

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: (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

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 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 - disc.

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.

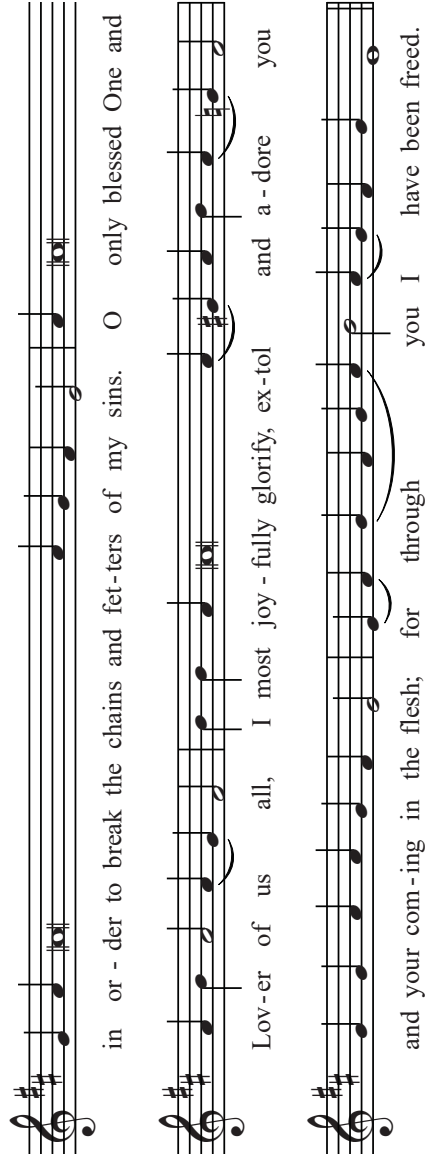
4

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

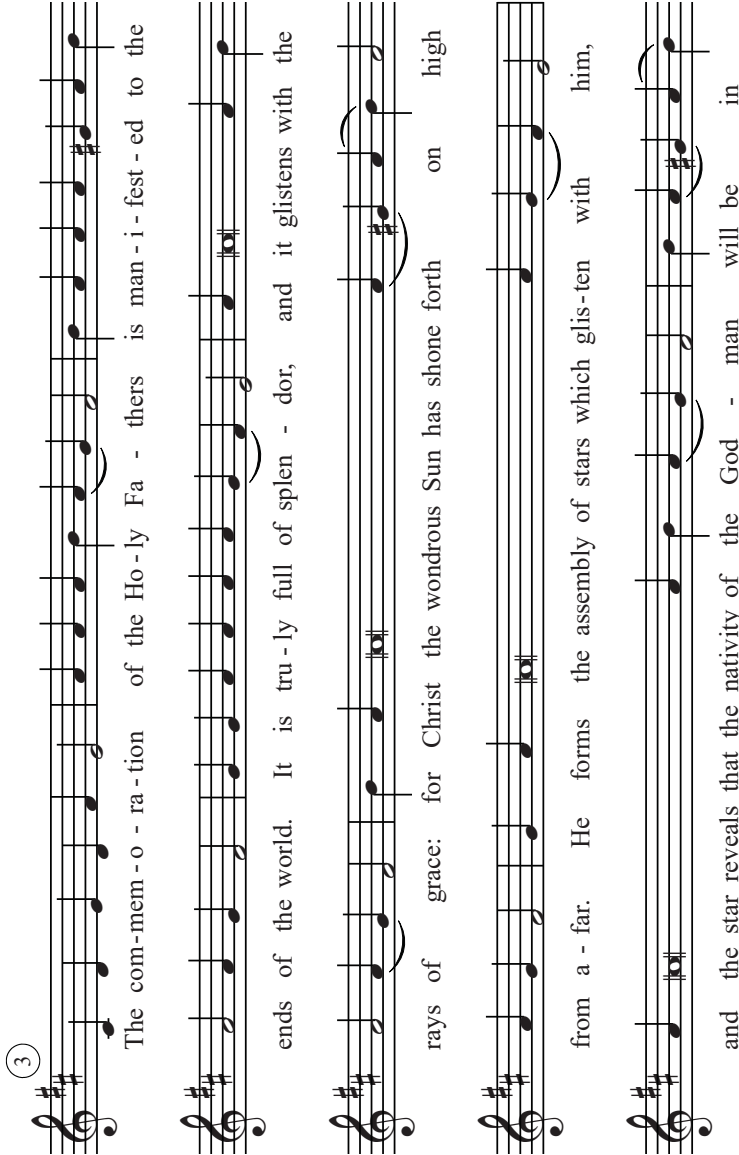
of the ser-pent. You come to be wrapped in swad-dling clothes



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



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

Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high

the birth with - out a fa - - - ther.

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

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.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the Prefeast

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 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

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

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 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
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.