

Vesper Propers, December 20, 2026
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 5, p. 69), stichera 10-7.

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.

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.

5

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.

4

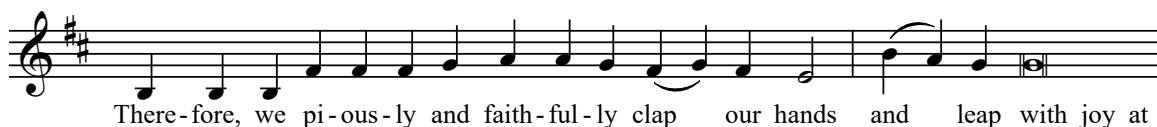
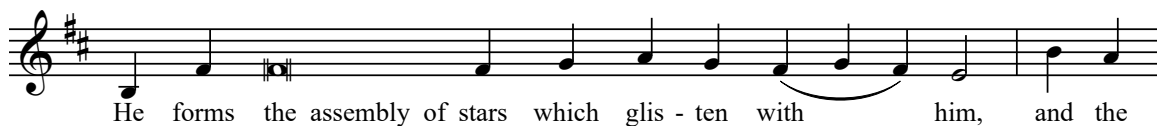
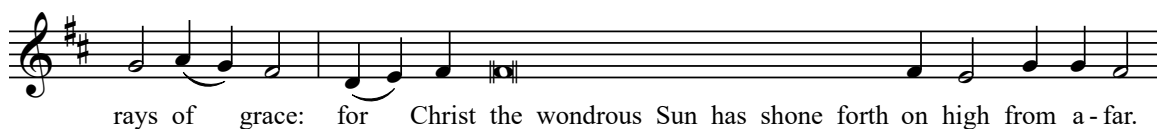
Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing,
the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal

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.

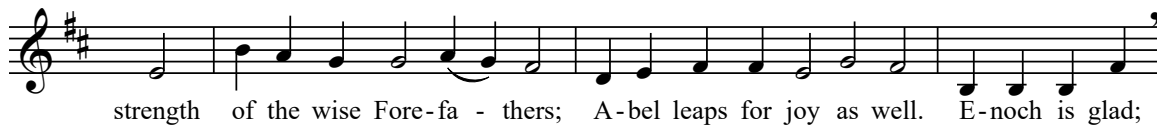
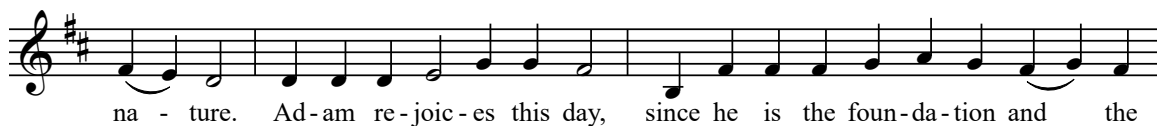
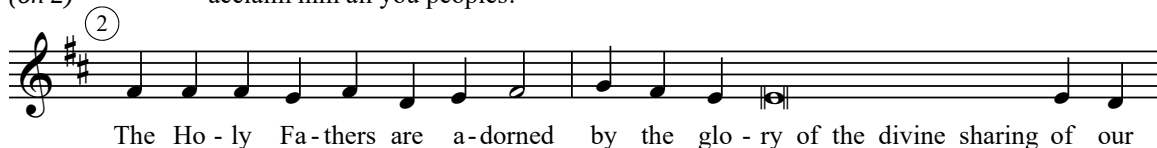
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

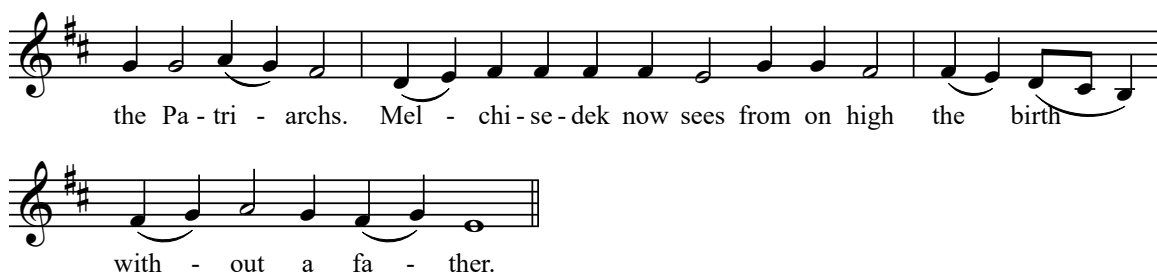
Stichera of the Ancestors

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



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



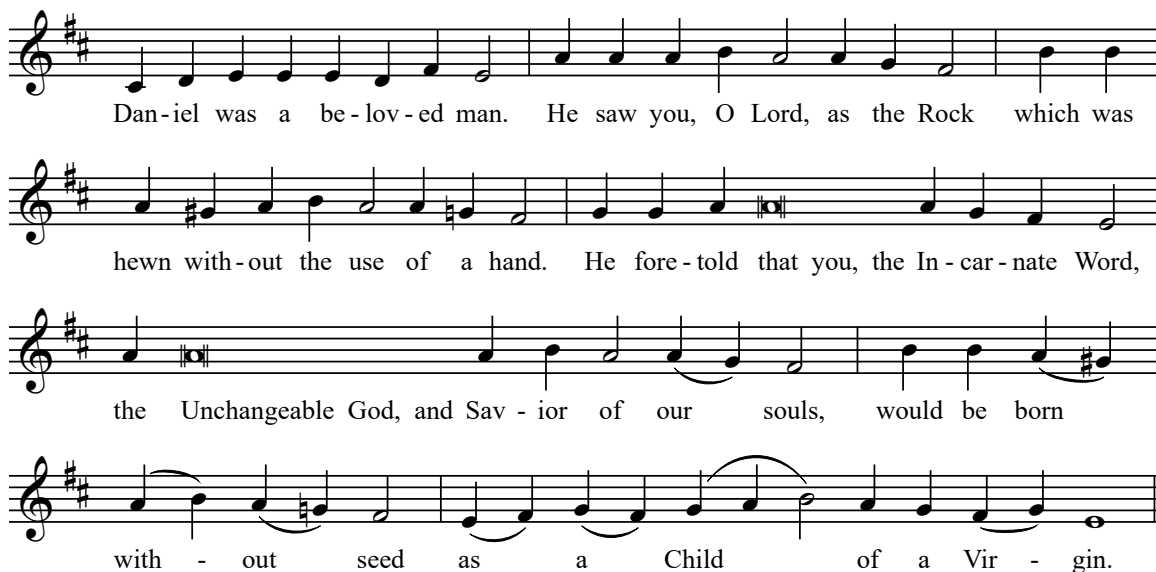


Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen

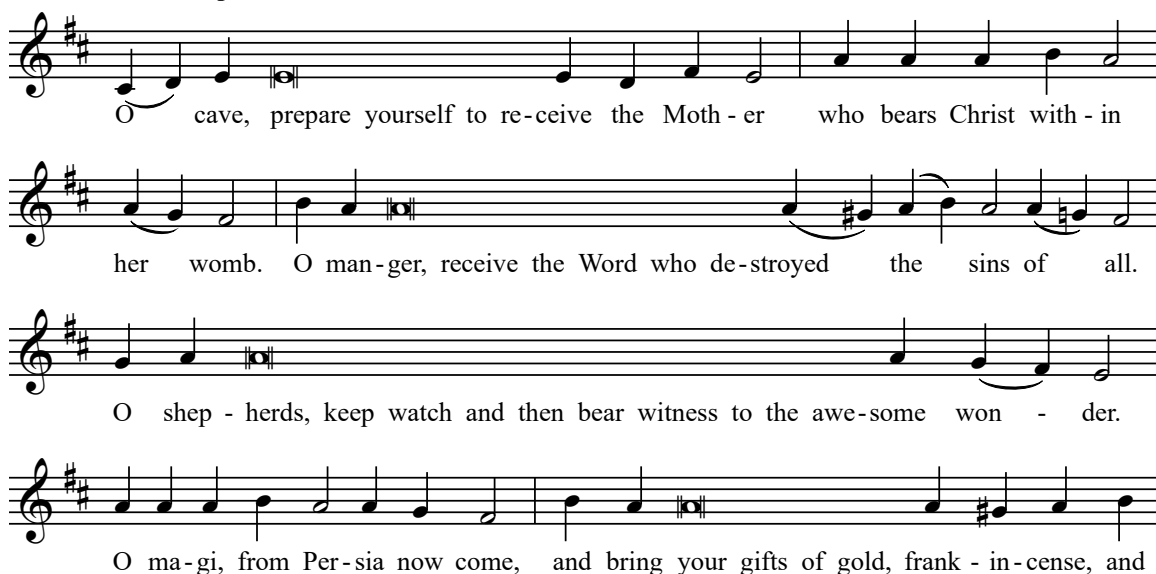


Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was
hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,
the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born
with-out seed as a Child of a Vir-gin.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the first line of the text. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The melody is simple and homophonic, with a clear cadence at the end of each line.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the prefeast



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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the first line of the text. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The melody is simple and homophonic, with a clear cadence at the end of each line.

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

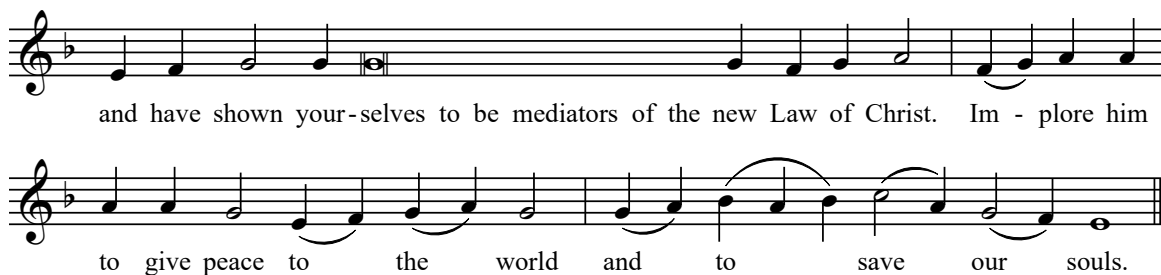
Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 77), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

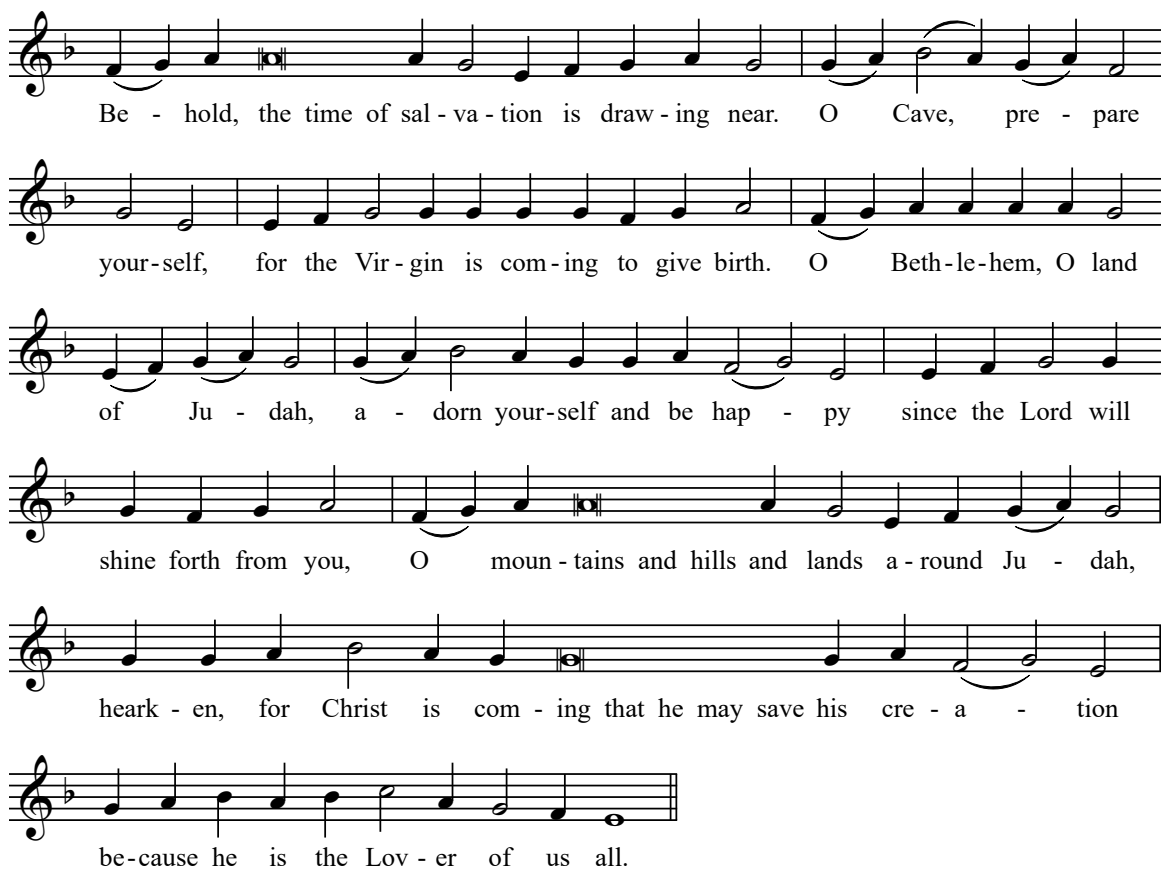
Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 2 samohlasen

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



Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the Prefeast

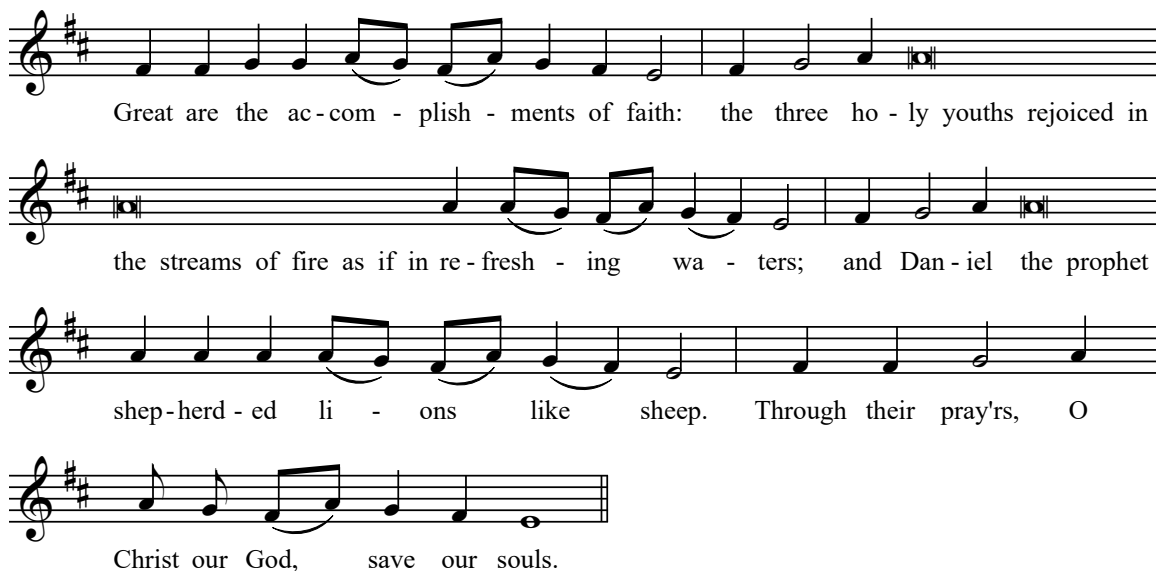


Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, page 80), then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

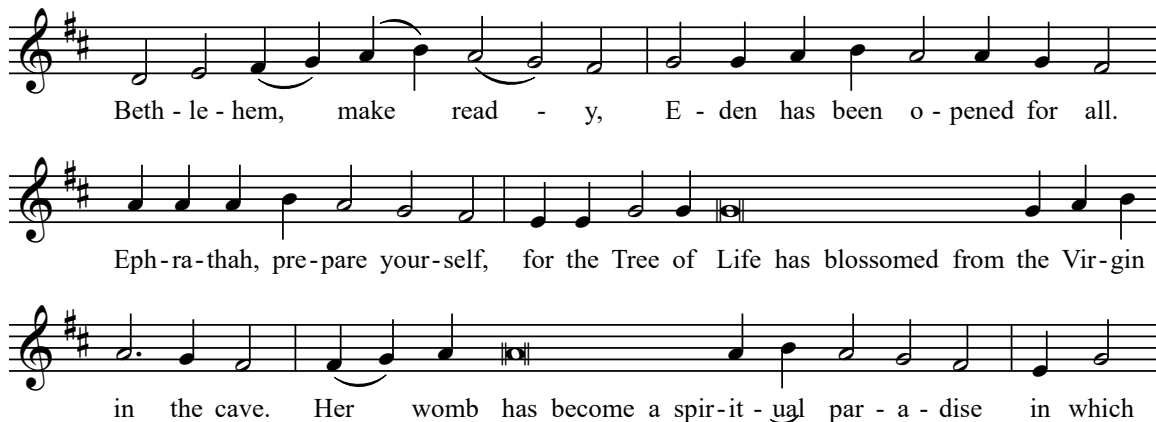
Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2



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-tah, 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

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.

The service continues on p. 21.