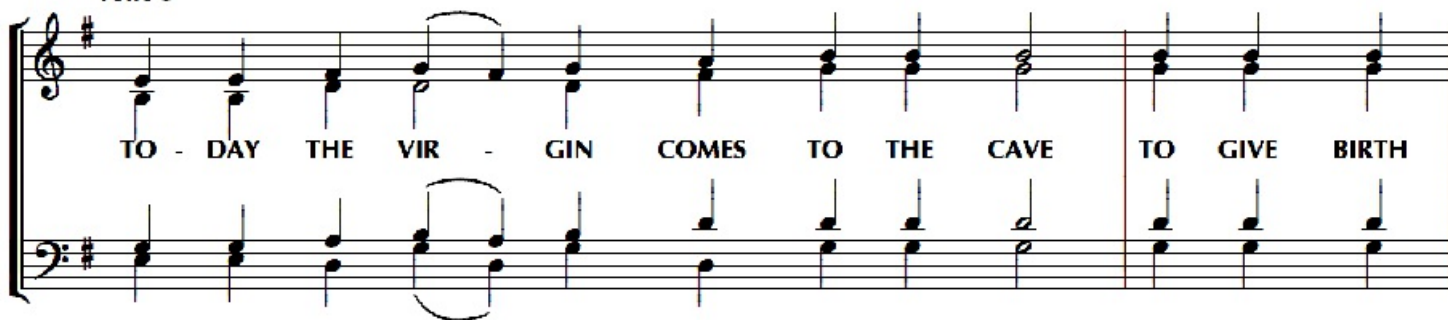
Our Father, who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in
Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the
Evil One.

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 unto ages of ages.

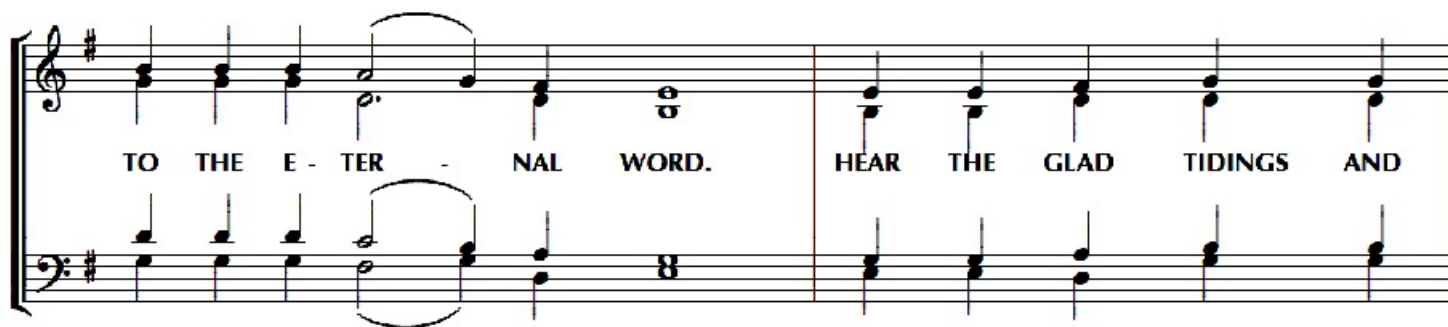
Reader: Amen.

Kontakion

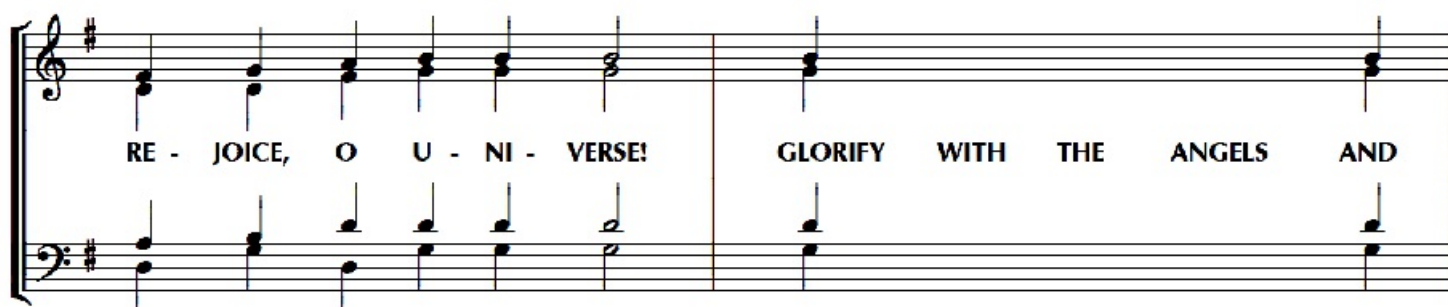
Tone 3



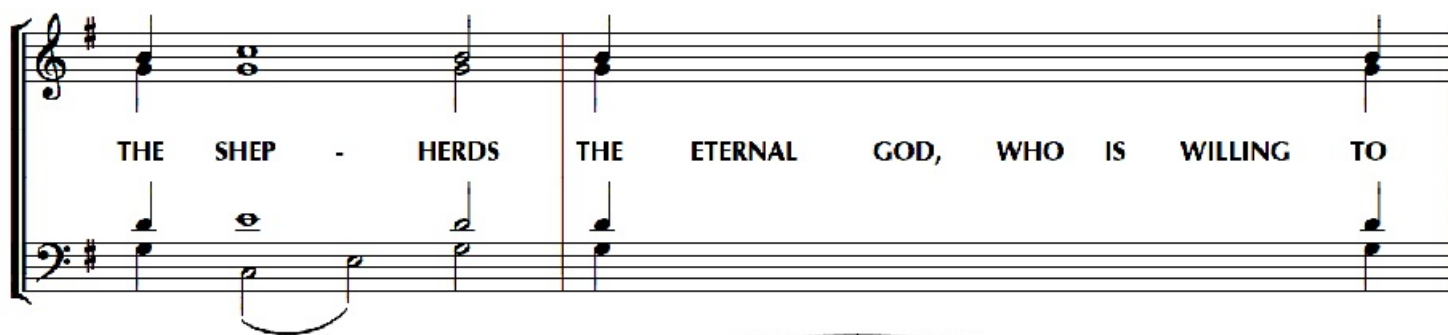
TO - DAY THE VIR - GIN COMES TO THE CAVE TO GIVE BIRTH



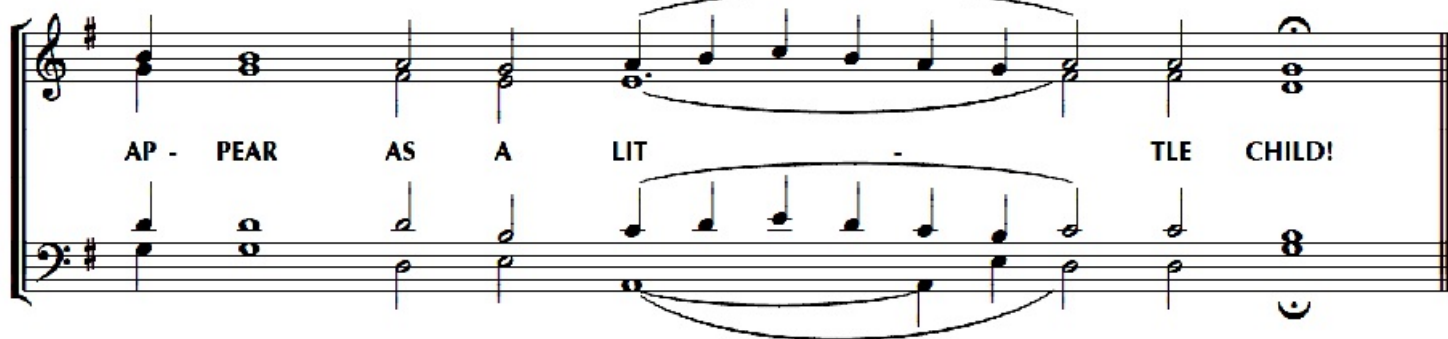
TO THE E - TER - NAL WORD. HEAR THE GLAD TIDINGS AND



RE - JOICE, O U - NI - VERSE! GLORIFY WITH THE ANGELS AND



THE SHEP - HERDS THE ETERNAL GOD, WHO IS WILLING TO



AP - PEAR AS A LIT - TLE CHILD!

Reader: Lord, have mercy (40 times)

You who at all times and in every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God; long suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who loves the just and shows mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: do You, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; hallow our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath, and distress. Compass us round about with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith and unto the comprehension of Your ineffable glory. For blessed art You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Who without corruption gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos,

we magnify You.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless!

Priest: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader: Amen.

O Christ the true Light that enlightens and sanctifies every man that comes into the world: Let the light of Your countenance shine upon us, that in it we might behold the unapproachable light. Guide our footsteps in the keeping of Your commandments, by the prayers of Your Most Pure Mother and of all Your Saints. Amen.

The Third Hour

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 the Very Christ, our King and our God.

(As the psalms are chanted, the priest censes around the Gospel, the altar, the iconostasis and the people, concluding by censing before the Gospel)

Psalm 66 (67)

May God be gracious to us, and bless us; May He cause His face to shine upon us, That we may know His way on the earth, Your salvation among all the Gentiles. Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Let the Gentiles be glad and greatly rejoice, For You shall judge the peoples in uprightness, And lead the Gentiles on the earth. Let the peoples give thanks to You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. The earth yielded her fruit; May God, our God, bless us. May God bless us, And let all the ends of the earth be in fear of Him.

Psalm 86 (87)

His foundations are in the holy mountains; The Lord loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things were said concerning you, O city of God.

I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; And behold, foreigners, and the people of Tyre and Ethiopia, These were born there. A man will say, "Mother Zion," And a man was born in her; For the Most High Himself founded it. The Lord shall describe it in a written account of the peoples And of the rulers, of those who were born in her. How glad are all who have their dwelling in you.

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; And according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my lawlessness, And my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned And done evil in Your sight; That You may be justified in Your words, And overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, And in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; My bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, And blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, And the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, And my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, And my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, A broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, And let the walls of Jerusalem be built; Then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, With offerings and whole burnt offerings; Then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar.

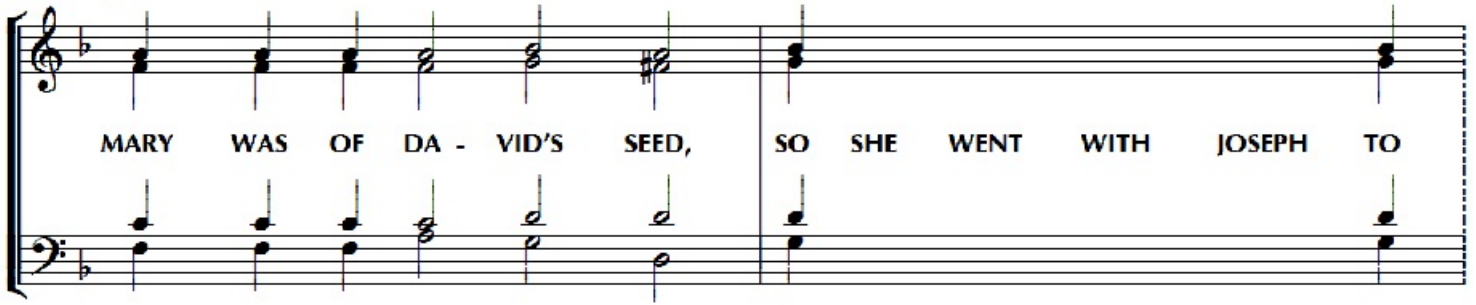
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! **(three times)**

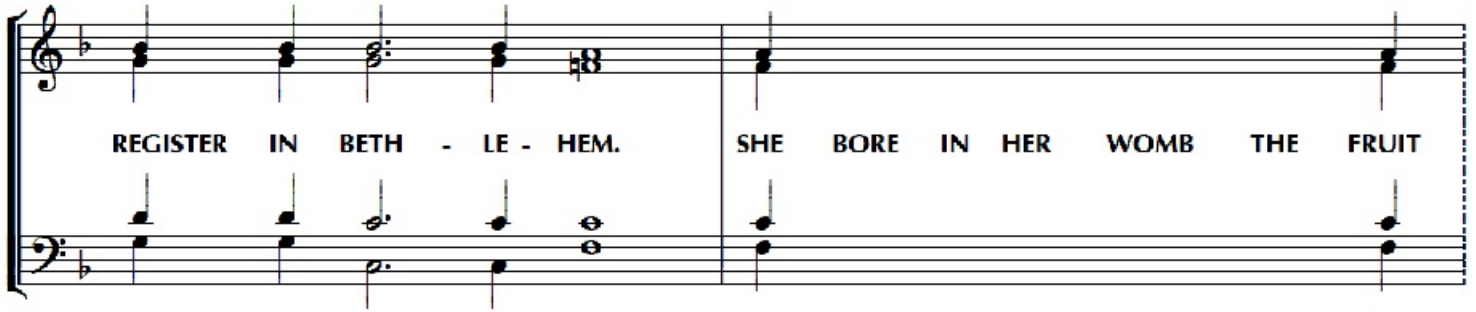
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Troparion Tone 4



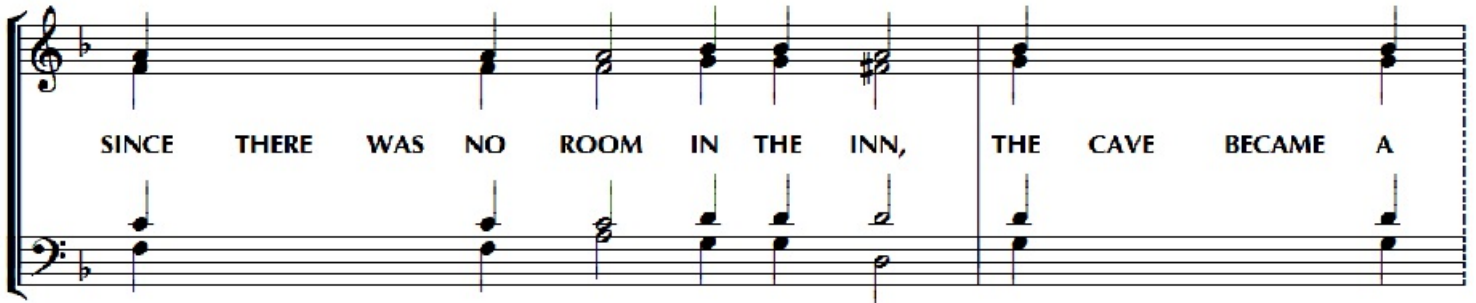
MARY WAS OF DA - VID'S SEED, SO SHE WENT WITH JOSEPH TO



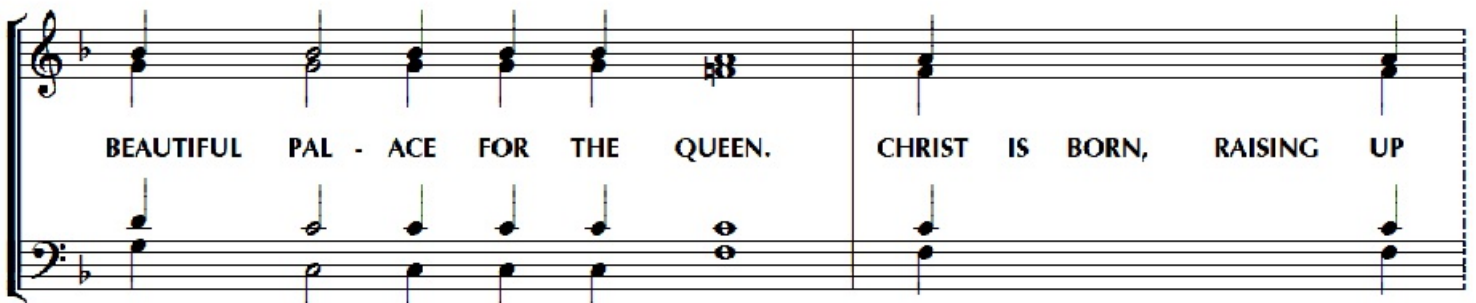
REGISTER IN BETH - LE - HEM. SHE BORE IN HER WOMB THE FRUIT



NOT SOWN BY MAN. THE TIME FOR THE BIRTH WAS AT HAND.



SINCE THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN, THE CAVE BECAME A



BEAUTIFUL PAL - ACE FOR THE QUEEN. CHRIST IS BORN, RAISING UP

THE IMAGE THAT FELL OF OLD!

When the Nativity falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22 or 23, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Tone 4

PREPARE, O BETH - LE - HEM, FOR EDEN HAS BEEN O - PENED TO ALL.

ADORN YOURSELF, O EPH - RA - THA, FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

BLOSSOMS FORTH FROM THE VIR - GIN IN THE CAVE. HER WOMB IS

A SPIRITUAL PARADISE PLANTED WITH THE FRUIT DI - VINE IF WE

EAT OF IT, WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND NOT DIE LIKE A - DAM.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "EAT OF IT, WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND NOT DIE LIKE A - DAM." The melody is simple, with notes corresponding to the syllables of the text.

CHRIST IS COMING TO RESTORE THE IMAGE WHICH HE MADE IN THE BE -

The second system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "CHRIST IS COMING TO RESTORE THE IMAGE WHICH HE MADE IN THE BE -". The notation is consistent with the first system.

GIN - NING.

The third system of music concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: "GIN - NING." The notation is consistent with the previous systems.

Reader: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. O Theotokos, you are the true vine that has put forth the Fruit of life. We pray, O Lady, intercede together with the apostles and all the saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls.

Tone 6

HE IS OUR GOD: THERE IS NO OTHER TO COM - PARE WITH HIM.

BORN OF A VIRGIN, HE COMES TO LIVE WITH MEN.

THE ONLY - BEGOTTEN SON APPEARS AS A MOR - TAL MAN.

HE RESTS IN A LOWLY MAN - GER. THE LORD OF GLORY IS

WRAPPED IN SWAD - DLING CLOTHES. A STAR LEADS THE WISE MEN

TO WOR - SHIP HIM AND WITH THEM WE SING: O HO - LY TRIN -

I - TY, SAVE OUR SOULS!

VERSE: God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done, and am filled with awe.

Tone 8

BE - FORE THY BIRTH, O LORD, THE HOSTS OF ANGELS ALREADY PERCEIVED

THE MYS - TER - Y, THEY WERE STRUCK WITH WON - DER AND TREM - BLED,

FOR THOU WHO DIDST ADORN THE HEA - VENS WITH STARS ART NOW

WELL - PLEAS - ED TO BE BORN AS A BABE. THOU HOLDEST THE ENDS

OF THE EARTH IN THY HANDS, BUT NOW THOU ART LAID IN A

MAN - GER OF DUMB BEASTS. YET ALL THESE THINGS FULFILLED THY SAV -

ING PLAN, BY WHICH THY COM - PAS - SION WAS RE - VEAL - ED TO US.

O CHRIST OF GREAT MER - CY, GLO - RY TO THEE.

VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3

TELL US, O JO - SEPH! WHY DO YOU BRING A MAIDEN GREAT WITH

CHILD TO BETH - LE - HEM? "I HAVE SEARCHED THE PRO - PHETS," HE SAID.

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY AN AN - GEL. I AM CONVINCED

THAT MARY WILL GIVE BIRTH TO GOD, IN A MANNER BEYOND

UN - DER - STAND - ING. WISE MEN FROM THE EAST WILL COME

TO WOR - SHIP HIM, OFFERING PRECIOUS GIFTS IN A - DOR - A - TION.

O LORD, INCARNATE FOR US, GLO - RY TO THEE!

The Prophecy and Epistle Readings

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the 4th tone:
For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given.

Tone 4

FOR UN - TO US A CHILD IS BORN. UN - TO US A SON IS

GIV EN.

Reader: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Choir: For unto us ...

Reader: For unto us a child is born.

Choir:

UN - TO US A SON IS GIV - EN.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Prophet Baruch.

Priest: Let us attend. (Baruch 3:35-4:4 Study Bible 3:36-4:4)

Reader: This is our God; no other shall be compared to Him. He found the whole way of knowledge and gave it to Jacob His servant and to Israel His beloved. Afterwards, He was seen upon the earth and lived among men. Wisdom is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures forever. All those who keep her will live, but those forsaking her will die. Return, O Jacob, and take hold of her. Walk toward the radiance of the presence of her light. Do not give your glory to another or the things that are of advantage to you to a foreign nation. O Israel, we are

blessed, for what is pleasing to our God is known to us.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. (Galatians 3:23-29)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Gospel Reading

Priest: That we may be accounted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Kievan

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Kievan

And to thy spir - it.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (Luke 2:1-20)

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

Priest: Let us attend. And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place

while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And 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, goodwill toward men!" So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass,

which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Choir: Glory to Thee...

Reader: Blessed is the Lord God, blessed is the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation shall prosper us along the way; our God is the God of salvation.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O

Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who are 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 unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 3

TO - DAY THE VIR - GIN COMES TO THE CAVE TO GIVE BIRTH

TO THE E - TER - NAL WORD. HEAR THE GLAD TIDINGS AND

RE - JOICE, O U - NI - VERSE! GLORIFY WITH THE ANGELS AND

THE SHEP - HERDS THE ETERNAL GOD, WHO IS WILLING TO

AP - PEAR AS A LIT - TLE CHILD!

Reader: Lord, have mercy (40 times)

You who at all times and in every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God; long suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who loves the just and shows mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: do You, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; hallow our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath, and distress. Compass us round about with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith and unto the comprehension of Your ineffable glory. For blessed art You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Who without corruption gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos,

we magnify You.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless!

Priest: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader: Amen. O God the Master, Father almighty, O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, and You, O Holy Spirit, one Divinity, one Power: Have mercy upon me, a sinner, and by Your judgments, save me, Your unworthy servant; for blessed are You unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Third Hour

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 the Very Christ, our King and our God.

(As the psalms are chanted, the priest censes around the Gospel, the altar, the iconostasis and the people, concluding by censing before the Gospel)

Psalm 71 (72)

O God, give Your judgments to the King, And Your righteousness to the King's Son, That He may judge Your people in righteousness And Your poor with judgment. Let the mountains raise up peace for Your people And the hills in righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, And shall serve the sons of the poor; He shall humble the false accuser, And He shall continue as long as the sun And before the moon from generation to generation; And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, Like raindrops falling on the earth. In His days, righteousness and abundance of peace shall flourish, Until the moon is removed. And He shall rule from sea to sea, And from the river to the ends of the inhabited earth. The Ethiopians shall bow down before Him, And His enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and their islands

will come bearing gifts; The kings of Arabia and Saba will bring presents. All the kings of the earth shall worship Him; All the Gentiles shall serve Him. For He rescued the poor from the hand of a strong man, And the needy, for whom there was no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, And He shall save the souls of the needy; He shall redeem their souls from usury and injustice, And precious shall be their name in His sight. He shall live, and there shall be given Him from the gold of Arabia; They shall pray continually because of Him, All the day long shall they bless Him. He shall be a support on the earth upon the summits of the mountains; His fruit shall be exalted more than Lebanon, And they shall flourish from the city like the grass of the earth. Let His name be blessed unto the ages; His name shall remain before the sun, And all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed in Him; All the Gentiles shall bless Him. Blessed is the Lord God, The God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. And blessed is the name of His glory forever and unto ages of ages, And all the earth shall be filled with His glory. Amen! Amen!

Psalm 131 (132)

Remember David, O Lord, And all his meekness, How he swore to the Lord, How he vowed to the God of Jacob "I shall not enter my dwelling, I shall not recline on my bed,

I shall not close my eyes in sleep Nor my eyelids for dozing, Nor give any rest to my temples, Until I find a place for the Lord, A tabernacle for the God of Jacob." Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; We found it in the plains of the wood; Let us enter into His tabernacles; Let us worship at the place where His feet stood. Arise, O Lord, into Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness; Your priests shall clothe themselves in righteousness; Your saints shall greatly rejoice. For Your servant David's sake, Do not turn away from the face of Your anointed. The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins. If your sons keep My covenant And these testimonies I shall teach them, Then their sons shall sit upon your throne forever." For the Lord has chosen Zion; He chose her for His dwelling: "This is My place of rest unto ages of ages; Here I shall dwell, for I have chosen her. Blessing, I shall bless her provision; I shall satisfy her poor with bread; And I shall clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall rejoice exceedingly with great joy; There I shall cause to spring up a horn for David; There I prepared a lamp for my anointed; His enemies I shall clothe with shame; Upon him shall My sanctification flourish."

Psalm 90 (91)

He who dwells in the help of the Most High Shall lodge in the shelter of the God of heaven. He shall say to the Lord, "You are my protector and my refuge, My God; I will hope in Him; For He shall free me from the snare of the hunters, And from every troubling word." He shall overshadow you with His shoulders, And under His wings you shall hope; His truth shall encircle you with a shield. You shall not be frightened by fear at night, Nor from an arrow that flies by day, Nor by a thing moving in darkness, Nor by mishap and a demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, Yet it shall not come near you; But you shall observe with your eyes, And you shall see the reward of sinners. For You, O Lord, are my hope; You made the Most High your refuge. Evils shall not come to you, And a scourge shall not draw near your dwelling; For He shall command His angels concerning you, To keep you in all your ways; In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you strike your foot against a stone; You shall tread upon the asp and the basilisk, And you shall trample the lion and the dragon. "For he hoped in Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him, because he knew My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will hear him; I am with him in affliction, And I will deliver and glorify him. With length of days I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

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

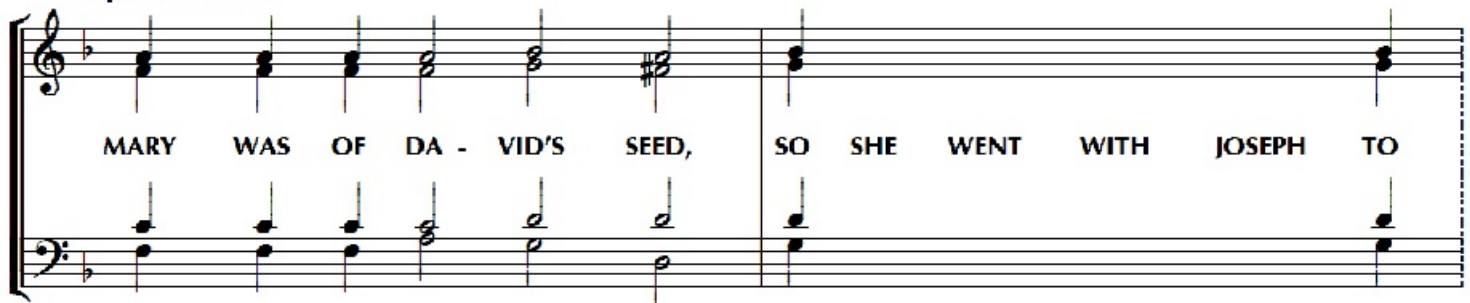
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! **(three times)**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

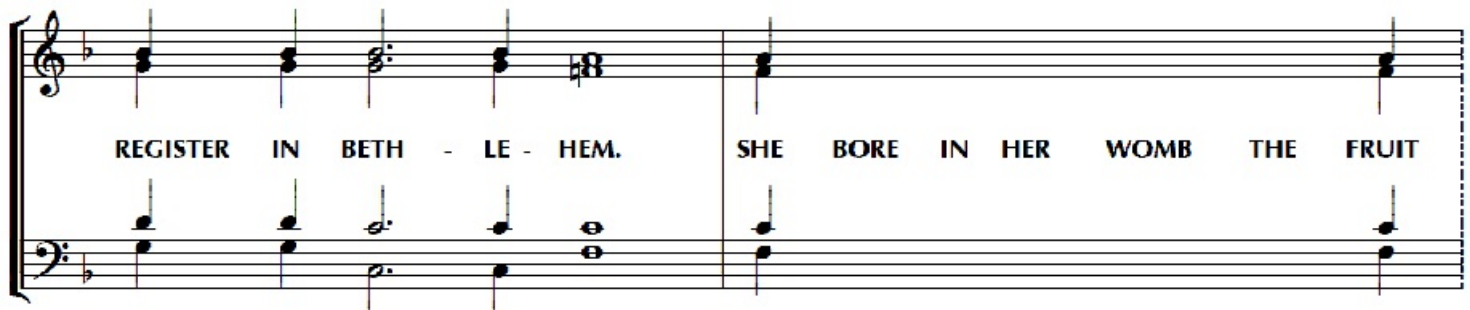
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion Tone 4

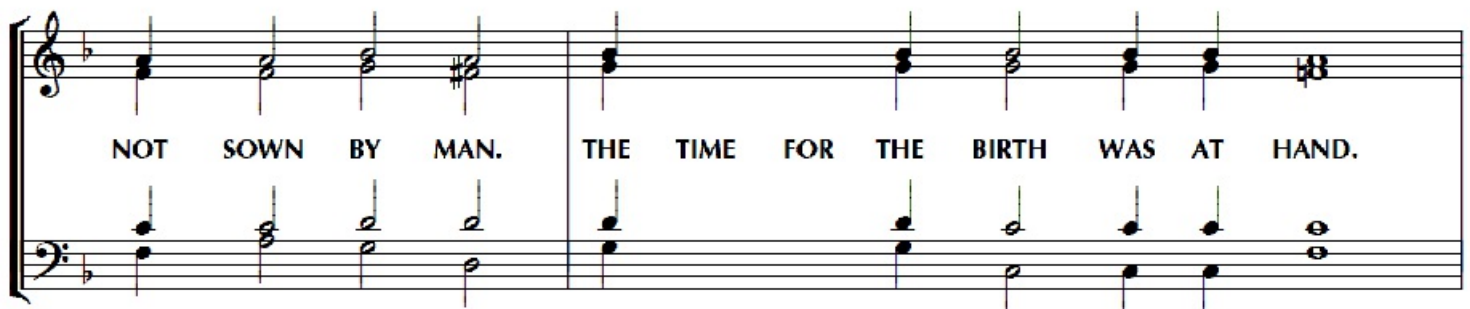
Troparion -Tone 4



MARY WAS OF DA - VID'S SEED, SO SHE WENT WITH JOSEPH TO



REGISTER IN BETH - LE - HEM. SHE BORE IN HER WOMB THE FRUIT



NOT SOWN BY MAN. THE TIME FOR THE BIRTH WAS AT HAND.

SINCE THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN, THE CAVE BECAME A

BEAUTIFUL PAL - ACE FOR THE QUEEN. CHRIST IS BORN, RAISING UP

THE IMAGE THAT FELL OF OLD!

When the Nativity falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22 or 23, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Tone 4

PREPARE, O BETH - LE - HEM, FOR EDEN HAS BEEN O - PENED TO ALL.

ADORN YOURSELF, O EPH - RA - THA, FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

BLOSSOMS FORTH FROM THE VIR - GIN IN THE CAVE. HER WOMB IS

A SPIRITUAL PARADISE PLANTED WITH THE FRUIT DI - VINE IF WE

EAT OF IT, WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND NOT DIE LIKE A - DAM.


CHRIST IS COMING TO RESTORE THE IMAGE WHICH HE MADE IN THE BE -

GIN - NING.


Reader: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. As there is no boldness in us because of the multitude of our

sins, do you, O Virgin Theotokos, intercede with the Son whom you have borne, for the entreaty of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master. Despise not, O all venerable Lady, the prayers of us sinners, for He who took upon Himself to suffer for our sake is merciful and strong to save.

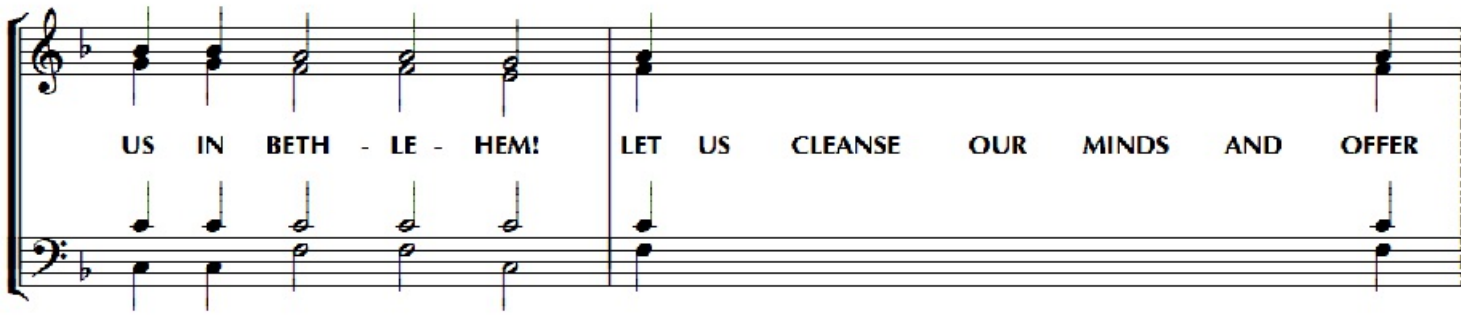
Tone 1



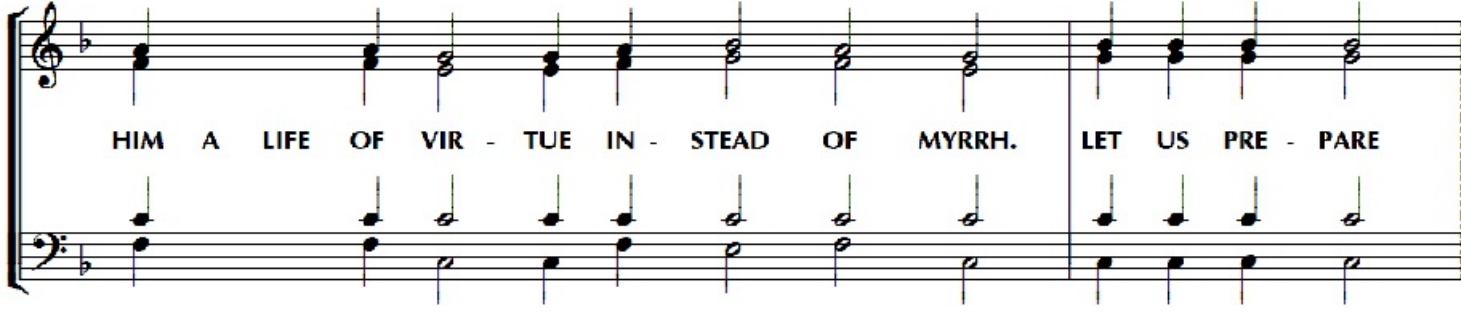
COME, O GOD - IN - SPIRED FAITH - FUL, ARISE AND BEHOLD THE



DESCENT OF GOD FROM ON HIGH! HE MAN - I - FESTS HIMSELF TO



US IN BETH - LE - HEM! LET US CLEANSE OUR MINDS AND OFFER



HIM A LIFE OF VIR - TUE IN - STEAD OF MYRRH. LET US PRE - PARE

WITH FAITH TO CELEBRATE HIS NA - TI - VI - TY, STORING UP SPIRITUAL

TREASURE AND CRY - ING: GLO - RY IN THE HIGHEST TO GOD

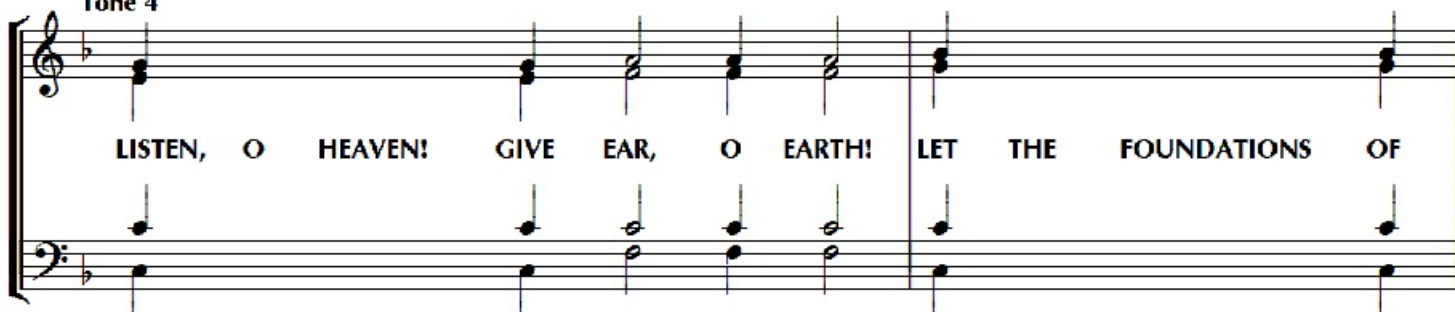
IN TRIN - I - TY! HIS GOOD PLEASURE IS NOW RE - VEALD TO MEN:

AS THE LOVER OF MAN HE SETS ADAM FREE FROM THE

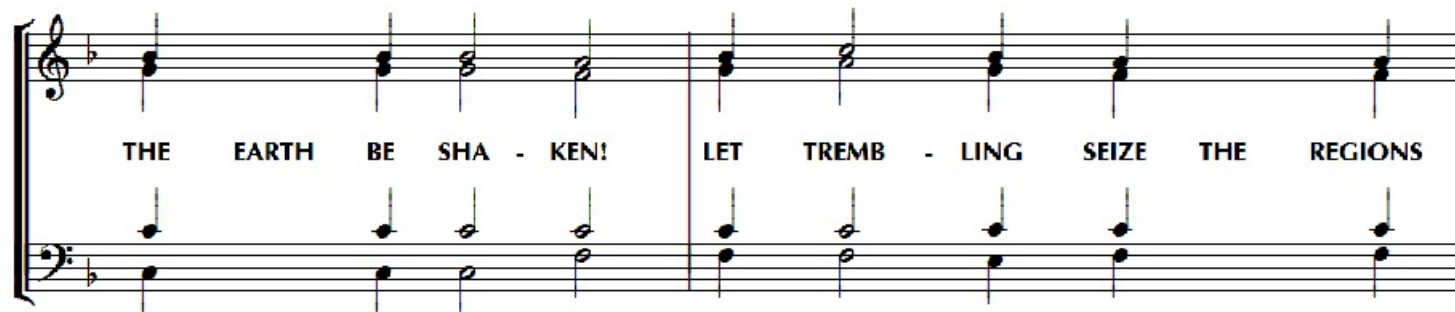
AN - CES - TRAL CURSE.

VERSE: God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done and am filled with awe.

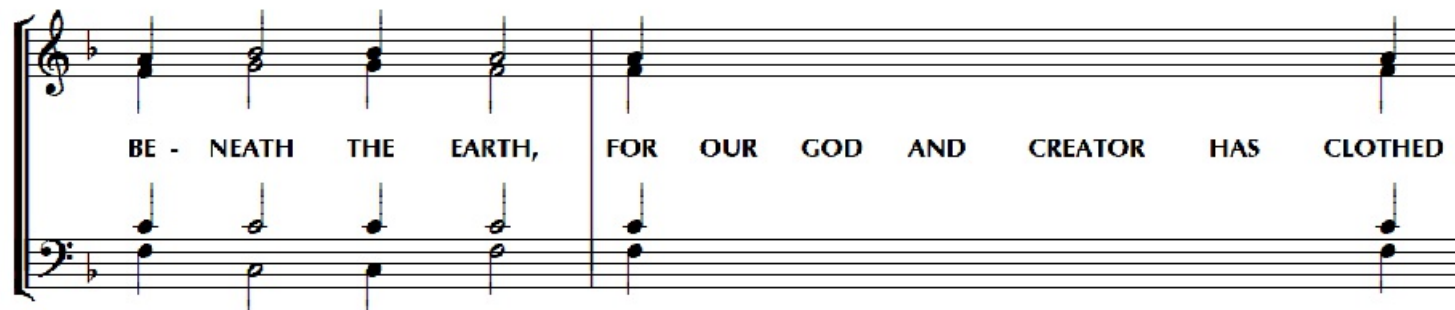
Tone 4



LISTEN, O HEAVEN! GIVE EAR, O EARTH! LET THE FOUNDATIONS OF



THE EARTH BE SHA - KEN! LET TREMB - LING SEIZE THE REGIONS



BE - NEATH THE EARTH, FOR OUR GOD AND CREATOR HAS CLOTHED



HIMSELF IN CRE - A - TED FLESH; HE FASHIONED ALL CREATION, YET REVEALS



HIMSELF IN THE WOMB OF HER THAT HE FORMED. O THE DEPTH OF

THE RICHES OF THE WISDOM AND KNOW - LEDGE OF GOD! HOW

INCOMPREHENSIBLE ARE HIS JUDG - MENTS; AND HOW UN - SEARCH -

A - BLE HIS WAYS.

VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 5

COME, O CHRIST - BEARING PEO - PLE! LET US BEHOLD WONDERS THAT

WILL A - MAZE EV - ERY MIND. AS WE WOR - SHIP IN FAITH, LET US

SING PRAIS - ES. TO - DAY A MAIDEN GREAT WITH CHILD GOES UP

TO BETH - LE - HEM. THERE SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO THE LORD.

CHOIRS OF ANGELS GO BE - FORE HER. JO - SEPH, HER HUSBAND,

CRIED OUT WHEN HE SAW THESE THINGS, WHAT IS THIS STRANGE

MYSTERY IN YOU, O VIR - GIN? HOW WILL YOU BEAR A CHILD,

O CALF WHO NE - VER BORE THE YOKE OF MAN.

The Prophecy and Epistle Readings

Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy is in the 4th tone: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind.

Tone 4

OUT OF THE WOMB BEFORE THE MORNING STAR HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE.

THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND.

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

Choir: Out of the womb ...

Reader: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee.

Choir:

The image shows a musical score for a choir. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND." The music is written in a simple, homophonic style, with chords and single notes. The treble staff has a whole note chord for "THE", a quarter note chord for "LORD", a quarter note chord for "HAS", a quarter note chord for "SWORN", a quarter note chord for "AND", a quarter note chord for "WILL", a quarter note chord for "NOT", a quarter note chord for "CHANGE", a quarter note chord for "HIS", and a whole note chord for "MIND." The bass staff has a whole note chord for "THE", a quarter note chord for "LORD", a quarter note chord for "HAS", a quarter note chord for "SWORN", a quarter note chord for "AND", a quarter note chord for "WILL", a quarter note chord for "NOT", a quarter note chord for "CHANGE", a quarter note chord for "HIS", and a whole note chord for "MIND." The music is written in a simple, homophonic style, with chords and single notes.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10 Study Bible 7:10-16; 8:1-4,9 -10)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Moreover the Lord added this to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I tempt the Lord." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, O house of David, is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary the Lord also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel. Butter and honey He shall eat before He knows to prefer evil or choose the good, for before the Child

knows good or evil, He refuses the evil to choose the good; and the land you fear because of the presence of the two kings will be abandoned. Moreover the Lord said to me, "Take for yourself a large new book, and write on it with a man's pen concerning making a swift plunder of spoils, for it is near at hand. Then make witnesses for Me of faithful men: Uriah and Zechariah, the son of Berechiah." Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son, and the Lord said to me, "Call his name Quickly Despoil, Swiftly Plunder; for before the child shall know how to call for his father and mother, one shall take the power of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria in the presence of the king of Assyria." Know this, O Gentiles, and be defeated. Give ear, all you to the very ends of the earth. Be defeated although you are strong, for even if you should be strong again, you will be defeated again. Then too, whatever counsel you take, the Lord will scatter it abroad; and whatever word you shall speak, it will not continue among you, for the Lord God is with us."

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" ? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

The Gospel Reading

Priest: That we may be accounted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Kievan

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Kievan

And to thy spir - it.

The image shows a musical score for the text 'And to thy spir - it.' It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (Matthew 2:1-12)

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

The image shows a musical score for the text 'Glo - ry to Thee, O Lord, glo - ry to Thee.' It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Priest: Let us attend. Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to

him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Choir: Glory to Thee...

Reader: Let Your compassions quickly go before us, O Lord, for we are become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God our Savior, for the sake of the glory of Your name; O Lord,

deliver us and be gracious unto our sins for Your name's sake.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who are 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

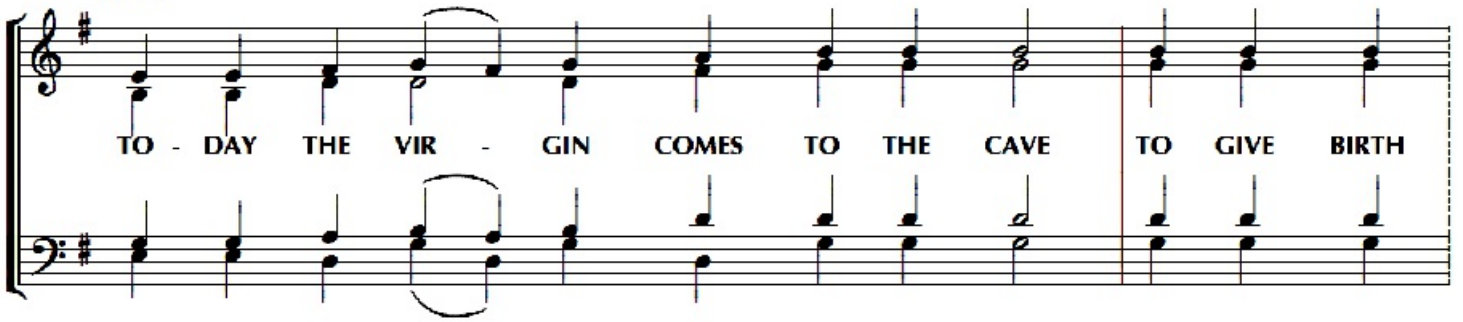
Evil One.

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 unto ages of ages.

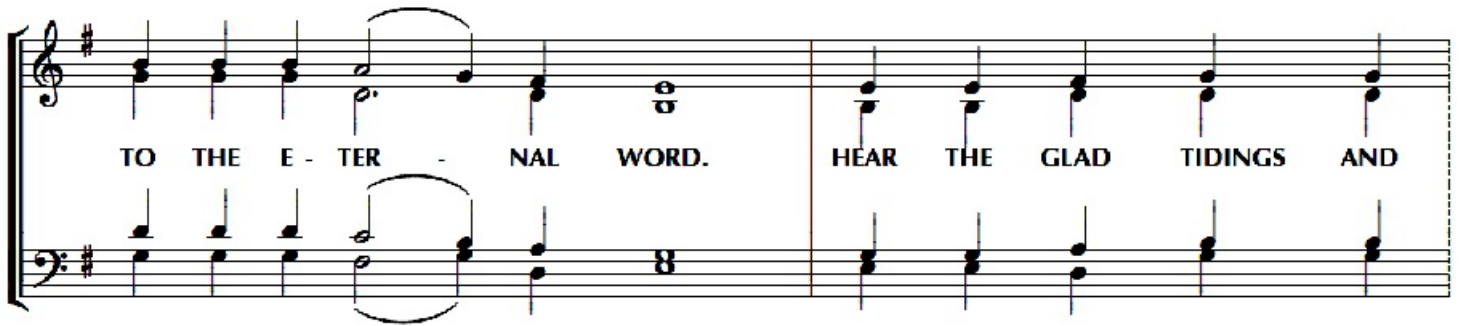
Reader: Amen.

Kontakion

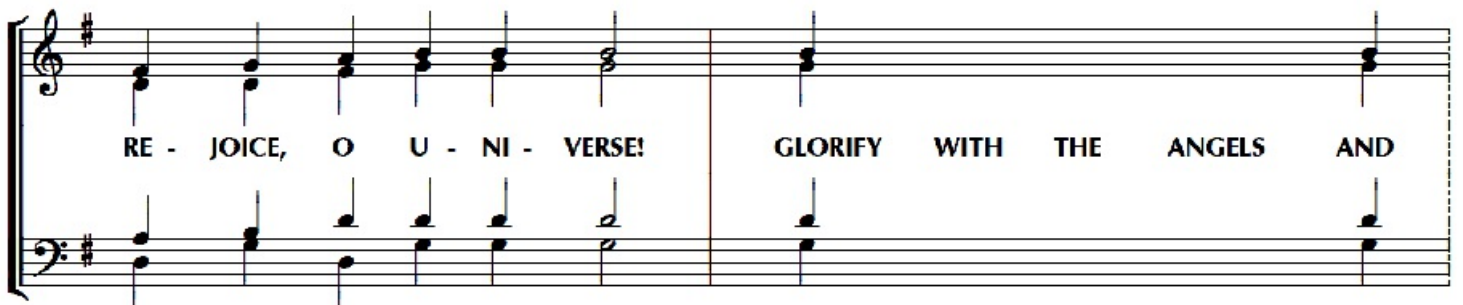
Tone 3



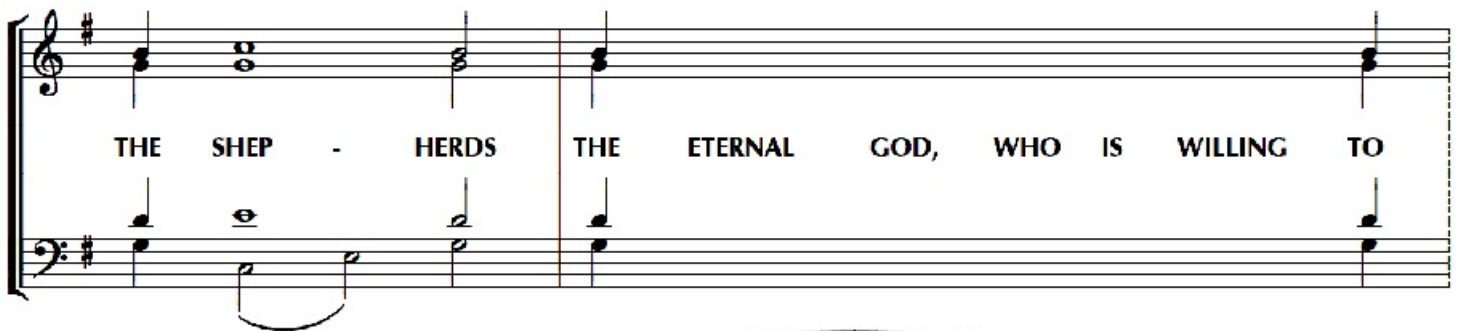
TO - DAY THE VIR - GIN COMES TO THE CAVE TO GIVE BIRTH



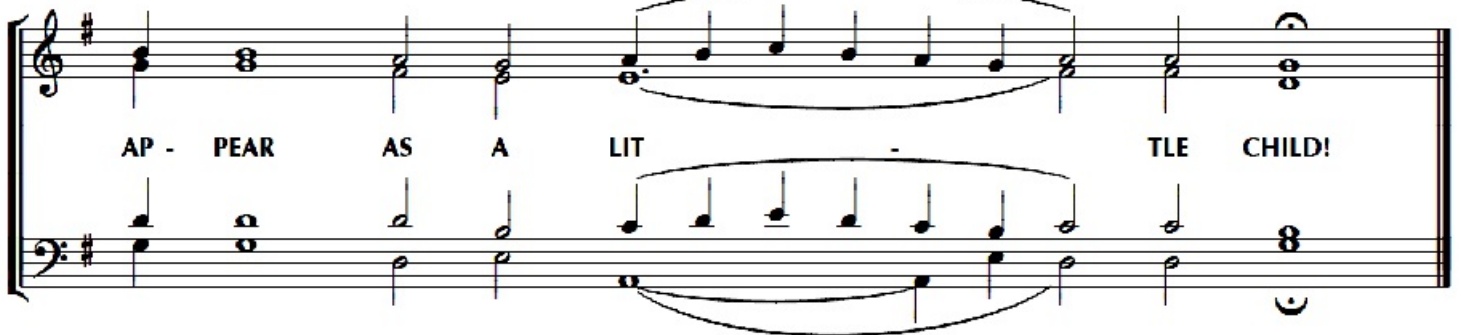
TO THE E - TER - NAL WORD. HEAR THE GLAD TIDINGS AND



RE - JOICE, O U - NI - VERSE! GLORIFY WITH THE ANGELS AND



THE SHEP - HERDS THE ETERNAL GOD, WHO IS WILLING TO



AP - PEAR AS A LIT - TLE CHILD!

Reader: Lord, have mercy (40 times)

You who at all times and in every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God; long suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who loves the just and shows mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: do You, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; hallow our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath, and distress. Compass us round about with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith and unto the comprehension of Your ineffable glory. For blessed art You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Who without corruption gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos,

we magnify You.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless!

Priest: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader: Amen. O God, the Lord of hosts, and Author of all creation, who in Your ineffable tender mercy has sent down Your Only begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our kind, and through His Holy Cross has torn up the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness: do You, O Master, who loves mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression, and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of You, and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Your love, that ever gazing upon You, guided by Your light and beholding You, the eternal Light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks unto You, the Father without beginning, together with Your Only begotten Son and Your most Holy, Good, and Life giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Ninth Hour

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 the Very Christ, our King and our God.

(As the psalms are chanted, the priest makes a full censuring of the Church beginning by censuring around the Gospel and concluding by censuring before it)

Psalm 109 (110)

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies the footstool of Your feet." The Lord shall send forth the rod of Your power from Zion, And rule in the midst of Your enemies. With You is the beginning in the day of Your power, In the brightness of Your saints; "I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star." The Lord swore and will not repent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord at Your right hand crushed kings in the day of His wrath; He shall judge among the nations; He shall fill them with dead bodies; He shall crush the heads of many on earth. He shall drink from the brook on the way; Therefore, He shall raise His head high.

Psalm 110 (111)

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, with my whole heart, In the council of the upright and in the assembly. Great are the works of the Lord, Sought out in all things with regard to His will; Thanksgiving and majesty are His work, And His righteousness continues unto ages of ages. He made a remembrance of His wonders; The Lord is merciful and compassionate; He gave food to those who fear Him; He shall remember His covenant forever. He declared the strength of His works to His people, So as to give them the inheritance of the nations. The works of His hands are truth and judgment; Faithful are all His commandments, Established unto ages of ages, Made in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption to His people; He commanded His covenant forever; Holy and fearful is His name. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord; A good understanding is in all who practice it. His praise continues unto ages of ages.

Psalm 85 (86)

Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear me, For I am poor and needy. Guard my soul, for I am holy; O my God, save Your servant, who hopes in You. Have mercy on me, O Lord, For all the day long I will cry to You. Gladden the soul of Your servant, O Lord, For to You, O Lord, I lift up

my soul. For You, O Lord, are kind and good, And very merciful to all who call upon You. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer And heed the voice of my supplication. In the day of my affliction I cried to You, For You heard me. There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, And there are no works like Your works. All the Gentiles You made shall come And worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name; For You are great, doing wonders; You alone are the great God. Lead me in Your way, O Lord, And I will walk in Your truth; Gladden my heart so as to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, And I shall glorify Your name forever; For great is Your mercy to me, And You rescued my soul from the lowest Hades. O God, lawless men rose up against me, And a gathering of strong men sought my soul; And they did not set You before them. But You, O Lord, are compassionate and merciful, Longsuffering and very merciful and truthful. Look upon me and have mercy; Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your handmaid. Work a sign in my midst for good, And let those who hate me see it and be disgraced; For You, O Lord, helped me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (**three times**)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

Troparion Tone 4

Troparion -Tone 4

MARY WAS OF DA - VID'S SEED, SO SHE WENT WITH JOSEPH TO

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, and the bass staff contains a series of notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

REGISTER IN BETH - LE - HEM. SHE BORE IN HER WOMB THE FRUIT

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

NOT SOWN BY MAN. THE TIME FOR THE BIRTH WAS AT HAND.

The third line of musical notation concludes the troparion. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

SINCE THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN, THE CAVE BECAME A

BEAUTIFUL PAL - ACE FOR THE QUEEN. CHRIST IS BORN, RAISING UP

THE IMAGE THAT FELL OF OLD!

When the Nativity falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22 or 23, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Tone 4

PREPARE, O BETH - LE - HEM, FOR EDEN HAS BEEN O - PENERD TO ALL.

ADORN YOURSELF, O EPH - RA - THA, FOR THE TREE OF LIFE

BLOSSOMS FORTH FROM THE VIR - GIN IN THE CAVE. HER WOMB IS

A SPIRITUAL PARADISE PLANTED WITH THE FRUIT DI - VINE IF WE

EAT OF IT, WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND NOT DIE LIKE A - DAM.

CHRIST IS COMING TO RESTORE THE IMAGE WHICH HE MADE IN THE BE -

GIN - NING.

Reader: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. O Lord, who for our sake was born of a Virgin, and suffered

crucifixion, O Good One, and destroyed death through death, and as God revealed the Resurrection; do not despise those whom You have created with Your own hand; show forth Your love for mankind, O Merciful One; accept the intercessions of Your mother, the Theotokos, for us, and save Your despairing people.

Tone 7

HE - ROD WAS FILLED WITH A - LARM WHEN HE SAW THE RIGHT - EOUS

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, and the bass staff contains a series of notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

WISE MEN. O - VER - COME BY FU - RY, HE DE - TER - MINED

The second system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, and the bass staff contains a series of notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

PRECISELY WHEN THE CHILD WAS BORN. MO - THERS WERE ROBBED OF

The third system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, and the bass staff contains a series of notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

THEIR IN - FANTS: THEIR TEN - DER LIVES WERE REAPED AS A BIT - TER

The fourth system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of chords, and the bass staff contains a series of notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

HAR - VEST. MILK STOPPED FLOW - ING AND BREASTS DRIED UP.

GREAT WAS THE SUFFER - ING! THERE - FORE AS - SEM - BLE IN

HOLY FEAR, O FAITH - FUL TO WOR - SHIP THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

VERSE: God shall come from Teman and the Holy one from the dark and shady mountain. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done, and am filled with awe.

Tone 2

WHEN JOSEPH WENT UP TO BETH - LE - HEM, HIS HEART WAS FILLED

WITH SAD - NESS. BUT YOU CRIED OUT TO HIM, O VIR - GIN:

WHY ARE YOU SO TROU - BLED WHY ARE YOU IN MISERY SEEING ME

WITH CHILD? DO YOU NOT UN - DER - STAND AT ALL? I BEAR A

FEAR - FUL MYS - TER - Y! CAST YOUR FEARS AWAY AND LEARN

A STRANGE WON - DER: GOD IN HIS MERCY DES - CENDS FROM HEA -

VEN TO EARTH. WITHIN MY WOMB HE HAS TA - KEN FLESH!

WHEN HE IS PLEASD TO BE BORN, YOU WILL SEE HIM. YOU WILL

REJOICE AND WORSHIP HIM, YOUR CRE - A - TOR. THE ANGELS

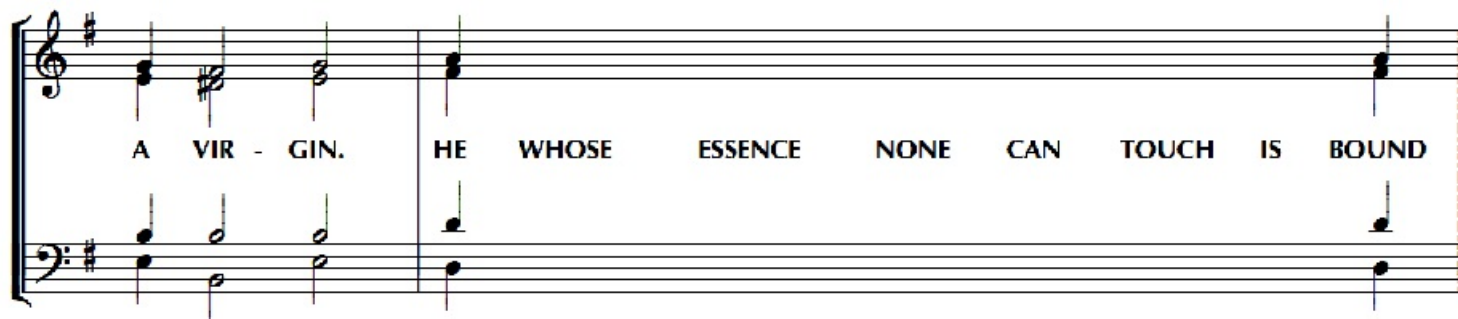
CEASE - LESS - LY PRAISE HIM IN SONG, GLORIFYING HIM WITH THE

FATHER AND THE HO - LY SPIR - IT.

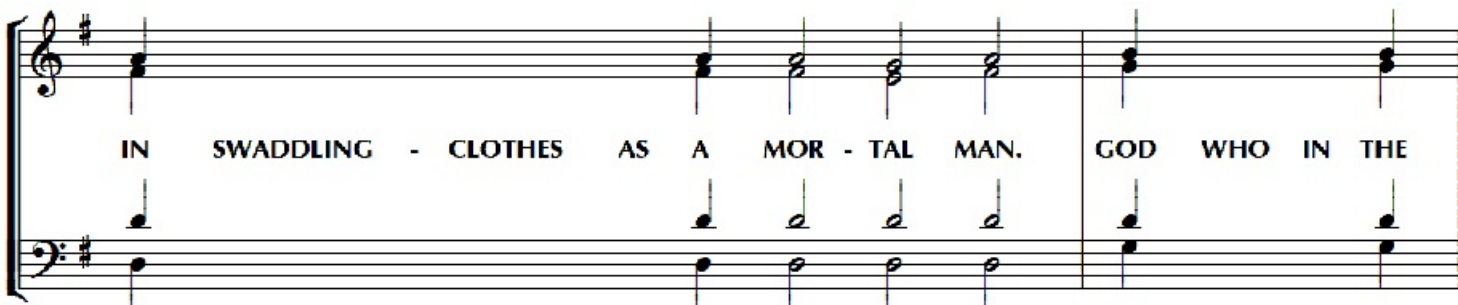
VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6

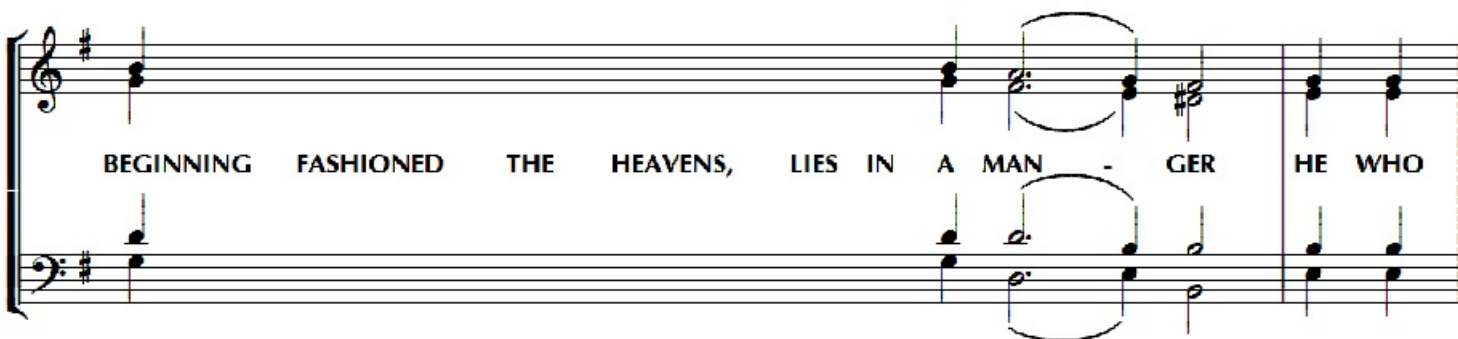
TODAY HE WHO HOLDS THE WHOLE CREATION IN HIS HAND IS BORN OF



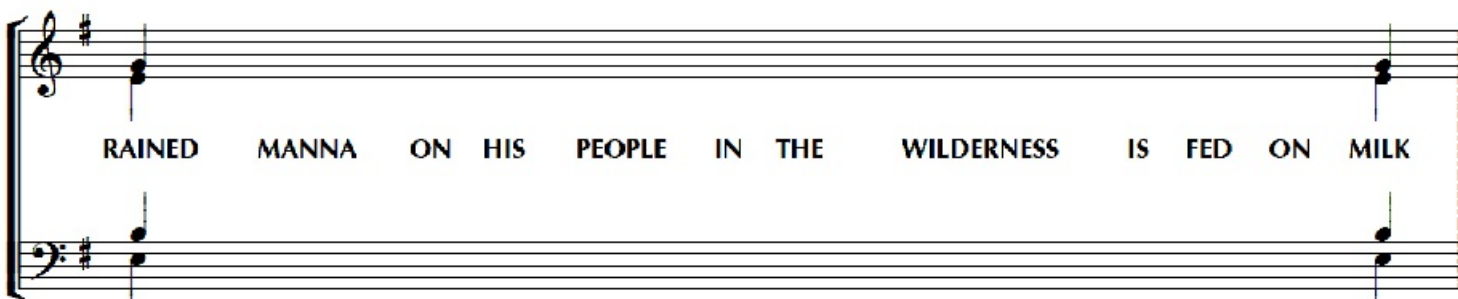
A VIR - GIN. HE WHOSE ESSENCE NONE CAN TOUCH IS BOUND



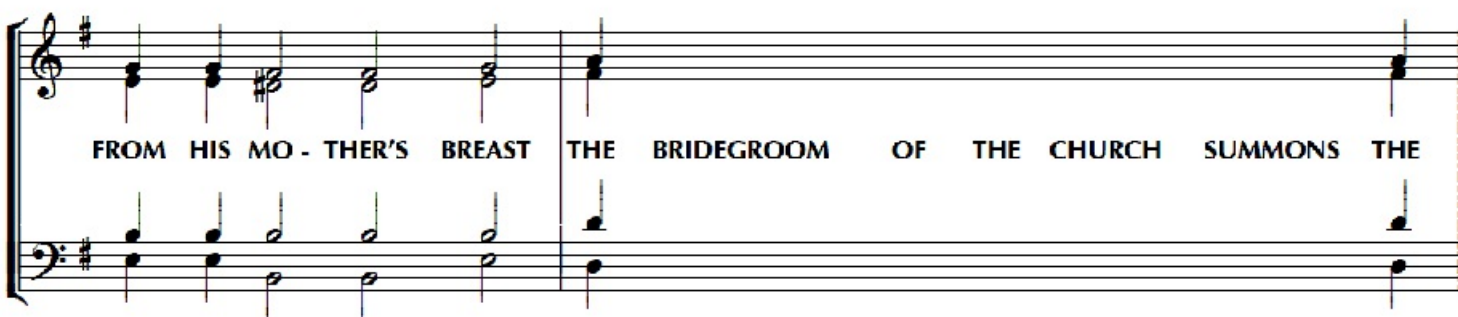
IN SWADDLING - CLOTHES AS A MOR - TAL MAN. GOD WHO IN THE



BEGINNING FASHIONED THE HEAVENS, LIES IN A MAN - GER HE WHO



RAINED MANNA ON HIS PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS IS FED ON MILK



FROM HIS MO - THER'S BREAST THE BRIDEGROOM OF THE CHURCH SUMMONS THE

WISE MEN; THE SON OF THE VIRGIN AC - CEPTS THEIR GIFTS.

WE WORSHIP THY BIRTH, O CHRIST. WE WORSHIP THY BIRTH, O CHRIST.

WE WORSHIP THY BIRTH, O CHRIST. SHOW US AL - SO THY

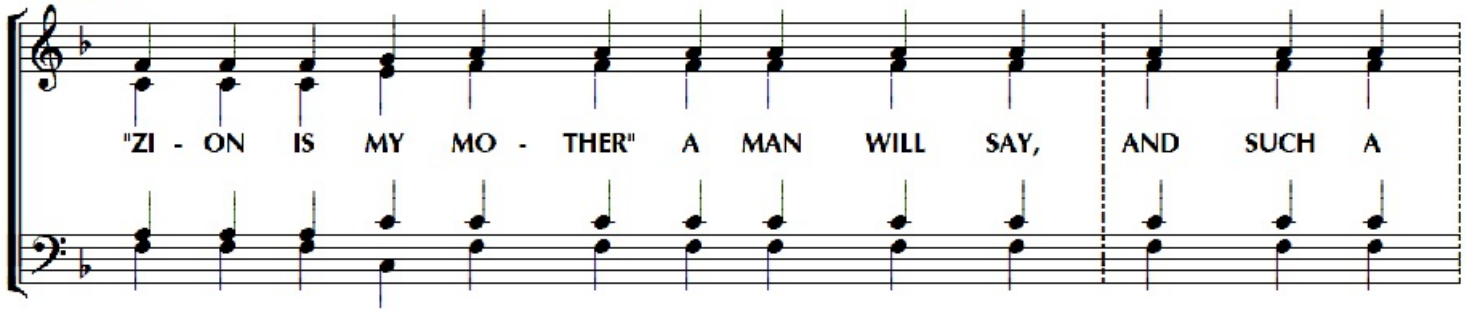
HO - LY THE - OPH - A - NY!

The Prophecy and Epistle Readings

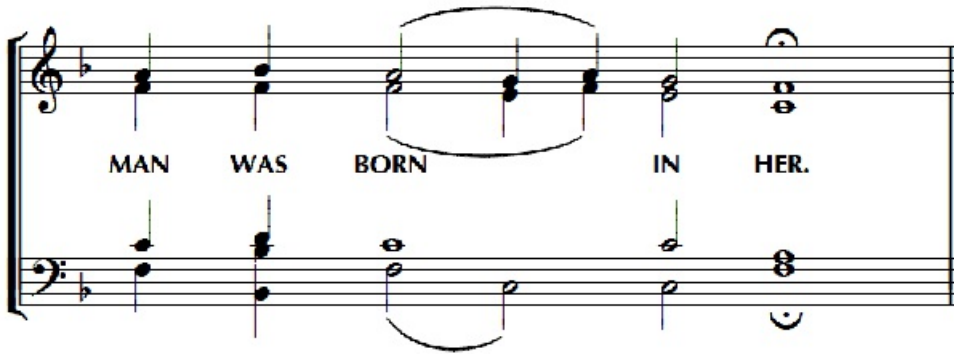
Reader: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy is in the 4th tone: Zion is my mother, a man will say, and such a man was born in her.

Choir:

Tone 4



"ZI - ON IS MY MO - THER" A MAN WILL SAY, AND SUCH A



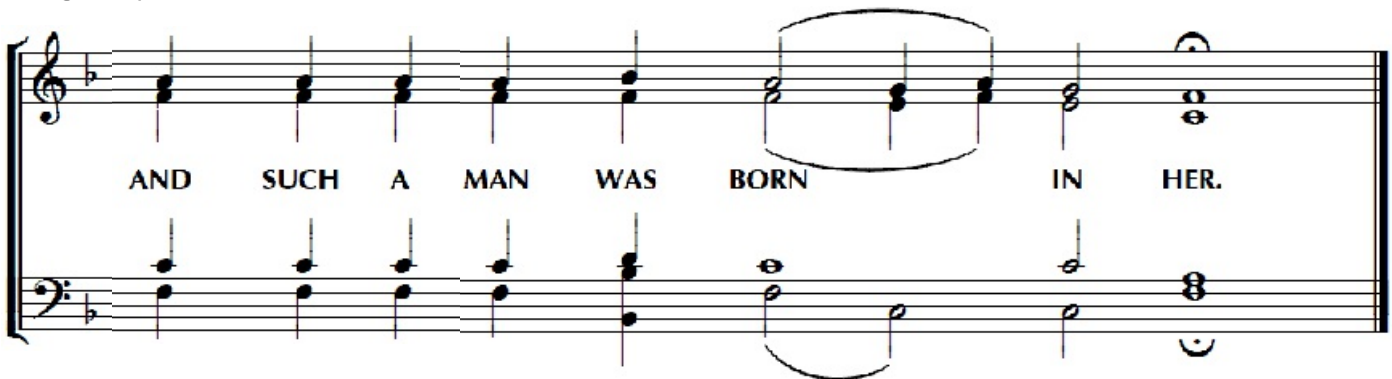
MAN WAS BORN IN HER.

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

Choir: Zion is my mother ...

Reader: Zion is my mother, a man will say,

Choir:



AND SUCH A MAN WAS BORN IN HER.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 9:6-7 Study Bible 9:5-6)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon the rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgment, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from the epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 2:11-18)

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: Brethren, By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she

was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude-innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

The Gospel Reading

Priest: That we may be accounted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Kievan

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel! Peace be unto all!

Kievan

And to thy spir - it.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (Matthew 2:1-12)

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

Priest: Let us attend. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His

mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be

fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Choir: Glory to Thee...

Reader: For Your holy Name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Your covenant; do not take away Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

now an ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who are 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 unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 3

TO - DAY THE VIR - GIN COMES TO THE CAVE TO GIVE BIRTH

TO THE E - TER - NAL WORD. HEAR THE GLAD TIDINGS AND

RE - JOICE, O U - NI - VERSE! GLORIFY WITH THE ANGELS AND

THE SHEP - HERDS THE ETERNAL GOD, WHO IS WILLING TO

AP - PEAR AS A LIT - TLE CHILD!

Reader: Lord, have mercy (40 times)

You who at all times and in every hour, both in heaven and on earth art worshiped and glorified, O Christ our God; long suffering, plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who loves the just and shows mercy to those who are hardened in sin; Who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: do You, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this present time, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; hallow our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all calamity, wrath, and distress. Compass us round about with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith and unto the comprehension of Your ineffable glory. For blessed art You unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Who without corruption gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos,

we magnify You.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless!

Priest: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Reader: Amen. O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who has patiently endured our sins, and Who has led us even to the present hour in which, as You hung upon the life giving tree You mad a way into Paradise for the repentant thief, and by death destroyed death: cleanse us sinners and Your unworthy servants; for we have sinned and have dealt iniquitously, and we are not worthy to lift our eyes to the heights of heaven, for we have abandoned the part of Your righteousness, and have walked after the desires of our own hearts. But we implore Your boundless goodness: spare us, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercies, and save us, for Your holy Name's sake; for our days have passed away in vanity. Pull us away from the hand of the adversary, and forgive our sins and deaden in us fleshy imagination; that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new man, and may live unto You, our Master and Benefactor; and that following Your commandments, we may attain to eternal rest, where is the dwelling place of all those who rejoice. For You are, in

truth, the true joy and exultation of those who love You, O Christ our God, and unto You we ascribe glory, together with the Father, Who has no beginning, and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to Thee.

Choir:

Glory 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.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord have mer - cy. Fa - ther bless.

Priest: May He who was born in a cavern and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Choir:

