

EMMANUEL MOLEBEN
A Service of Prayer for the Christmas Fast

Clergy/Cantor Supplement



Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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FOREWORD

The time of the Christmas Fast (also known as Philip's Fast, the period from November 16 through December 24) calls Byzantine Catholics (and all Eastern Christians) to fasting, prayer, and the giving of alms. This service is set up so that it can be served once during the Fast, or once a week (utilizing the Lectionary provided in the back of the booklet). The chant given here is a combination of traditional Carpatho-Rusyn melodies and some new compositions from Slovakia and the United States. The intention is to help all who pray the Moleben to enter more deeply into the Scriptures (both those which prophesy the coming of the Messiah and those which give the Gospel details leading up to his birth).

The congregational book contains the entire text of the service (except for the readings), and is needed for the priest and deacon to celebrate the service.

This "clergy/cantor" supplement contains the following:

- (1) the music for the verses of the Exaltation;
- (2) the music for the Divine Praises; and
- (3) the sets of readings to be used in the Moleben.

Customarily, the priest (or the clergy present, if there should be more than one priest) sings the verses of the Exaltation; this melody for the verses is given in Bokshaj and is transcribed from there. In this moleben, the verses of the "Divine Praises" (set to Irmos tone 6) are sung by the clergy, and the faithful make the response.

A reminder about the Moleben readings:

If there is a deacon present, the readings are assigned thusly:

- (a) Old Testament Reading, chanted by the lector;
- (b) Epistle, chanted by the deacon;
- (c) Gospel, chanted by the priest.

The Gospel is always done by the priest at Molebens.

If there is no deacon, then both (a) and (b) would be done by lectors.

This Spirit he lavished on us through Jesus Christ our Savior,
 that we might be justified by his grace
 and become heirs, in hope, of eternal life.

Gospel - Luke 1: 57-66

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child
 she gave birth to a son.
 Her neighbors and relatives heard
 that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her,
 and they rejoiced with her.
 When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child,
 they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,
 but his mother said in reply,
 “No. He will be called John.”
 But they answered her,
 “There is no one among your relatives who has this name.”
 So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.
 He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,”
 and all were amazed.
 Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed,
 and he spoke blessing God.
 Then fear came upon all their neighbors,
 and all these matters were discussed
 throughout the hill country of Judea.
 All who heard these things took them to heart, saying,
 “What, then, will this child be?
 For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.”

Exaltation

Refrain



We ex-tol you, O life-giv-ing Christ, for by ful-fil-ling the sign
 fore-told of Em-man-u-el, you re-vealed your-self as Sav-ior, by
 proph-ets fore-told.

1. Let the riv-ers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord,
 for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.

Refrain

2. He has remem-bered his truth and his love for the house of Is-ra-el. All the ends of the
 earth have seen the sal-va-tion of our God.

Refrain

3. The Lord remem-bered his cove-nant for-ev-er, his prom-ise for a thou-sand
 gen-er-a-tions.

Refrain

4. He lowered the heavens and came down, he came en-throned up-on the Cher-u-bim.

Refrain

5. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold. *Refrain*

6. Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; now and ever and for-ev - er.

A - - - men. *Refrain*

7. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God! *Refrain*

Praises

1. Je - - sus, Wis - dom, De - sign - er of all, O Breath of

the Pow - er of God, pure em - an - a - tion of the glory of the Al - might - y;

Come and save those who hope in you.

Refrain:
Em - man - u - el, God with us, have mer - cy on us.

2. Je - sus, true Light from the e - ter - nal Light, spot - less mir - ror of God's crea - tive

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET SEVEN

Old Testament Lesson - Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24

A reading from the Prophecy of Malachi.

Thus says the Lord GOD:
Lo, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me;
And suddenly there will come to the temple
the LORD whom you seek,
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.
Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
But who will endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears?
For he is like the refiner's fire,
or like the fuller's lye.
He will sit refining and purifying silver,
and he will purify the sons of Levi,
Refining them like gold or like silver
that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD.
Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem
will please the LORD,
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.
Lo, I will send you
Elijah, the prophet,
Before the day of the LORD comes,
the great and terrible day,
To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,
and the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike
the land with doom.

Epistle - Titus 3: 4-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to Titus.

Titus, my son:
When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
He saved us---
not because of any righteous deeds we had done,
but because of his mercy.
He saved us through the Baptism of new birth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Gospel - Luke 1: 46-56

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.”
Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months
and then returned to her home.

pow - er, I - con of his good-ness: Come and save those who hope in you. *Refrain*

3. Je - sus, sweet-est Child, ful - fill - ment of the sign "Emmanuel," God with us:

Come and save those who hope in you. *Refrain*

4. Je - - - sus, Messenger of Great Coun - sel, Prince of Peace, and

Lord of the Age to Come: Come and save those who hope in you. *Refrain*

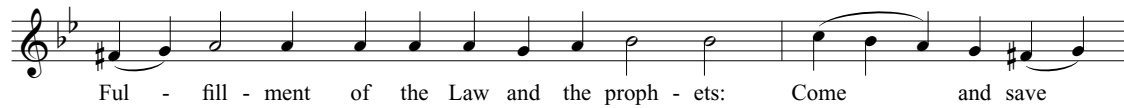
5. Je - sus, e - ter - nal life, wrapped as a serv - ant in swad - dling clothes, that as God,

you might sunder the chains of death: Come and save those who hope in you. *Refrain*

6. Je - sus, Star of Jacob which rose in a cave, O Shep - herd of Is - rael whom

the shepherds a - dored: Come and save those who hope in you. *Refrain*

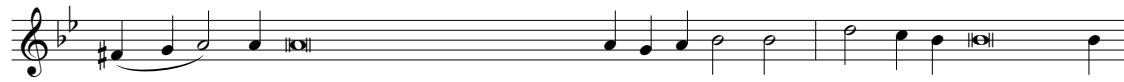
7. Je - - - sus, Deliverance of our first par - ents, Joy of the Pa - tri - archs,



Ful - fill - ment of the Law and the proph - ets: Come and save



those who hope in you. *Refrain*



8. Je - sus, Salvation prepared in the sight of ev-'ry na - tion, Light of rev - elation for the



Gen - tiles, and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el: Come and save



those who hope in you. *Refrain*



9. Je - sus, long-awaited hope of the na - tions, you makethem chil - dren of Abraham



and heirs according to the prom - ise: Come and save those who hope in you.

Refrain



10. Je - sus, ev - er - livi - ng Word, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



who came af - ter the Forerunner yet are be - fore him: Come and save



those who hope in you. *Refrain*

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET SIX

Old Testament Lesson - I Samuel 1: 24-28

A reading from the First Book of Samuel, the First Book of the Kingdom.

In those days,
Hannah brought Samuel with her,
along with a three-year-old bull,
an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine,
and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.
After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull,
Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said:
"Pardon, my lord!
As you live, my lord,
I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD.
I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.
Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;
as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."
She left Samuel there.

Epistle - Hebrews 10: 5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:
On coming into the world, Jesus said:
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you have prepared for me;
holocausts and sin-offerings you took no delight in.
Then I said: 'As is written of me in the book,
I have come to do your will, O God.'
First he says,
"Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings
you neither desired nor delighted in."
(These are offered according to the prescriptions of the law.)
Then he says:
"I have come to do your will."
In other words,
He takes away the first covenant
in order to establish the second.
By this "will," we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ,
once for all.

Gospel - Luke 1: 39-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out, proceeding in haste
into the hill country to a town of Judah,
where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the baby stirred in her womb.
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,
and cried out in a loud voice:
"Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
The moment your greeting sounded in my ears,
the baby stirred in my womb for joy.
Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.

11. Je - sus, Messiah, Son of the Bless - ed One, O bless - ed and only mighty One, the
Lord, to whom be hon - or, praise, and glo - ry: Come and save
those who hope in you. *Refrain*
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. *Refrain*

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET ONE

Old Testament Reading - Genesis 49: 2, 8-10

A reading from Genesis.

Jacob called his sons and said to them:
“Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob,
listen to Israel, your father.

“You, Judah, shall your brothers praise
–your hand on the neck of your enemies;
the sons of your father shall bow down to you.
Judah, like a lion’s whelp,
you have grown up on prey, my son.
He crouches like a lion recumbent,
the king of beasts—who would dare rouse him?
The scepter shall never depart from Judah,
or the mace from between his legs,
While tribute is brought to him,
and he receives the people’s homage.”

Epistle - James 5: 7-10

A reading from the Universal Letter of Saint James.

Brothers and sisters:
Be patient until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil.
He looks forward to it patiently
while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains.
You, too, must be patient.
Steady your hearts, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not grumble against one another, my brothers,
lest you be condemned.
See! The judge stands at the gate.
As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, brothers,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 1: 1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET FIVE

Old Testament Lesson - Zephaniah 3: 14-18

A reading from the Prophecy of Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has removed the judgment against you,
He has turned away your enemies;
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst,
You have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
And renew you in his love.
He will sing joyfully because of you
As one sings at festivals.

Epistle - Romans 16: 25-27

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
To him who can strengthen you,
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ
be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel - Luke 1: 26-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the sixth month
the angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin's name was Mary.
And coming to her, he said,
"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
Then the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end."
But Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?"
And the angel said to her in reply,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God."
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar.
Perez became the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab.
Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz,
whose mother was Rahab.
Boaz became the father of Obed,
whose mother was Ruth.
Obed became the father of Jesse,
Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asaph.
Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Uzziah.
Uzziah became the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amos,
Amos the father of Josiah.
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers
at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile,
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok.
Zadok became the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations
from Abraham to David
is fourteen generations;
from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations;
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,
fourteen generations.

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET TWO

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 7: 10-14

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
“I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary men,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

Epistle - I Thessalonians 5: 16-24

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel - Matthew 1: 18-25

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET FOUR

Old Testament Lesson - Jeremiah 23: 5-8

A reading from the Prophecy of Jeremiah.

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name they give him:
“The LORD our justice.”

Therefore, the days will come, says the LORD,
when they shall no longer say, “As the LORD lives,
who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt”;
but rather, "As the LORD lives,
who brought the descendants of the house of Israel
up from the land of the north”—
and from all the lands to which I banished them;
they shall again live on their own land.

Epistle - Romans 1: 1-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans.

Greetings from Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
Called to be an apostle
And set apart to proclaim the Gospel of God
Which he promised long ago through his prophets,
As the Holy Scriptures record—
The gospel concerning his Son,
Who was descended from David according to the flesh
But was made Son of God in power,
According to the spirit of holiness,
By his resurrection from the dead:
Jesus Christ our Lord!
Through him we have been favored with apostleship,
That we may spread his name
And bring to obedient faith all the Gentiles,
Among whom are you,
Who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.
To all in Rome,
Beloved of God and called to holiness,
Grace and peace from God our Father
And from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Zechariah said to the angel,
“How shall I know this?
For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”
And the angel said to him in reply,
“I am Gabriel, who stand before God.
I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news.
But now you will be speechless and unable to talk
until the day these things take place,
because you did not believe my words,
which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”
Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah
and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary.
But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them,
and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary.
He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home.

After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived,
and she went into seclusion for five months, saying,
“So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit
to take away my disgrace before others.”

Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”
All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means “God is with us.”
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,
and he named him Jesus.

READINGS FOR THE EMMANUEL MOLEBEN - SET THREE

Old Testament Reading - Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25

A reading from the book of the Judges of Israel.

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites,
whose name was Manoah.
His wife was barren and had borne no children.
An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,
“Though you are barren and have had no children,
yet you will conceive and bear a son.
Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink
and to eat nothing unclean.
As for the son you will conceive and bear,
no razor shall touch his head,
for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb.
It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel
from the power of the Philistines.”

The woman went and told her husband,
“A man of God came to me;
he had the appearance of an angel of God, terrible indeed.
I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.
But he said to me,
‘You will be with child and will bear a son.
So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean.
For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb,
until the day of his death.’”

The woman bore a son and named him Samson.
The boy grew up and the LORD blessed him;
the Spirit of the LORD stirred him.

Epistle - Philippians 4: 4-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always!
I say it again: Rejoice!
Everyone should see how unselfish you are.
The Lord himself is near.
Dismiss all anxiety from your minds.
Present your needs to God in every form of prayer
and in petitions full of gratitude.

Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding,
will stand guard over your hearts and minds,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel - Luke 1: 5-25

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the days of Herod, King of Judea,
there was a priest named Zechariah
of the priestly division of Abijah;
his wife was from the daughters of Aaron,
and her name was Elizabeth.
Both were righteous in the eyes of God,
observing all the commandments
and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly.
But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren
and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest
in his division’s turn before God,
according to the practice of the priestly service,
he was chosen by lot
to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.
Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside
at the hour of the incense offering,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him,
standing at the right of the altar of incense.
Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah,
because your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you shall name him John.
And you will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth,
for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.
He will drink neither wine nor strong drink.
He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb,
and he will turn many of the children of Israel
to the Lord their God.
He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah
to turn the hearts of fathers toward children
and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous,
to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”