

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

Sunday of the Ancestors

Vigil of the Nativity

December 24, 2006

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*)

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 4

The joy-ful mes-sage of the res-ur-rec - tion was heard by the women disci-ples
 from the an - gel, and be-ing freed from the an-ces-tral curse, they boast-ed
 to the a-pos - tles: Death is de-spoiled; Christ our God is ris - en,



giv - ing great mer - cy to the world.

Troparion of the Fathers - Tone 2



Great are the ac-com - plish - 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.

Troparion of the Vigil - Tone 4



At that time, Mar-y regis-tered in Beth-le-hem with the el-der Joseph, who was of



the house of Da - vid. She had con-ceived with-out seed and was with child,



and her time to give birth had come. They found no room at the inn,



but the cave be - came a pleas-ant pal - ace for the Queen. Christ is born to

raise up the like-ness that had fall - en.

Cantor

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

Kontakion of the Fathers - Tone 6

You did not wor - ship a man-made im-age, O thrice - bless'd youths. You

armed yourselves with uncreat-ed di - vin - i - ty. You were glo - ri - fied in the

trial by fire. With - stand - ing the flames, you stood and called out:

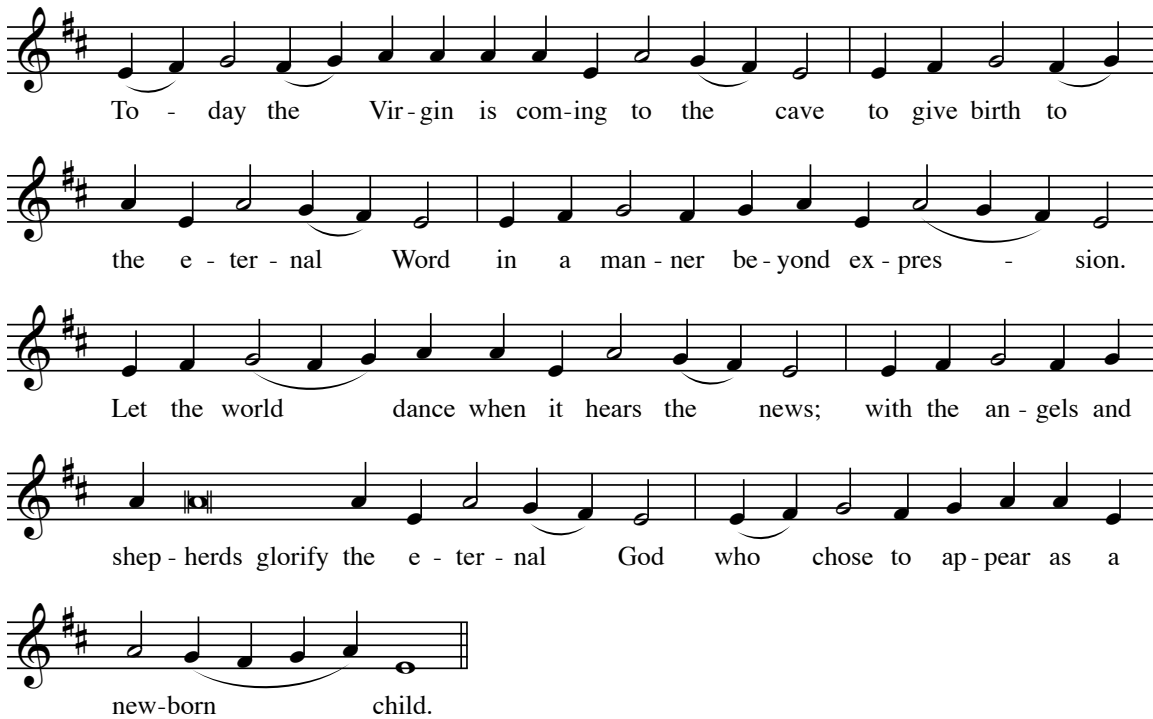
Has - ten, O compassionate God, and hurry to help us in your mer - cy.

For you can do what - ev - er you will.

Cantor

Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

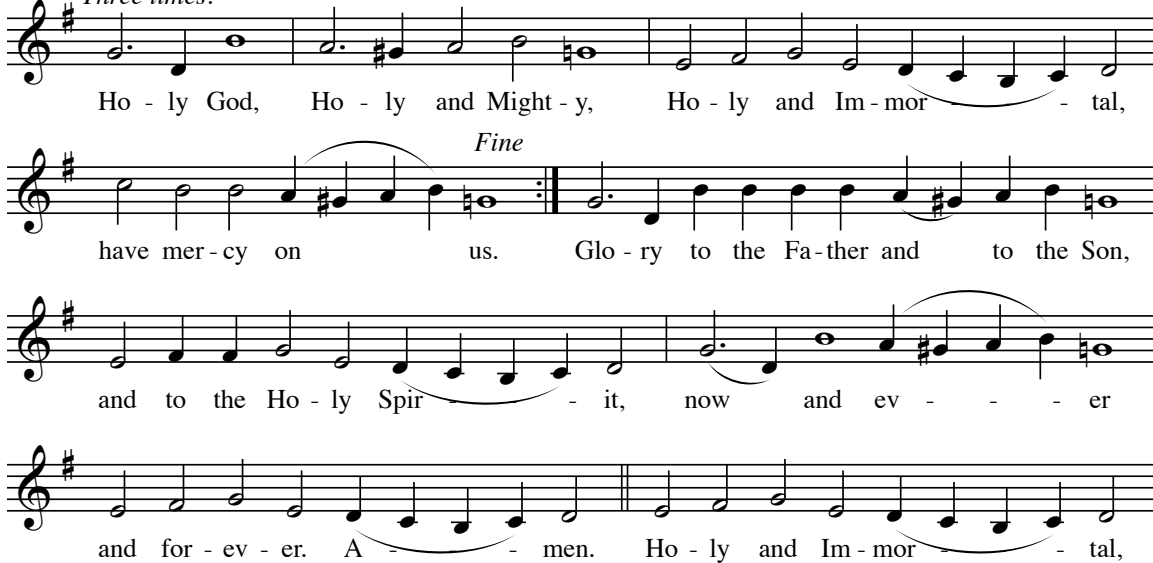
Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 3



To - day the Vir - gin is com - ing to the cave to give birth to
the e - ter - nal Word in a man - ner be - yond ex - pres - sion.
Let the world dance when it hears the news; with the an - gels and
shep - herds glorify the e - ter - nal God who chose to ap - pear as a
new - born child.

Holy God

Three times:



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly and Im - mor - tal,
Fine
have mer - cy on us. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, now and ev - - - er
and for - ev - er. A - - - men. Ho - ly and Im - mor - tal,

have mer - cy on us. *da capo al fine*

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.

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-joyce 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!