

Vesper Propers, December 28, 2025

The Sunday after Christmas:

The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of God

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

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 58), 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)

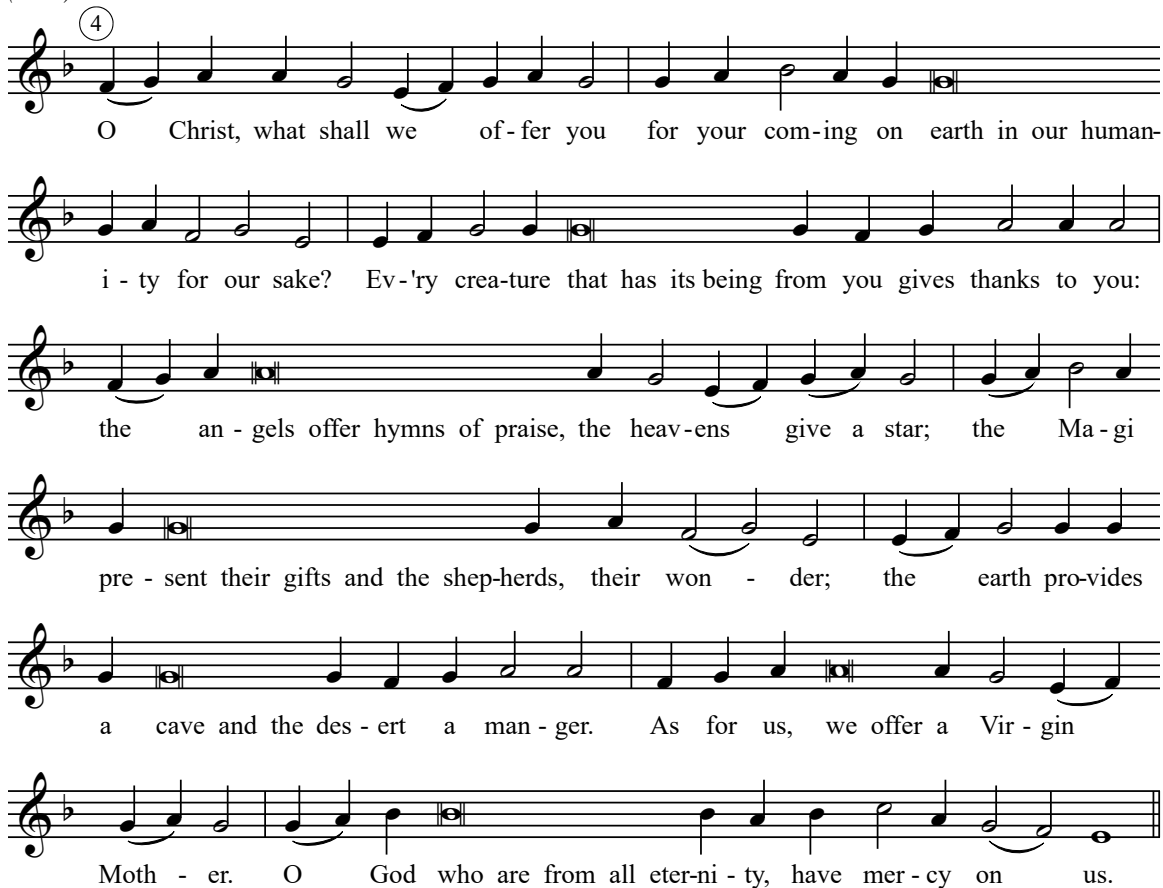
My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.

5

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

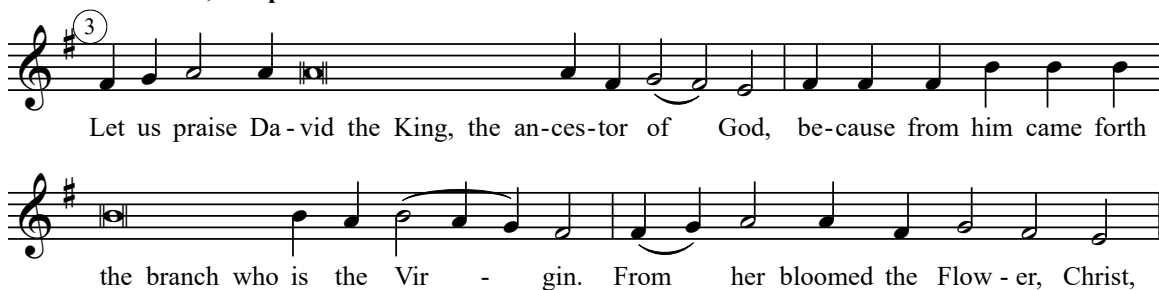


O Christ, what shall we of-fer you for your com-ing on earth in our human-
i - ty for our sake? Ev-'ry crea-ture that has its being from you gives thanks to you:
the an - gels offer hymns of praise, the heav-ens give a star; the Ma - gi
pre - sent their gifts and the shep-herds, their won - der; the 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.

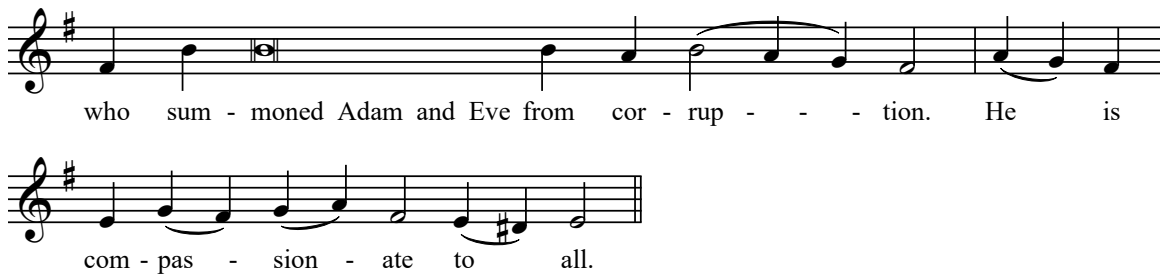
Cantor: (Tone 1) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of David, Joseph and James - Tone 1 samohlasen

③

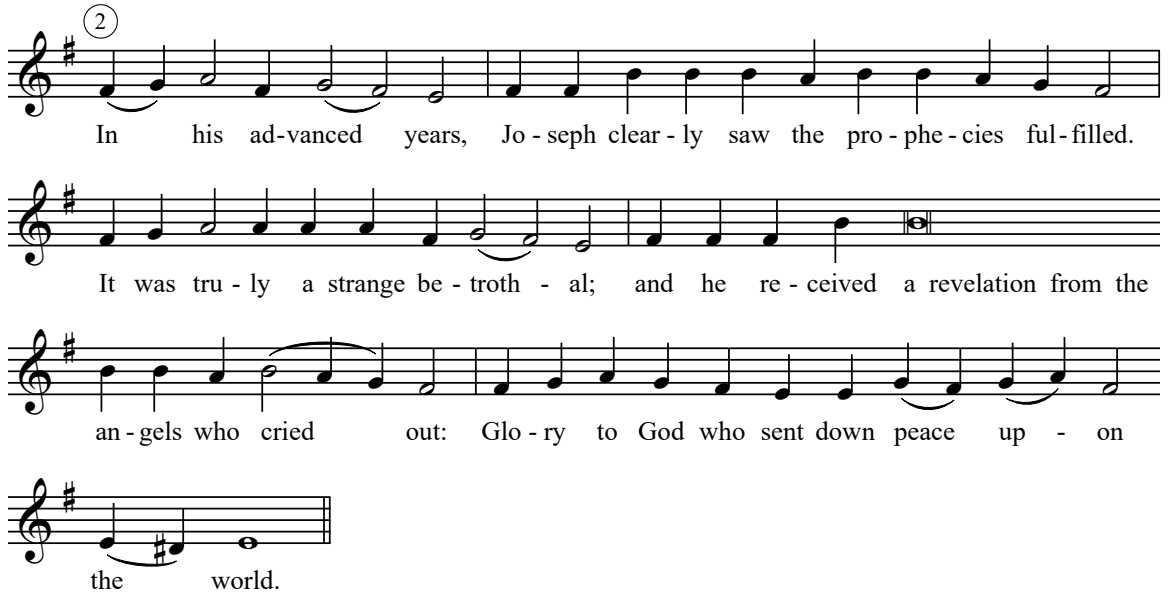


Let us praise Da-vid the King, the an-ces-tor of God, be-cause from him came forth
the branch who is the Vir - gin. From her bloomed the Flow - er, Christ,



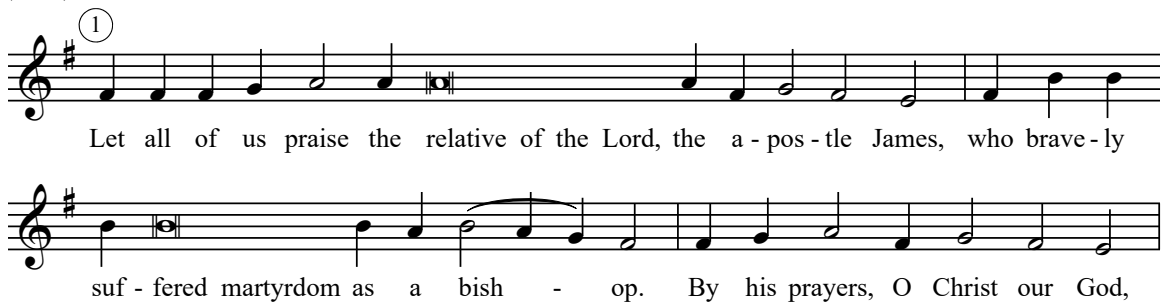
who sum - moned Adam and Eve from cor - rup - - - tion. He is
com - pas - sion - ate to all.

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



②
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.



①
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 4) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, page 64).

- 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-u-ally 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-joyce 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;



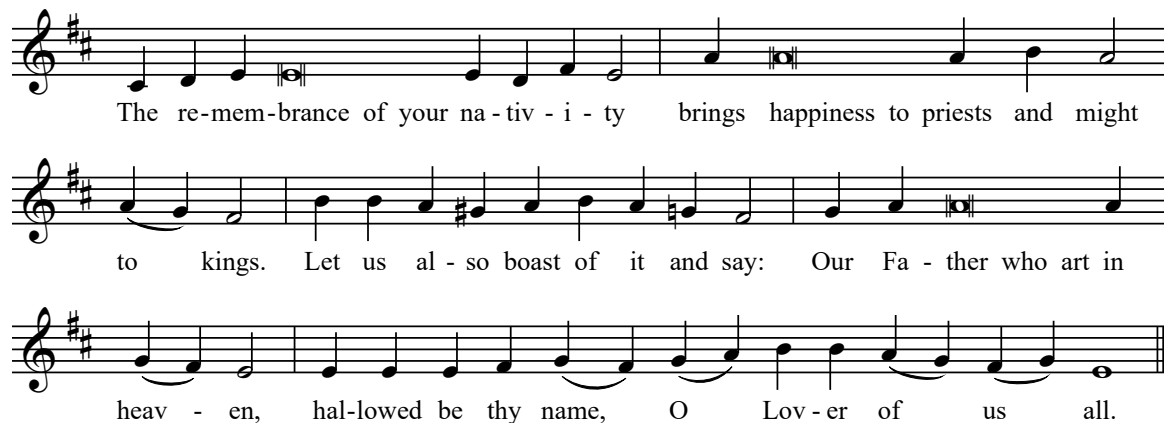
for all deceit of i-dol-at-ry has ceased, and Christ reigns for-ev - er.

Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, page 65), concluding with:

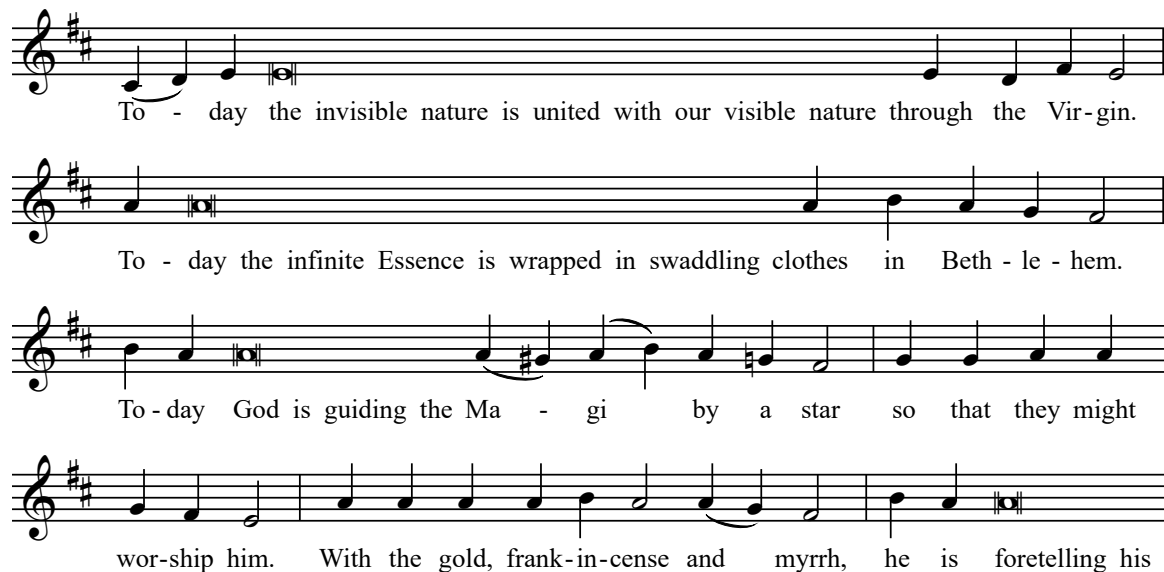
Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

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-lowed be thy name, O Lov-er of us all.

Cantor: Now and ever...



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
worship 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.

Troparia

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.

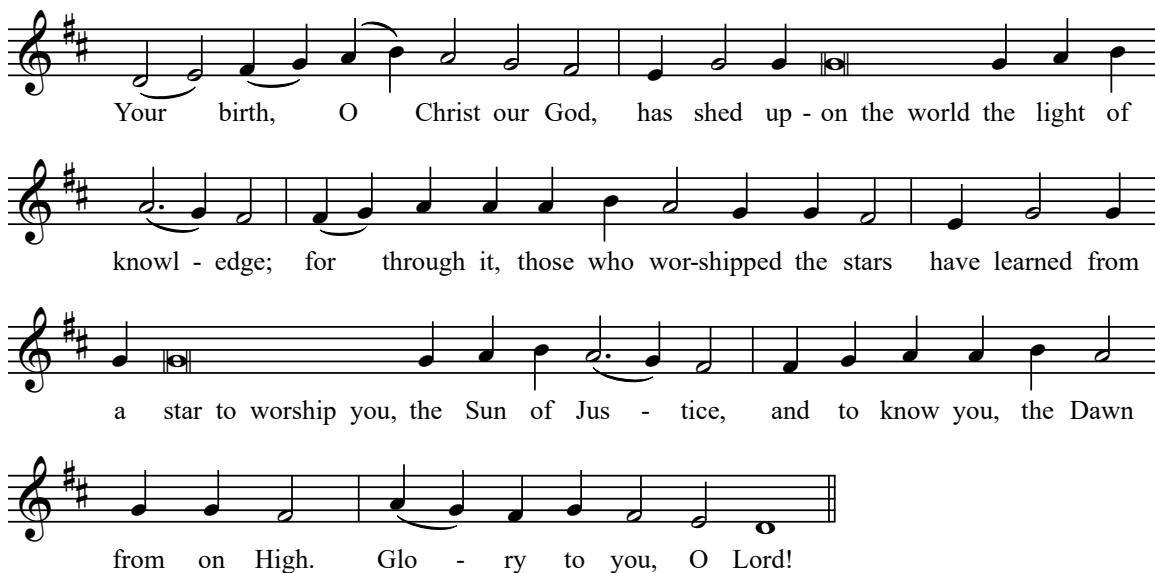
If there is no Blessing of Bread, the Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 68) is sung twice, then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

“Joseph, proclaim the wonders...” (*above*)

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.