

Vesper Propers, December 27, 2026
The Sunday after Christmas:
The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed,
David the King, and James the Brother of God

THE HOLY APOSTLE, FIRST MARTYR, AND ARCHDEACON STEPHEN, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. First of seven deacons, whom the Apostles chose to be fellow-laborers in the ministry, he was also the first of the disciples of the Lord to pour out his blood at Jerusalem. He provided testimony for Christ Jesus, whom he saw standing in glory at the right hand of the Father. He was covered over by stones while praying for his persecutors.

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

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 82), stichera 10-8.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

Sticheron of the Nativity of Our Lord - Tone 2 samohlasen

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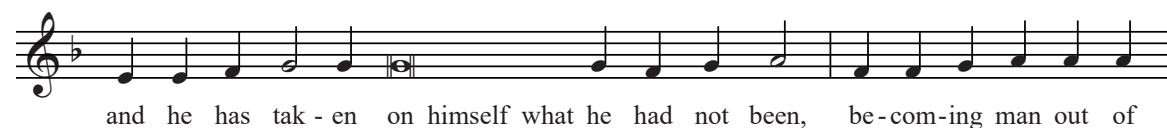
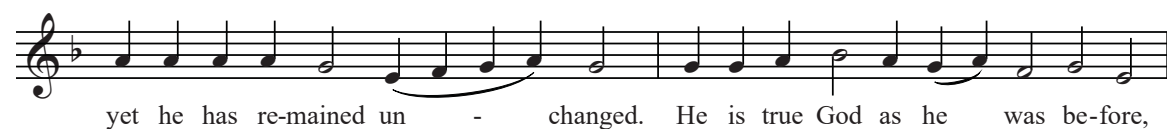
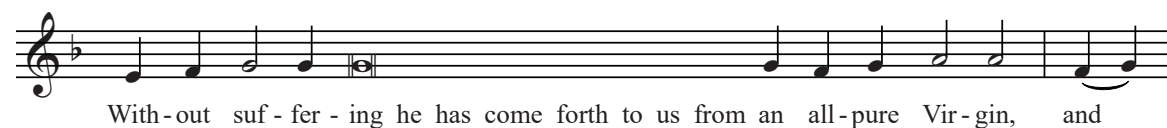
Come, let us re-joyce in the Lord; let us pro-claim the pres-ent mys-te-ry

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

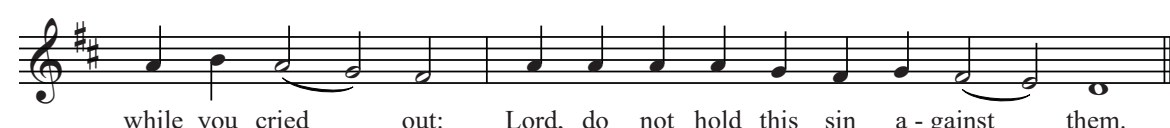
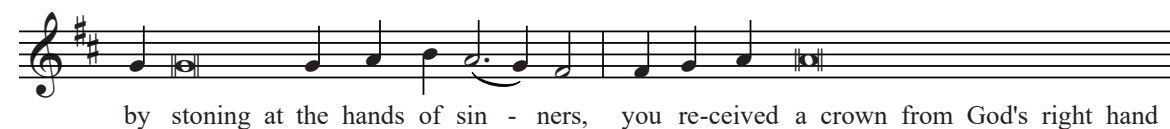
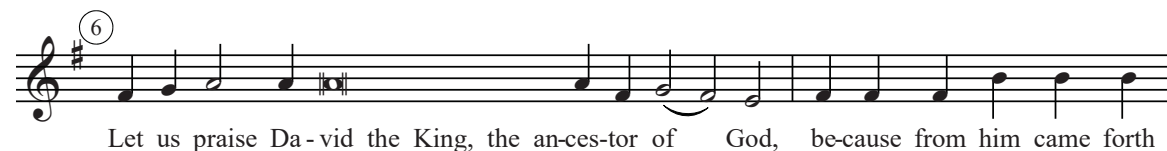
am returning to the bliss of Par-a-dise from which I had been banished by

dis-o-be-dience. Be-hold! The Im-age of the Father and his unchangeable



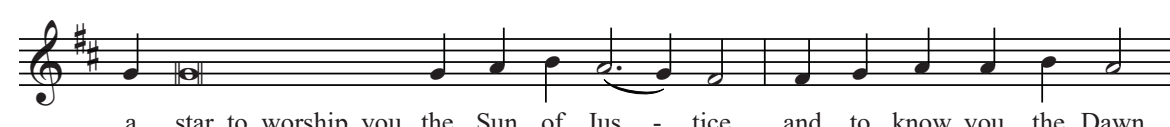
Cantor: (Tone 1) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

Stichera of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 1 samohlasen



Cantor: Glory...

Troparion of the Nativity of the Lord - Tone 4



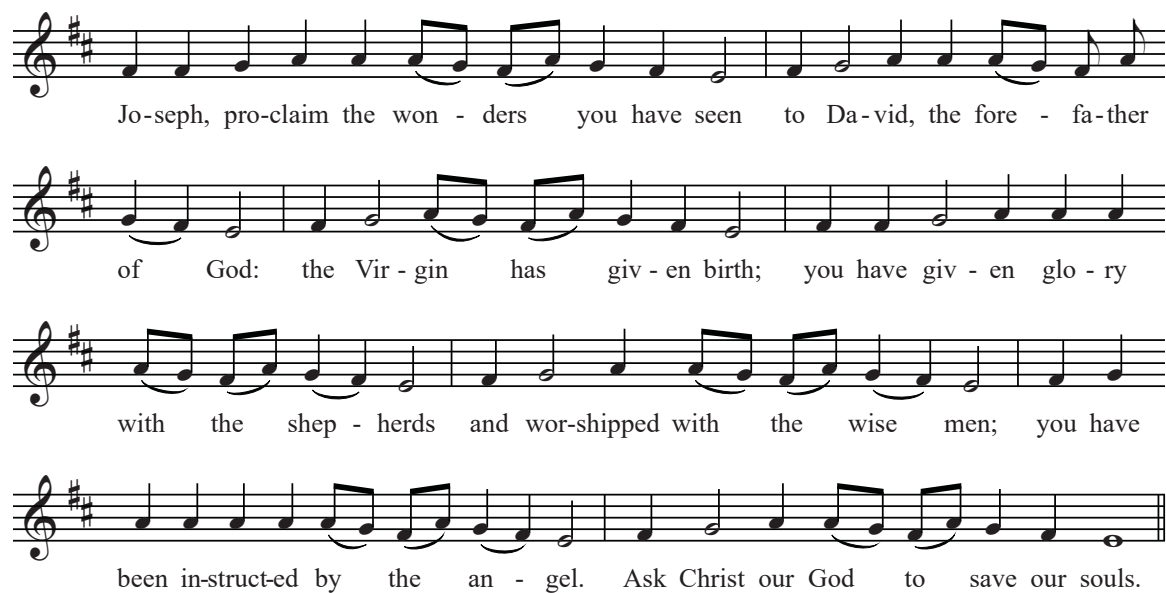
The service continues on p. 21.



Troparia

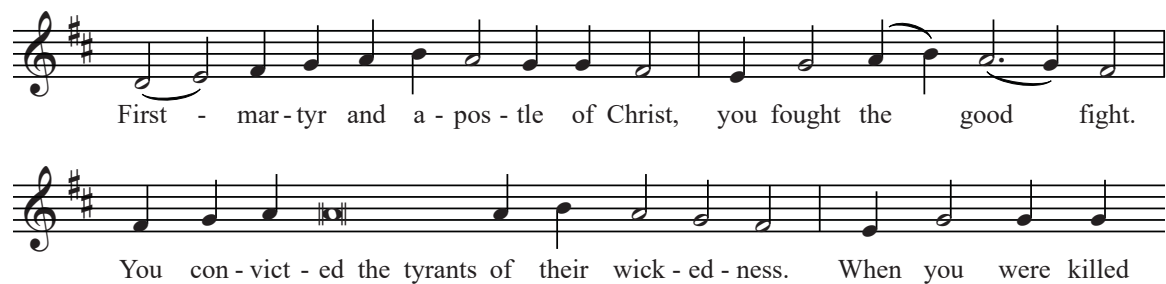
Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, page 91), then:

Troparion of the Relatives of the Lord - Tone 2

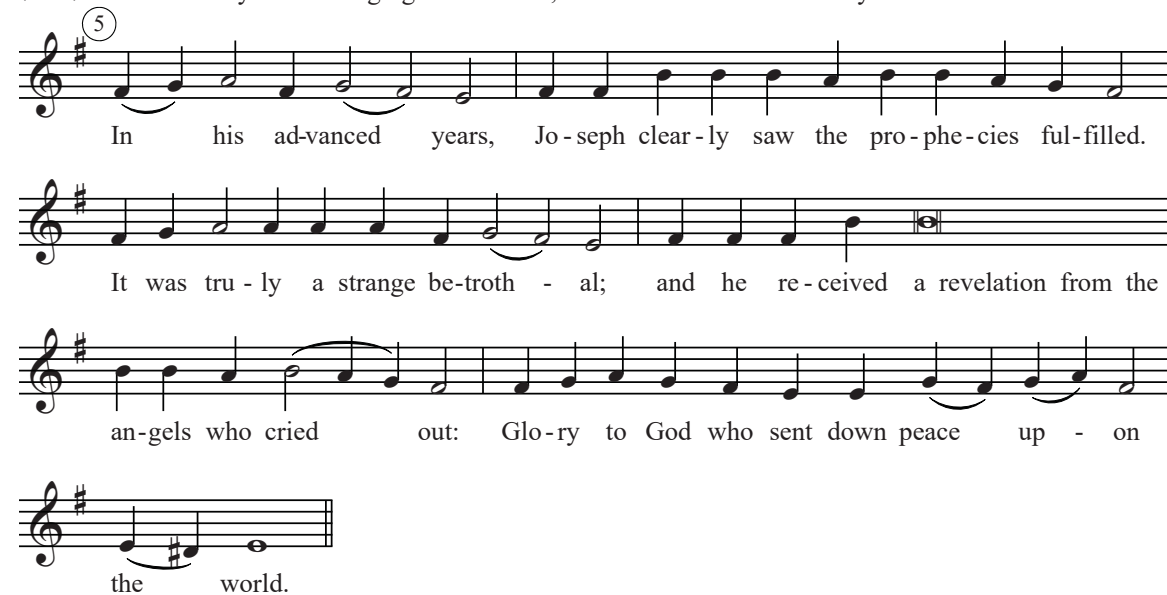


Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

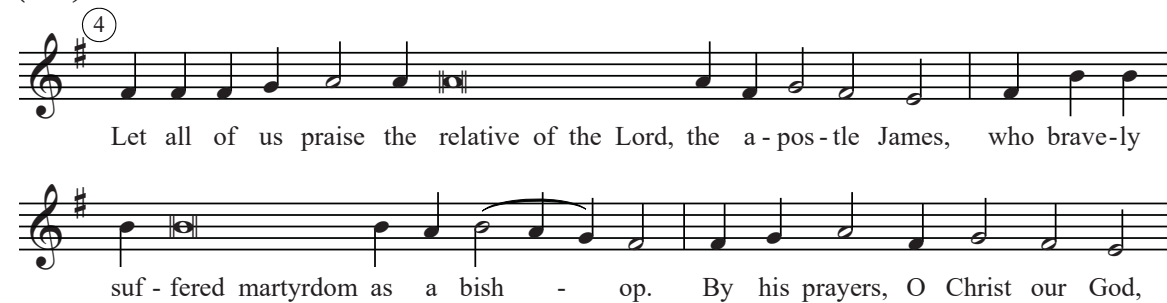
Troparion of the holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 4



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.



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



who was wrapped in swad-dling clothes in the cave, save all those

who ex - tol you.

Cantor: (Tone 4) 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 holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 4 samohlasen

Hav-ing been enlightened by the grace of the Spir - it, O Stephen, in appearance

you seemed to be an an - gel. Your body was bright with in - ner splen - dor,

and you re - vealed a radiance of soul to the on - look - ers. Be - cause of

that, you also had a vi-sion of the Light; heav - en was most gloriously o - pened

up for you, O first of the great mar - - - tyrs.

Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, page 88), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Aposticha doxastikon of the Relatives of the Lord - 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...

Aposticha doxastikon of the holy first martyr Stephen - Tone 6 samohlasen

You showed yourself, O A-pos-tle Ste-phen, to be the first of the martyrs and of the

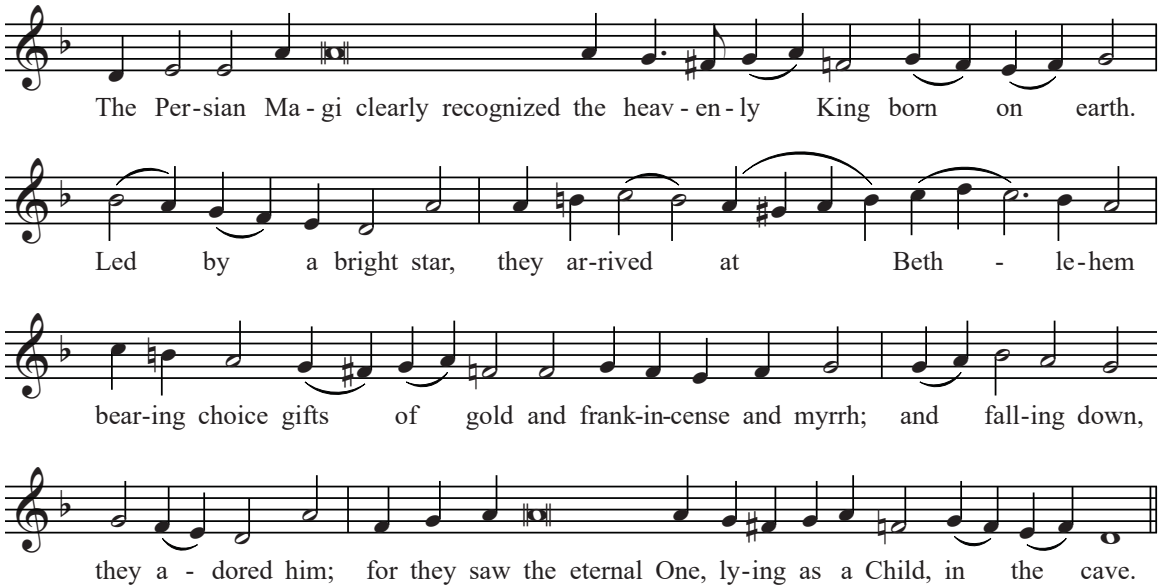
dea - cons. You are the glo-ry of the just, and the pride of the faith - ful.

As one standing before the throne of Christ, the King of all, in be-half of those who

cel - e-brate your mem - o - ry, pray that they may be made worthy of the cleans-ing

Cantor: (Tone 5) Glory...

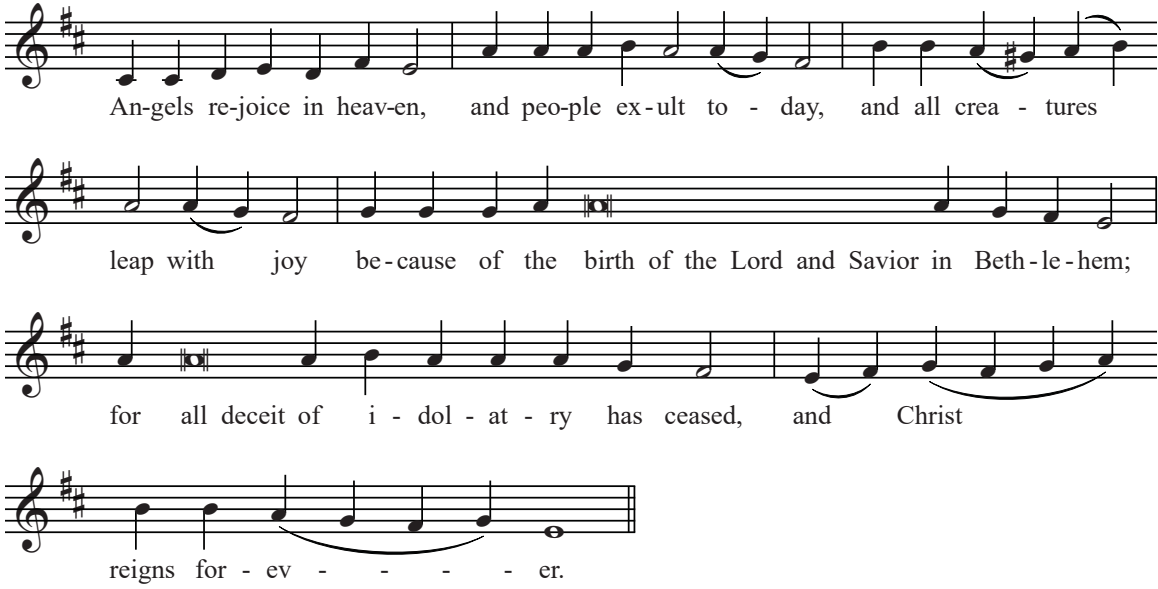
Doxastikon - Tone 5 Bolhar



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.

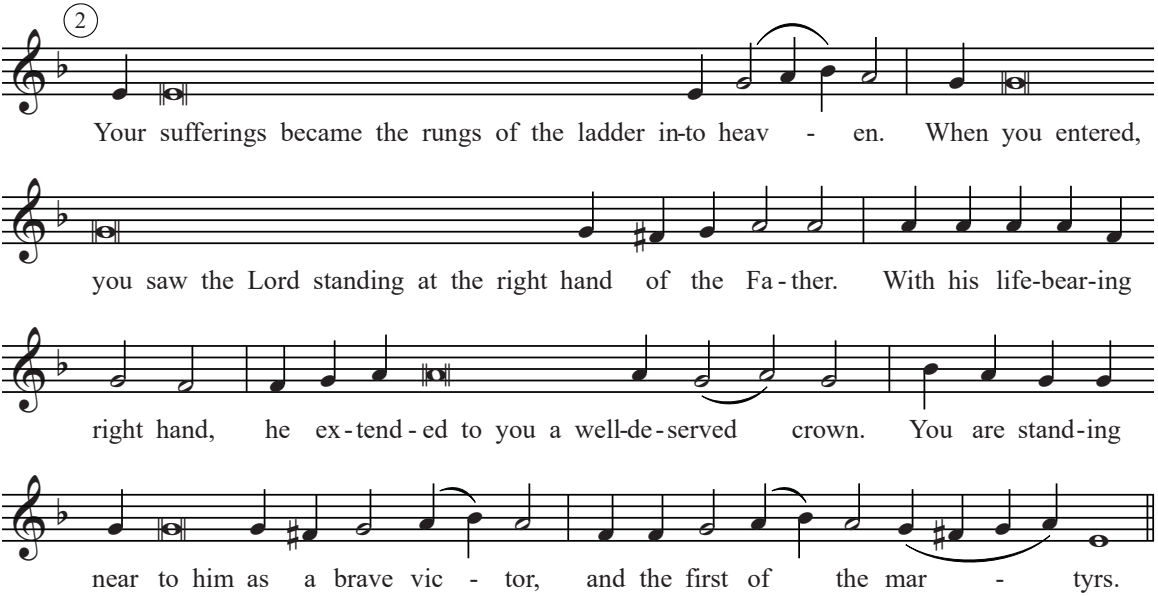
Cantor: (Tone 6) Now and ever...

Tone 6 samohlasen



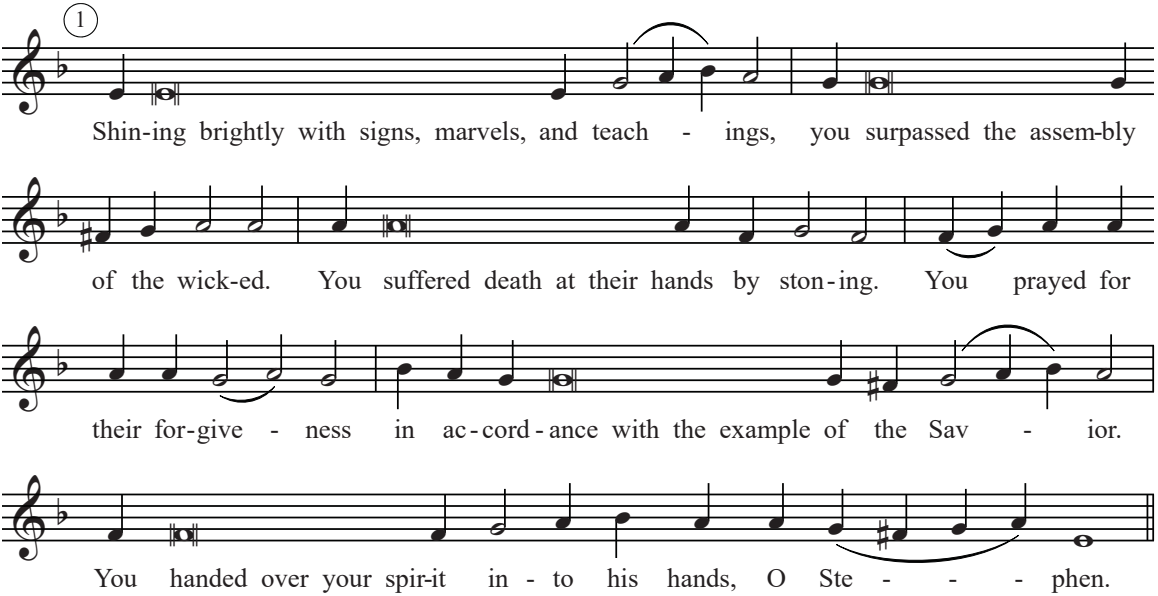
An-gels re-joyce in heav-en, and peo-ple ex-ult to-day, and all crea-tures
leap with joy be-cause of the birth of the Lord and Savior in Beth-le-hem;
for all deceit of i-dol-at-ry has ceased, and Christ
reigns for-ev-er.

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



Your sufferings became the rungs of the ladder in-to heav-en. When you entered,
you saw the Lord standing at the right hand of the Fa-ther. With his life-bear-ing
right hand, he ex-tend-ed to you a well-de-served crown. You are stand-ing
near to him as a brave vic-tor, and the first of the mar-tyrs.

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



Shin-ing brightly with signs, marvels, and teach-ings, you surpassed the assem-bly
of the wick-ed. You suffered death at their hands by ston-ing. You prayed for
their for-give-ness in ac-cord-ance with the example of the Sav-ior.
You handed over your spir-it in-to his hands, O Ste-phen.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Relatives of the Lord - 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 6) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon of the Resurrection tone in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, page 87).

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 - ually 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.