

**Vesper Propers, December 31, 2023**  
**The Sunday after Christmas**  
**Memory of Joseph, David, and James the Brother of God**  
**and Leave-Taking of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ**

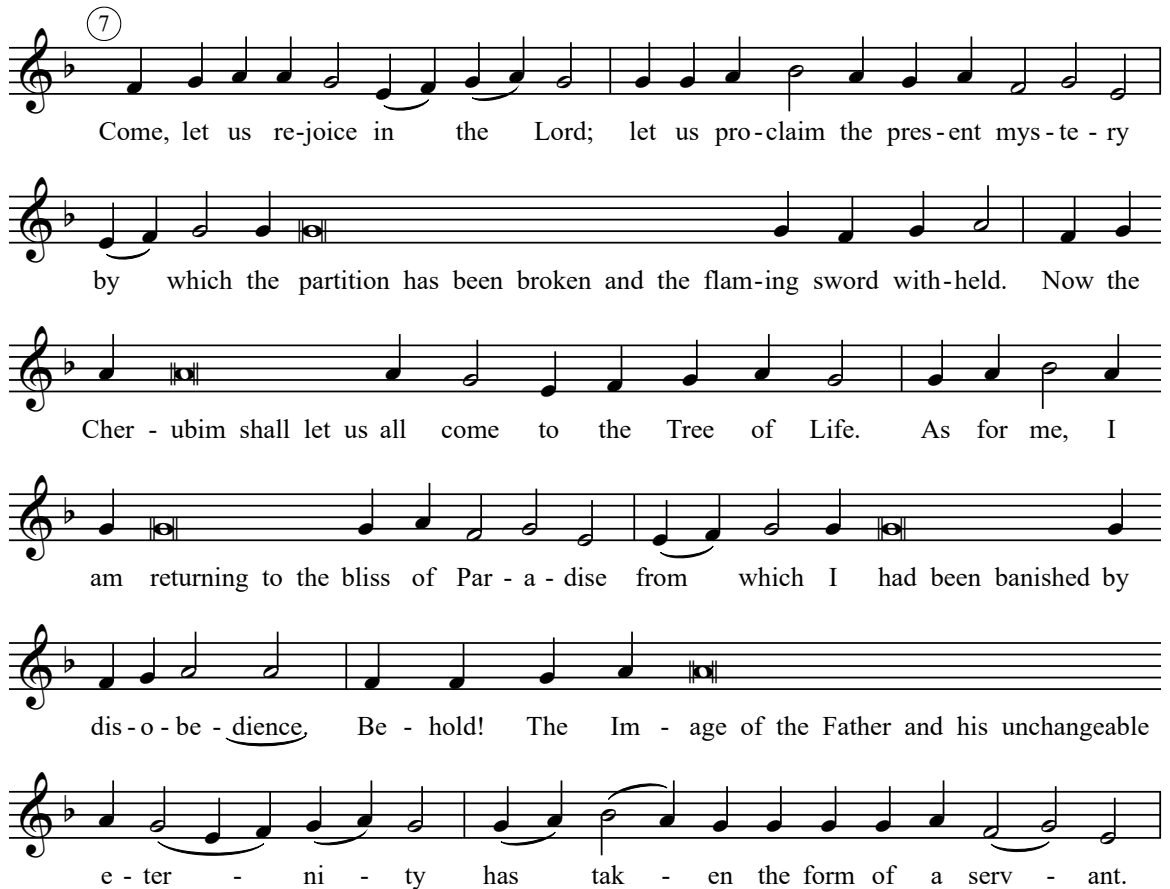
*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 82), stichera 10-8.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

**Stichera of the Nativity of Our Lord - Tone 2 samohlasen**

⑦



Come, let us re-joyce in the Lord; let us pro-claim the pres-ent mys-te-ry  
by which the partition has been broken and the flam-ing sword with-held. Now the  
Cher-ubim shall let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I  
am returning to the bliss of Par-a-dise from which I had been banished by  
dis-o-be-dience, Be-hold! The Im-age of the Father and his unchangeable  
e-ter-ni-ty has tak-en the form of a serv-ant.



With - out suf - fer - ing he has come forth to us from an all - pure Vir - gin, and



yet he has re - mained un - changed. He is true God as he was be - fore,



and he has tak - en on himself what he had not been, be - com - ing man out of



his love for all. There - fore, let us raise our voices in hymns sing - ing:



O God, born of the Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us.

**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.



Be - cause the Lord Je - sus was born of the ho - ly Vir - gin, all cre - a - tion is



en - light - ened. Be - hold! The shep - herds keep watch and the ma - gi are a - dor - ing;



the an - gels are sing - ing hymns of praise and Her - od is trem - bling;



for the Sav - ior of our souls has re - vealed him - self in the flesh.

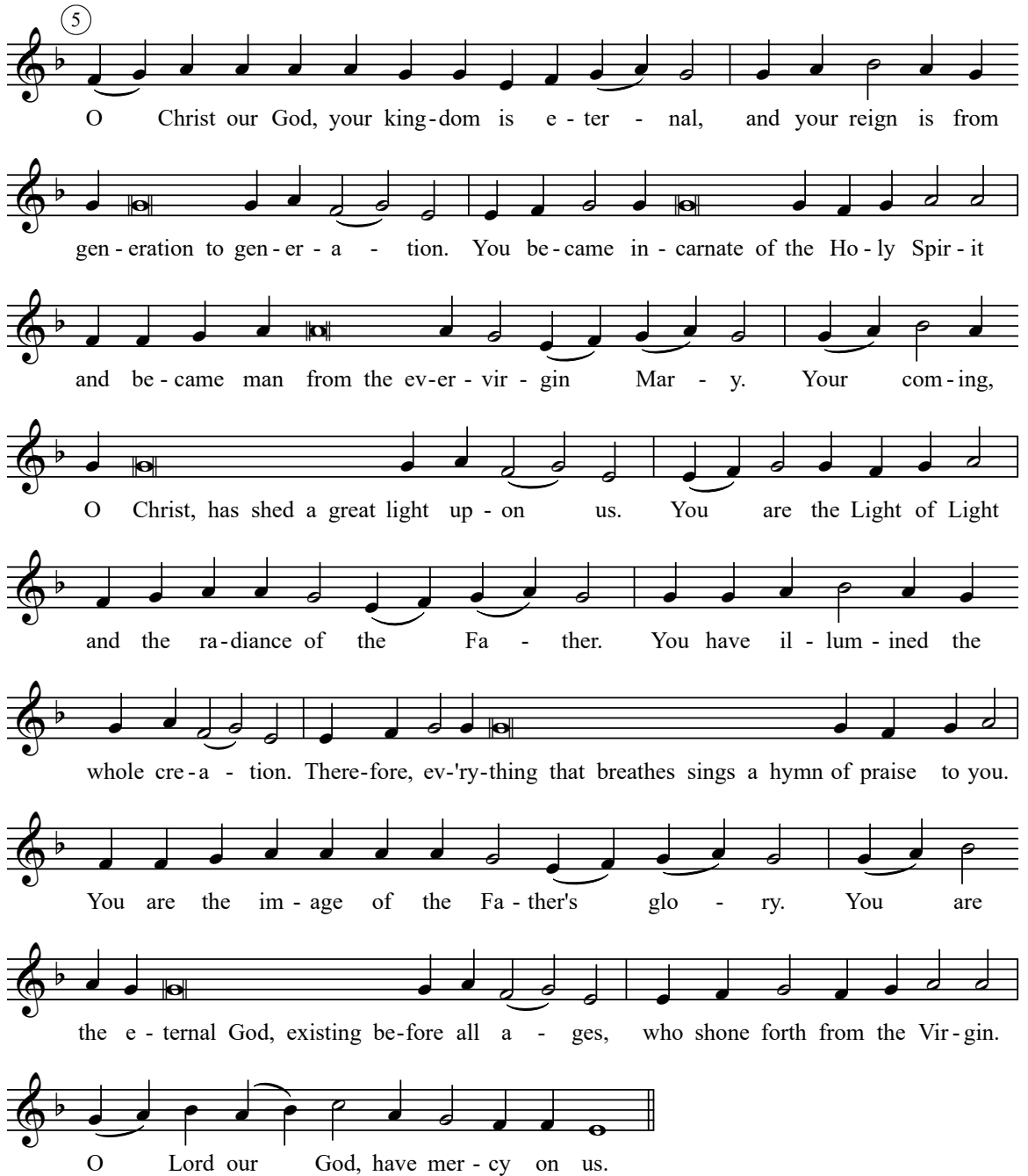
**Cantor:**

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.

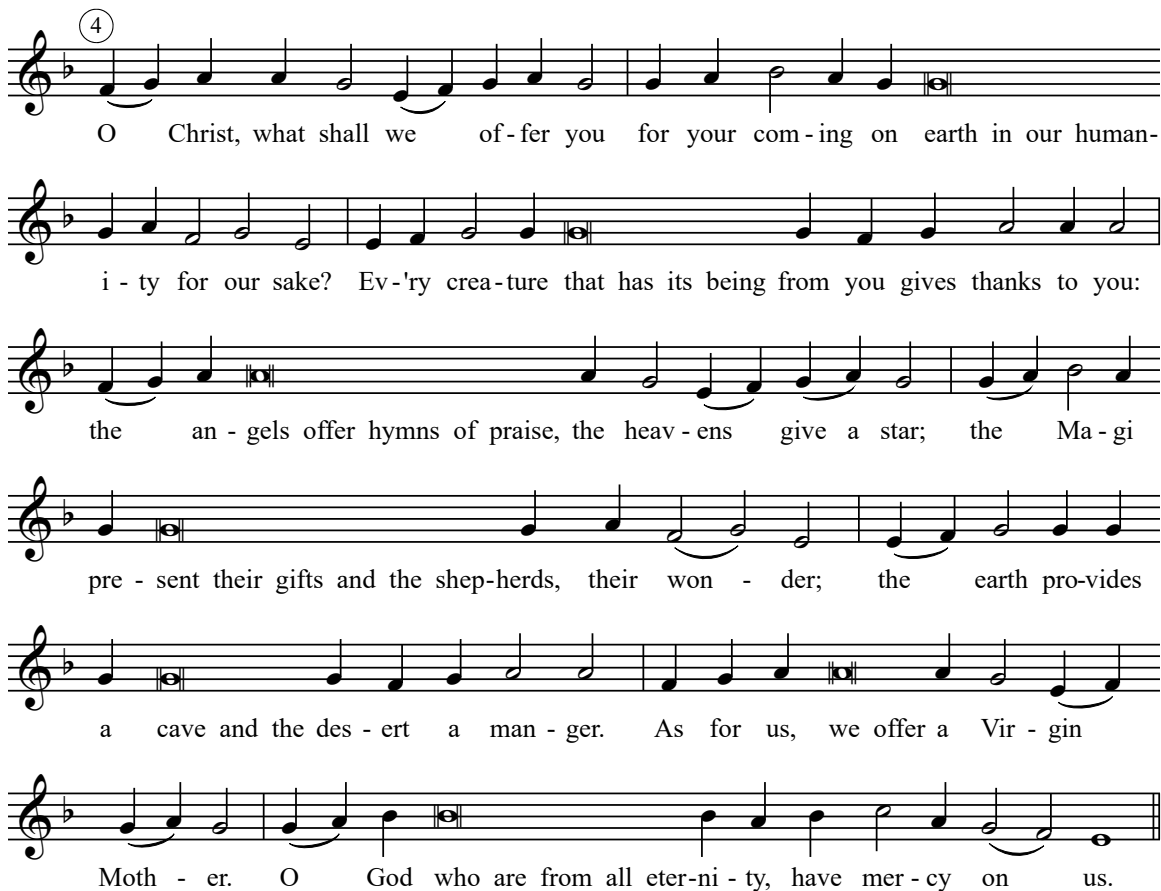
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O Christ our God, your king-dom is e - ter - nal, and your reign is from  
gen - eration to gen - er - a - tion. You be - came in - carnate of the Ho - ly Spir - it  
and be - came man from the ev - er - vir - gin Mar - y. Your com - ing,  
O Christ, has shed a great light up - on us. You are the Light of Light  
and the ra - dian - ce of the Fa - ther. You have il - lum - ined the  
whole cre - a - tion. There - fore, ev - 'ry - thing that breathes sings a hymn of praise to you.  
You are the im - age of the Fa - ther's glo - ry. You are  
the e - ternal God, exist - ing be - fore all a - ges, who shone forth from the Vir - gin.  
O Lord our God, have mer - cy on us.

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

④

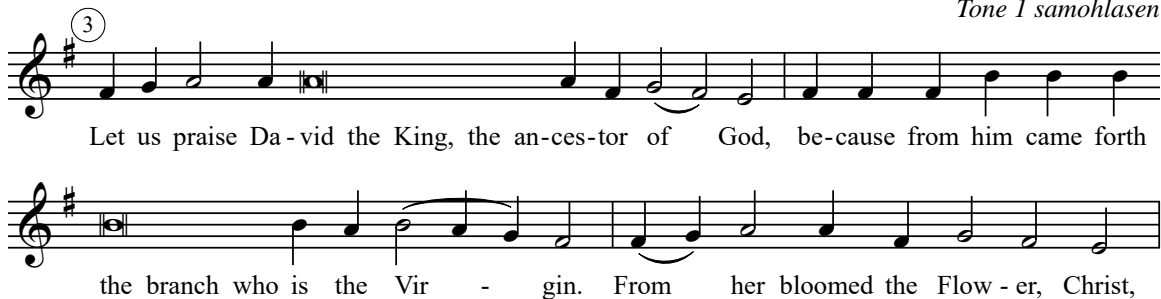


O Christ, what shall we offer you for your coming on earth in our human-  
i - ty for our sake? Ev-'ry crea-ture that has its being from you gives thanks to you:  
the an - gels offer hymns of praise, the heav - ens give a star; the Ma - gi  
pre - sent their gifts and the shep-herds, their won - der; the earth pro-vides  
a cave and the des - ert a man - ger. As for us, we offer a Vir - gin  
Moth - er. O God who are from all eter-ni - ty, have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor:** (Tone 1) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

*Tone 1 samohlasen*

③



Let us praise Da-vid the King, the an-ces-tor of God, be-cause from him came forth  
the branch who is the Vir - gin. From her bloomed the Flow - er, Christ,

who sum - moned Adam and Eve from cor - rup - - - tion. He is  
com - pas - sion - ate to all.

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

In his ad - vanced years, Jo - seph clear - ly saw the pro - phe - cies ful - filled.  
It was tru - ly a strange be - troth - al; and he re - ceived a revelation from the  
an - gels who cried out: Glo - ry to God who sent down peace up - on  
the world.

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

Let all of us praise the relative of the Lord, the a - pos - tle James, who brave - ly  
suf - fered martyrdom as a bish - op. By his prayers, O Christ our God,

who was wrapped in swad-dling clothes in the cave, save all those  
 who ex - tol you.

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

**Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen**

We are com - mem - orating the noble Da - vid and James, the king and prophet, the  
 apostle and first bish - op. be - cause by their teaching we have been de - liv - ered  
 from er - ror. Let us sing the prais - es of Christ who came forth from the  
 Vir - gin, and be - came in - car - nate to save our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Now and ever...

*Tone 2 samohlasen*

When Au - gus - tus became su - preme rul - er of the world, the man - y king - doms  
 a - mong the peo - ple came to an end. Like - wise, when you be - came incarnate

of the Im-mac - u - late One, the wor - ship of man-y gods had to cease.

The cit - ies came under a uni-ver-sal pow - er, and the Gen-tiles believed in one

su-preme Di - vin - i - ty. Na - tions were re - gistered in the name of Cae - sar

Au-gus - tus, and we, the faith - ful, were registered in your divine name,

O In - car - nate One. O Lord, great is your mer - cy; glo - ry to you!

- Readings:**
1. Genesis 25:21-34
  2. Sirach 7: 1-28
  3. Zechariah 8:3-11

## Litija


*Tone 1 Bolhar*

May heav-en and earth re-joyce pro-phet - ic - 'ly this day. May an-gels

and peo-ple spir - it - ually cel - e-brate, for God ap - peared in the flesh



to those grop - ing in the dark-ness and rest - ing in a shad - ow.



Hav - ing been born of a Vir - gin, a cave and a man - ger re - ceived him.



Shep - herds re - late a mir - a - cle; the Ma - gi from the East bring gifts



to Beth - le - hem, while we, with un - wor - thy lips, ren - der him an - gel - ic praise:




Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace on earth, for the hope of



na - tions has ar - rived. Hav - ing come, he has saved us from hos - tile bond - age.

**Cantor:** (Tone 5) Glory...


**Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar**



The Per - sian Ma - gi clearly recognized the heav - en - ly King born on earth.



Led by a bright star, they ar - rived at Beth - le - hem



bear - ing choice gifts of gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh; and fall - ing down,



they a - dored him; for they saw the eternal One, ly-ing as a Child, in the cave.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

*Tone 6 samohlasen*

An-gels re-joice in heav-en, and peo-ple ex-ult to - day, and all crea - tures

leap with joy be-cause of the birth of the Lord and Savior in Beth - le - hem;

for all deceit of i - dol - at - ry has ceased, and Christ

reigns for - ev - - - er.

### Aposticha

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, page 88), concluding with:*

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

**Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen**

The re - mem - brance of your na - tiv - i - ty brings happiness to priests and might

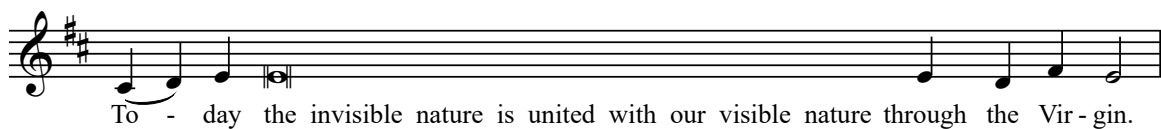
to kings. Let us al - so boast of it and say: Our Fa - ther who art in



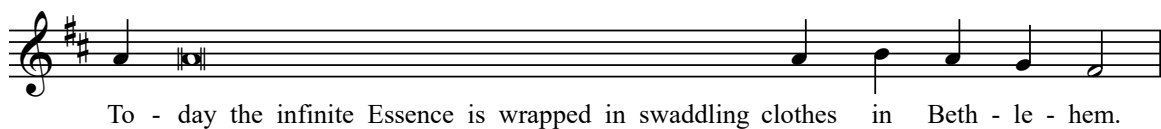
heav - en, hal-losed be thy name, O Lov - er of us all.

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

**Theotokion** - *in the same tone*



To - day the invisible nature is united with our visible nature through the Vir - gin.



To - day the infinite Essence is wrapped in swaddling clothes in Beth - le - hem.



To - day God is guiding the Ma - gi by a star so that they might



wor-ship him. With the gold, frank-in-cense and myrrh, he is foretelling his



three - day bur - i - al. Let us cry out to him: Hav - ing become incarnate

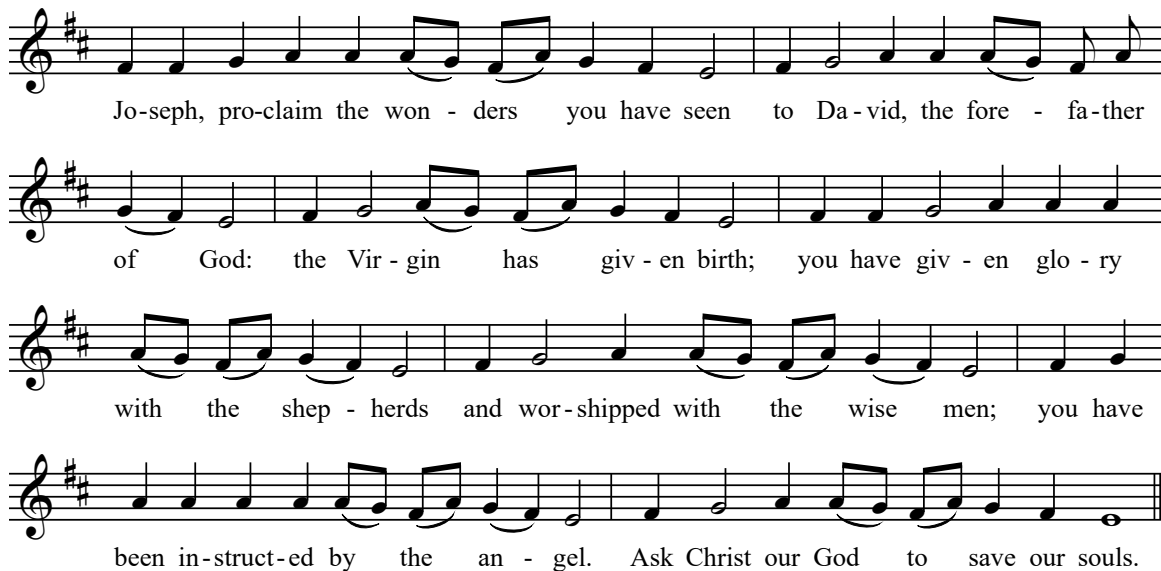


of the Vir - gin, save our souls, O Christ God.

*If there is Blessing of Bread, the Troparion “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...” (page 119) is sung twice, then:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Glory...now and ever...

**Troparion of the Sunday after the Nativity - Tone 2**



Jo-seph, pro-claim the won - ders you have seen to Da-vid, the fore - fa-ther  
of God: the Vir - gin has giv - en birth; you have giv - en glo - ry  
with the shep - herds and wor-shipped with the wise men; you have  
been in-struct-ed by the an - gel. Ask Christ our God to save our souls.

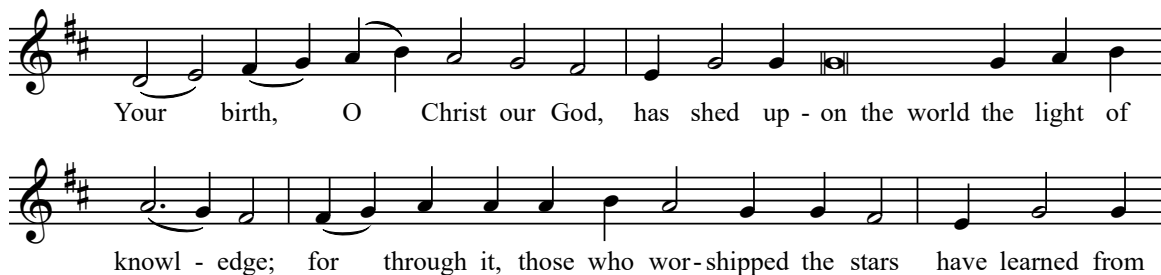
*If there is no Blessing of Bread, the Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 6 (page 91) is sung twice, then:*

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

*“Joseph, proclaim the wonders...”*

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

**Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4**



Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed up - on the world the light of  
knowl - edge; for through it, those who wor-shipped the stars have learned from



a star to worship you, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to know you, the Dawn

The first line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains 10 measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), and B3 (quarter). The lyrics are aligned under the notes: "a star to worship you, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to know you, the Dawn".



from on High. Glo - ry to you, O Lord!

The second line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains 6 measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), and B3 (quarter). The lyrics are aligned under the notes: "from on High. Glo - ry to you, O Lord!".