

**December 18, 2005**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**Sunday of the Fathers**

**18 The holy martyr Sebastian and his companions.** Born in Italy and brought up in the city of Milan, he intended to be a soldier. The emperor Diocletian made him captain of the imperial guard. During this time, Sebastian professed the Faith and was a great help to those persecuted for it. After many of his converts were martyred, the emperor called Sebastian and rebuked him for his betrayal, and he replied, "I always pray to my Christ for your health and for the peace of the Roman Empire." The emperor ordered him stripped and shot with arrows. Since this did not kill him, he was beaten to death with staves. (287)

**Hymn**

*melody: St. Louis (O Little Town of Bethlehem)*



1. O come, you lov - ers of the feasts! With glad-ness let us raise
2. Be - liev - ers, let us praise this day The fa - thers on faith's trek;
3. For Mi - riam, Sar - ah, Ra - chel fair, For Han - nah and for Eve,
4. O Beth - le - hem, pre - pare your - self, O Eph - ra - thah, re - joice!



For Pa - tri - archs and Proph - ets blest A hymn of thank - ful praise!  
 For Ad - am, E - noch, No - ah and The great Mel - chiz - e - dek!  
 For all the moth - ers who con - ceived And bore those to be - lieve  
 The gate of E - den's o - pen wide! Cry out with joy - filled voice:




For A - bra - ham and I - saac And Ja - cob and his seed  
 For proph - ets like I - sai - ah, For Dan - iel and the youths  
 That God would keep His prom - ise, We give You thanks this day;  
 Our Christ makes haste to come now And brings us back to grace.



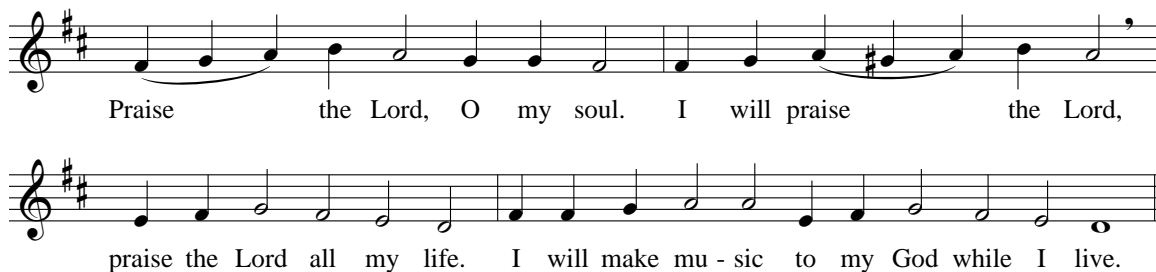
Whose cov - e - nant with God en - dured, We give You praise, in - deed!  
 Who, in the face of e - vil, still Pro - claimed Your ho - ly truths.  
 So give us grace, in all our deeds, To serve you, as did they!  
 Pre - pare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the fin - est place!

### First Typical Psalm (Psalm 102: 1)



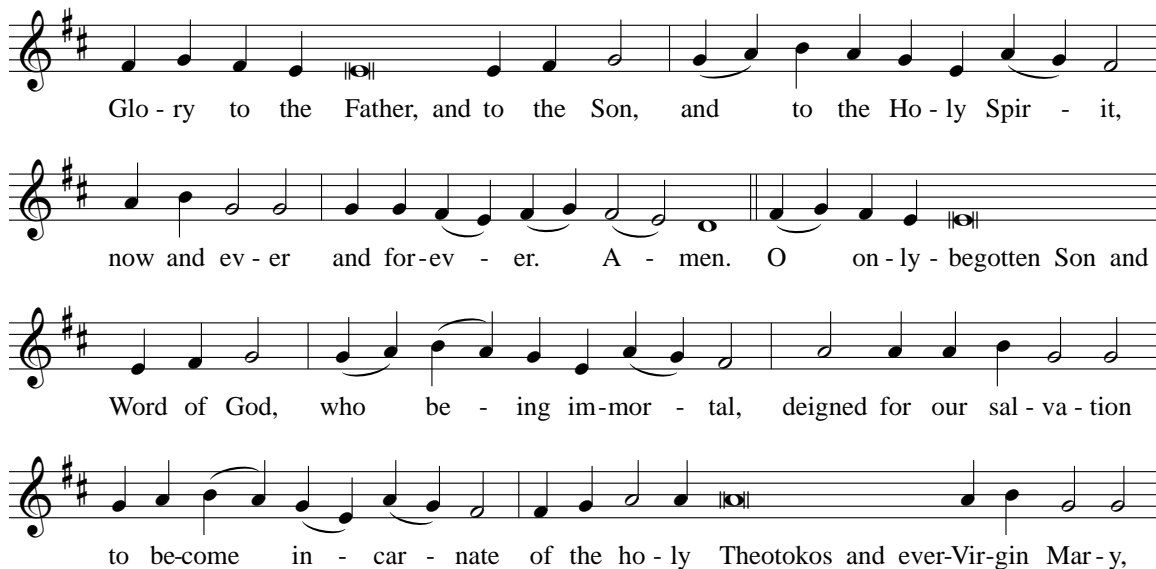
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my be - ing, bless his  
ho - ly name. Bless-ed are you, O Lord.

### Second Typical Psalm (Psalm 145: 1, 2)



Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord,  
praise the Lord all my life. I will make mu - sic to my God while I live.

### Hymn of the Incarnation - Resurrection Tone 7



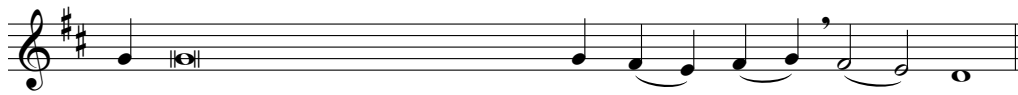
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
now and ev - er and for-ev - er. A - men. O on - ly - begotten Son and  
Word of God, who be - ing im - mor - tal, deigned for our sal - va - tion  
to be - come in - car - nate of the ho - ly Theotokos and ever - Vir - gin Mar - y,



and be-came man with-out change; you were al - so crucified, O Christ our God,



and by death have tram-pled Death, be-ing One of the Ho-ly Trin - i - ty,



glo - rified with the Father and the Ho-ly Spir - it, save us.

**Third Typical Psalm: The Beatitudes** (*Matthew 5: 1-12*)

*Kontakion Tone 8*



Re - mem - ber us, O Lord, when you come in your king - dom.



Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, for theirs is the king-dom of heav - en.



Bless-ed are they who mourn, for they will be com-fort-ed. Bless-ed are the meek,




for they will in - her - it the land. Bless - ed are they who hunger and thirst



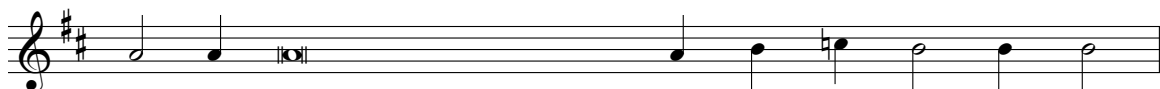
af - ter right-eous-ness, for they will be sat - is-fied. Bless-ed are the mer - ci - ful,



for they will be shown mer - cy. Bless-ed are the clean of heart, for they shall



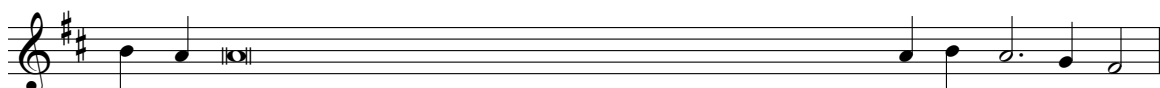
see God. Bless-ed are the peace-mak-ers, for they will be called chil-dren of God.



Bless - ed are they who are persecuted for the sake of right - eous - ness,



for theirs is the king-dom of heav - en. Bless-ed are you when they in-sult you



and per - secute you and utter every kind of evil against you false-ly be-cause of me.




Re - joice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heav - en.

### Entrance Hymn




Come, let us wor - ship and bow be - fore Christ. O Son of God,

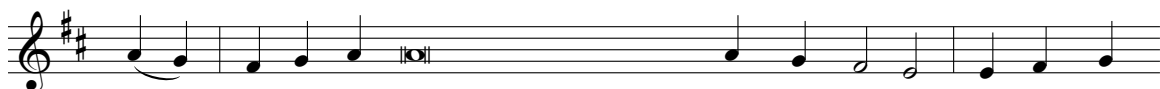


ris - en from the dead, save us who sing to you: Al - le - lu - ia!

### Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 6



An - gel-ic pow-ers ap-peared at your tomb, and the guards be-came like dead



men. Mar - y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod - y. You de-spoiled

Ha-des with-out a chal-lenge. You, the Giv-er of Life met the  
 Vir-gin. O Lord, ris-en from the dead, glo-ry to you!

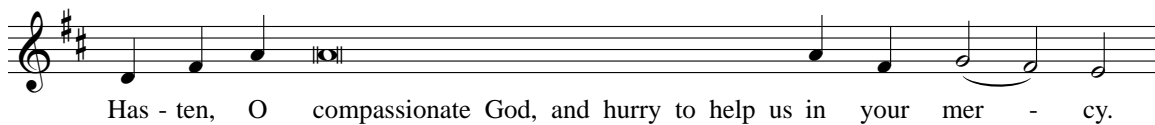
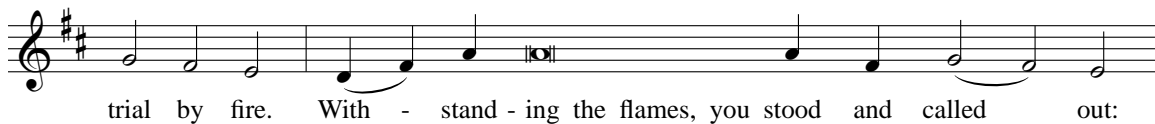
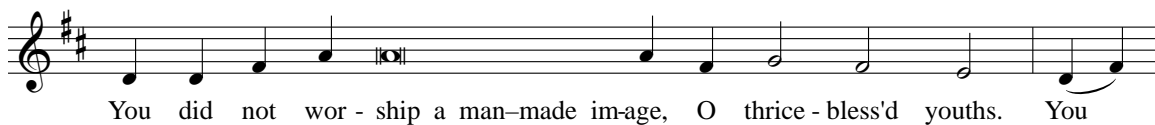
**Troparion of the Fathers - Tone 2**

Great are the ac-com-lish-ments of faith: the three ho-ly youths rejoiced in  
 the streams of fire as if in re-fresh-ing wa-ters; and Dan-iel the prophet  
 shep-herd-ed li-ons like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O  
 Christ our God, save our souls.

*Cantor*

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it, now and  
 ev-er and for-ev-er. A-men.

## Kontakion of the Fathers - Tone 6



## Thrice-Holy Hymn



**Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Daniel 3:26,27):**

Bless-ed are you and praise-wor-thy, O Lord, the God of our Fa - thers,  
and glo - ri - ous for - ev - er is your name.

*Verse:* For you are just in all that you have done for us.

**Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 43:2,8):**

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

*Verse:* O God, we have heard with our own ears;  
our fathers have told us the deed you did in their days.

*Verse:* You saved us from those who oppressed us; and those who hated us you put to shame.

**Cherubic Hymn**

*on the hymn, "O kto, kto"*

Let us, who mys-tic-'ly rep-re-sent the cher-u-bim, and sing the thrice-ho-ly  
hymn to the life-cre-at-ing, life-cre-at-ing Trin-i-ty,  
now set a-side all earth-ly cares.

A - men. That we may re-ceive the King of All, in - vis - i - bly



es - cort - ed by an - gel - ic hosts. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - - - le - lu - ia!

### Anamnesis Acclamation



We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, thank you, O Lord,



and we pray to you, our God, and we pray to you, our God,



and we pray to you, our God.

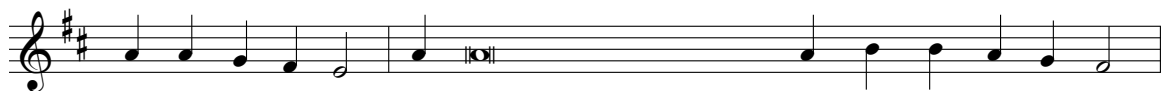
### It is truly proper



It is tru - ly prop - er to glo - ri - fy you, O The - o - to - kos,



the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the moth - er of our God. More honora-ble



than the Cher - u - bim and beyond compare more glori-ous than the Ser - a - phim,

who, a Vir - gin, gave birth to God the Word; you, tru - ly the

The - o - to - kos, we mag - ni - fy.

**Communion Hymn for Sundays (Psalm 148:1):**

Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the high - est.

*Refrain*  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*And for the Fathers, the Communion Hymn is (Psalm 32:1):*

Re - jice in the Lord you right - eous ones; praise from the up - right is fit - ting.

*Refrain*  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!