

Vesper Propers, December 21, 2025
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 3, p. 48), stichera 10-7

Cantor: (Tone 6) 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.

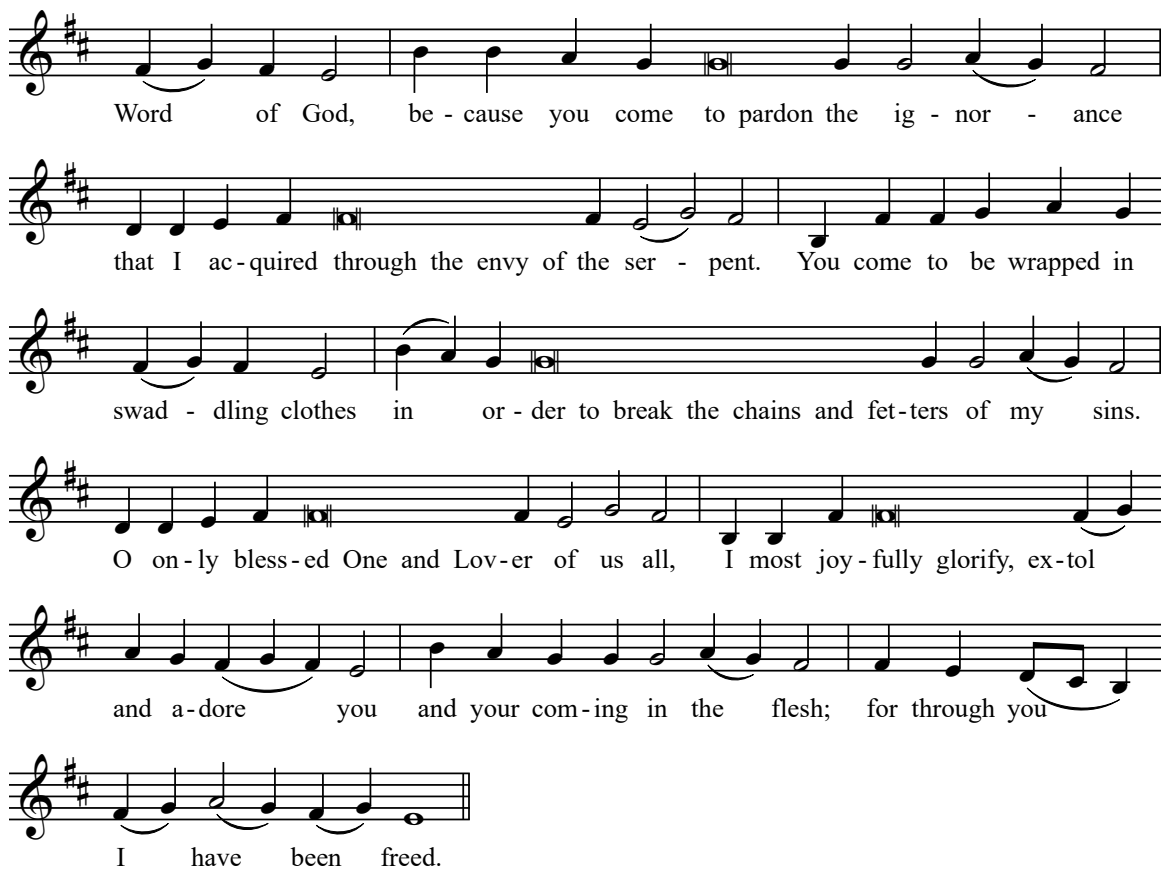
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He who is car - ried by the Cher - u - bim has tak - en human
nature in the abode of the im - mac - u - late womb. He has come to earth to be born
of the tribe of Ju - dah. The ho - ly cave has been a - dorned
like a splen - did palace for the King 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.

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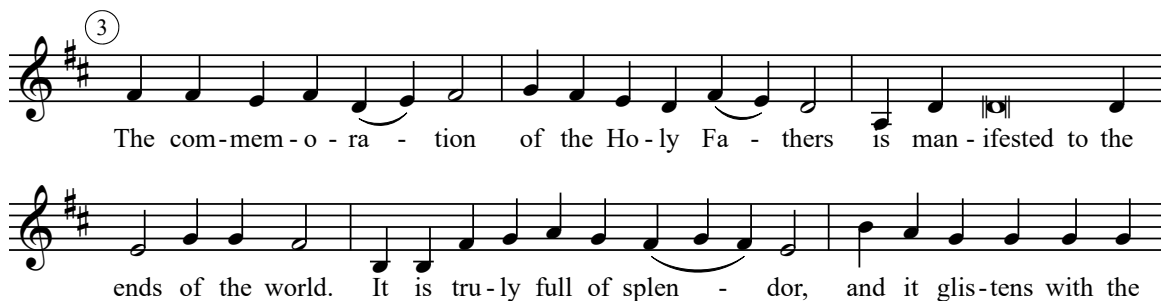
Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing,
the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal



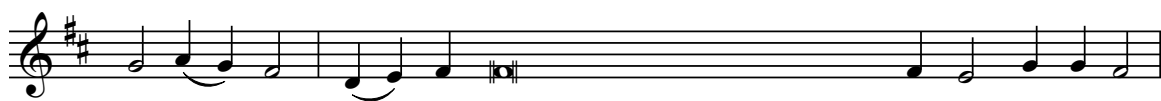
Word of God, be - cause you come to pardon the ig - nor - ance
that I ac - quired through the envy of the ser - pent. You come to be wrapped in
swad - dling clothes in or - der to break the chains and fet - ters of my sins.
O on - ly bless - ed One and Lov - er of us all, I most joy - fully glorify, 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 - in the same tone



³
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

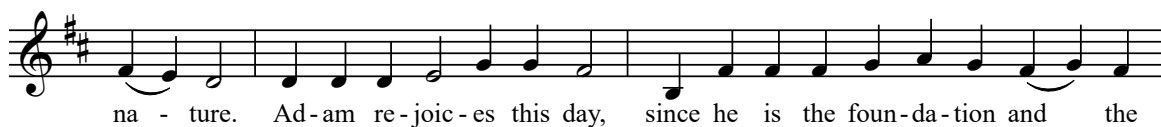


this na-tiv-i-ty, and we give praise be-fore the feast.

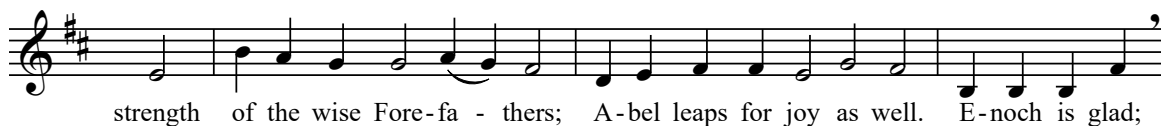
Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!




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 - in the same tone

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

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, p. 54), 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 - *in the same tone*

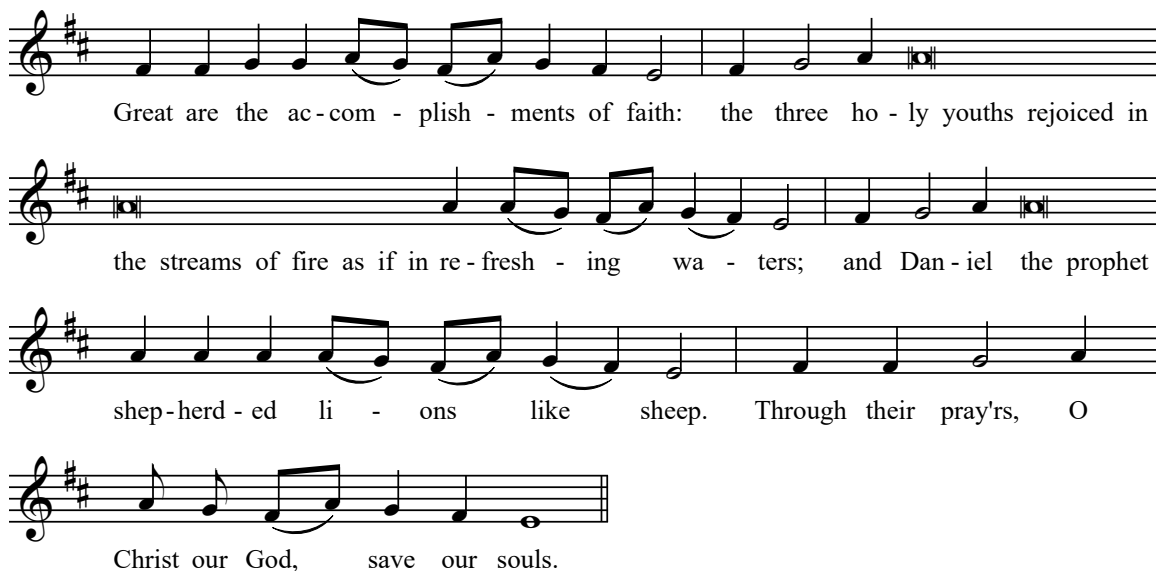
Be - hold, the time of sal - va - tion is draw - ing near. O Cave, pre - pare
 your-self, for the Vir - gin is com - ing to give birth. O Beth - le - hem, O land
 of Ju - dah, a - dorn your-self and be hap - py since the Lord will
 shine forth from you, O moun - tains and hills and lands a - round Ju - 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 Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, page 57), then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

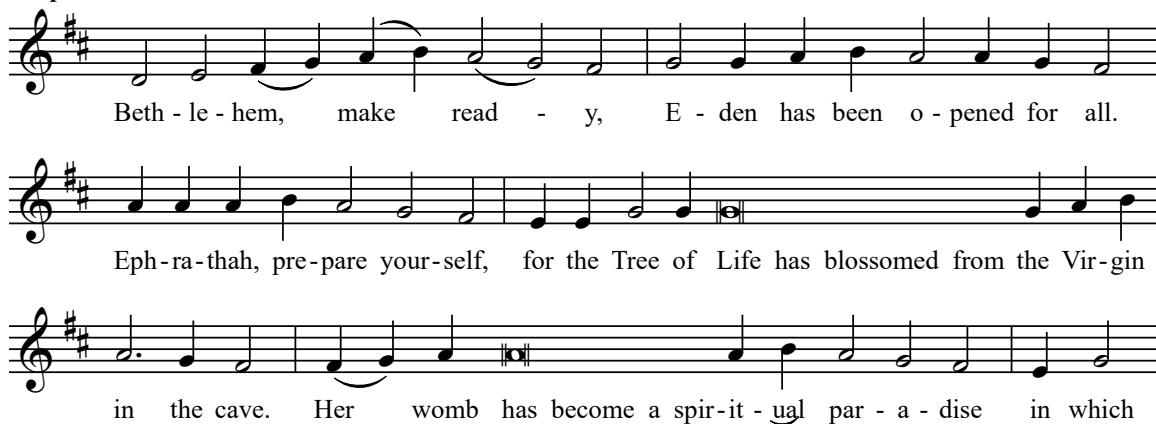
Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2



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-thah, pre-prepare 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.