

Sunday before the Nativity

Sunday of the Ancestors

DECEMBER 18-24



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!

Text: J. Michael Thompson, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday before Nativity

Melody: *St. Louis (O little town of Bethlehem)*