

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 samohlasen**

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a circled '6' above the treble clef. The lyrics are: "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 prepare 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 being 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.

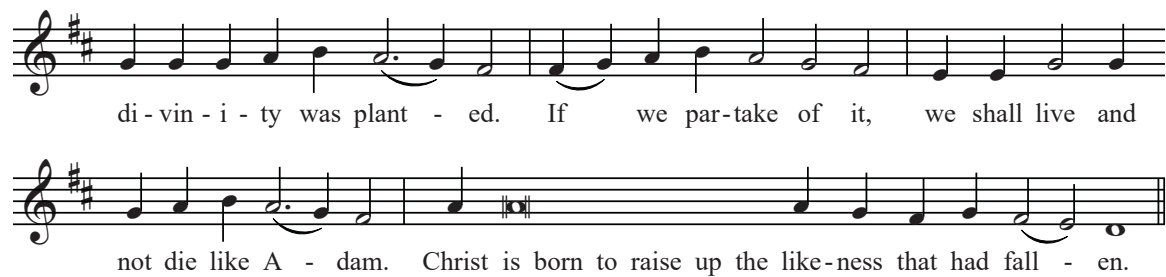
5

He who is car-ried by the Cher-u-bim has taken 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 splendid 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 renewal of his bound-less cre-a-tion.

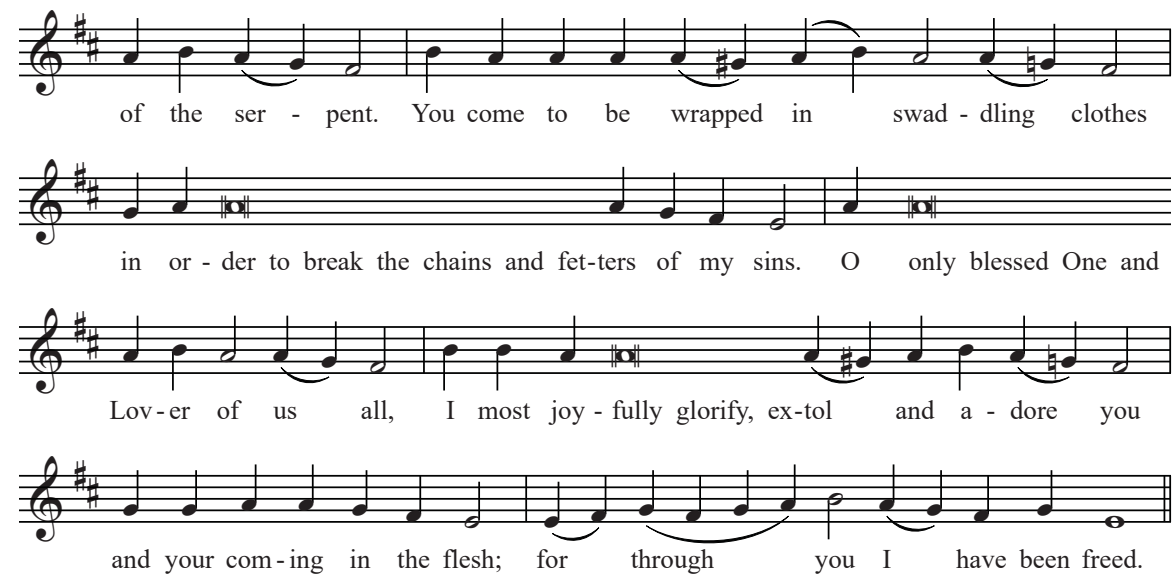
**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

4

Hav-ing con-ceived in a manner beyond un-der-stand-ing, the Virgin 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 acquired through the envy



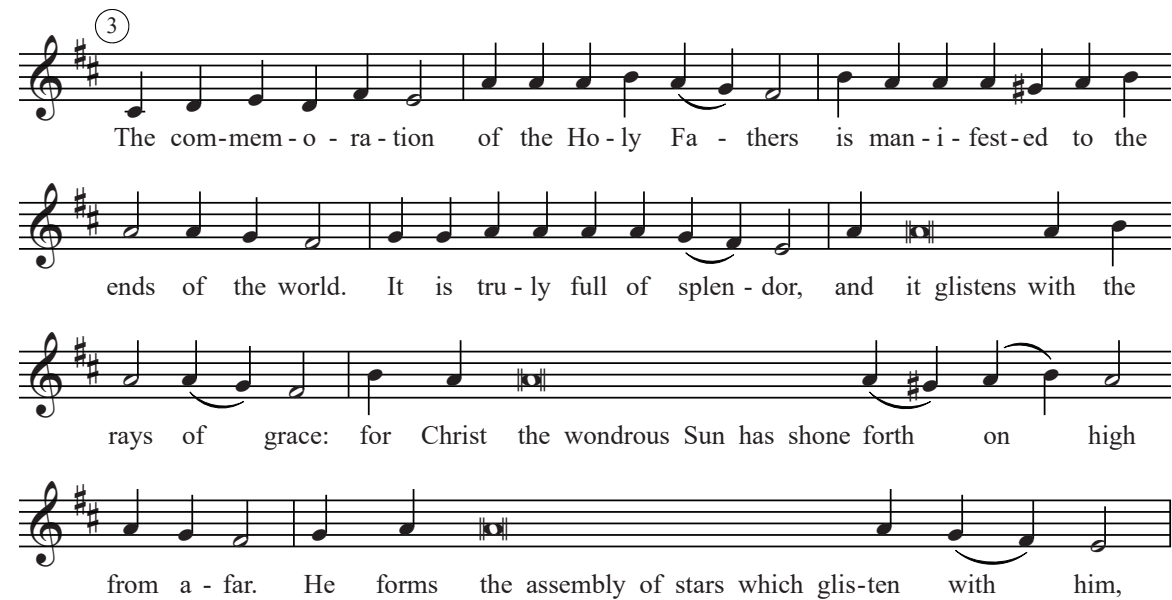
di-vin-i-ty was plant-ed. If we par-take of it, we shall live and  
not die like A-dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall-en.



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 only blessed 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**



The com-mem-o-ra-tion of the Ho-ly Fa-thers is man-i-fest-ed to the  
ends of the world. It is tru-ly full of splen-dor, and it glistens 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 - ously and faithful-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 glory of the divine sharing of our  
na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the founda - tion  
and the strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy  
as well. E - noch is glad; Seth and Noah dance to - geth - er. The praiseworthy

## 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 - 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

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.

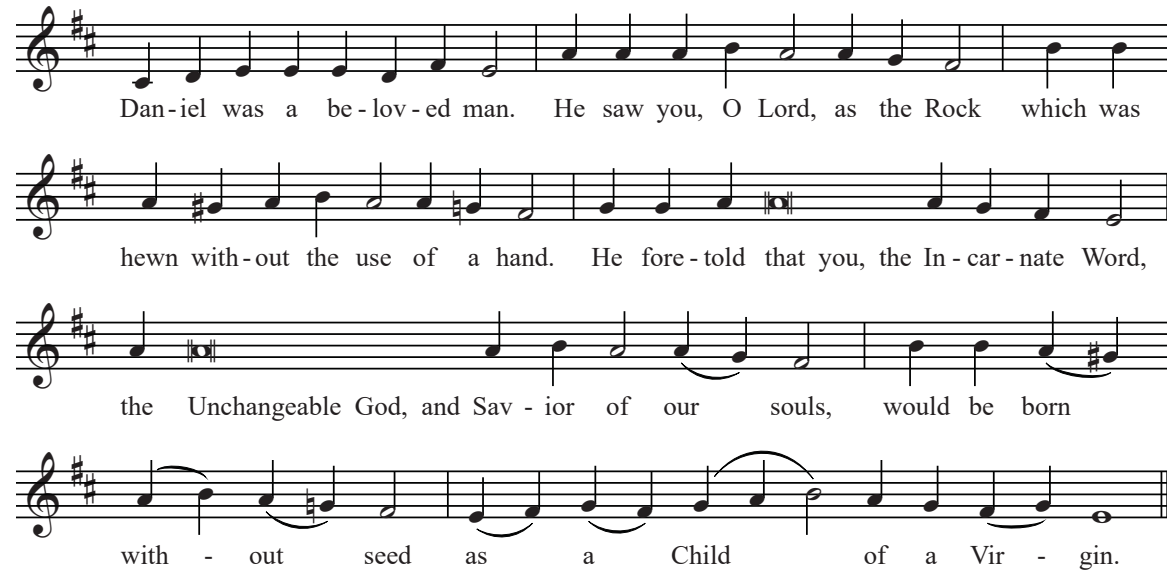
Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high  
the birth with - out a fa - - ther.

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

The faith - ful and God - wise youths are radiant with joy in the fur - nace.  
They her - ald the na - tiv - i - ty of Christ on earth. As the pre - cious dew which  
the Lord sent down, he now preserves the Vir - gin with - out stain, and en - rich - es  
her with sub - lime gifts. There - fore Dan - iel, in - spired by God,  
is also 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...

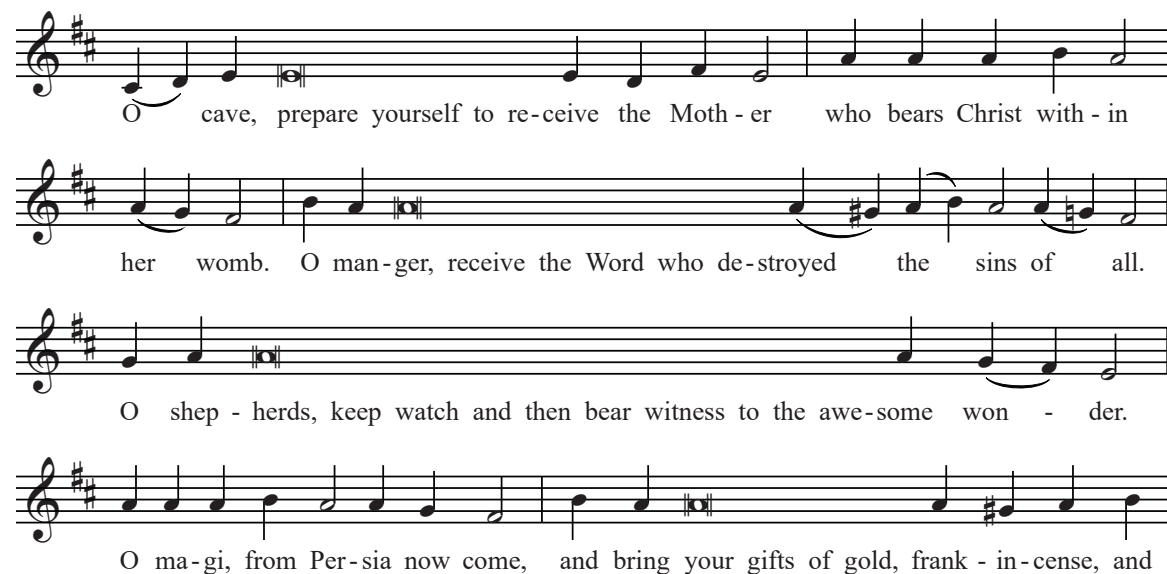
**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**



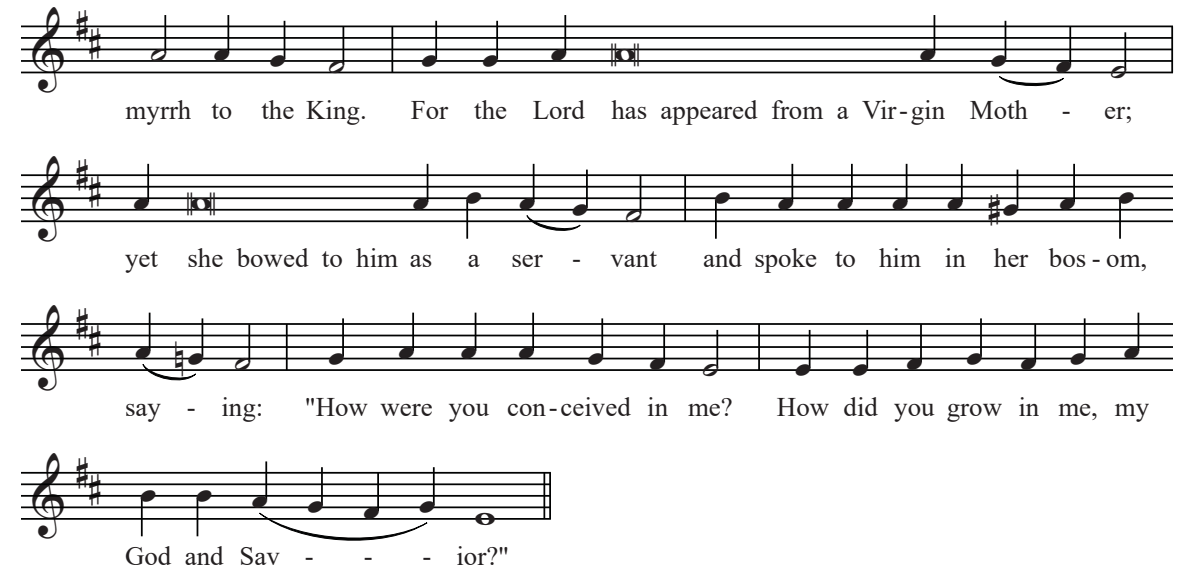
Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was  
hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,  
the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born  
with-out seed as a Child of a Vir-gin.

**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?"

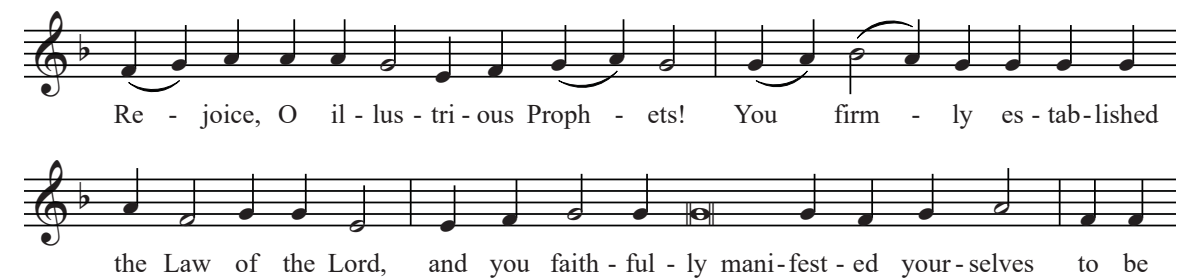
- Readings:**
- 1) Genesis 14:14-20
  - 2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17
  - 3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

**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