

JANUARY 5 – COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY MARTYRS THEOPEMPTUS & THEONAS COMMEMORATION OF THE VENERABLE SYNCLETICA

Music for the Eve of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord Monday through Saturday

Δόμα ττήχα πέμα μυρομότητα

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τῶν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

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Choral arrangements from

Music for the Order of Vespers and Matins on the Eve of Theophany

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Music for the Eve of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord: Monday-Saturday

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Great Vespers

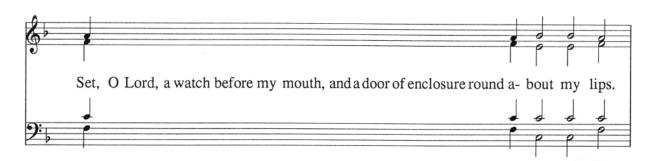
Lord, I Have Cried, in Tone IV

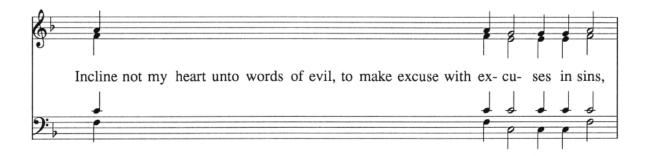






Verses of Lord, I Have Cried





With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their <u>cho</u>sen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not a<u>noint</u> my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their <u>judges</u> been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto <u>ha</u>des.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my <u>soul</u> away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will <u>I</u> declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Thy name.

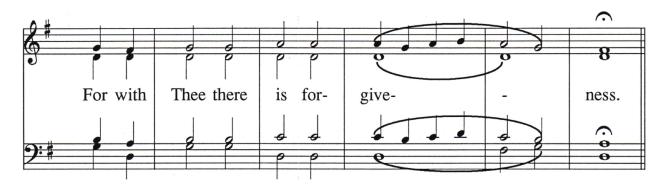
The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

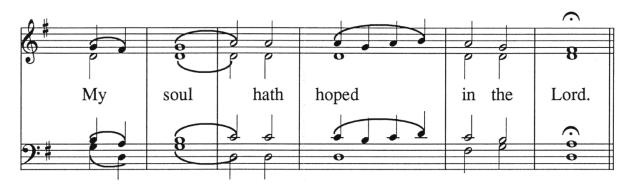
Stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone IV

Stichos: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?



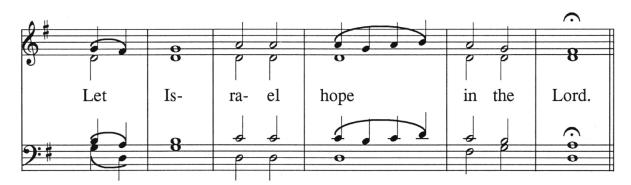
Let us hymn the wise Theonas and Theopemptus,/ for, submitting to the dogmas of Christ,/ and having splendidly abolished all ungodly worship,/ they worshipped the one Lord and God/ in holiness, honor and goodly hope,/ confessing Him right boldly before the tyrants;// and they were crowned from on high.

Stichos: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word:



Having forsaken as fleeting/ those things of life which drag men downwards,/ delight in food and glory which fadeth like a flower,/ 0 most lauded ones, ye cleaved unto Christ,/ enkindled by His comely beauty,/ and ye offered yourselves to Him as sweet-smelling roses,/ and have been divinely crowned// with the diadem of the incorrupt kingdom.

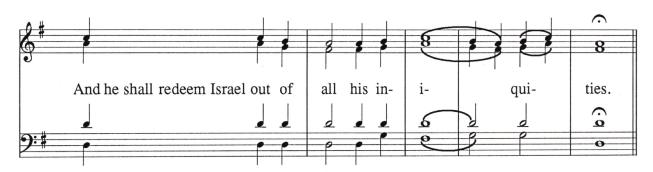
Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch:



Having hated the world ye have been shown to transcend the world,/ and have joined the Church of the firstborn;/ and with the angels ye chant incorrupt hymnody,/ standing together before God./ And having rejected the vile falsehood of idolatry,/ as martyrs ye have put to shame// the mindlessness of the tyrants.

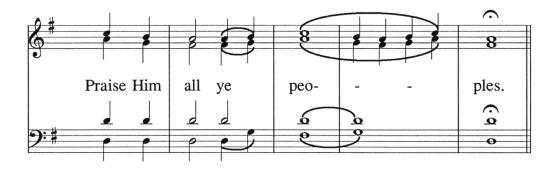
Stichera of the Venerable One, in Tone I

Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption:



Having truly desired the glory of the fathers,/ thou didst love incorrupt glory;/ wherefore, forsaking that which is sweet,/ thou gavest thy body over to all manner of pain.// And, reigning with Christ, thou now receivest the reward for thy pangs.

Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations:



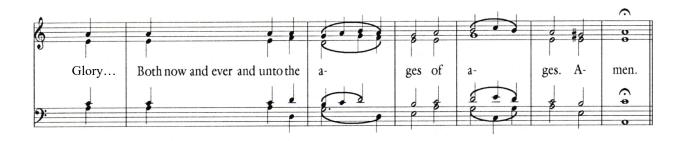
He Who permitted the devil when he asked to tempt Job,/ desiring to try thee like gold,/ left thy body to the violence of the evil one;/ but having put the tempter to shame by the patient endurance of infirmities,// thou hast been crowned with a wreath of victory.

Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us:



Yearning for the comely beauty of Christ the Bridegroom,/ and desiring to wed thyself to Him/ by all manner of good works,/ thou didst adorn thyself with the pangs of asceticism;// wherefore, thou now reignest with Him in His bridal-chamber.

Glory, Both now, of the Forefeast, in Tone VI

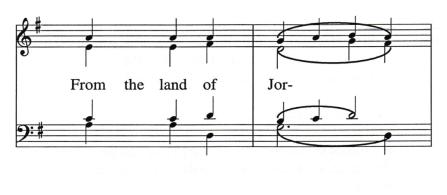


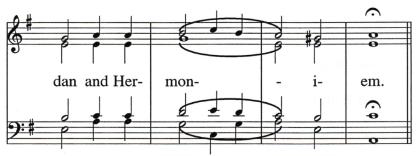
Make ready, O River Jordan!/ For, lo! Christ God cometh to be baptized by John,/ that in thy waters He might crush the heads of the invisible serpents by His divinity!/ Rejoice, O wilderness of Jordan!/ Ye mountains, leap up with gladness;/ for our eternal Life cometh to restore Adam!/ O Forerunner John, thou art the voice of one crying in the wilderness:// "Prepare ye the ways of the Lord and make straight His paths!"

Aposticha, in Tone VI

O earth, and ye that are above the earth,/ exult and rejoice!/ the Torrent of sweetness is baptized in the river,/ drying up the outpouring of malice;// and He poureth forth divine remission.

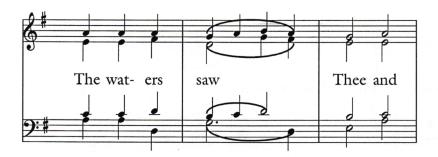
Stichos: Therefore will I remember Thee:

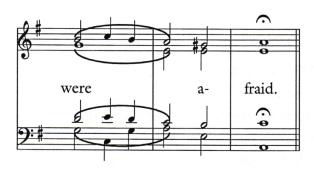




As the Bestower of light/ Jesus hath no need to be baptized,/ yet He cometh in the flesh to the streams of the Jordan,/ desiring to enlighten those who are in darkness.// With fervor let us greet Him with faith!

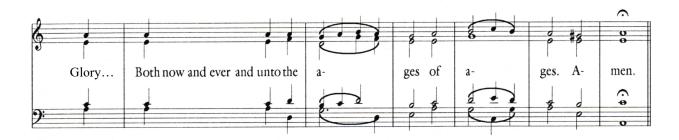
Stichos: The waters saw Thee, O God:





Having assumed the guise of a servant,/ thou comest to be baptized by a servant,/ in the streams of the Jordan, O Christ,/ delivering us from bondage to the ancient sin,// sanctifying and illumining us.

Glory, Both now, in Tone VI



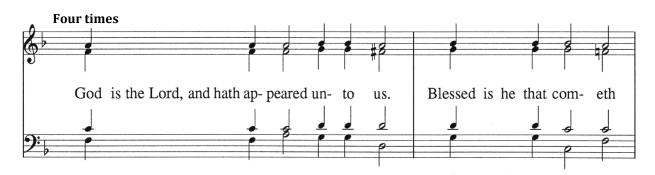
Let the wilderness of Jordan rejoice,/ and let it blossom like a lily;/ for therein hath been heard the voice of one crying in the wilderness:/ "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"/ For He Who set forth the mountains with a measure/ and the forested places with His scales,/ Who as God filleth all things,/ is baptized by a servant,/ granting rich gifts at the beginning of His impoverishment./ Eve once heard: "In pain thou shalt give birth to children";/ but now the Virgin hath heard:/ "Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!// The Lord is with thee, Who hath great mercy!"

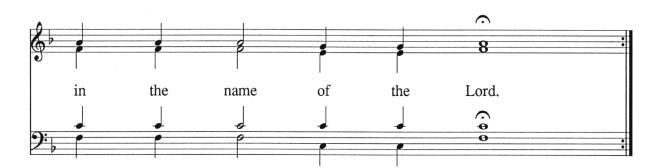
Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

Once, the River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha/ when Elijah was borne aloft,/ and the waters were parted on either side,/ and the path which before was wet became dry for him,/ as a true image of baptism,/ whereby we pass through the flow of life.// Christ hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters. *Thrice*

Matins

God is the Lord, in Tone IV





Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

Once, the River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha/ when Elijah was borne aloft,/ and the waters were parted on either side,/ and the path which before was wet became dry for him,/ as a true image of baptism,/ whereby we pass through the flow of life.// Christ hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters. *Thrice*

After the First Chanting of the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn

Tone I, Special Melody: The choir of the angels...

Be glad, O River Jordan! For unto thee doth the Creator come of His own will, to receive baptism from a servant, in that He is compassionate. Adorn thyself and dance, O Adam, and Eve our first mother! The all-good God hath come, the deliverance of all!

Glory..., Both now..., in the same melody

The Master, as the Torrent of delight, cometh forth to be baptized in the river's streams, desiring to fill me with purity through the waters; and John, beholding Him, cried aloud: "How can I stretch forth my hand to touch the head of Thee before Whom all things tremble?"

After the Second Chanting of the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn

Tone III, Special Melody: Awed by the beauty of thy virginity...

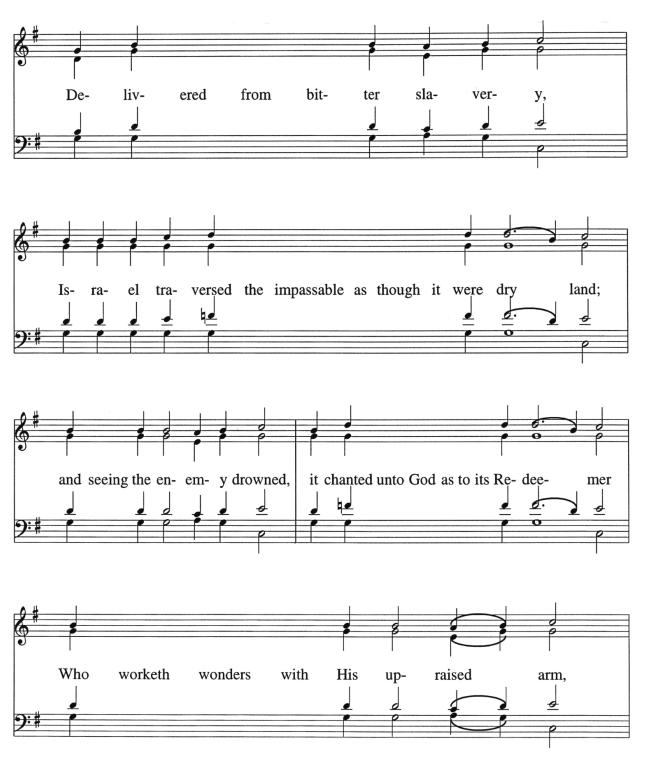
Clothing the nakedness of Adam in the raiment of glory, O Compassionate One, Thou desirest to strip Thyself naked in the flesh, in the River Jordan. O the all-glorious wonder! How doth water receive Thee, O Lord and Master, Who coverest the chambers with waters, as it is written? O Jesus our Benefactor, we all hymn Thine epiphany!

Glory..., Both now..., in the same melody

Christ our God, the great Sun Who shone forth from the Virgin as from a cloud, cometh to shine forth in the Jordan, dispelling the darkness of sin and illumining the ends of the world. Let us pray with piety, that we may receive His effulgence, asking for great mercy.

Canon of the Forefeast, with 6 Troparia, including the irmos; that of the Martyrs, with 4 Troparia; and that of the Venerable One, with 4 Troparia.

Ode ICanon of the Forefeast, in Tone I





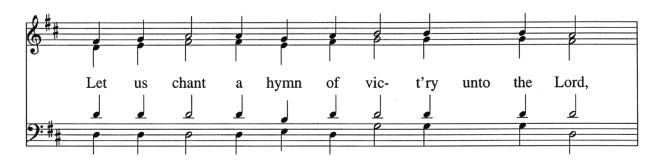
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

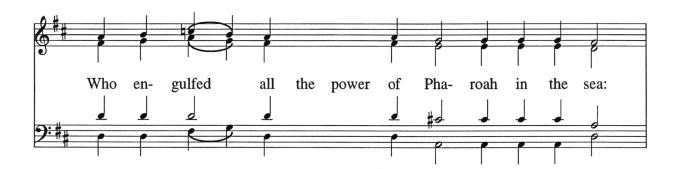
Christ cometh to baptism! Christ arriveth at the Jordan! Christ now burieth our sins in the water, in that He is good! With gladness let us chant unto Him, for He hath been glorified.

Let the clouds, rejoicing, let great gladness fall! Jesus Christ cometh forth to drown the torrents of men's sin in the waters of the Jordan, granting enlightenment unto all.

Behold, the Light is revealed! Behold, purification is shown forth! Lo! the Savior standeth forth to shine rays of His divine splendor upon those in darkness! Let us joyfully embrace Him with pure thoughts.

Canon of the Martyrs, in Tone VII







Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

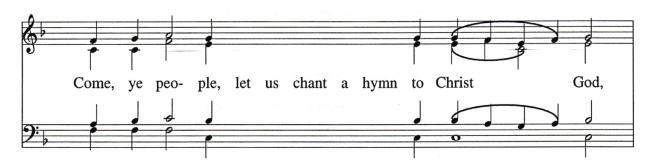
Come, ye faithful, and glorifying together let us celebrate on the Forefeast the memorial of the athletes, Christ in spiritual hymns.

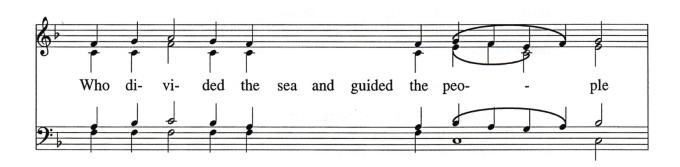
The passion-bearers of Christ and steadfast champions of the Faith, having armed themselves with might against ungodliness, vanquished the enemy,

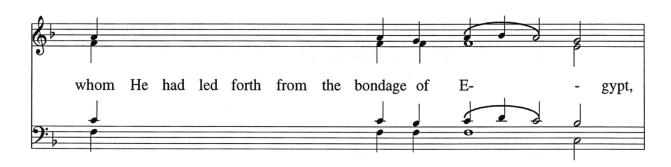
The ungodly and impious tyrant, a stranger to the Faith of Christ who raged against the passion-bearers, is destroyed by their faith.

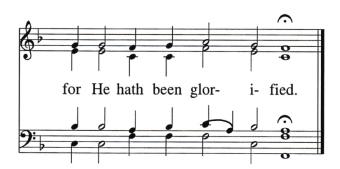
Theotokion: O Theotokos, from all want do thou save this flock which thou hast acquired, making entreaty to our God and Savior.

Canon of the Venerable One, in Tone II









Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

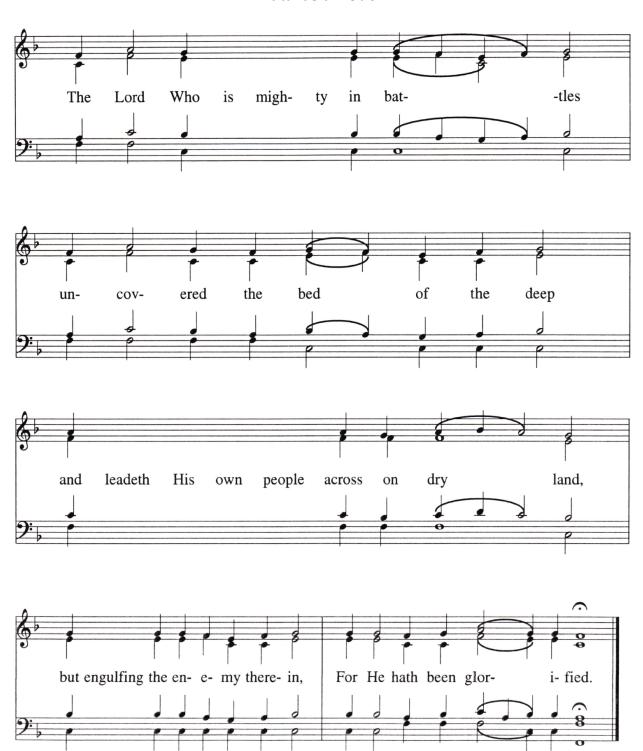
I who am senseless and wholly impure come forth to crown thy memory with hymns, setting my hope on thee. Grant me the discourse of wisdom and understanding by thine entreaties.

Having taken thy whole mind up to the divine heights, and come to know the abyss of good things and the goodness of delight, thou didst endure all that befell thee.

Desiring great glory, thou gavest wings to thy mind, to soar aloft to God Most High, and through abstinence and pangs didst lighten thy body, which had drawn thee down toward the earth.

Theotokion: He Who became incarnate of thy womb, O Theotokos, remained what He was before, and bestowed upon us who were created from dust that which we were in the beginning, delivering us from our transgressions.

Katavasia - Ode I



Ode IIICanon of the Forefeast



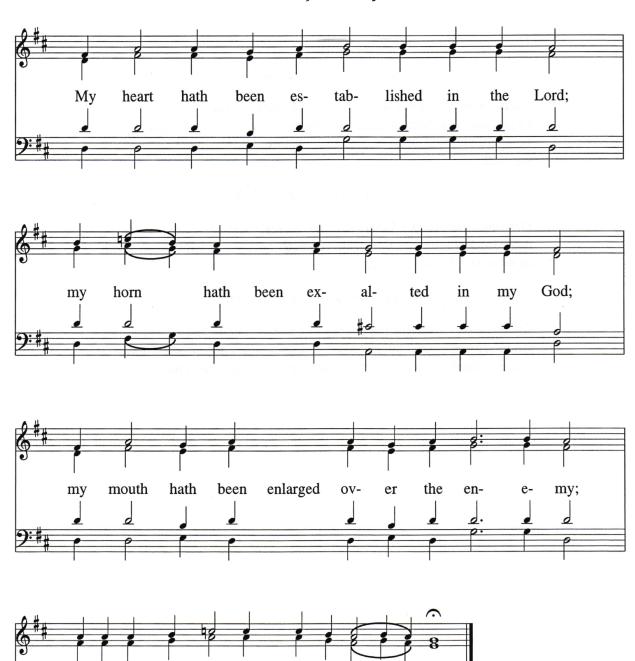
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Christ, Who hath been seated with the Father and the Spirit from before time began, and Who became incarnate of the Virgin in latter times, cometh to baptism, granting immortality unto all through the divine font, as He knoweth.

Desiring, in the loving-kindness of His mercy, to bury our sins with water in the Jordan's streams, Christ God cometh forth and by baptism restoreth us who have become corrupt.

Covering the shameful nakedness of our first father Adam, Thou hast voluntarily stripped Thyself naked, O Christ, and Thou coverest Thyself in the streams of the Jordan, O Thou Who alone art greatly merciful, and Who coverest Thy chambers with waters.

Canon of the Martyrs



- tion.

and I have found glad-ness in Thy sal-va-

Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

Let us praise Theopemptus and the all-glorious Theonas, the proponents of piety and faith, the divine athletes.

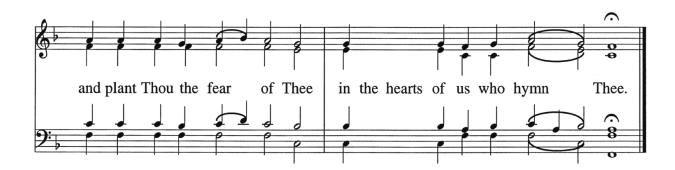
Having shown yourselves to be a rule, a model and an example, O great martyrs of Christ, for the saints ye became guides to martyrdom.

Eagerly desiring their life of virtue, the martyrs who stood together with them at the tribunal cried aloud: "All of us are Christians!"

Theotokion: Thou wast ineffably born of the Virgin, O Thou Who lovest mankind, and hast revealed Thyself as was Thy good pleasure, and hast restored the world, O Lord.

Canon of the Venerable One





Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

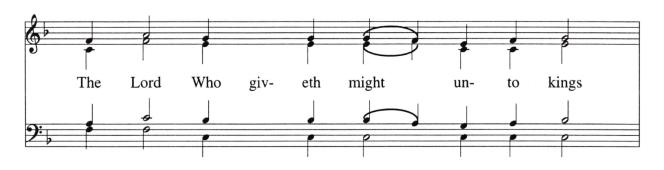
Thou didst not spare thy flesh many wounds, nor the agony of being dragged irresistibly to the pangs of abstinence, wherein the tempter was expelled.

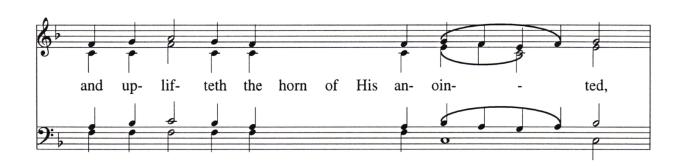
Thou didst choose the narrow path which leadeth to the divine life of incorruption, spurning the wide path, of which there is truly naught worse for the mind to contemplate.

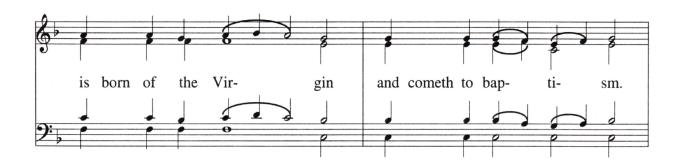
Thou didst escape the burning flower of youth through the privations and pangs of asceticism, and with the outpourings of thy tears didst extinguish the burning of thine eyes.

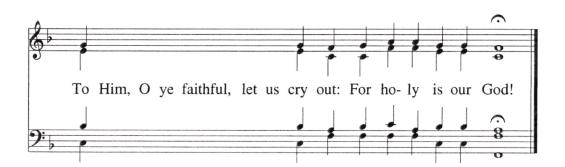
Theotokion: The Word Who became incarnate of thee, O most pure one, desiring to wash away the defilement of the flesh, amazed the water's flow with the manner of His cleansing.

Katavasia - Ode III









Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone II

Special Melody: Seeking the highest...

O Christ, Who in Thy compassion and infinite mercy/ takest away the multitude of all our transgressions,/ Thou comest as a man to be baptized/ in the waters of the Jordan,/ clothing me in the raiment of the ancient glory// of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Sessional Hymn of the Martyrs

Tone I, Special Melody: Thy tomb, O Savior...

Theopemptus, who hath been shown to be a holy hierarch for those here below, together with the steadfast Theonas, his fellow athlete, is wounded, crying out with joy to the torturers who were unable to bear their opposition: "I honor Thee Who alone hast buried the transgressions of mortals in the streams of the Jordan!"

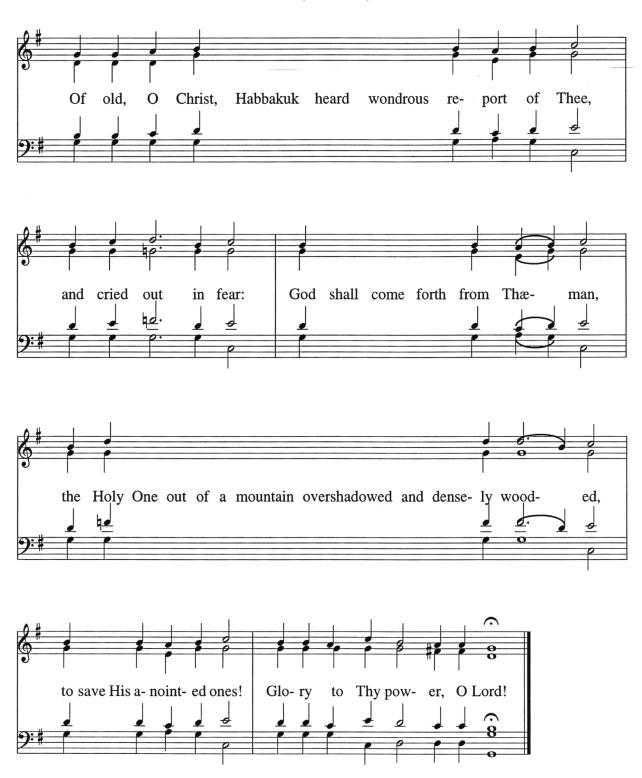
Glory...: another Sessional Hymn, of the Venerable One Tone V, Special Melody: The Word Who with the Father and the Spirit is equally without beginning...

Thou hast transcended the pain of enduring ascetic feats, and dost delight in the sublime mansions in the heavens and hast been filled with greater radiance, for thou didst manfully tread the difficult path, transcending things present. Thou didst make thyself like unto the angels, and now sharest in their glory.

Both now...: Sessional Hymn of the Forefeast Tone I, Special Melody: Thy tomb, O Savior...

The great Rain cometh forth to the river's streams, desiring to be baptized in the flesh; and to Him the godly Forerunner said in fear: "How can I baptize Thee Who art wholly without defilement? How can I stretch forth my hand to the head of Thee before Whom all things tremble?"

Ode IVCanon of the Forefeast



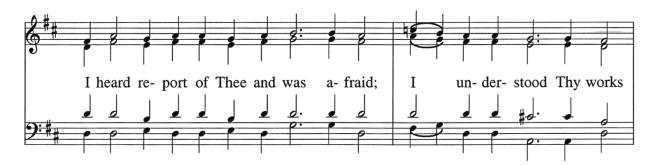
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Draw ye forth the water of life! For, lo! the River of peace truly cometh to dry up the rolling waters of unbelief and to pour forth enlightenment upon those who sing to Him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Be glad, O human nature, thou desert which before was arid with thirst! The Torrent of delight hath now appeared, freeing all from the burning heat of sin with the waters of the Jordan. To Him do we chant with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

The voice of one crying forth in prophecy thundered forth upon barren minds, saying: "Prepare ye straight ways for Christ Who cometh, that He may through baptism purify us who have grown old, releasing us from our primal condemnation!"

Canon of the Martyrs





Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

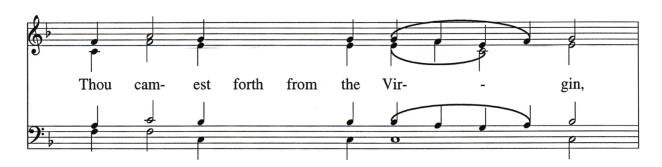
Ye watered the whole world with divine discourses, 0 great martyrs of Christ, and set falsehood at naught.

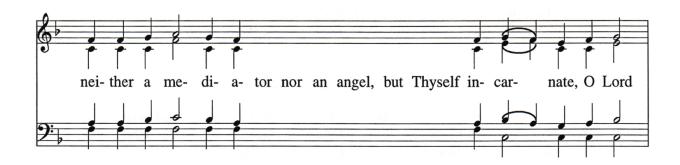
Riches which cannot be taken away did the athletes truly find, and they spat upon wealth, glory and the fame of mortals.

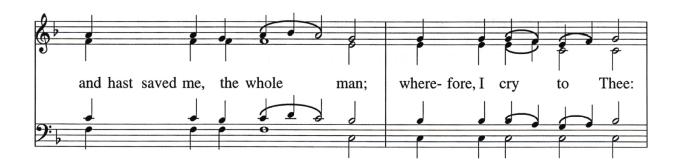
Having put on the armor of Christ, therein the passion-bearers repelled all the savagery of the tyrants.

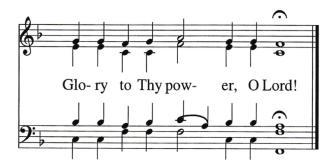
Theotokion: O pure Mother, blessed and holy Virgin, from every evil circumstance save those who hymn thee.

Canon of the Venerable One









Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

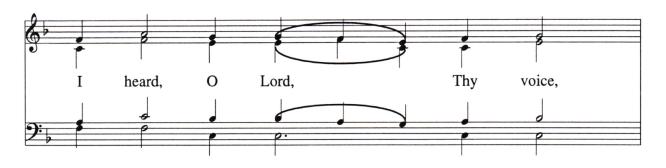
Excelling in the beauty of thy body, thou wast spoken for by many, who did not obtain their desire. Wherefore, having laid waste to thy body, thou didst partake of divine beauty.

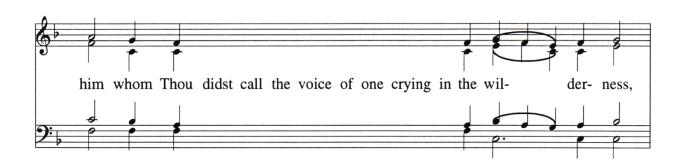
Like Job, thou didst endure bodily affliction and didst not protest the sentence imposed upon thee; and, transcending nature and time, thou hast received a divine habitation.

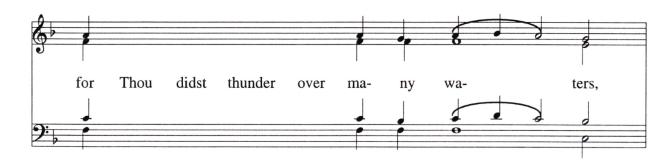
Thou didst withdraw from thy kinfolk, parents and estates, seeking Christ alone, the inexhaustible riches which cannot be taken away, and with Him thou hast been shown to be a partaker of glory on high.

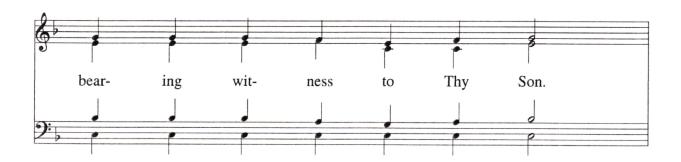
Theotokion: Thine Offspring hath delivered Adam from corruption, having become like man except for corruption; for thy conceiving transcended man. Wherefore, O Maiden, deliver me from corruption and evils.

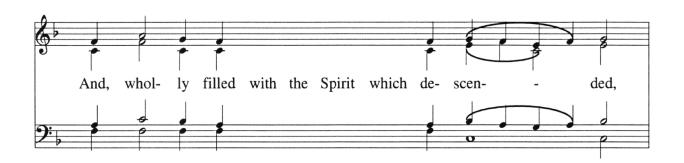
Katavasia - Ode IV





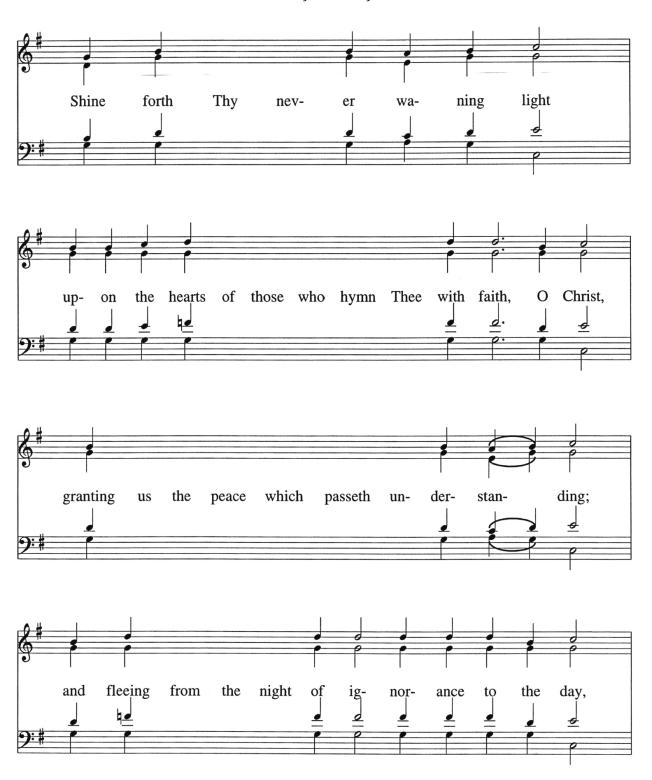


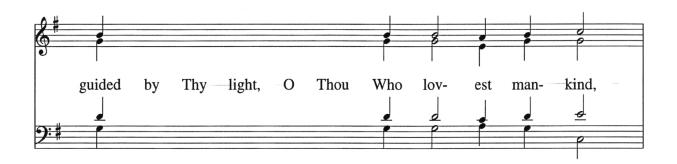


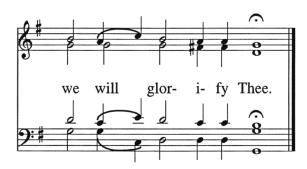




Ode VCanon of the Forefeast







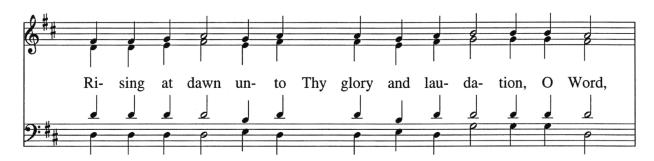
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

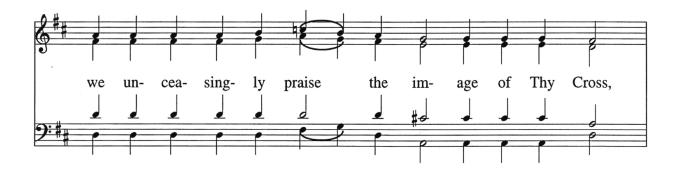
As King of peace, Thou hast broken down the middle-wall of enmity, appearing to those on earth in fleshly form; wherefore, beholding Thine arrival, John marvelled in fear when he was commanded to place his hand upon Thee.

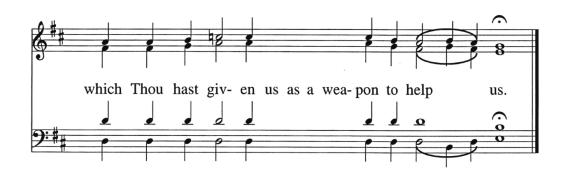
Hastening, Christ cometh now to crush the heads of the serpents in the waters, and crieth out to the trembling baptist: "Stretch forth thy hand, and touch my head, and shake off thine awe, doing that which thou art commanded!"

The prophet once uttered the grace of baptism in the divine Spirit, striking the streams of the Jordan with his mantle; and they have parted, making for us a path to the divine regeneration of Christ Who hath appeared therein.

Canon of the Martyrs







Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

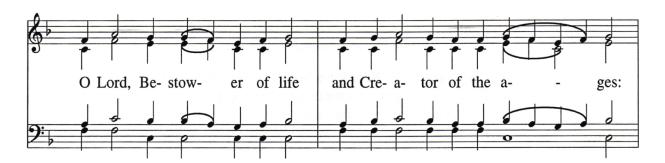
The wise athletes, the warriors of the Faith, having valiantly vanquished the torments of the all-iniquitous enemy, have together received crowns.

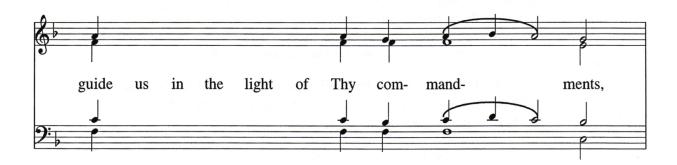
Neither inducements, nor lies, nor earthly glory were able to bring an end to your contest of faith, O athletes; wherefore, rejoice ye!

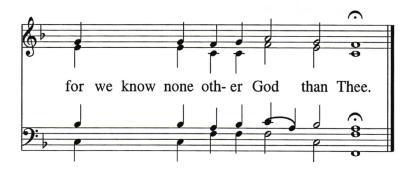
Standing before the throne of the glory of the Lord, with the angels make unceasing supplication, that He grant cleansing of transgressions to those who hymn you with faith.

Theotokion: O most holy Virgin who art full of joy, and who, in manner past description, gavest birth to the Word in time: Entreat Him, that He save our souls.

Canon of the Venerable One







Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

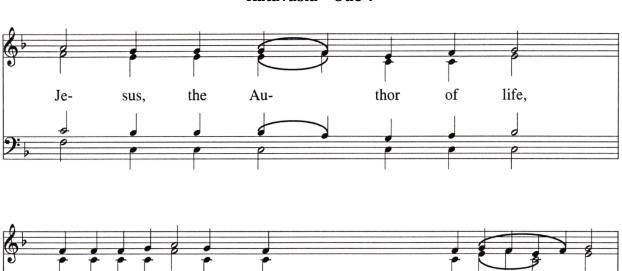
Thou wast a temple of the Word Who dwelleth among the pure spirits, O wise one; for thou didst illumine the beauty of thy soul with the manifold pangs of abstinence, O all-glorious one.

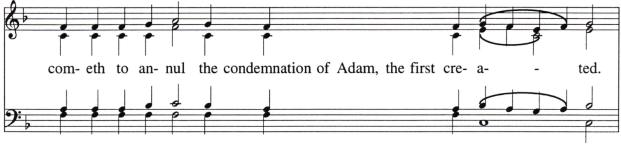
With many pangs, thou didst mortify the flesh which was robed in purple by natural grace, making the shining image of thy soul yet brighter in radiance through the light of the virtues.

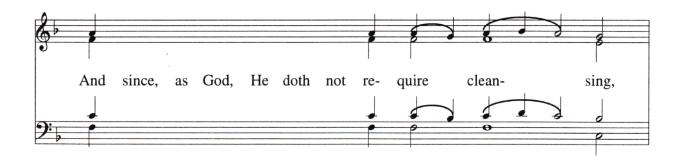
Having set the matter of thy body afire with the desire of thy soul for Christ, thou dost now truly rejoice immaterially with the immaterial angels, gazing upon God.

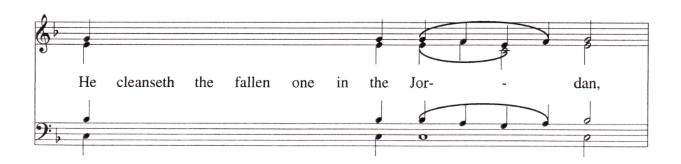
Theotokion: The Head of the pious, Who without seed was truly born of thy womb, O most pure one, hath now crushed the heads of the serpents who made their lair in the streams.

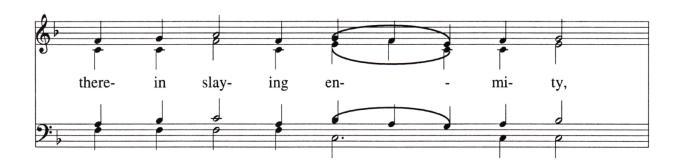
Katavasia - Ode V

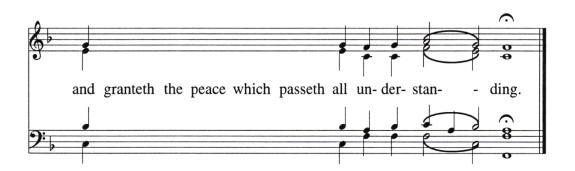




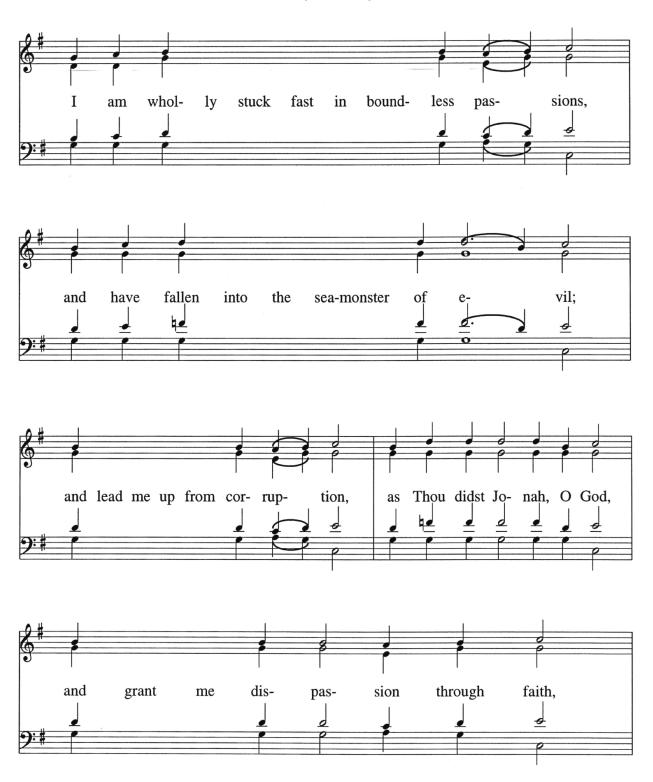


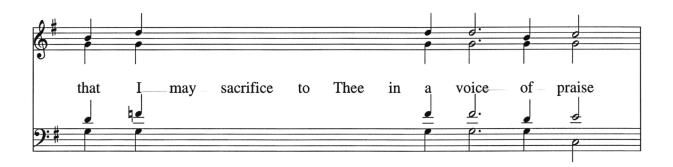






Ode VICanon of the Forefeast







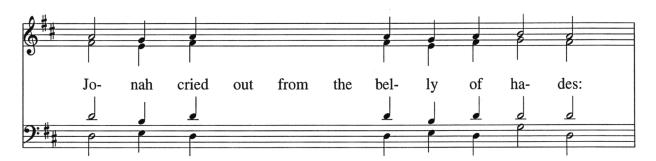
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

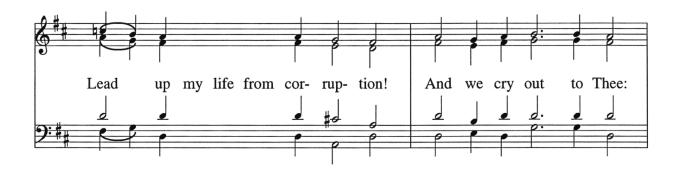
Showing forth the loving-kindness of His compassions, the immutable Christ cometh to a servant in the guise of a servant, asking baptism, and rescuing mankind from slavery; and marvelling at His coming, the Forerunner stood in awe, held fast by fear.

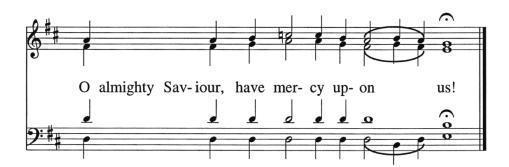
How can the river's streams receive Thee, the unbearable Fire Who art now come? How can the angels of heaven look upon Thy nakedness? How can the hand of John stretch forth to touch Thee, O Word of God Who art wholly without beginning, and Who created him on earth?

Fleeing, the sea is parted, disclosing for the new people a divine path which He Who allgloriously poured forth water from the rock, having come in the flesh, hath made in the midst of the river. Let us glorify as God Him Who hath built up anew our ruination.

Canon of the Martyrs







Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

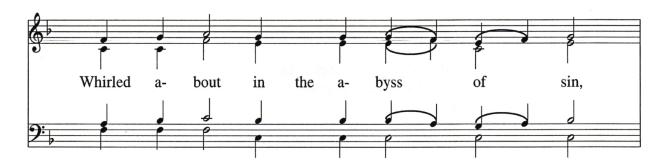
Contending in the arena, the martyrs set at naught the falsehood of idolatry and rooted out all ungodliness from the earth by their martyrdom.

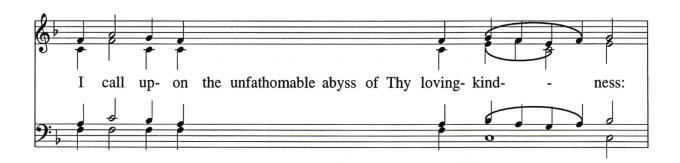
O glorious martyrs, the enemy and persecutor of the Faith set his minions to slay thee cruelly with swords, like lambs.

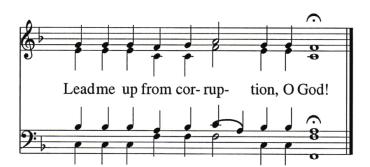
When the choir of the saints beheld the tormenters armed with swords, they manfully cried aloud: "We are soldiers of Christ, O tyrant!"

Theotokion: Cease thou never in thy supplications to our God, to Whom thou didst ineffably give birth, O Theotokos, that He deliver from misfortunes us who hymn thee, O pure Evervirgin.

Canon of the Venerable One







Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

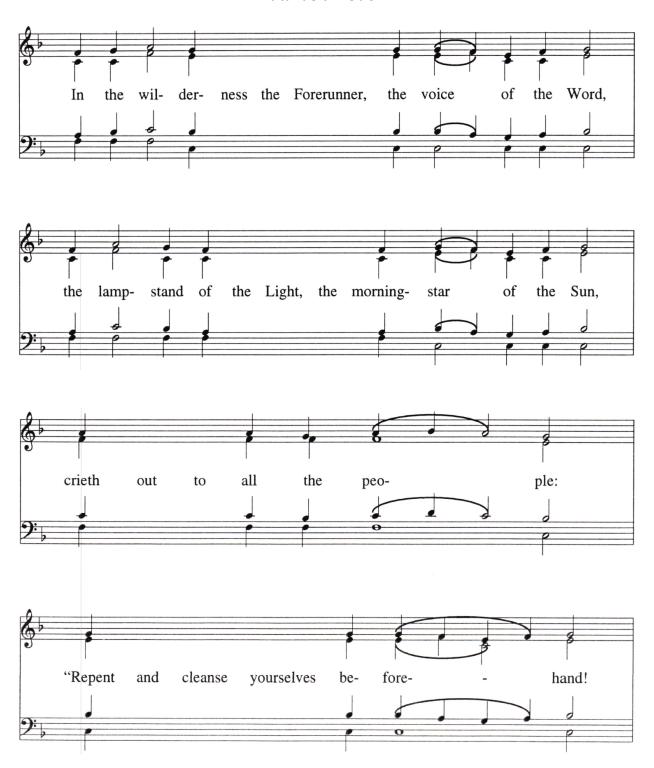
Illumined with the radiance of the Spirit, thou didst reject all the delight of the flesh as a thing of the night; for thou wast crowned with the desire for good things.

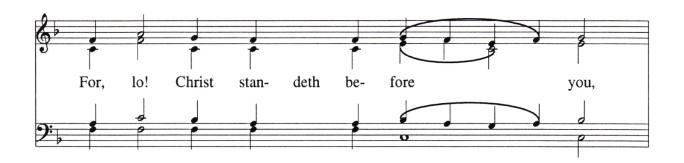
Today thy splendid memorial hath shone forth from afar, enlightening the darkness of men's souls, O adornment of struggling monastics.

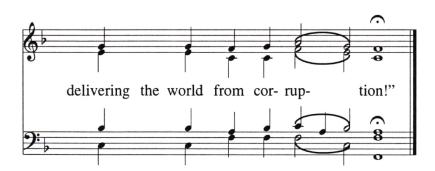
Thou didst preserve the purity of thy virginity, honoring the incorrupt bridal-chamber; for thou wast afire with desire for Christ, thine awesome Bridegroom.

Theotokion: That we might be filled with glory, the Lord of glory hath come to inglorious humanity; and, washed like a man, thy Son hath glorified men.

Katavasia - Ode VI





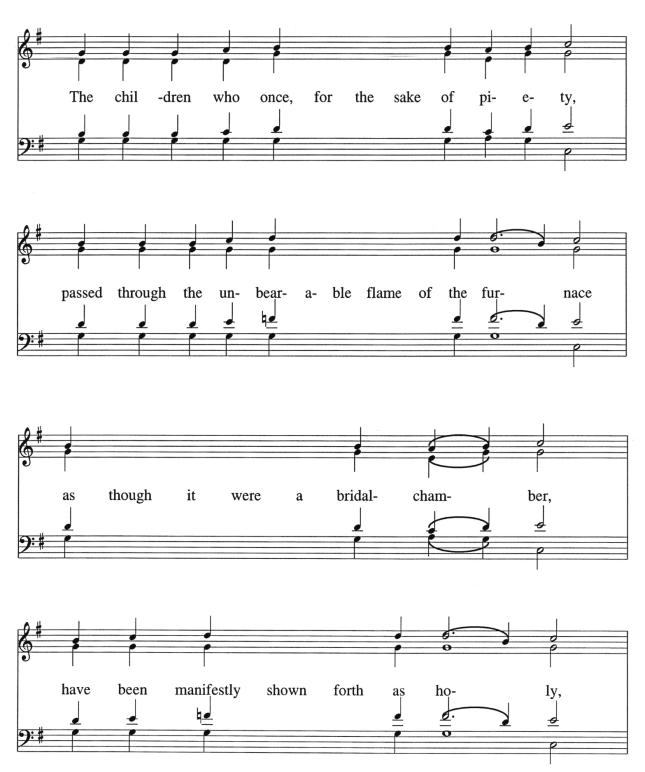


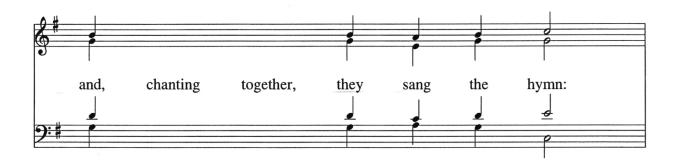
Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

In the streams of the Jordan/ the Lord crieth out to John today:/ Fear not to baptize Me,/ for I have come// to save Adam the first-created!

Ikos: "I do not require thee to transgress the bounds of what is meet, O Baptist; I say not unto thee: Tell Me what thou tellest the iniquitous, and what thou teachest sinners. Only baptize Me in silence, awaiting those things which come through baptism; for it is for this cause that thou hast received a dignity which even the angels do not possess; for I have made thee greater than all the prophets. Thus, not one of them beheld Me plainly, but only in images, shadows and reflections; but thou beheldest Me standing before thee. For I am come to save Adam the first-created!"

Ode VIICanon of the Forefeast







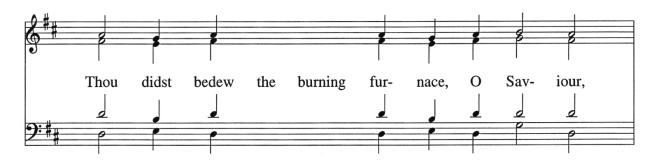
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

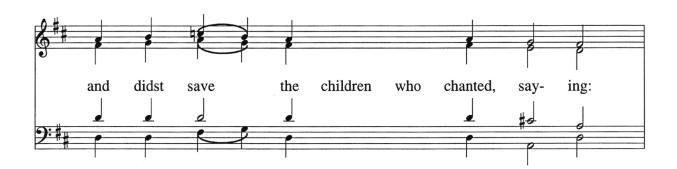
Christ hath revealed Himself as our salvation, granting us enlightenment. Let heaven rejoice, and let the clouds truly drop down righteousness upon those who cry: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The fleece which Gideon foresaw, the full cup of water drawn forth therefrom, manifestly foretold Thy baptism, O Christ, which Thou, having undergone it, givest to those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Elisha, in healing the barren and brackish waters, prefigured the fruitfulness of the precious font which would mystically come upon those who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Canon of the Martyrs







Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

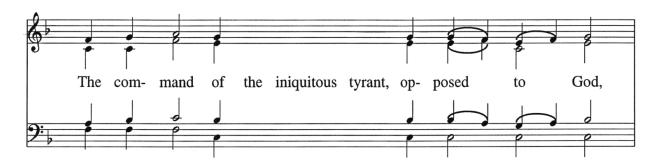
Together ye accepted martyrdom, slain by the sword with your wives and children, crying out to Christ: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

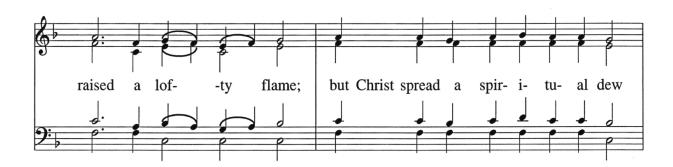
The saints rejoiced, beholding themselves slain by the sword, and with faith they cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

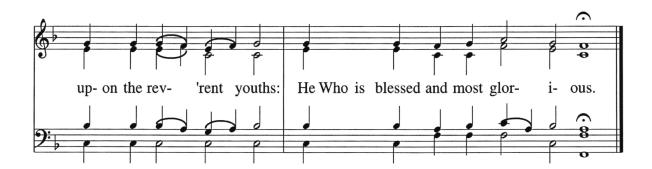
The savagery of the ungodly hath been extirpated from the earth, the false gods have fallen headlong and been broken asunder by the confession of the martyrs, who have received crowns.

Theotokion: Save thy flock from every evil circumstance, O most holy and pure one, for thou alone art the intercessor of our race, O most hymned and blessed Theotokos.

Canon of the Venerable One







Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

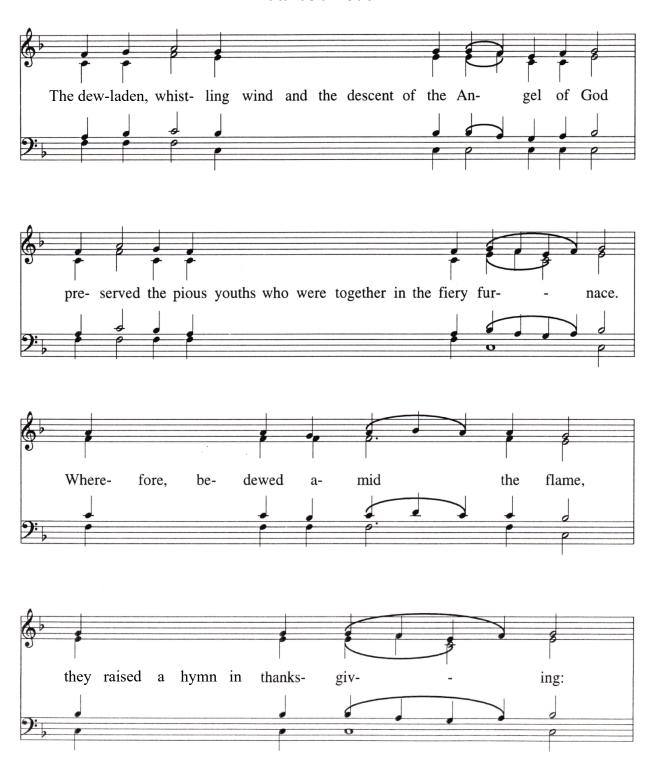
The adversary, plotting wickedly, strove to weaken the strength of thy soul by infirmities; but he who tried the patience of Job was driven away by thy wisdom and pangs, wounded by thy patience, O wise one.

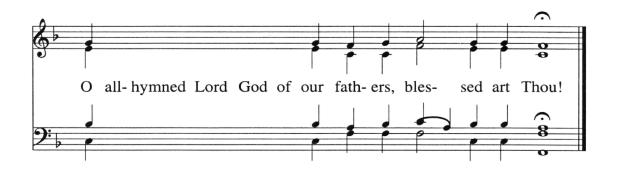
Rich in beauty, thy soul hath now escaped the threefold billows of life for the right tranquil haven in the divine habitations, O wise one, where a place of rest hath been prepared for thee because of thy great endurance of sufferings.

Thou didst wisely teach, saying: "One must never change one's place of residence in the cœnobitic life, for endurance winneth great rewards." And thou wast truly not slow to employ words and actions to benefit monastics.

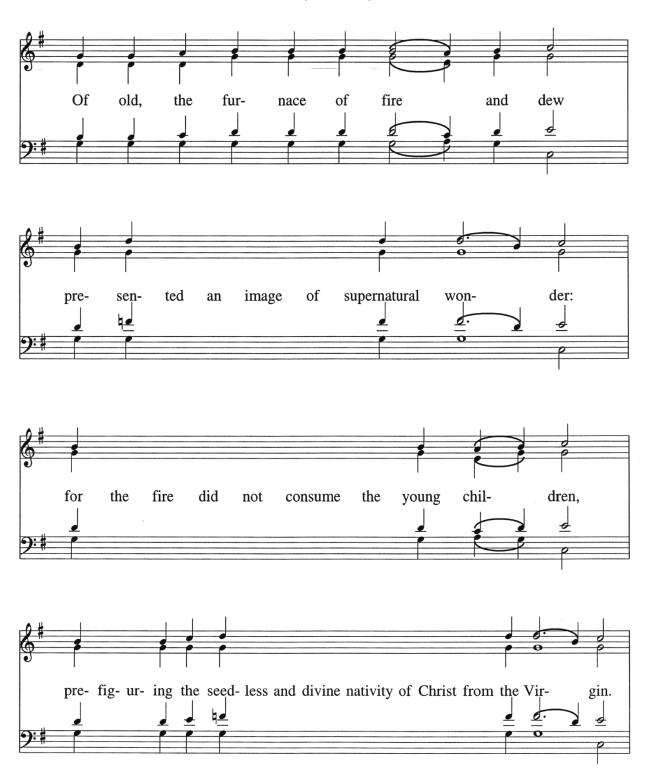
Theotokion: The nature of water cleanseth me of sin through the wisdom of thy supernatural Offspring, O Virgin Bride of God; for the cleansing of God, the Creator of life, cleanseth me who have defiled myself with many offenses.

Katavasia - Ode VII

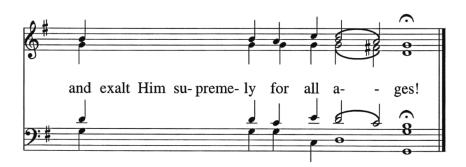




Ode VIIICanon of the Forefeast







Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

With a loud voice let us send up praise to the Master. He hath arrived! He hath appeared! He Who clotheth the sky with clouds cometh up to the waters and doth strip Himself naked. And He is baptized, cleansing us who chant: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Come ye, and let us noetically go to the Jordan; and let us behold therein a great sight: for Jesus our enlightenment cometh and boweth His head beneath the hand of a servant, who crieth out with trembling: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Burning in the waters of the Jordan, the glowing Ember which Isaiah foresaw, hath consumed all the tinder of sin and hath granted restoration to the ruined. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Canon of the Martyrs



Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

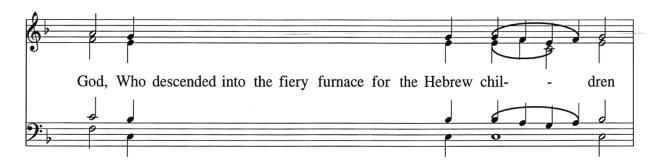
The wise athletes, confessing the only compassionate King of glory, received crowns of honor, crying out with goodly boldness: Ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

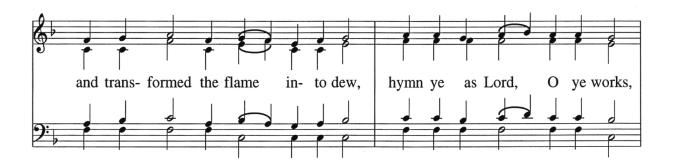
The athletes of Christ steadfastly opposed the tormenters, suffering valiantly, and they vanquished the falsehood of idolatry, crying out with goodly boldness: Ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

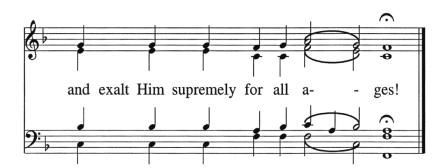
Triumphing over the threats and tortures of the tyrants, like adamant, the valiant warriors joyously cried out: Hymn the Lord, ye priests! Ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

Theotokion: The one compassionate and preëternal Word, Who was born of the Virgin in the latter days and hath saved the human race, do ye hymn, O priests! Ye people, exalt Him supremely forever!

Canon of the Venerable One







Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

While living on earth, thou didst truly desire to attain unto the land of the blessed, where the ranks of the angels, the venerable, the fasters and virgins, dwelling eternally, hymn Christ for all ages.

As one surpassing many in natural comeliness, thou didst care for thy soul, wisely preserving thy spiritual beauty; wherefore, having caused the beauty of thy body to wither, thou didst set thy soul afire with abstinence.

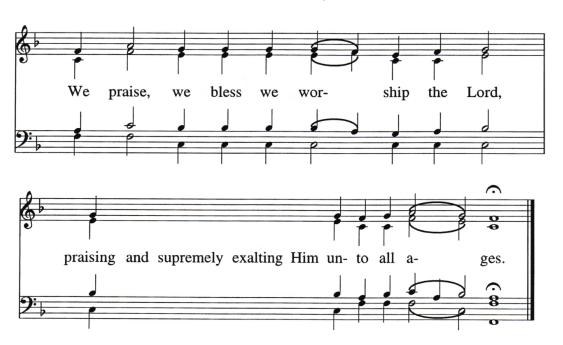
We bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: the Lord.

Having acquired a mind vigilant for God through spiritual fervor, thou didst set the wiles of the lying deviser of evils utterly at naught, O glorious one; and now, having fallen asleep, thou livest forever.

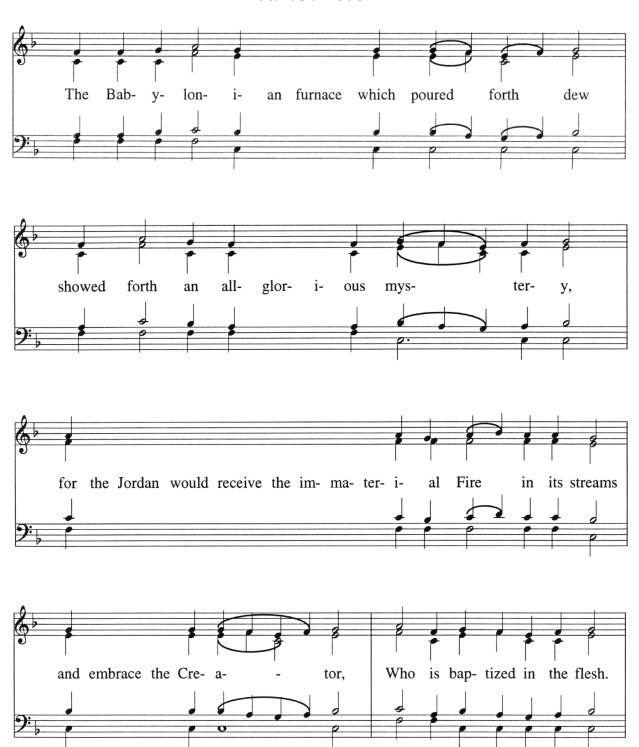
Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

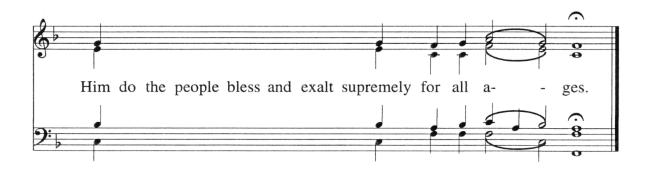
Theotokion: Desiring in His extreme love to restore mortals, O pure one, thy Son hasteneth to the Jordan as a man; for there He breaketh Him Who brought ruin upon all, renewing the world by thy supplications.

We Praise, We Bless



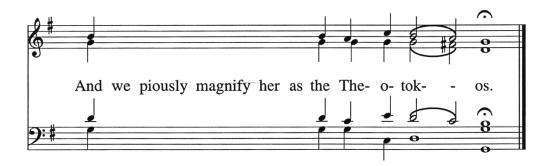
Katavasia - Ode VIII





Ode IXCanon of the Forefeast





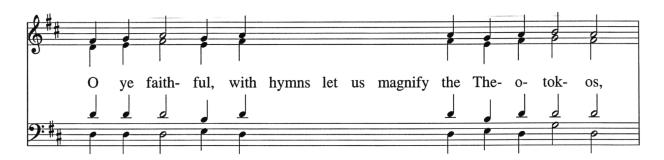
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

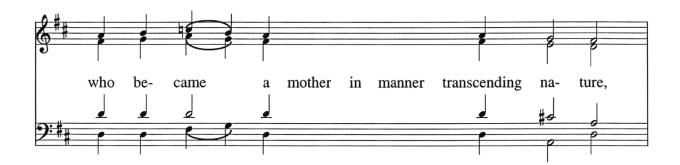
An awesome and all-glorious mystery do I behold! Jesus cometh of His own will to the River Jordan, crying out to John: "Grant Me the loan of thy right hand, My friend, that it may perform awesome works for the preservation of My people."

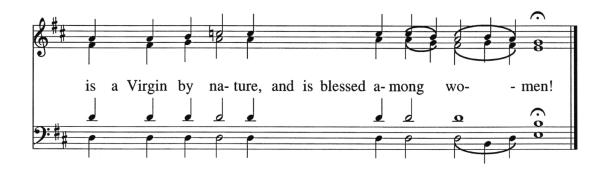
Let the desert of the Jordan put forth flowers! O ye who lie in darkness, a great Light hath revealed Itself to you! Beholding It, leap up! Coming from Galilee, Christ desireth to be baptized in the flesh by a servant!

Be glad now and dance, O Jordan! Leap up, O John! Rejoice, all the world! Lo! Christ hath appeared: He strippeth Himself naked and is baptized, clothing mankind in the raiment of incorruption!

Canon of the Martyrs







Refrain: O Holy Martyrs, pray to God for us.

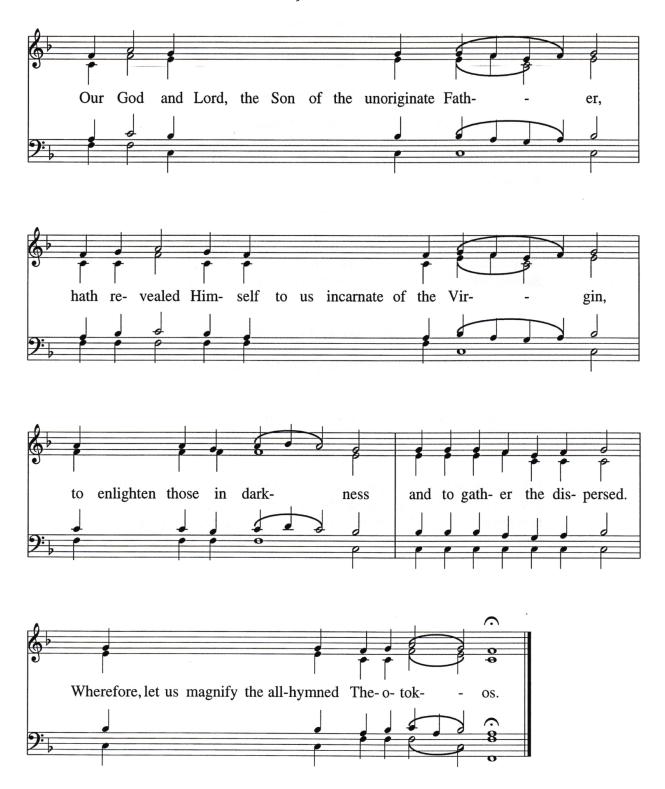
The passion-bearers of Christ, having trampled all the rites of idolatry underfoot by their faith and piously reached the godly conclusion of their contest, have been made steadfast through faith.

Having spurned all earthly things through faith and together suffered zealously, the passion-bearers of Christ received healing from God.

The passion-bearers, having manfully armed themselves with faith, cast down the hordes of the enemy by the Cross of the Lord, and have received crowns.

Theotokion: Having conceived in thy womb the unapproachable Word and given birth to Him for us without seed, pray thou earnestly, that our souls may be saved.

Canon of the Venerable One



Refrain: O Venerable Syncletica, pray to God for us.

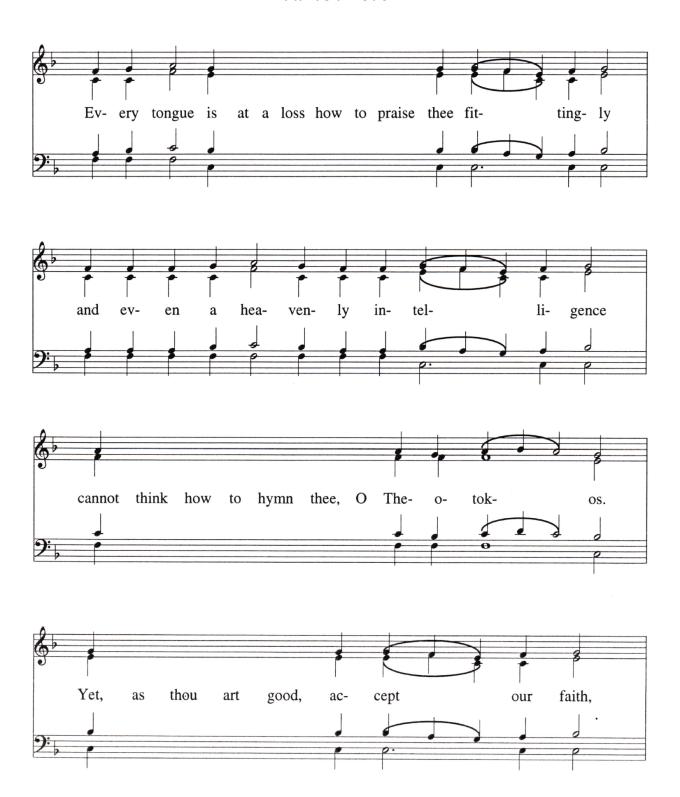
Resplendent in the beauties of virginity, O glorious one, thou didst adorn thyself with the crown of the ascetic life; wherefore, thine awesome Bridegroom, by the love of Whom thou wast wounded, hath crowned thee with a twofold crown.

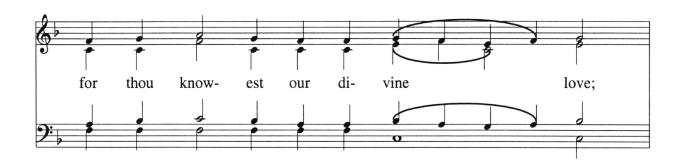
Thy trust in things to come, which thou didst have in thy heart, did not disappoint thee, O most honored one; for thou hast now received from the Savior the reward of thy pangs, for having passed through every form of ascetic endeavor.

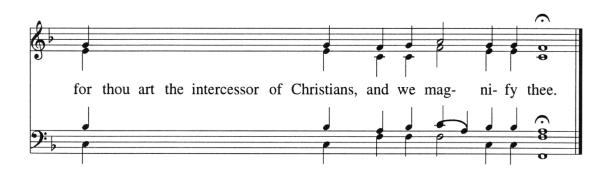
Thou didst clothe thyself in the might and confirmation of Christ, O honored one, and didst bring down to the ground the pridefulness of him who uttered falsehood against the Most High. Wherefore, Jesus, the Bestower of victory, hath adorned thee with the crown of victory.

Theotokion: In thee hath might been imparted to our fallen first father, who lacked the strength to go further; for through the baptism of thy Son all malice hath now been drowned. Wherefore, we proclaim thee the cause of purification.

Katavasia - Ode IX







Exapostilarion of the Forefeast

When the Jordan beheld thee naked, with trembling it said to him who was born of the barren woman: "O John, thou durst not baptize the Lord, Who purifieth all creation with fire and the Spirit, though He hath come to sanctify mortals and the nature of water!"

Glory..., Both now...: another Exapostilarion, in the same melody

He Who in the flesh shone forth from the Virgin in Bethlehem now hasteneth to the Jordan, to wash away the defilement of mortals, leading to the light those who are in darkness, through divine baptism.

Psalms of Praise

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest; to Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, all ye His angels; praise Him, all ye His hosts; to Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses,

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and Heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands,

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron.

To do among them the judgment that is written, this glory shall be to all His saints.

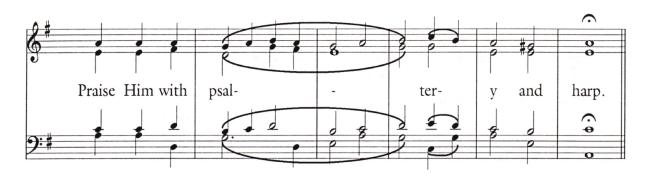
Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichos: Praise Him for His mighty acts:



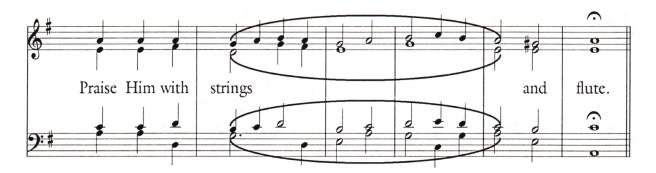
"Wherefore dost thou fail to comprehend/ the dispensation which I bring to pass for the salvation of all,/ O Baptist?/ Think no more upon the things of the past,/ but ponder that which is profitable./ Believe on God Who hath come down,/ and, having once refused, obey Me now;/ for in My loving-kindness I Who am God// have come to cleanse Adam of the fall."

Stichos: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet:



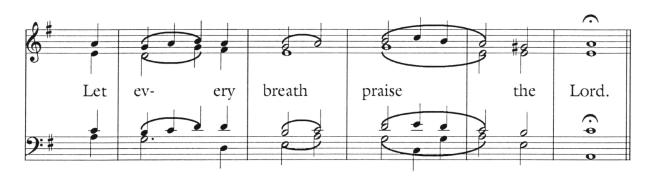
"O Jesus Who takest our sins upon Thy shoulders,/ Thou hast come to the streams of the Jordan,/ and I am filled with fear at Thine awesome coming./ How then dost Thou command me to baptize Thee?/ Thou hast come Thyself to cleanse me:/ how then dost Thou, Who art the purification of all,// ask baptism of me?"

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance:



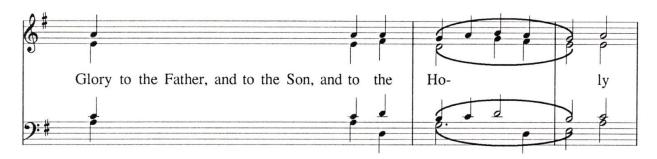
"I am the unapproachable Word,/ though I have clothed My nature in the guise of a servant/ and have come to the Jordan./ Refuse Me not, but come hither and be not afraid./ Draw nigh unto Me,/ setting thy right hand upon My head, crying:// Blessed art Thou Who hast appeared! O our God, glory to Thee!"

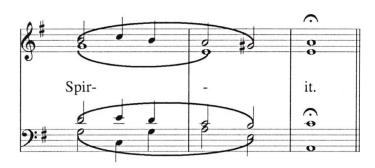
Stichos: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation:



"O how far beyond understanding is Thine infinite self-abasement/ for the sake of me who am fallen,/ O Word of God!/ I have recognized Thee/ Who in thy loving-kindness clothed Thyself in Adam/ and restorest the descendants of Adam;/ and, obedient to Thy command,/ with faith I cry unto Thee:// Blessed art Thou Who hast appeared! O our God, glory to Thee!"

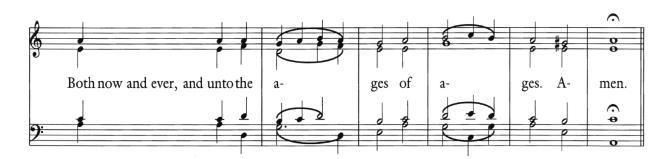
Glory, in Tone VI





Serving the Master with trembling,/ John rejoiceth in soul/ and crieth out with gladness:/ "Rejoice with me,/ all ye generations of our first father!/ For our Hope hath arrived!/ Christ hath come to the Jordan/ to wash away all the sin of Adam,// in that He is compassionate!"

Both now, in Tone VI



O ye people, let us chant unto Him/ Who was born of the Virgin/ and hath been baptized in the River Jordan,/ and let us cry out to Him:/ O King of all creation,/ grant that, without condemnation,/ with a clear conscience,/ and with faith,// we may attain unto thy holy resurrection from the dead on the third day.

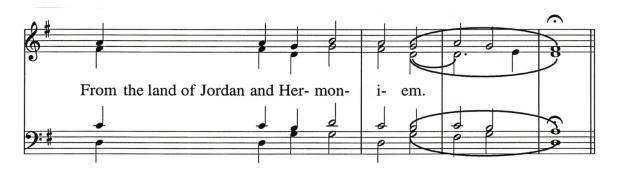
Priest: Glory to Thee who has showed us the light. *Small Doxology is read.*

The usual Litany, Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord...

Aposticha, in Tone II

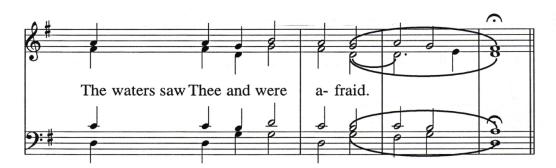
Behold! the King, the Hope of Israel, hath arrived!/ Rejoice, O ye people,// for the Light hath revealed Himself!

Stichos: Therefore will I remember Thee:



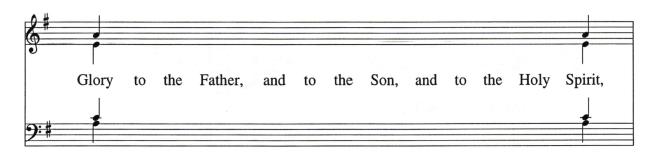
Now hath the divine Light,/ having become visible in the flesh to those on earth,/ revealed Himself to those in darkness// and shone forth grace upon all.

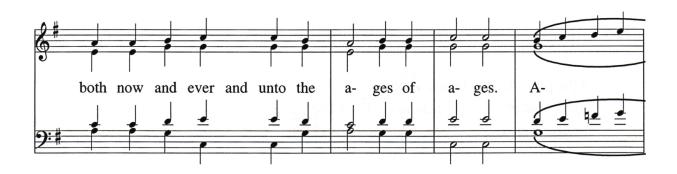
Stichos: The waters saw Thee, O God:

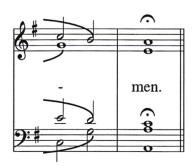


O prophet, friend of the Bridegroom,/ thou beacon of the Light and ray of the Sun,// Fore-runner of the Word: minister unto Him!

Glory, Both now, in Tone VIII







The composition of Anatolius

"O John the baptist, who recognized Me, the Lamb,/ in My Mother's womb,/ minister unto Me in the river,/ and offer worship unto Me with the angels./ Stretching forth thy hand,/ touch Mine all-pure head with thy hand;/ and when thou beholdest the mountains trembling/ and Jordan turning back,/ cry aloud with them:/ O Lord Who becamest incarnate of the Virgin/ for our salvation,// glory be to Thee!"

Reader: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High, to proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

Trisagion through Our Father..., Troparion. Litanies. Dismissal.

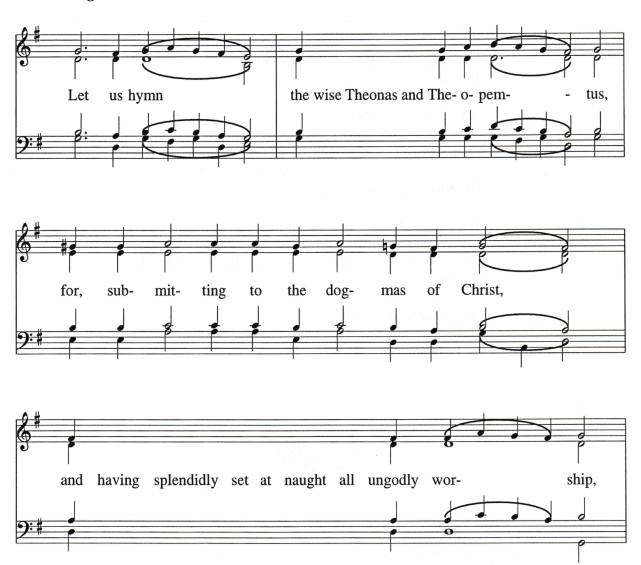
Appendix I

At Lord, I Have Cried

Stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone IV

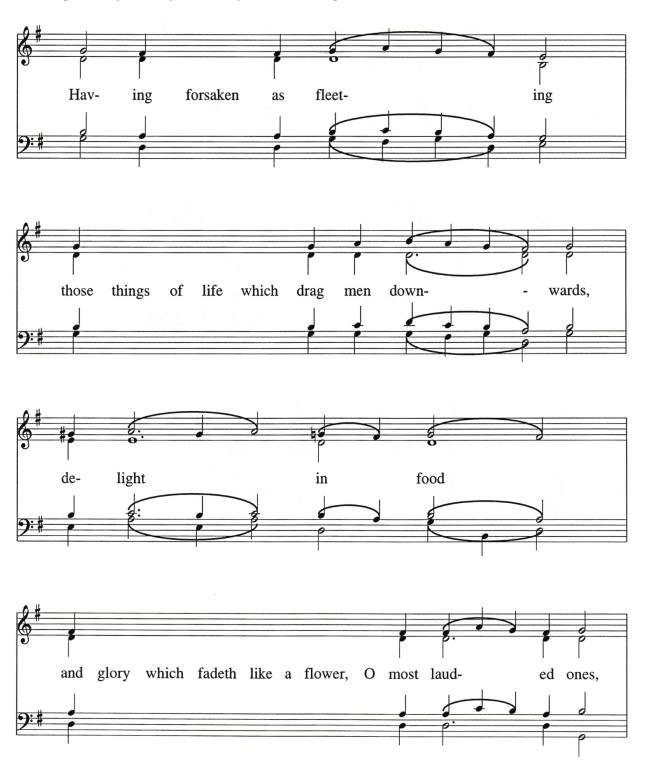
Special Melody: As one valiant among the martyrs...

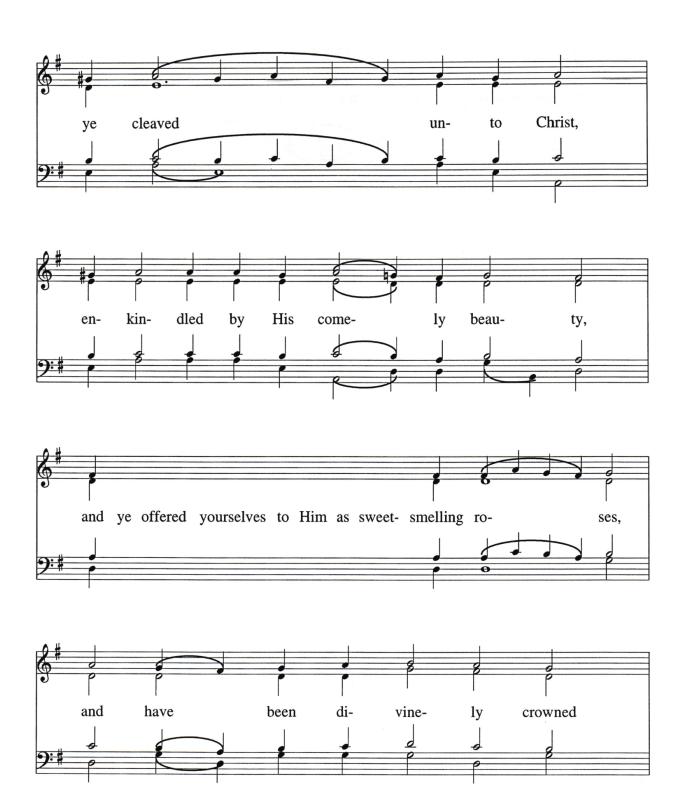
 $\it Stichos:$ If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

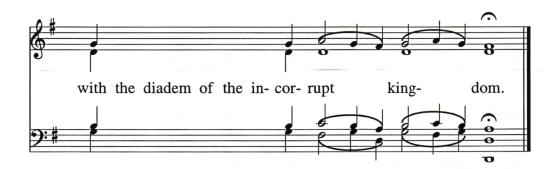




Stichos: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

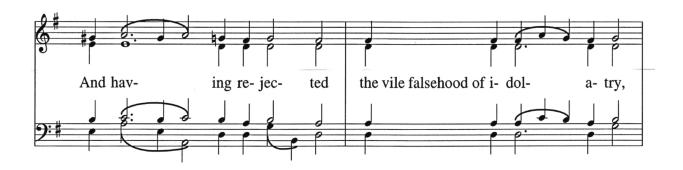


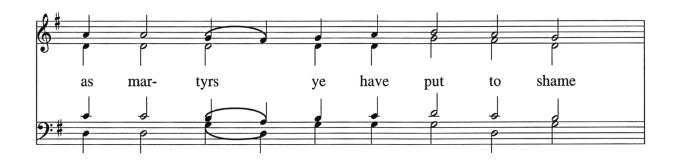


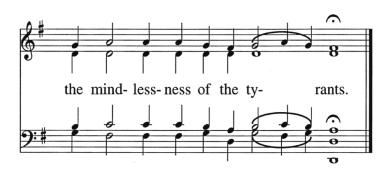


Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.





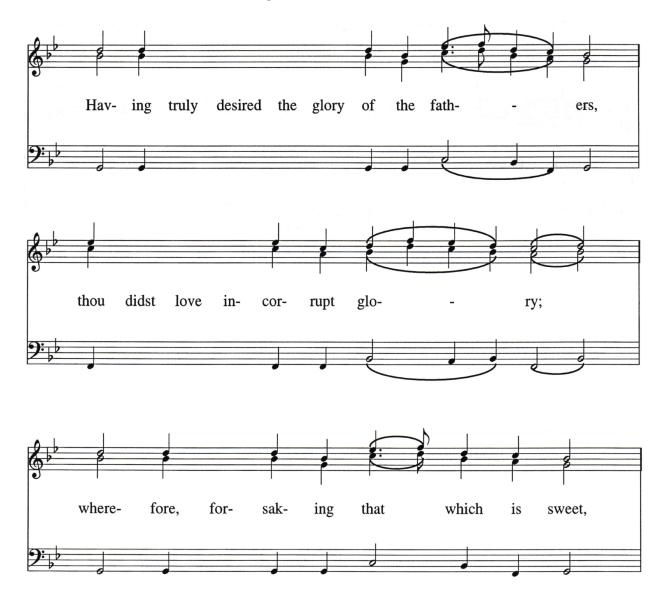


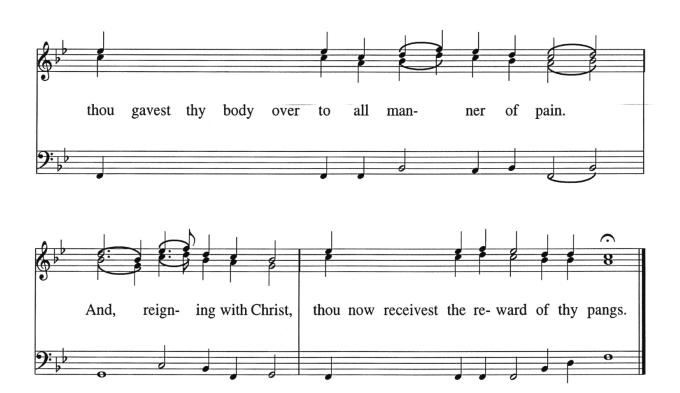


Stichera of the Venerable One, in Tone I

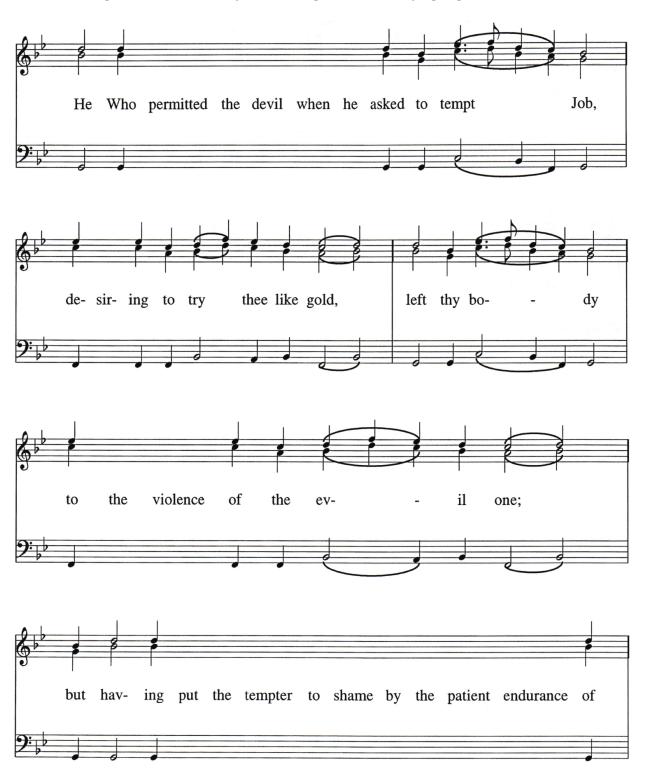
Special Melody: Joy of the ranks of heaven...

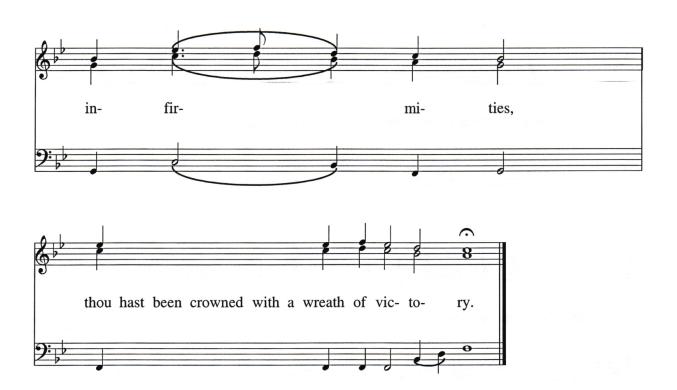
Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.



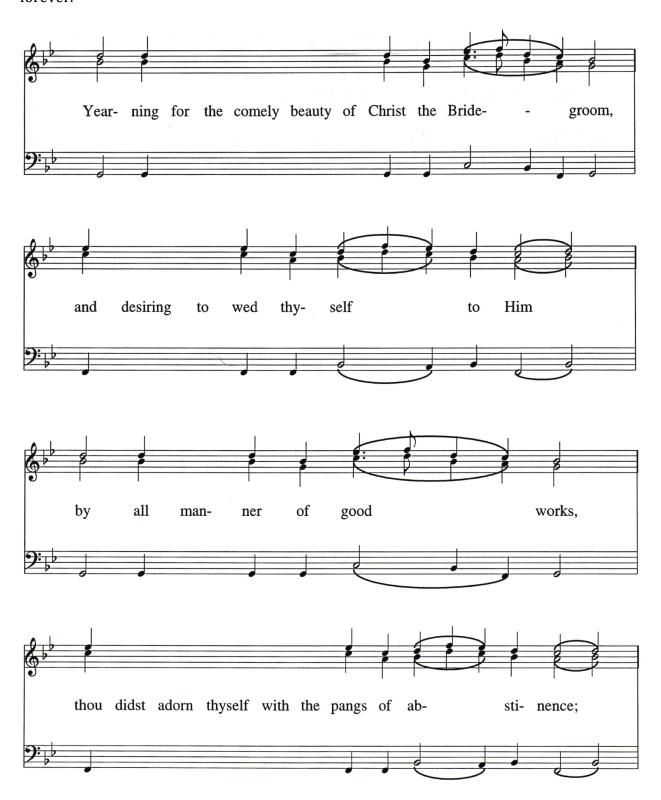


Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye peoples.





Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

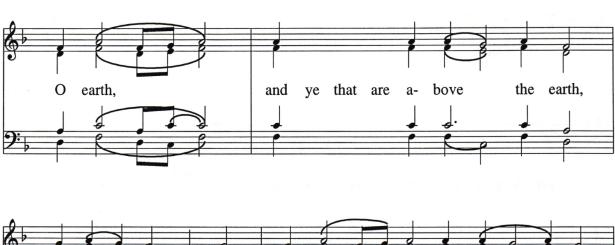




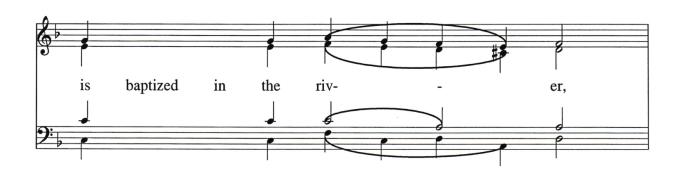
Appendix II

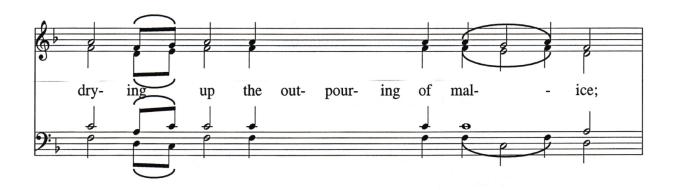
Aposticha at Vespers

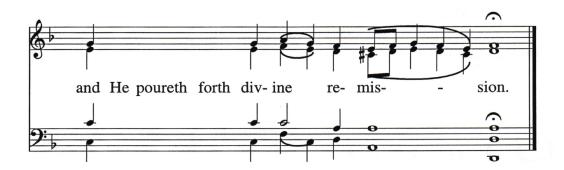
Tone VI, Special Melody: On the third day...



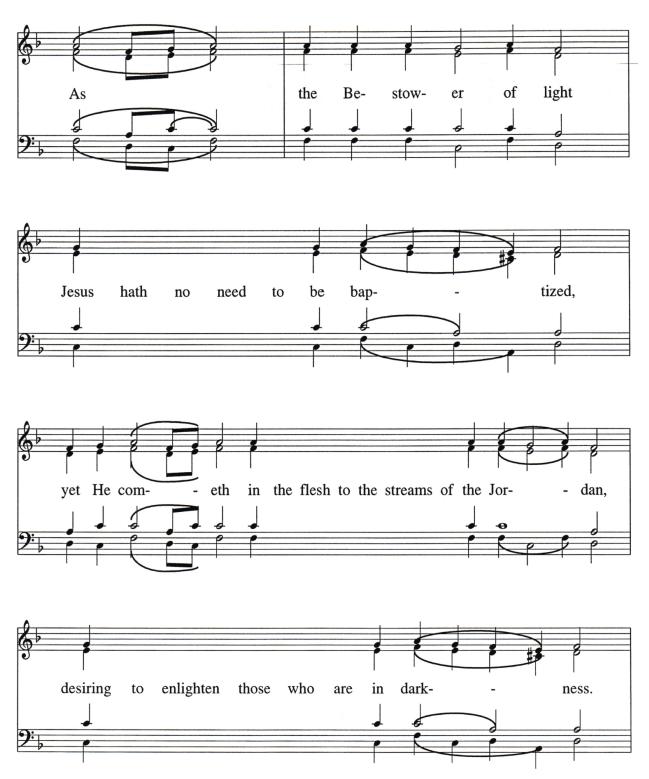






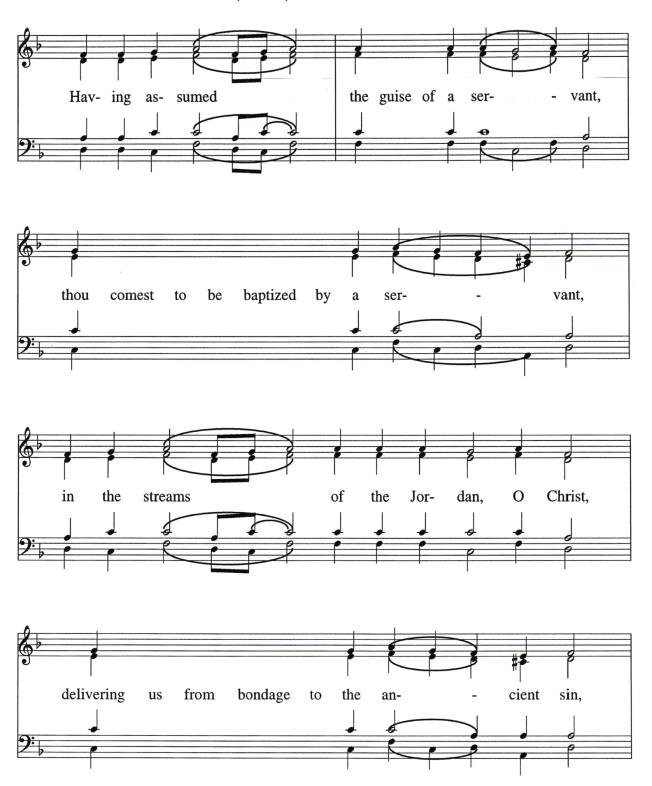


Stichos: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem.





Stichos: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.



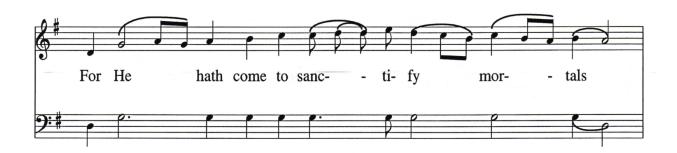


Appendix III

Exapostilarion of the Forefeast

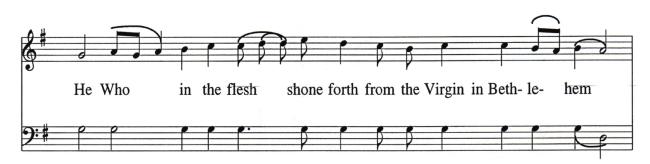
Special Melody: By the Spirit in the sanctuary...

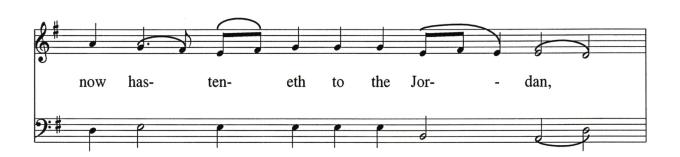


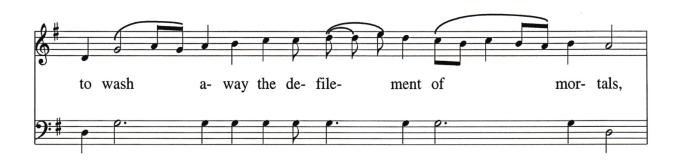


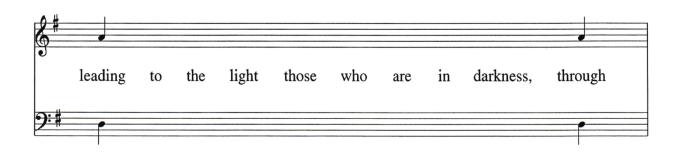


Glory..., Both now...: another Exapostilarion, in the same melody







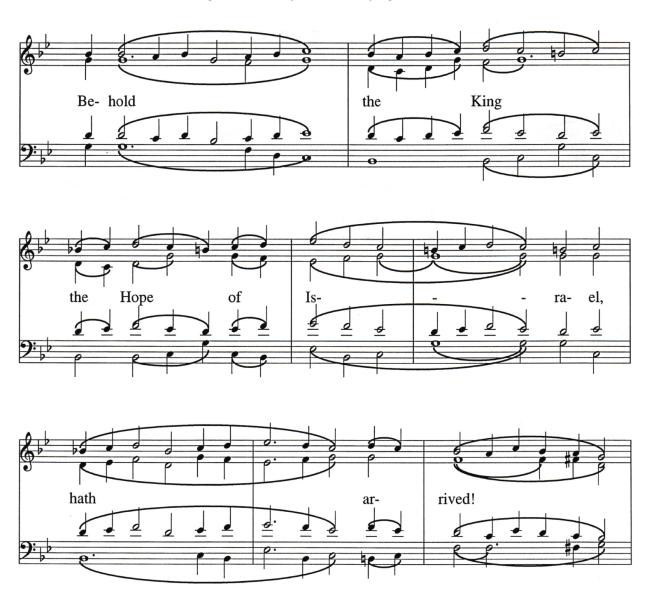




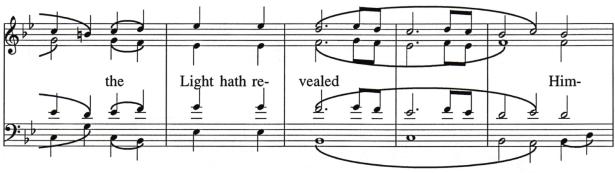
Appendix IV

Aposticha at Matins

Special Melody: O house of Ephratha...

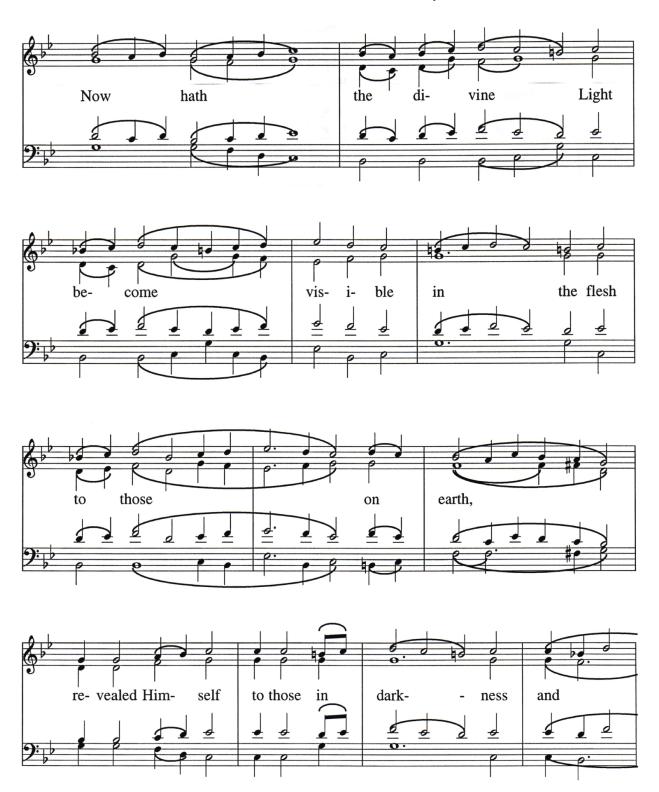


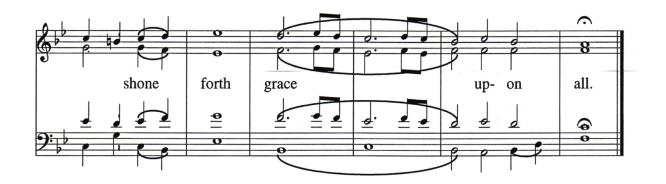




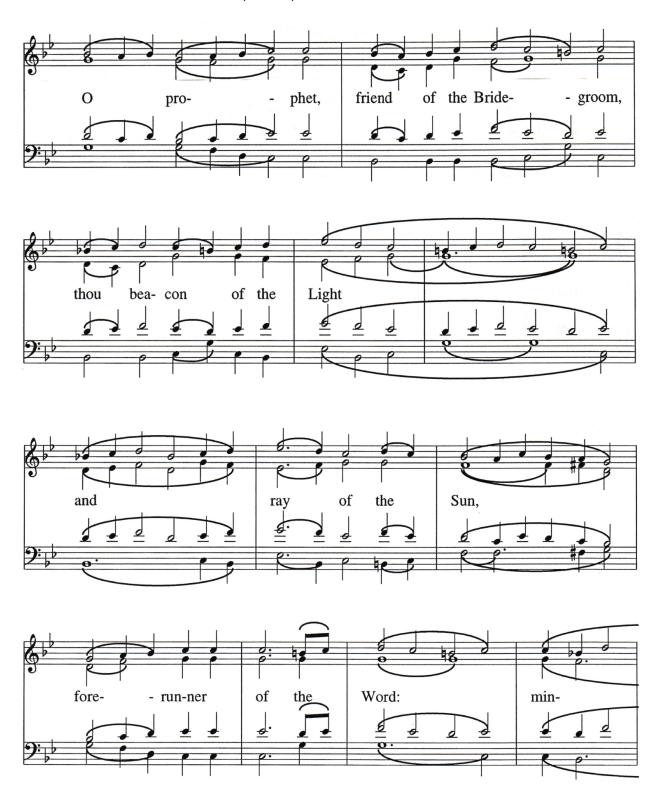


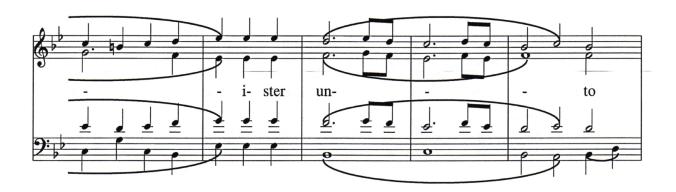
Stichos: Therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan and Hermoniem.





Stichos: The waters saw Thee, O God, the waters saw Thee and were afraid.







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