

**Vesper Propers, December 23, 2012**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**Sunday of the Ancestors**

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*  
*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 69), 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 podoben: Vsju otloživše**

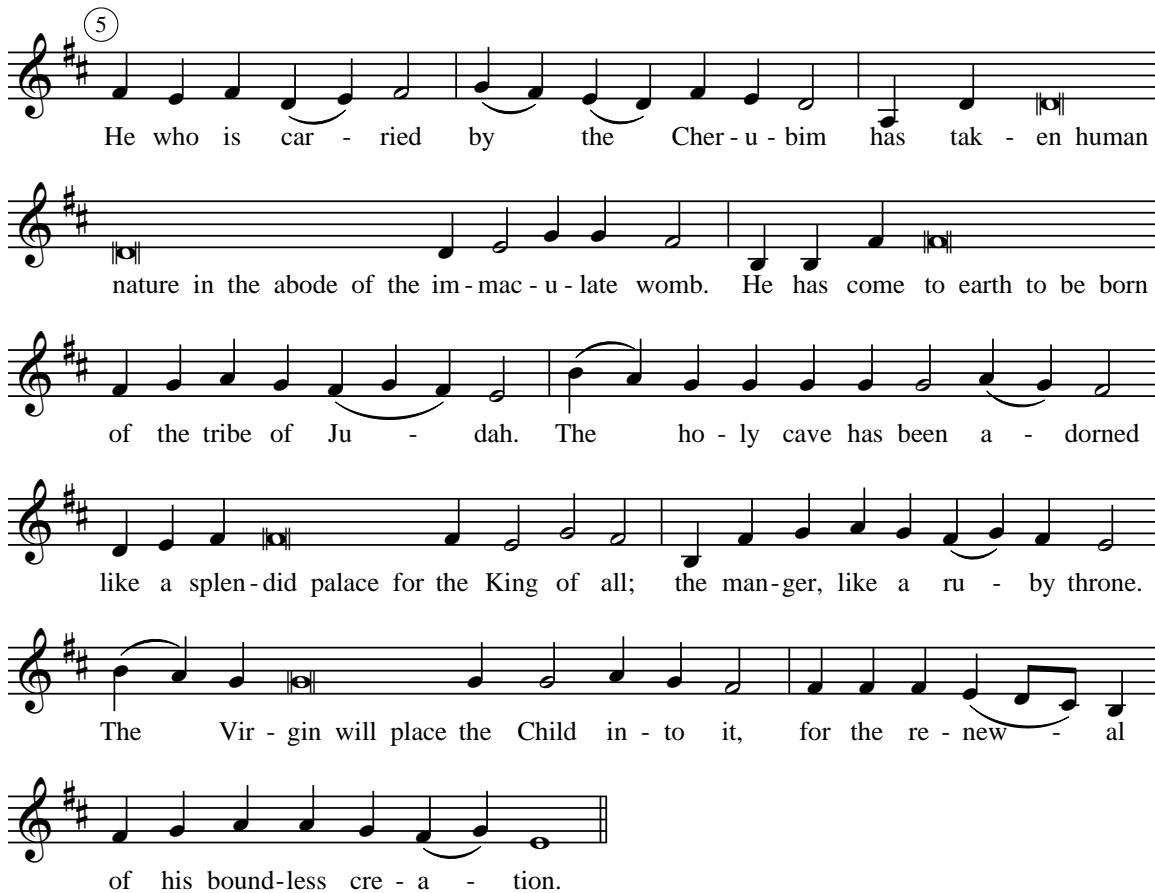
⑥



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 pre - pare 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 be - ing 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.

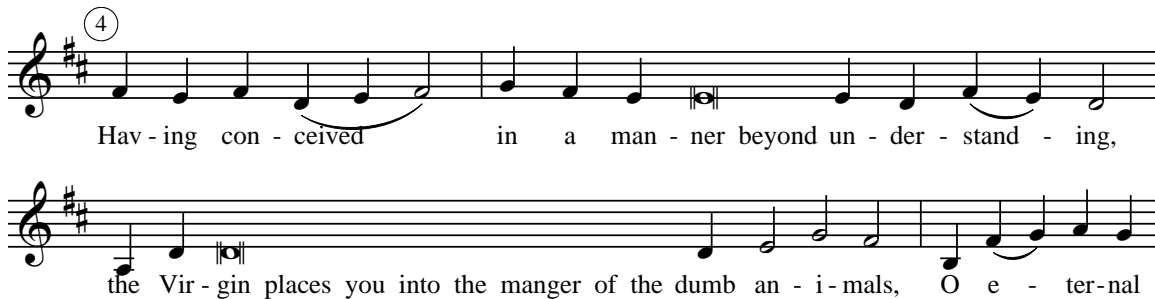
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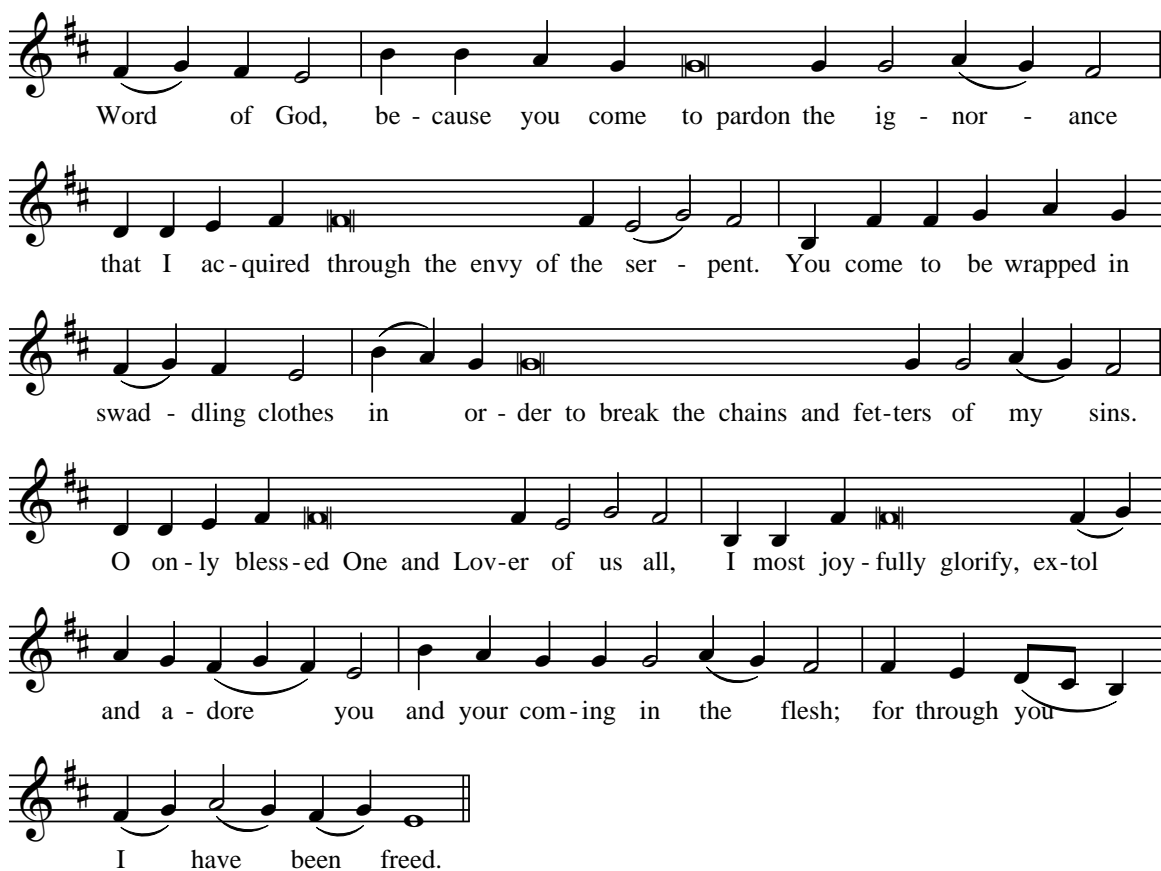
He who is car - ried by the Cher - u - bim has tak - en human nature in the abode of the im - mac - u - late womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe of Ju - dah. The ho - ly cave has been a - dorned like a splen - did palace for the King of all; the man - ger, like a ru - by throne. The Vir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

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

4



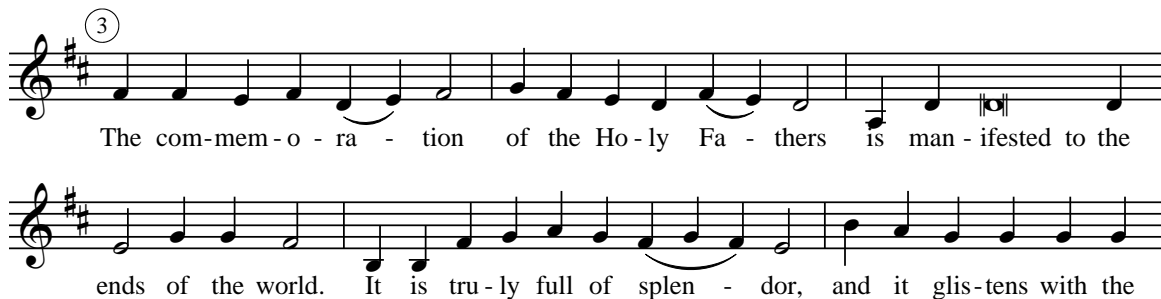
Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing, the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal



Word of God, be - cause you come to pardon the ig - nor - ance  
that I ac - quired 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 on - ly bless - ed 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**



<sup>3</sup>  
The com - mem - o - ra - tion of the Ho - ly Fa - thers is man - ifested to the  
ends of the world. It is tru - ly full of splen - dor, and it glis - tens 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-ous-ly and faith-ful-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!

②  
The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a-dorned by the glo - ry of the divine sharing of our

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

strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy as well. E - noch is glad;

Seth and No - ah dance to - geth - er. The praise - worthy 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.



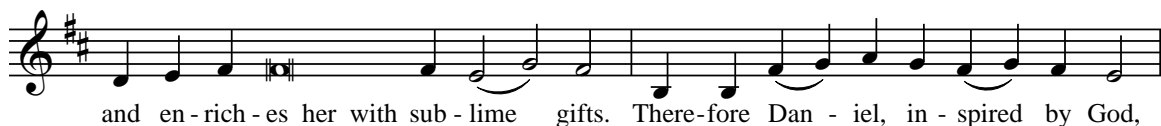
The faith - ful and God - wise youths are ra - diant with joy in the fur - nace.



They her - ald the nativity of Christ on earth. As the pre - cious dew which the



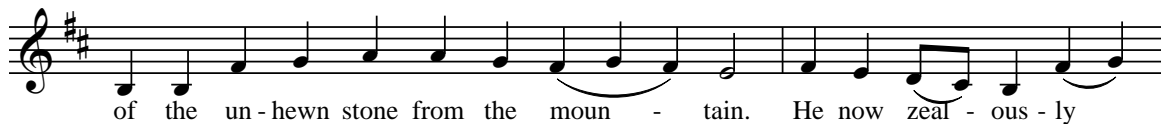
Lord sent down, he now preserves the Virgin with - out stain,



and en - rich - es her with sub - lime gifts. There - fore Dan - iel, in - spired by God,



is al - so 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-destroyed 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 (EOT pp. 301-302)  
 2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17  
 3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

### Aposticha

*Sunday aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 77), 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,  
 heark-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 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:** Glory...

*And all repeat the troparion of the Ancestors: "Great are the accomplishments of faith..."*

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

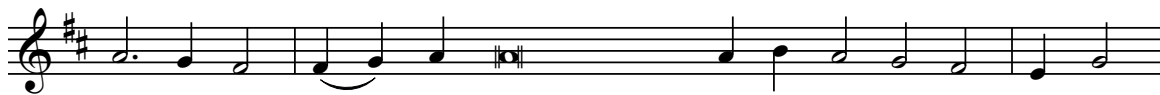
### Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4



Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.



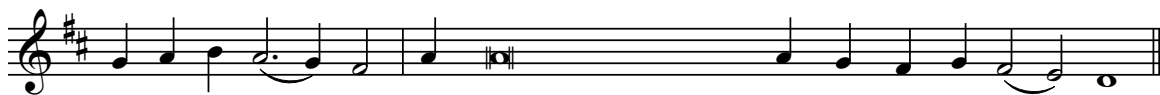
Eph-ra-thah, pre-pare your-self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir-gin



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.