

**Vesper Propers, December 21, 2008**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**Sunday of the Ancestors**

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms, Tone 7, p. 92, stichera 10-7*

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

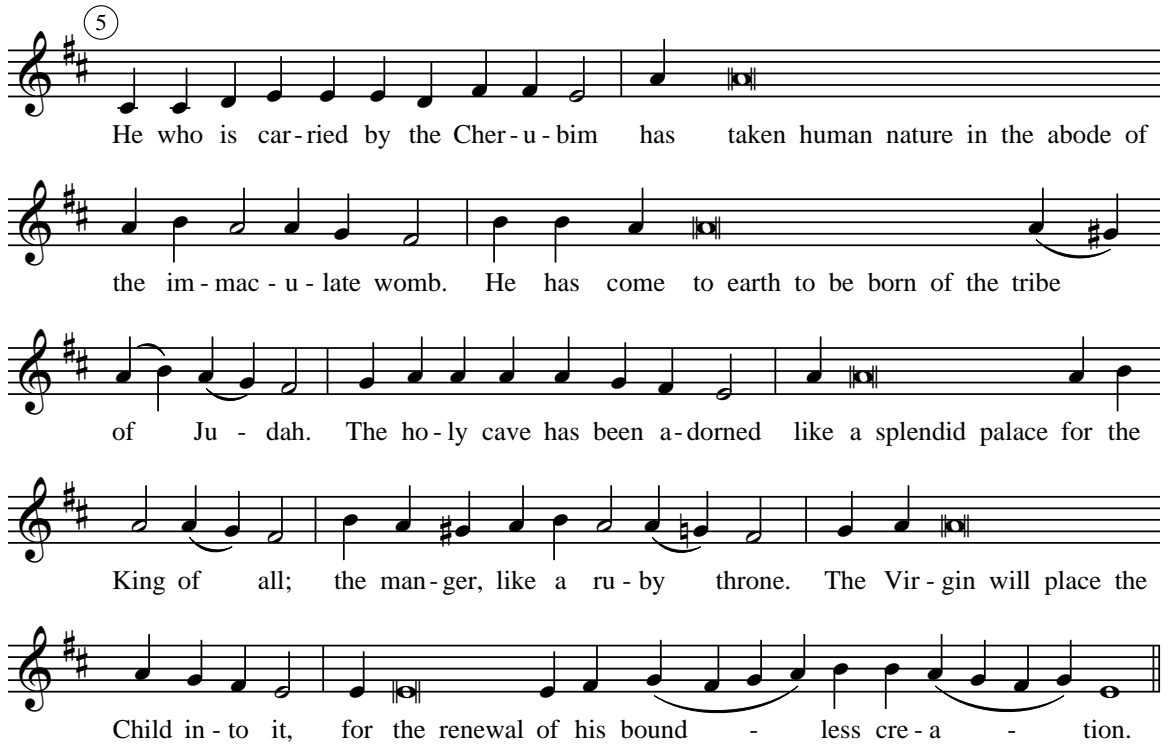
**Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 6 samohlasen**

⑥

The Nev-er-set-ting Sun is com-ing from the vir-gin-al womb to en-light-en -  
ev - 'ry - one un - der the sun. Let us meet him with pure hearts and with  
good works. Let us prepare ourselves now through the Ho - ly Spir - it  
to greet him who is coming to his own peo - ple as he him-self had willed.  
He is being born in Beth - le - hem so that through his com-pas - sion  
he might bring back all of those who were ex - iled from life in Par - a - dise.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

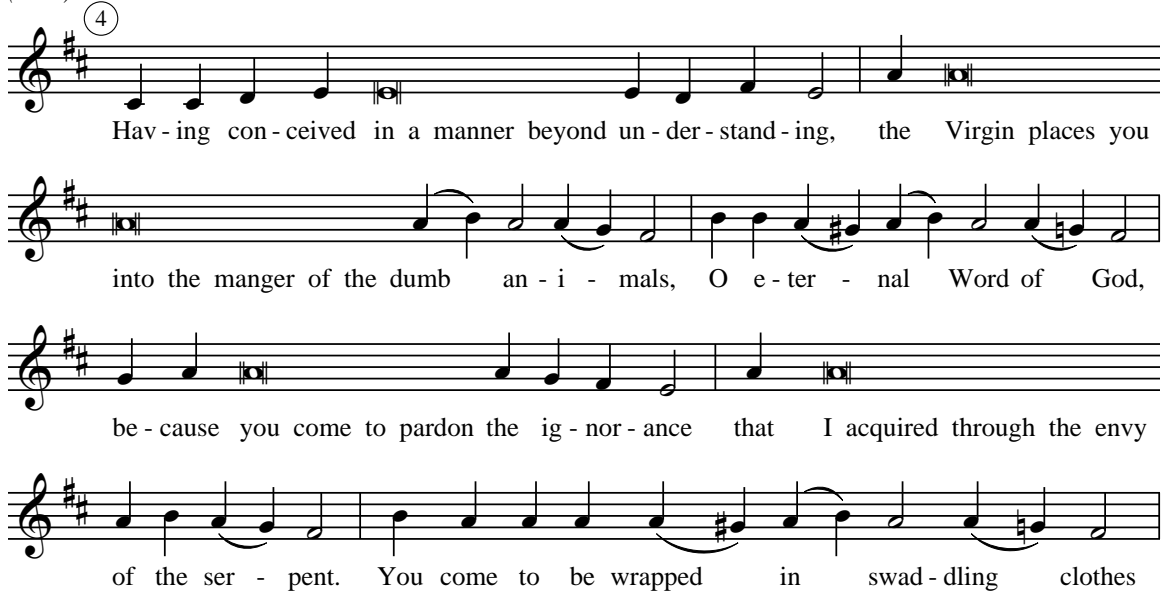
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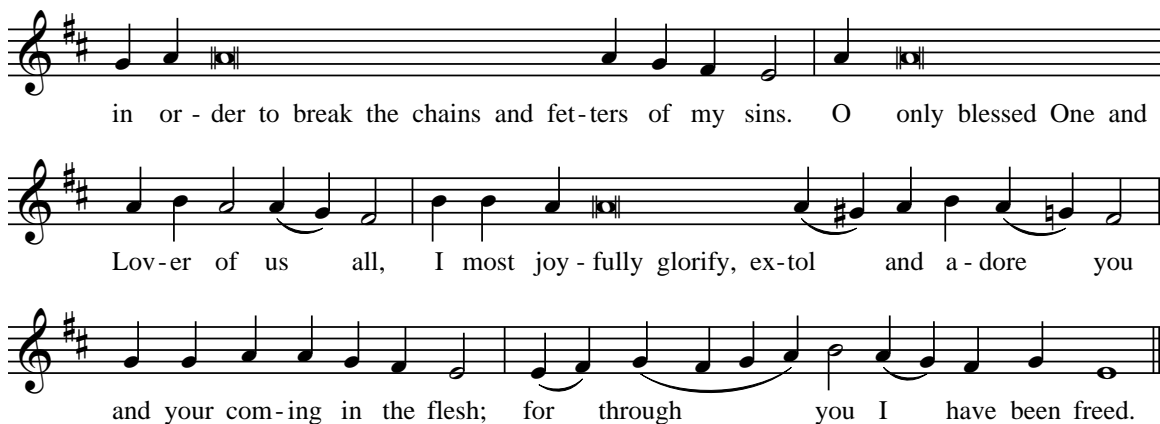
He who is car-ried by the Cher-u-bim has taken human nature in the abode of  
the im-mac-u-late womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe  
of Ju-dah. The ho-ly cave has been a-dorned like a splendid palace for the  
King of all; the man-ger, like a ru-by throne. The Vir-gin will place the  
Child in-to it, for the renewal of his bound-less cre-a-tion.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.

4



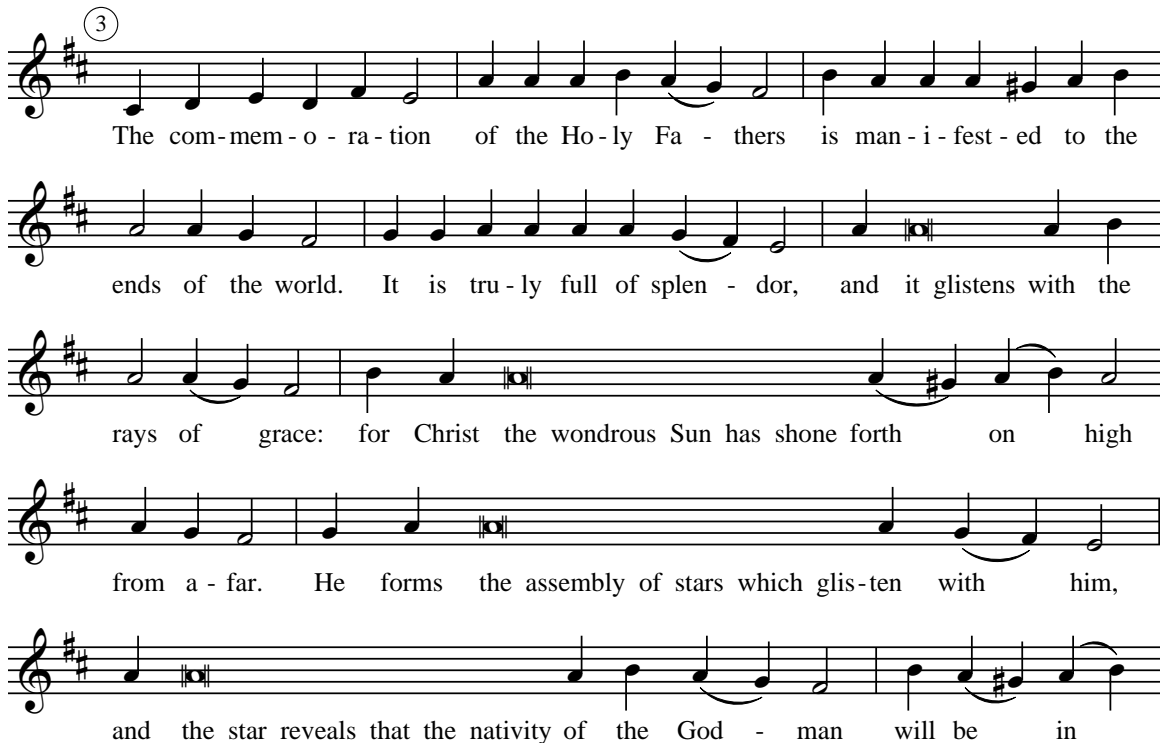
Hav-ing con-ceived in a manner beyond un-der-stand-ing, the Virgin places you  
into the manger of the dumb an-i-mals, O e-ter-nal Word of God,  
be-cause you come to pardon the ig-nor-ance that I acquired through the envy  
of the ser-pent. You come to be wrapped in swad-dling clothes



in or - der to break the chains and fet-ters of my sins. O only blessed One and  
 Lov-er of us all, I most joy - fully glorify, ex-tol and a - dore you  
 and your com-ing in the flesh; for through you I have been freed.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
*(on 3)* Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

**Stichera of the Ancestors**



③  
 The com-mem - o - ra - tion of the Ho - ly Fa - thers is man - i - fest - ed to the  
 ends of the world. It is tru - ly full of splen - dor, and it glistens with the  
 rays of grace: for Christ the wondrous Sun has shone forth on high  
 from a - far. He forms the assembly of stars which glis-ten with him,  
 and the star reveals that the nativity of the God - man will be in



Beth - le - hem. There - fore, we pi - ously and faithful-ly clap our hands



and leap with joy at this na - tiv - i - ty, and we give



praise be - fore the feast.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!



The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a - dorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our



na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the founda - tion



and the strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy



as well. E - noch is glad; Seth and Noah dance to - geth - er. The praiseworthy



Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high



the birth with - out a fa - - - ther.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

①



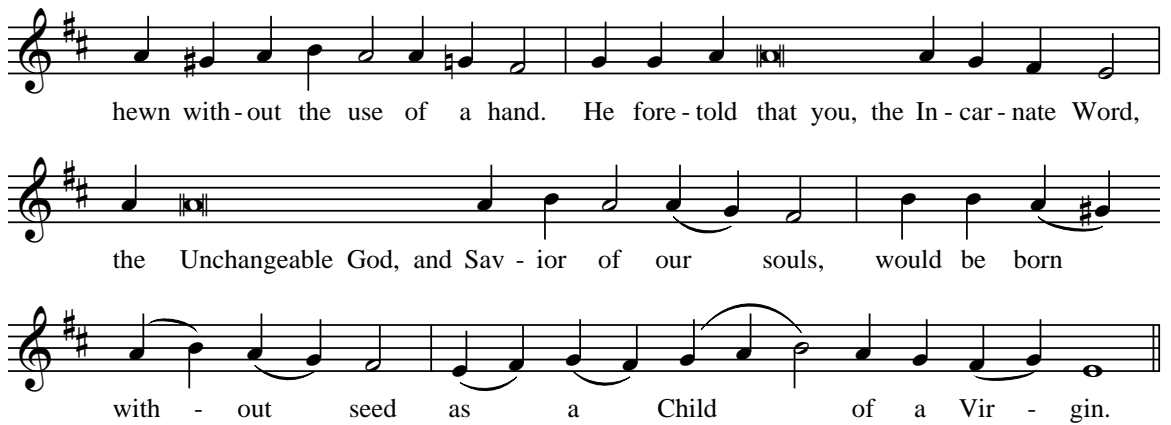
The faith-ful and God-wise youths are radiant with joy in the fur-nace.  
They her-ald the na-tiv-i-ty of Christ on earth. As the pre-cious dew which  
the Lord sent down, he now preserves the Vir-gin with-out stain, and en-rich-es  
her with sub-lime gifts. There-fore Dan-iel, in-spired by God,  
is also hap-py and full of joy be-cause he had a clear vis-ion  
of the un-hewn stone from the moun-tain. He now zeal-ous-ly prays  
for our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**



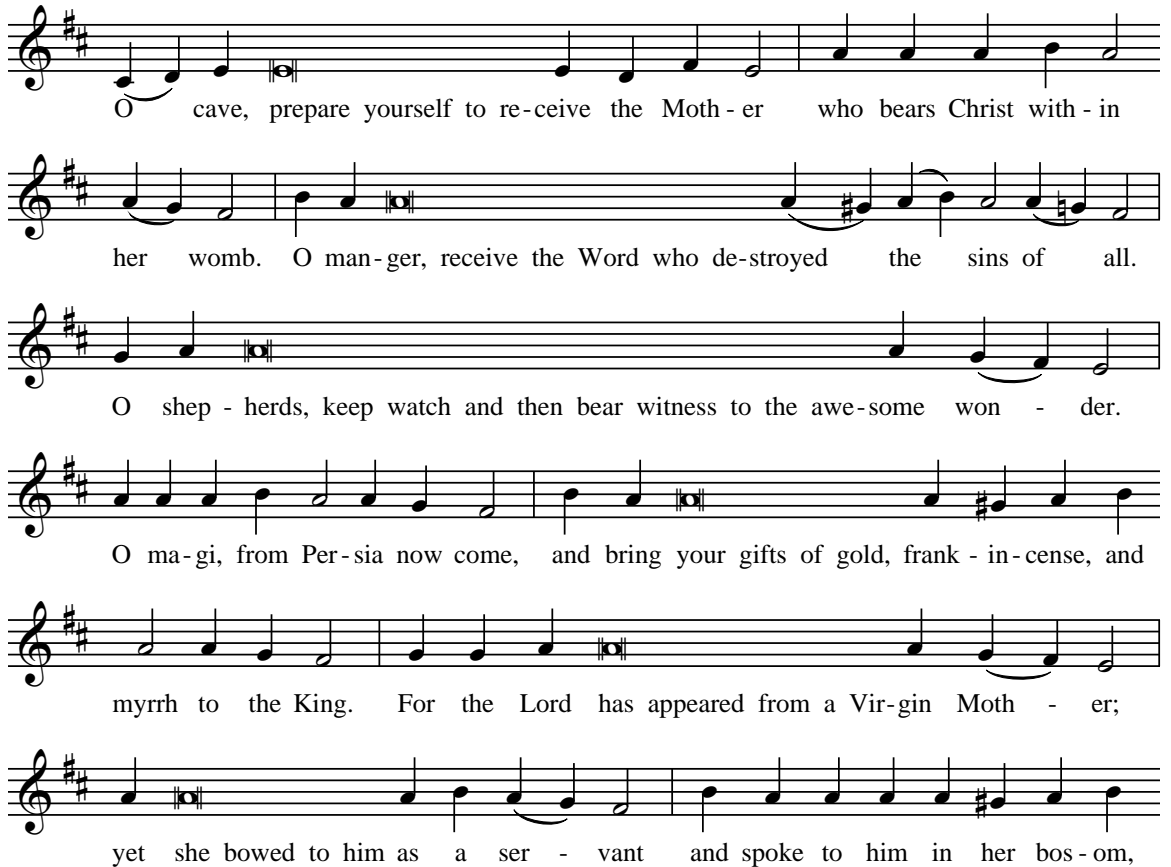
Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was



hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,  
the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born  
with-out seed as a Child of a Vir-gin.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion of the prefeast**



O cave, prepare yourself to re-ceive the Moth-er who bears Christ with-in  
her womb. O man-ger, receive the Word who de-stroyed the sins of all.  
O shep-herds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awe-some won-der.  
O ma-gi, from Per-sia now come, and bring your gifts of gold, frank-in-cense, and  
myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Vir-gin Moth-er;  
yet she bowed to him as a ser-vant and spoke to him in her bos-om,

say - ing: "How were you con-ceived in me? How did you grow in me, my  
God and Sav - - - ior?"

- Readings:** 1) Genesis 14:14-20  
2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17  
3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, p. 99), concluding with:*

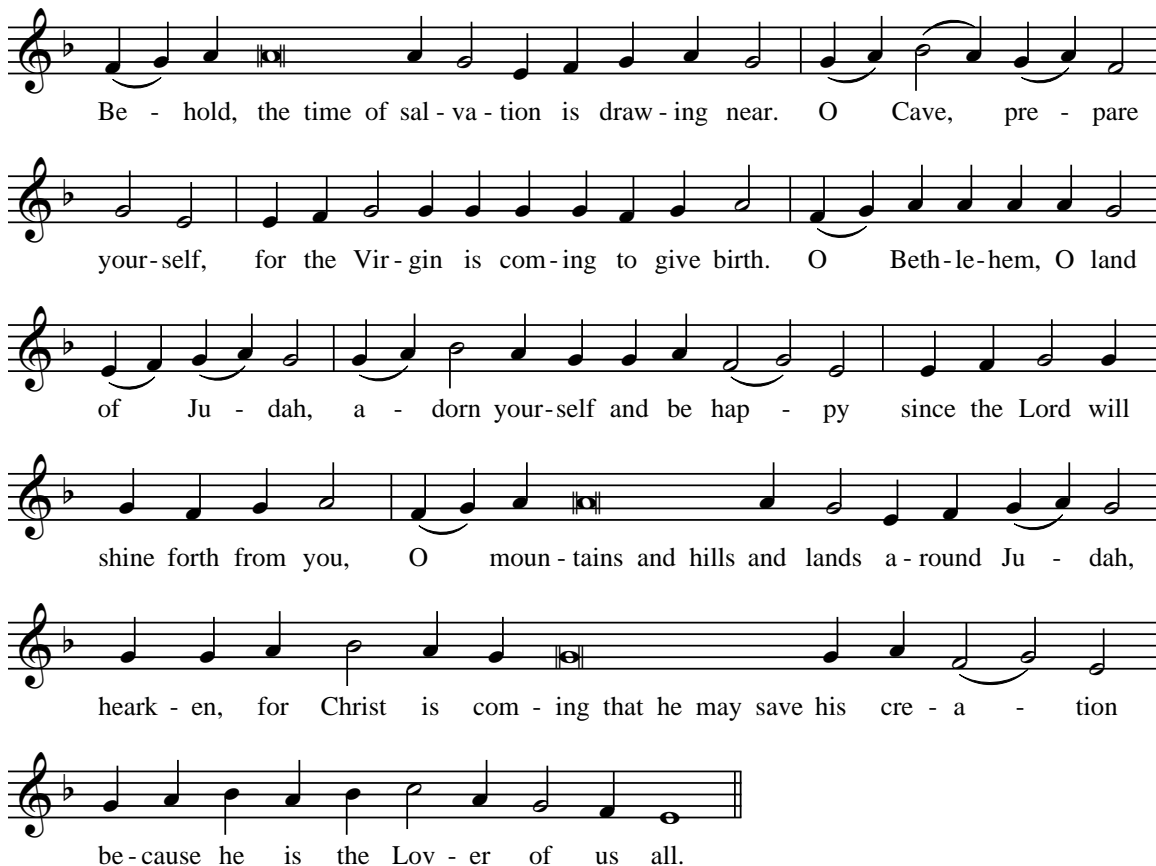
**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 2 samohlasen**

Re - joice, O il - lus - tri - ous Proph - ets! You firm - ly es - tab-lished  
the Law of the Lord, and you faith - ful - ly mani - fest - ed your - selves to be  
in - vin - cible and un - shak - a - ble pil - lars. You have been tak - en to heav - en  
and have shown your - selves to be mediators of the new Law of Christ. Im - plore him  
to give peace to the world and to save our souls.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion of the Prefeast**



Be - hold, the time of sal - va - tion is draw - ing near. O Cave, pre - pare  
your-self, for the Vir - gin is com - ing to give birth. O Beth - le - hem, O land  
of Ju - dah, a - dorn your-self and be hap - py since the Lord will  
shine forth from you, O moun - tains and hills and lands a - round Ju - dah,  
hear - en, for Christ is com - ing that he may save his cre - a - tion  
be - cause he is the Lov - er of us all.

**Troparia**

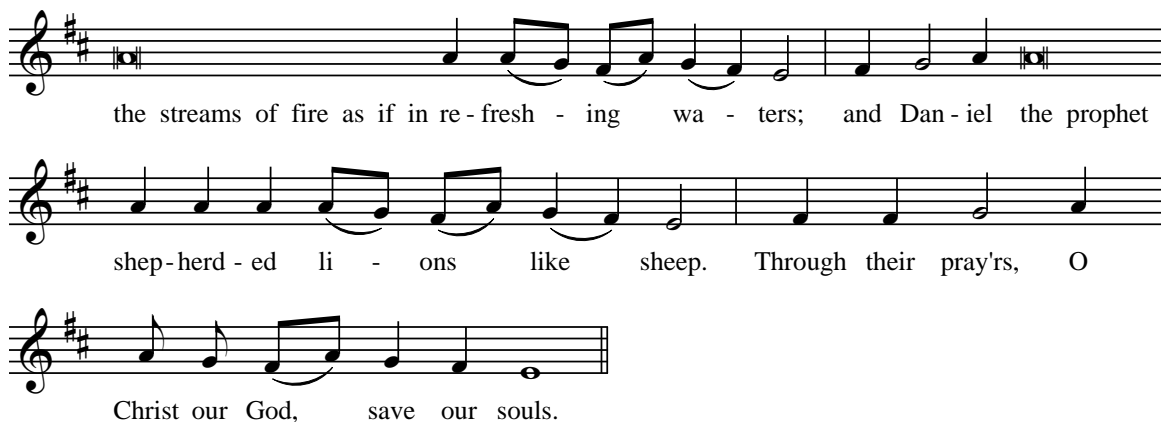
*Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 101), then:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory...

**Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2**



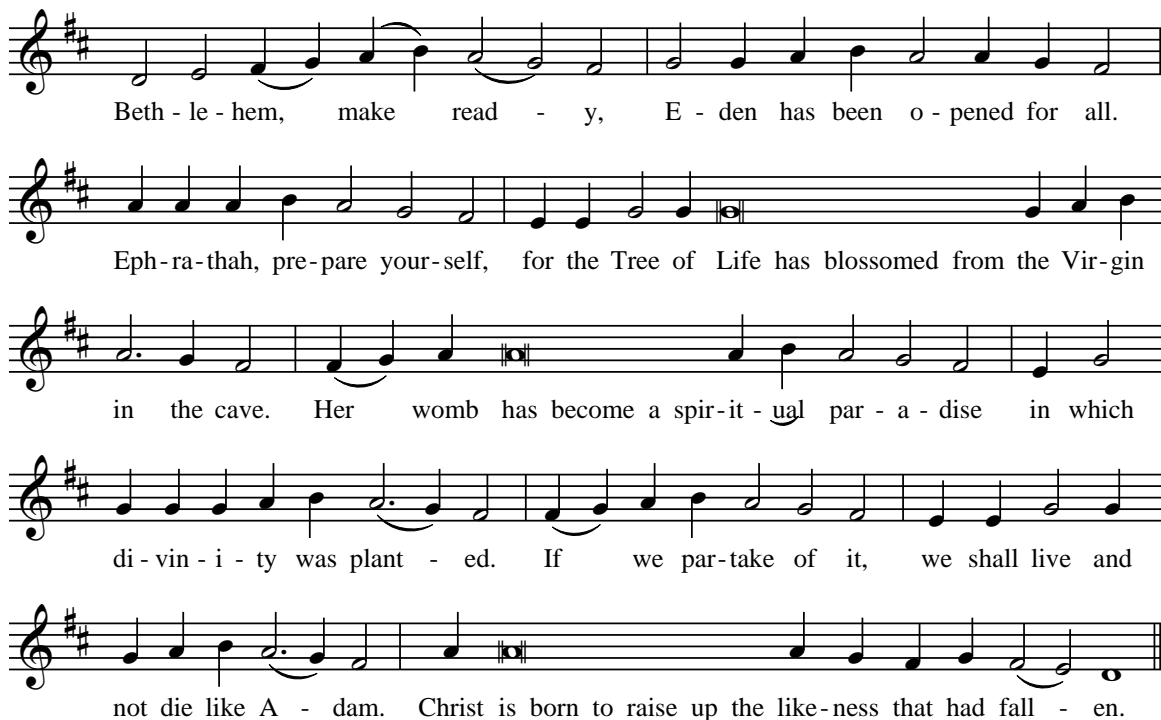
Great are the ac - com - plish - ments of faith: the three ho - ly youths rejoiced in



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.

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Now and ever...

**Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4**



Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.  
 Eph - ra - tah, pre - pare your - self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir - gin  
 in the cave. Her womb has become a spir - it - ual par - a - dise in which  
 di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par - take of it, we shall live and  
 not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like - ness that had fall - en.