

DECEMBER 24

Music for the Eve of Holy Nativity

Commemoration of the Holy Venerable Martyr Eugenia

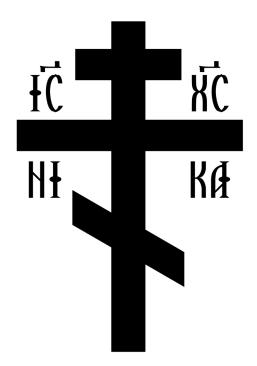
Δόμα ττώχα πέμα μυρομότημα

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τὧν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

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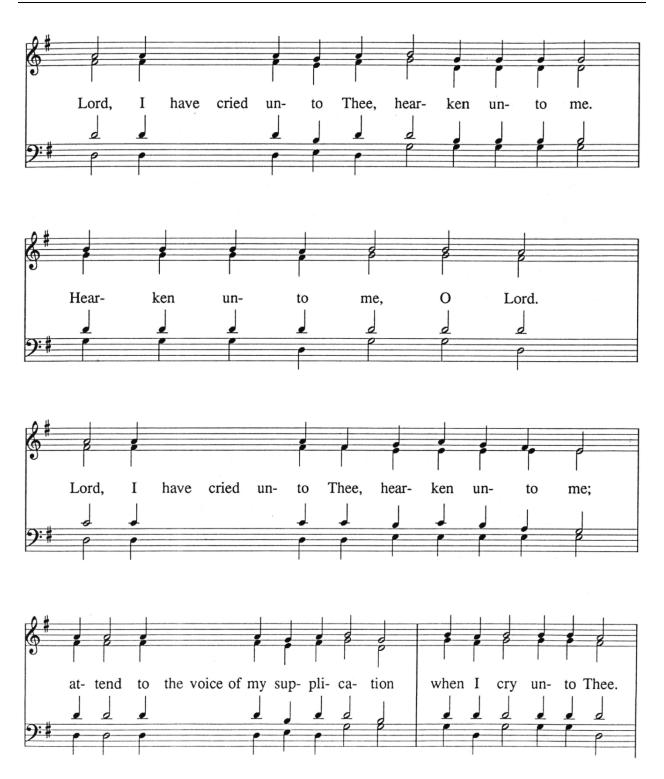
Music for the Eve of Holy Nativity

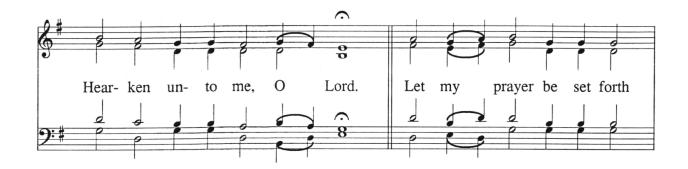
Contents

Great Vespers	1
Lord I Have Cried, in Tone V	1
Verses of Lord, I Have Cried	2
At Lord, I Have Cried	4
Prokeimenon	8
Aposticha, in Tone I	11
Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV	12
Matins	13
God is the Lord, in Tone IV	13
Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV	13
The Canon	15
Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone III	39
Exapostilarion of the Forefeast	53
At the Psalms of Praise, in Tone VI	55
Aposticha, in Tone II,	59
Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV	60
Appendix I	61
At Lord, I Have Cried	61
Appendix II	77
Exapostilarion	77
Appendix III	82
Aposticha of Matins	82

Great Vespers

Lord I Have Cried, in Tone V

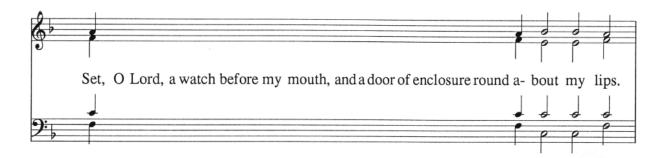


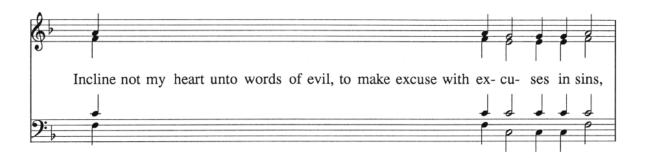






Verses of Lord, I Have Cried





With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

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 hades.

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 <u>liv</u>ing.

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.

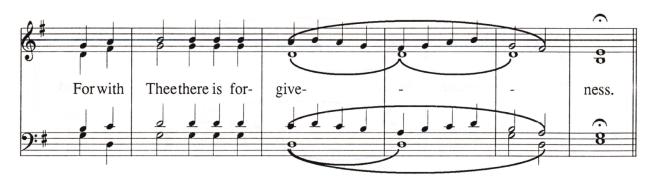
Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

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

At Lord, I Have Cried

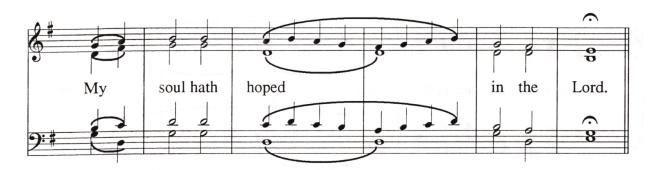
Stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone V

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



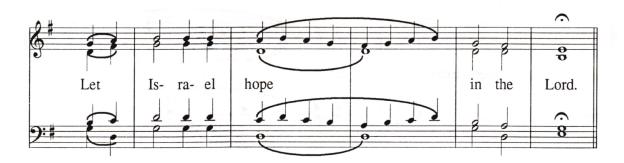
O Thou Who art most perfect,/ thou bearest the guise of Adam in the image of God;/ Thou Who holdest all things in Thy hands by Thy power/ dost desire to be held by human hands./ The pure and most immaculate one proclaimed, saying:/ "How can I wrap Thee in swaddlingbands as a babe;/ how can I feed Thee at my breasts Who sustainest all things?/ How can I marvel at Thy poverty which is past understanding?/ How can I call Thee my Son, who am now Thy handmaid?/ I hymn and bless Thee,// Who bestowest great mercy upon the world!"

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



Beholding the preëternal God incarnate of her as a babe,/ holding Him in her arms and kissing Him often,/ full of joy the most immaculate one exclaimed to Him:/ "O God Most High, Thou invisible King,/ how can I look upon Thee?/ I cannot grasp the mystery of Thy boundless impoverishment!/ For the least and most base of caves containeth Thee,/ newly born, within itself,/ Who didst not violate my virginity,/ but preserved my womb as it was before birthgiving,// and grantest great mercy!"

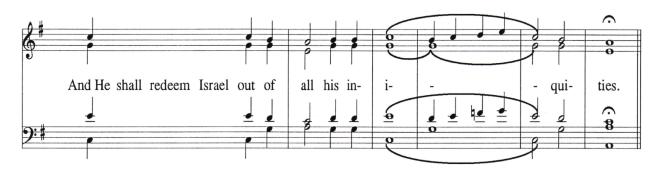
Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch:



The pure one heard the magi standing together outside the cave,/ and, exclaiming in awe,/ she spake these things to them as a handmaid:/ "Whom seek ye? For I see that ye have come from a country far distant,/ in that ye have the appearance and wisdom of the Persians./ Ye have made a strange passage and journey,/ and have come with haste to worship Him/ Who hath made His journey from on high,/ made His abode strangely within me,/ as He knoweth how,// and granteth great mercy to the world!"

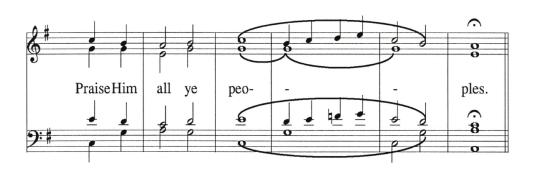
Stichera of the Martyr, in Tone VIII

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



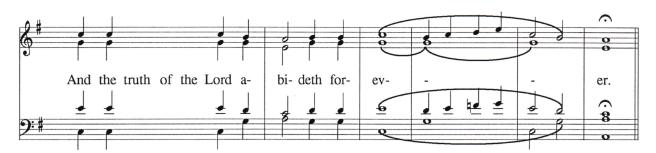
Forsaking the beauty of the world,/ thou didst illumine the nobility of thy soul/ with the beauties of nobility,/ 0 most lauded Eugenia,/ preserving the grace of the image of God intact throughout thy life,/ 0 invincible martyr,/ thou divine mirror of virginity,// most noble blossom of nature.

Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations:



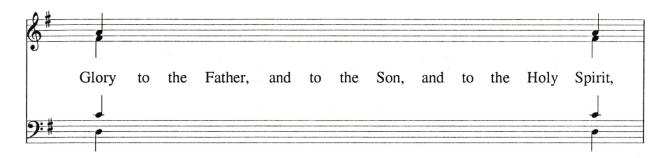
Having adorned thyself/ with discourse, life and grace,/ and with patience of soul,/ thou didst lead an army of athletes/ and an assembly of virgins/ to Him Who hath shone forth from the Virgin/ and hath manifestly opened to all the entrance of witness,/ O most wise Eugenia.// With them entreat Him now, that He save thy flock.

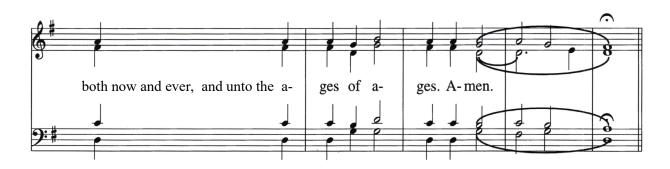
Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us:



The Author of righteousness/ hath magnificently adorned thee/ with a twofold crown,/ as a pure virgin and glorious martyr,/ giving thee a beautiful bridal-chamber/ illumined with effulgence,/ where, making thine abode, thou hast now manifestly been enriched with eternal blessedness,// O bride of Christ.

Glory, Both Now, of the Forefeast, in Tone II



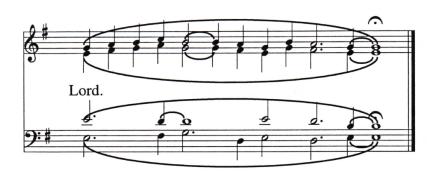


Behold, the time of our salvation hath drawn nigh!/ Prepare thyself, O cave:/ the Virgin approacheth to give birth!/ O Bethlehem, thou land of Judah,/ adorn thyself and be glad,/ for our Lord hath shone forth from thee!/ Hearken, ye mountains and hills, and ye lands of Judæa round about:/ for Christ cometh, that He might save man whom He had created,// in that He loveth mankind!

Prokeimenon

Sunday Evening, Tone VIII



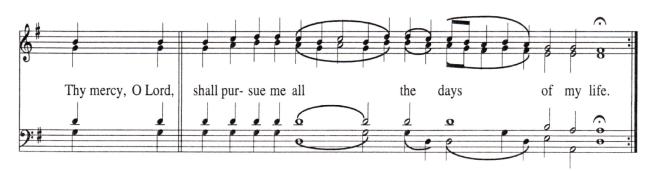


Monday Evening, Tone IV



Prokeimenon

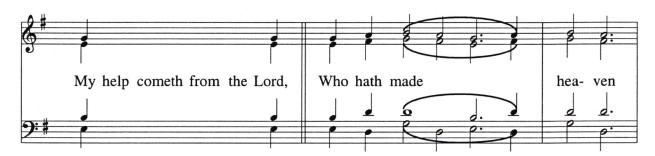
Tuesday Evening, Tone I

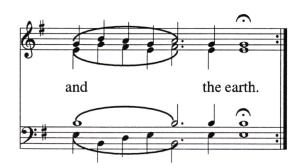


Wednesday Evening, Tone V

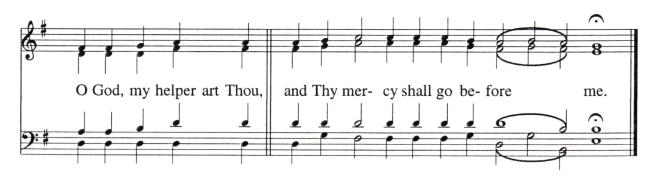


Thursday Evening, Tone VI





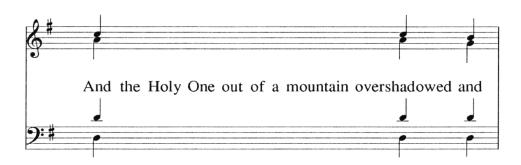
Friday Evening, Tone 7

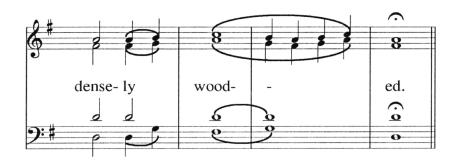


Aposticha, in Tone I

"Bearing gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold/ unto Thee, O Son,/ the kings of the East have arrived,/ knowing that Thou wast to be born;/ and, lo! they stand beyond the doors!/ Give Thou the command, that they may behold Thee/ as an infant held in mine arms,// Who art infinitely older than ancient Adam!"

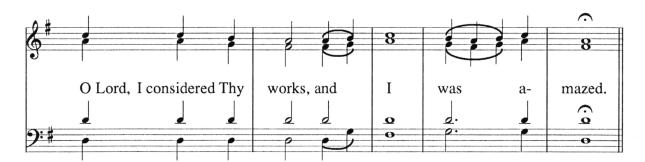
Stichos: God shall come forth out of Thæman:





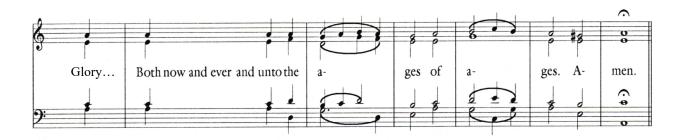
"Come ye, and enter with haste,"/ the Virgin said to the magi of old,/ "and behold the Invisible One/ Who hath become visible/ in becoming a babe!"/ And they came in with ardor and rendered homage// and offered gifts, fulfilling the divine prophecies.

Stichos: O Lord, I have heard Thy report, and I was afraid:



"In mine arms I bear Thee as a babe,/ Who holdest all things,/ and I am amazed,"/ said she who knew not wedlock./ "How can I feed with milk Thee Who feedest all,/ O my Son and Creator?/ I glorify Thy boundless condescension toward men,// whereby Thou savest the world which is perishing!"

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

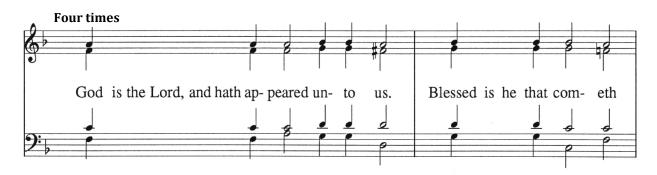


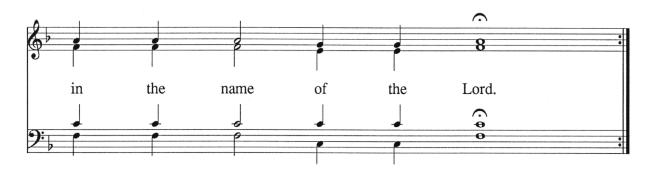
Hold festival, O Sion!/ Be glad, O Jerusalem,/ thou city of Christ God!/ Receive thy Creator,/ Who is contained by the cave and the manger!/ Open thy gates unto me,/ and, entering therein,/ I shall behold as an infant wrapped in swaddling-bands/ Him Who holdeth creation in the palm of His hand,/ Whom the angels hymn with unceasing voices:// the Lord and Bestower of life, Who saveth our race!

Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

Once Mary, bearing in her womb an Offspring conceived without seed,/ was registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph, as being of the seed of David./ And while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered./ There was no room for them in the inn./ But the cave showed itself to be a beauteous palace for the Queen,// and Christ is born to raise up the image that fell of old! *Thrice*

Matins
God is the Lord, in Tone IV





Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

Once Mary, bearing in her womb an Offspring conceived without seed,/ was registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph, as being of the seed of David./ And while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered./ There was no room for them in the inn./ But the cave showed itself to be a beauteous palace for the Queen,// and Christ is born to raise up the image that fell of old! *Thrice*

After the First Chanting of the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn

Tone VI, Special Melody: Hosts of angels...

The sayings of the prophets have now been fulfilled, for in the morning our God is born of the Virgin Mary in manner past description, and she remaineth as she was before birthgiving. The magi come together, bearing gifts, and the shepherds pipe, that we also may chant: O Lord Who wast born of the Virgin, glory be to Thee!

Glory..., Both now...: The foregoing is repeated.

After the Second Chanting of the Psalter, this Sessional Hymn Tone VIII

Stopping the songs of the shepherds' pipes, the angelic army lifted up their voice, saying with them: "Cease your piping, O ye who are foremost among those who tend the flocks, and cry aloud in song, for Christ the Lord hath been born, Who, as God, hath been well-pleased to save the human race!"

Glory..., Both now...: The foregoing is repeated.

Ode I
Canon of the Forefeast, the acrostic whereof is the [Greek] alphabet,
the composition of Joseph, in Tone II



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

Thou wast registered according to the edict of Cæsar, desiring to enroll man in the Book of Life, O King of all; and in strange manner Thou didst come unto Thine own, summoning to heaven him who had grievously been exiled from paradise.

Receive Christ, O Bethlehem, for He cometh, incarnate, to thee, opening Eden to me! Prepare thyself, O cave, for thou shalt behold the Infinite One all-gloriously contained within thee, having now abased Himself in the richness of His compassion.

Christ cometh to be born, bestowing a strange regeneration upon the descendents of Adam, in that He is God. Be glad, O human nature, thou barren desert, for the Master hath come to make thee bear many children.

Canon of the martyr, the acrostic whereof is:
"In songs I eminently hymn the great glory of Eugenia",
the composition of Theophanes, in the same tone

Irmos: Same as that of the preceding canon.

Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

O Eugenia, martyr of Christ, joyfully dancing now with the angelic armies, as an immaculate virgin, as a crowned martyr who art most rich, pray thou, that He bestow grace upon those who hymn thee with love.

Hearkening to divine hymnody, O bride of Christ, through thy nobility thou didst soar aloft to the Most High; for like light the theology of hymns of the Spirit shone in thy heart, driving away all ungodliness.

Unmindful of thy womanly nature, thy mind hastened to manly feats, having found courage through grace, being directed toward the providence of God, O martyr Eugenia, namesake of divine nobility.

Illumined with noetic light, O divinely wise one, thou didst cause a great many to partake of effulgence; and delivering from sin those who hymn thee, by thine entreaties vouchsafe it.

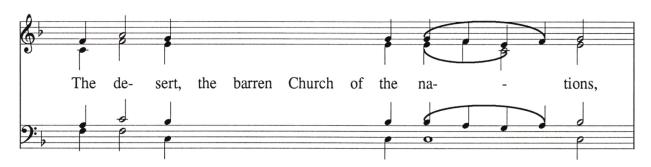
Theotokion: Slain by the tree of knowledge, O pure one, by Christ God, the Tree of life, Who sprang forth from thee in manner past understanding, O Theotokos, we, the faithful, have been called back to life. Entreat Him with boldness, that our souls be saved.

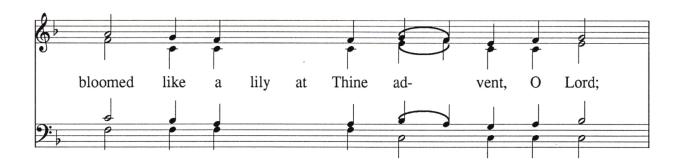
Katavasia — Ode I

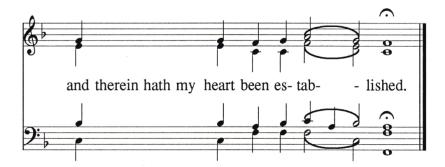




Ode IIICanon of the Forefeast







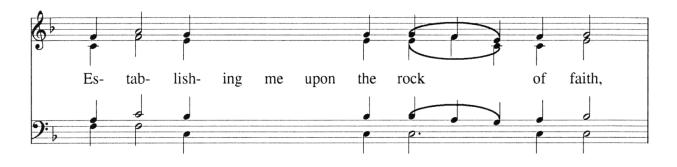
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

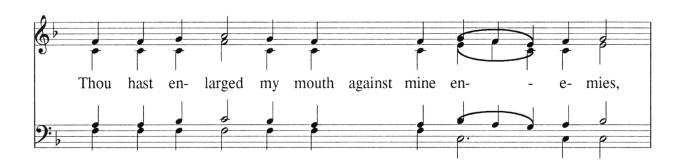
Delivering me from the bonds of evil, O Lord Who lovest mankind, Thou comest to be wrapped as a babe in swaddling-bands. I worship Thy divine condescension!

The Virgin cometh forth to give birth to Thee Who, though Thou hast shone forth timelessly from the Father, hast come under time, releasing our souls from immemorial passions.

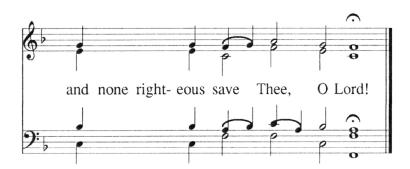
Seeking me who have become lost through disobedience, Thou hast made the cave a dwelling-place, like unto heaven; and Thou preparest mansions for me there, O Compassionate and greatly Merciful One!

Canon of the Martyr









Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

With most perfect resolve thou didst offer thyself to the Master as an unblemished sacrifice, and didst spurn corrupt wealth, O most wise one, crying: Thou art our God, and there is none more holy than Thee, O Lord!

O most pure one, thy purity was recognized, and the might of thy sufferings hath shone forth; for thou didst make thine activity an ascent of vision, crying: Thou art our God, and there is none more holy than Thee, O Lord!

Held fast by desire for chastity, thou didst preserve the boast of purity, and becamest pleasing in wisdom, crying out to Christ: Thou art our God, and there is none more holy than Thee, O Lord!

Theotokion: O ye divinely wise, let us hymn Mary, the pure Theotokos, who hath been shown to be the mediatress of salvation, and let us cry aloud: There is none as pure as thee, O all-pure one, and none more immaculate than thee, O Mistress!

Katavasia — Ode III





Sessional Hymn of the Martyr

Tone VIII, Special Melody: Of the Wisdom...

Confining thyself to feats of struggle, thou becamest glorious through the struggles of martyrdom, leading many of the saved to thy Creator; for, having forsaken transitory things with divine love, thou didst accomplish courageous struggles, O glorious one. Wherefore, after thine end thou hast found endless life, abiding ever with thy Bridegroom, O angelic Eugenia. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who honor thy most precious memory with love.

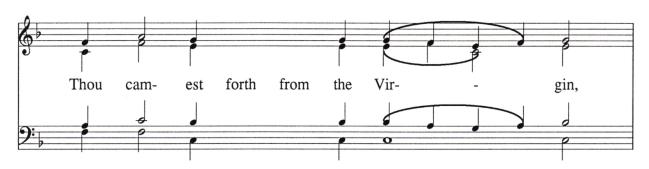
Glory..., Both now...

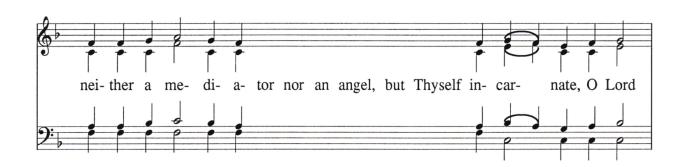
Sessional Hymn of the Forefeast

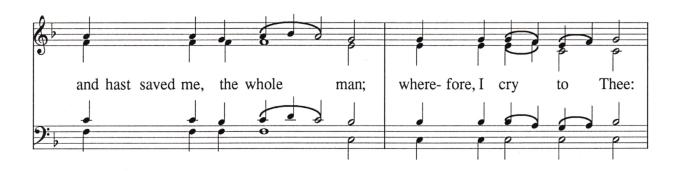
Tone VIII, Special Melody: Of the Wisdom...

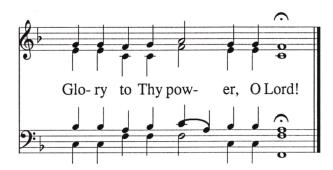
Today the earth hath been shown forth as heaven for me, for therein the Creator is born and laid in a manger, in Bethlehem of Judah. Shepherds chant unceasingly with the angels: "Glory in the highest, and peace on earth!" For they beheld the star which journeyed with the magi, who hastened quickly to bring gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense to the God of all, the eternal King and Creator of all things, Who in His loving-kindness is born in a cave.

Ode IVCanon of the Forefeast









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

Now creation hath cast off all aging, beholding Thee, the Creator taking on form and newness in becoming a babe, leading it back to its pristine beauty.

Marvelling at His all-glorious nativity, the magi who had been led by the divine star stood and beheld the Sun shining forth from the cloud of the Virgin, and they offered gifts unto Him.

Behold, the Virgin cometh as a heifer, bearing in her womb the fatted Calf Who taketh away the sins of the world, that creation may rejoice, holding festival.

The predictions of the prophets which proclaimed the manifestation of Christ have now received their salvific fulfillment; for He hath come in the flesh to enlighten those who languish in darkness.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Same as that of the preceding canon.

Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

Thou hast come, taking flesh from the Virgin, O Most High, betrothing companies of virgins to Thyself, who loved Thee alone as their virginal Bridegroom.

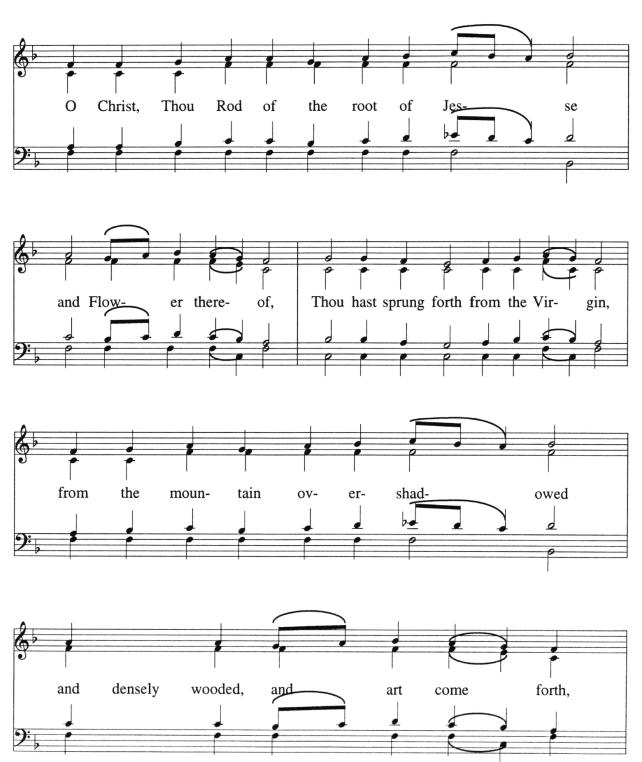
Thou didst shed the covering of thy fleshly birth, 0 most glorious martyr, and by baptism didst splendidly clothe thyself in the incorrupt garment of regeneration.

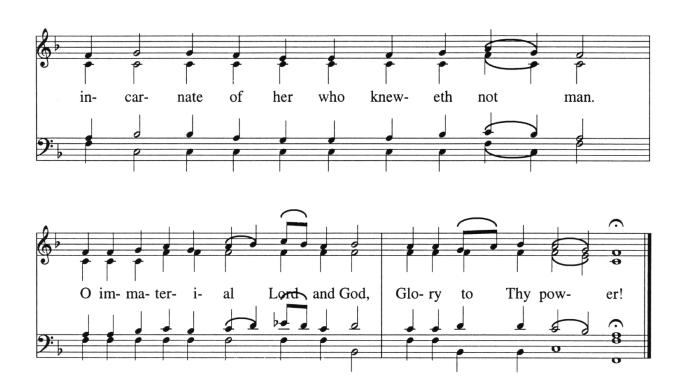
Luminous radiance shone upon thy heart, with the effulgence of grace dispelling the gloom of falsehood which had been poured forth, O Eugenia, martyr of Christ.

Thou didst illumine thy life with beauty and comeliness, having first caused the carnal passions to wither away through abstinence, and later shone forth all-radiantly in suffering, O Eugenia.

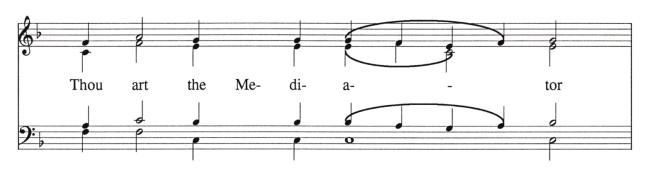
Theotokion: Thou becamest more exalted than the angels, giving birth to the Angel of great Counsel, Who became man in His exceeding loving-kindness, and loveth mankind, O most hymned one.

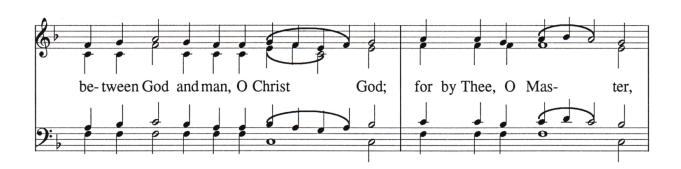
Katavasia — Ode IV

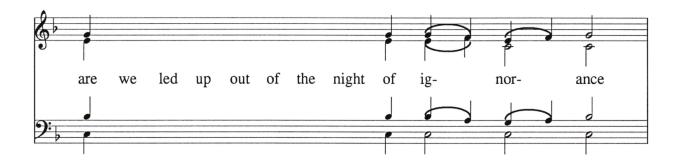


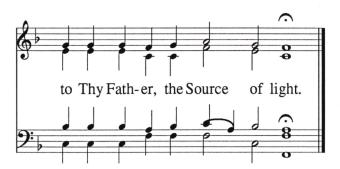


Ode VCanon of the Forefeast









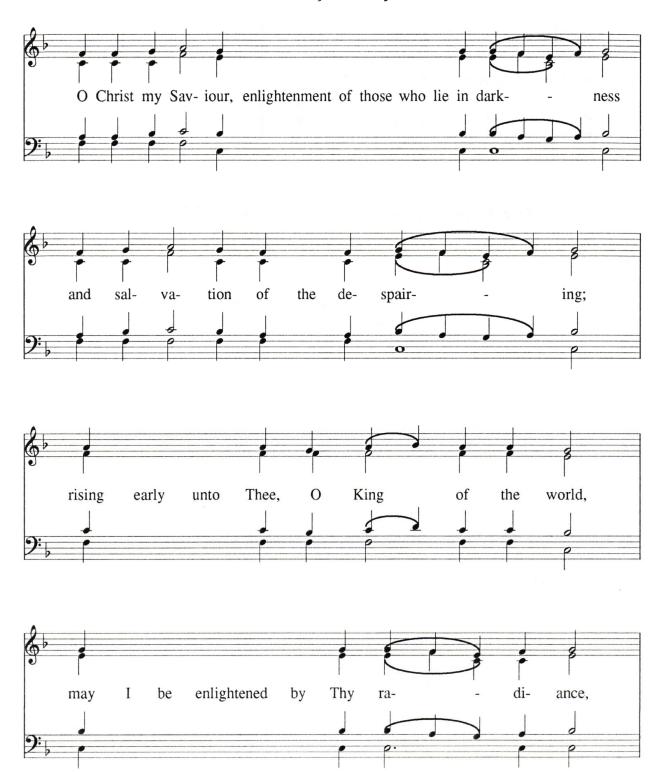
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

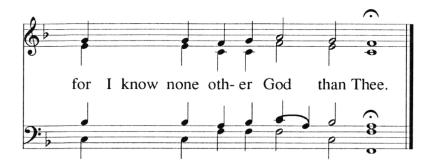
Let the people who once sat in darkness behold the never-waning Light which hath shone forth, Whom the star announced of old to the Persian kings who worshipped fire.

The great King maketh haste to enter the little cave, that the All-blessed One might magnify me who have been diminished, and with boundless wealth might enrich me who have become poor.

Now is Christ born of Jacob, as Balaam said, and He hath dominion over the nations, and His kingdom, which abideth immutably, is exalted by grace.

Canon of the Martyr





Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

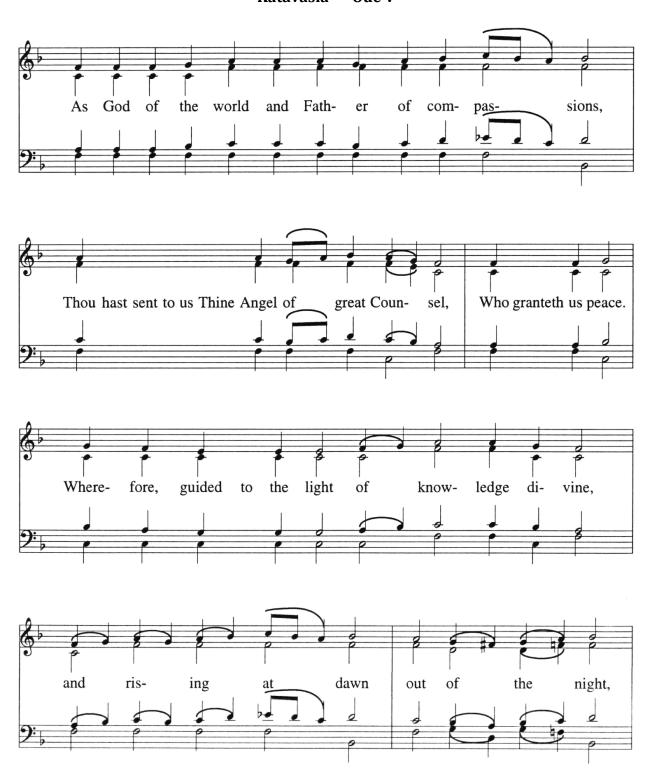
Seeing thy journey leading to salvation, the soul-destroying serpent raised up divers temptations against thee, striving to weaken thy might, O passion-bearer; but thou didst trample him underfoot, O divinely wise and pure one.

To Christ, the Accomplisher of all good things, the Benefactor and Bridegroom of souls, thou didst appear as adorned in ascetic struggles by abstinence and resplendent with the suffering of martyrdom, O goodly virgin Eugenia, martyr of Christ.

A crown of gifts was set upon thy brow, for thou didst cherish divine wisdom, disdaining the riches and glory of thy father; and with might thou didst follow after thy beloved Bridegroom, O most honored one.

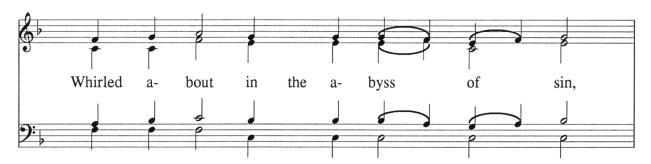
Theotokion: The Life Who shone forth from thee upon the world, O Theotokos, by communion calleth those who before were held fast by death to everlasting life, who cry aloud with faith: We know none other God than Thee!

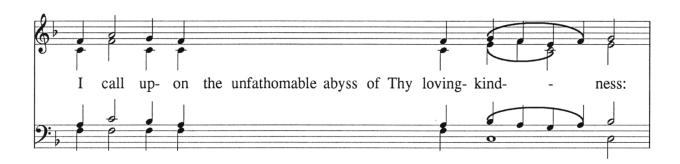
Katavasia — Ode V

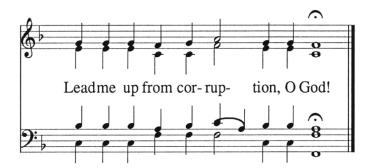




Ode VICanon of the Forefeast







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

Christ cometh to His own in strange manner. Let us estrange ourselves from sin and receive Him Who maketh His abode in the souls of the meek.

In nowise shalt thou be the least among cities, O Bethlehem; for in thee is born the King and Lord, that He might shepherd His rich people.

How doth a lowly cave receive Thee Whom the whole world cannot contain, O Ineffable One? How art Thou seen as an infant, O Unoriginate One Who sharest the mind of the Father?

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Same as that of the preceding canon.

Thou gavest no slumber to thine eyelids until thou didst suppress all passionate attachments, and thou didst make of thyself a pure dwelling-place for thy Creator.

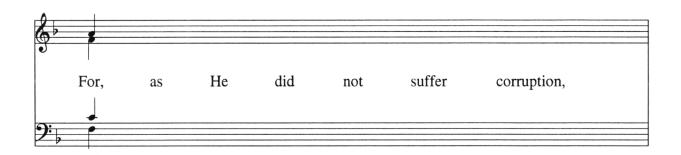
Imitating the morals of the wife of Potiphar, she who was black in deed and name violently slandered thine honorable life, O most honored one.

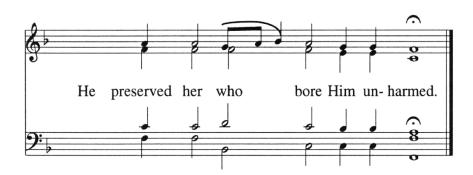
Showing forth steady radiance and enriched with the grace of healings and a wealth of faith, thou becamest the teacher of a company of nuns.

Theotokion: All the prophets mystically learned of thine ineffable birthgiving, O most pure one, in the Spirit describing and foretelling to all those things which were to come.

Katavasia — Ode VI







Kontakion of the Forefeast, in Tone III

Special Melody: Today the Virgin...

Today the Virgin cometh to give birth ineffably/ to the preëternal Word in the cave./ Dance, O world! And having heard this,/ with the angels and shepherds glorify the preëternal God,// Who is to appear as a little babe.

Ikos: The sacred sayings of the prophets have received their fulfillment, for, lo! the Virgin giveth birth to the All-perfect One in the city of Bethlehem, within a cave! All creation hath been refashioned! Rejoice and dance! The Master of all hath come to dwell with His servants, delivering from the dominion of the alien us who were cast down by corruption, and He is seen as an infant, wrapped in swaddling-clothes, in the manger, the preëternal God, the little babe.

Ode VIICanon of the Forefeast



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

Let the clouds drop down water from on high! He Who doth honorably appoint the clouds for His ascent is borne by a cloud that is the Virgin, and cometh to shine never-waning light upon those who before were benighted and afflicted.

O army of divine angels, prepare thyself well to hymn the ineffable condescension of the Lord! Come, ye magi! Make haste, ye shepherds! Christ hath come as He should, the Expectation and Deliverance of the nations.

"What is this strange wonder most great? How can I bear Thee Who upbearest all things by Thy word? Ineffable is Thy nativity, O mine unoriginate Son!", the most pure one said, holding Christ in her arms with awe.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Same as that of the preceding canon.

Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

Thou madest clear to all the truth of the divinely inspired Scriptures, having rendered manly thy womanly nature, and didst all-gloriously astonish those whom thou didst lead in splendor to Christ when they had believed on Him, O honored one who art most rich.

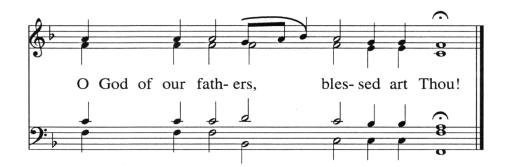
By thy divine teachings thou didst manifestly denounce the insanity of idolatry, O most lauded one, by the blood of thy martyrdom betrothing an innumerable and radiant multitude of virgins to Christ Who reigneth over all.

Beholding thy radiant life, the glorious Basilla, moved by divine zeal, betrothed herself to Christ, forsaking all the passionate attachments of the flesh; and she hath now been vouch-safed the joy of the martyrs.

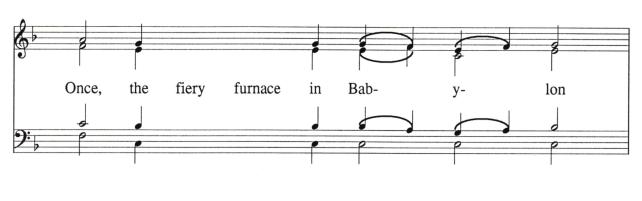
Theotokion: Having seedlessly given birth to hypostatic Life, O most immaculate Virgin, pure Theotokos, thou hast healed the pasturage of death. Wherefore, rejoicing, we call thee the wellspring of immortality.

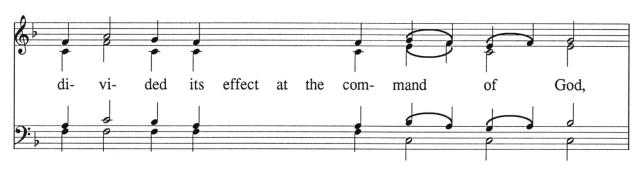
Katavasia — Ode VII

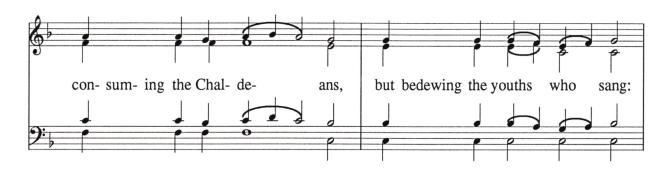




Ode VIIICanon of the Forefeast









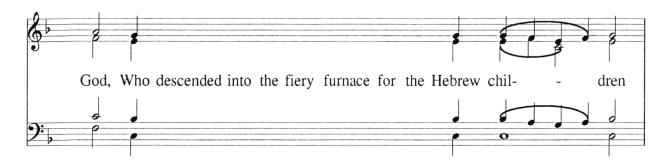
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

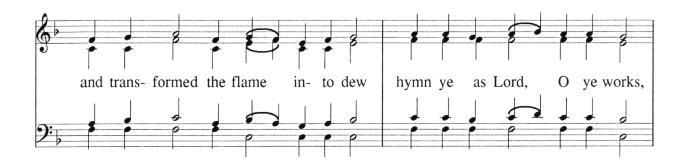
Beholding the height of the truly ineffable mystery which covered the heavens with wisdom, the immaculate one marvelled and said: "O my Son, how can I bear Thee Who sitteth upon the flaming throne of heaven?"

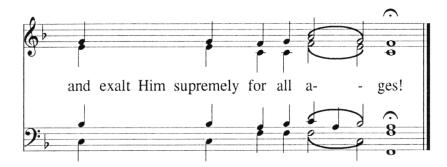
"Thou bearest the likeness of the Father, O my Son. How hast Thou assumed the likeness of a servant, abasing Thyself? How can I lay Thee in a manger of dumb beasts, Who deliverest all from irrationality? I hymn Thy loving-kindness!"

Rejoice, all the earth! Lo! Christ draweth nigh to Bethlehem to be born! Be glad, O sea! Leap up, ye assembly of prophets, beholding today the fulfillment of your words, and rejoice, all ye righteous!

Canon of the Martyr







Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

Thine endurance was tested in the river and the fire; and, transcending nature, thou didst pass through them mightily, crying out: Hymn Christ, ye works, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

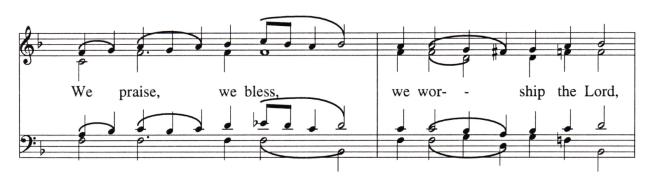
Christ, Who appeared in strange manner unto thee who wast held in prison, richly nourished thee, and by His own nativity uniteth to the armies on high thee who glorify Him forever.

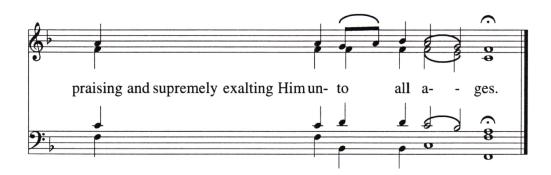
Thy Bridegroom doth magnificently adorn thee with twofold crowns, O divinely wise Eugenia, and in that He is righteous, He rightly bestoweth upon thee a splendid bridal-chamber. Him do we exalt supremely for all ages!

The grace of God, having radiantly illumined thee, now shineth in the mansions of heaven. Pray thou unceasingly, that by thy supplications those who celebrate thy memory may be filled therewith, O divinely wise one.

Theotokion: We know thee to be a wellspring of the radiance of immortality, O Theotokos, for thou gavest birth to the Word of the immortal Father, Who delivereth from death all who exalt Him supremely forever.

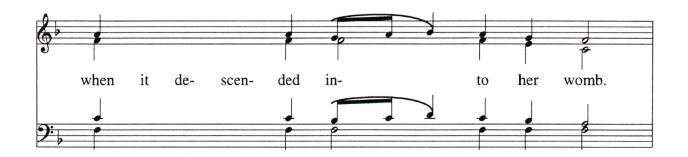
We Praise, We Bless

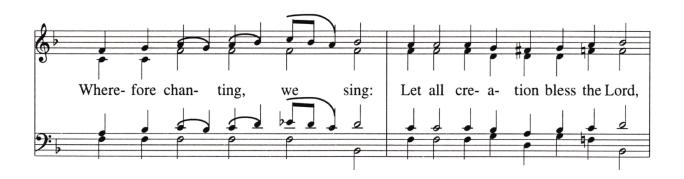


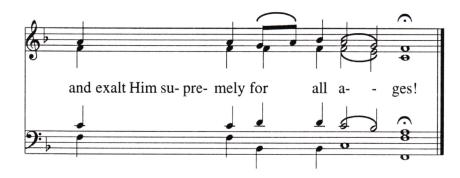


Katavasia — Ode VIII

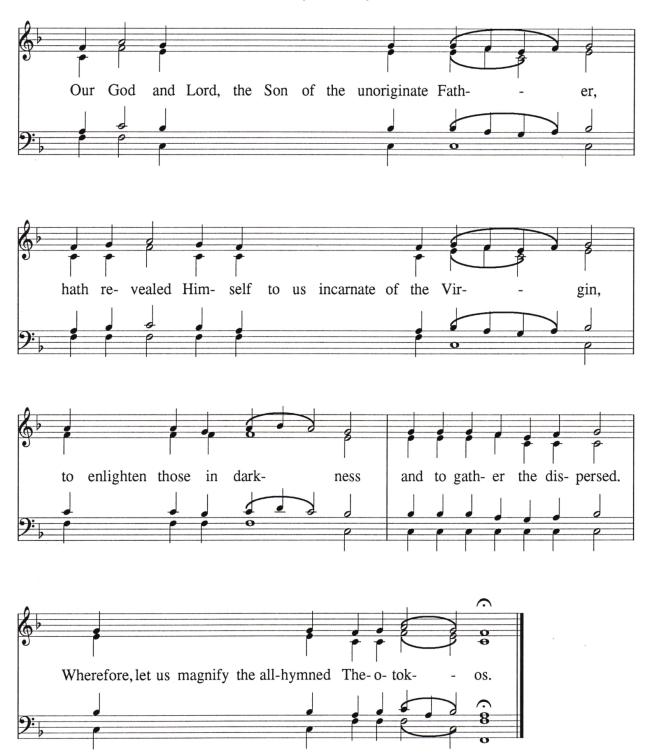








Ode IXCanon of the Forefeast



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

Let all the kingdoms of the earth chant, rejoicing, and let the nations of the gentiles be glad. The mountains, valleys and hills, the rivers and the sea, and all creation, magnify the Lord Who now is born.

Thou wast seen insofar as the prophets were able to behold Thee; and, becoming a man in latter times, Thou hast revealed Thyself to all men in Bethlehem, the city of Judah, the star showing Thee forth to the astrologers, O Ineffable One.

"O my Child most sweet, how can I feed Thee who nourishest all things? How can I hold Thee Who holdest all things in Thy hand? How can I wrap in swaddling-bands Thou Who dost enshroud the whole word in gloom?" cried the most pure Mistress, whom we magnify unceasingly.

Canon of the Martyr

Irmos: Same as that of the preceding canon.

Refrain: O Holy Venerable-Martyr Eugenia, pray to God for us.

Making thine abode in the mansions of heaven, O glorious one, as a martyr most true and a most immaculate virgin among martyrs, thou hast now manifestly been vouchsafed the sweetness of paradise with the virgins, O most blessed Eugenia.

Thou hast obtained a Desire which is past understanding and conceiving, standing in splendor before the Ultimate Desire, manifestly shining with the brilliant rays of the sovereign Trinity, O divinely wise and goodly virgin Eugenia.

Keeping the lamp of virginity ever-burning, thou wast adorned with the crown of martyrdom. Cease thou never in thy prayers for those who with piety and love honor thee, that we may be saved by thy supplications, 0 most glorious Eugenia.

Thou hast now departed unto divine coolness, O most comely one, having passed through the unbearable fire of wounds and the surging water of temptations, O martyr Eugenia. Wherefore, entreat Christ, that He save our souls.

Theotokion: Having conceived in thy womb the Rain of heaven which had descended upon the fleece, O most immaculate one, thou hast given birth to Him Who granteth immortality, for us who piously hymn Him and magnify thee, the immaculate Theotokos.

Katavasia — Ode IX



Exapostilarion of the Forefeast

He Who dwelleth in light unapproachable and sustaineth all things is born of the Virgin in His ineffable loving-kindness: He is wrapped in swaddling-bands as a babe, and in the cave He is laid in the manger of dumb beasts. Let us make all haste to come to Bethlehem, to render homage to Him with the magi, bearing as gifts the fruits of most excellent deeds.

Glory..., Both now...: another Exapostilarion

O ye faithful, let us offer hymnody to the Virgin Mary. For, lo! she now draweth nigh to give birth to Christ the Savior in the city of Bethlehem. Wherefore, O ye magi, guided by the star haste ye with gifts to render homage with us! Ye shepherds, hasten to cry out with the angels to Him Who is born: Glory to Thee Who liest in the manger in the cave!

Psalms of Praise

Reader: 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,

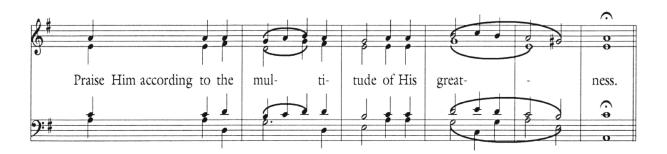
To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

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

To do among them the judgement that is written. This glory shall be to all His saints.

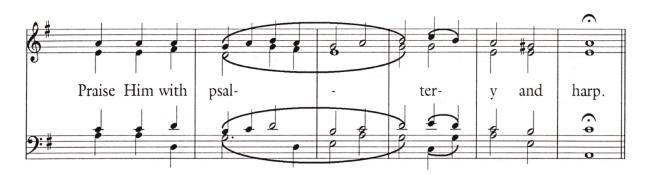
Praise ve God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Stichos: Praise Him for His mighty acts:



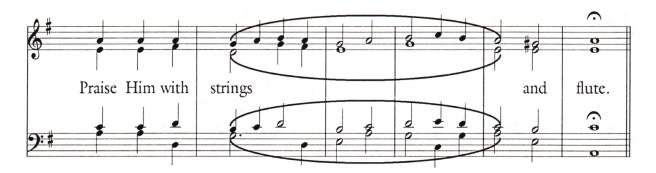
A Star out of Jacob hath shone forth in the cave!/ Let us come and, celebrating the days of the forefeast,/ let us hasten with the magi,/ let us go with the shepherds,/ let us see God wrapped in swaddling-bands,/ let us behold the Virgin feeding Him with her milk!/ O awe-some sight!// Christ, the King of Israel, cometh forth!

Stichos: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet:



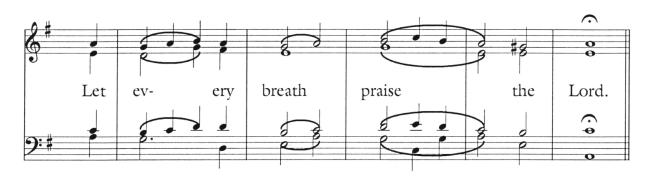
With hymns the choir of angels now honoreth thee,/ the radiant Mother who knewest not man,/ and, rejoicing, it danceth at thy birthgiving, O all-pure one./ Rejoice, thou hope of the Orthodox!/ Rejoice, intercession for those who hymn thee!/ Wherefore, let us say:/ Blessed art Thou Who hast come!// O our God, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance:



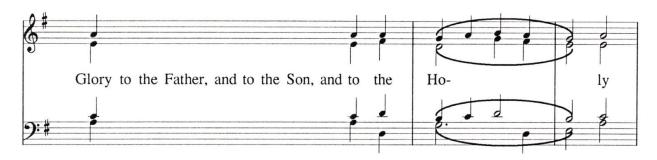
A flower issueth forth from the root of Jesse,/ foretold by the radiant prophet;/ for we see the Virgin giving birth in manner transcending nature/ to the lovely Rose in the cave,/ Who is equally enthroned with the Father in the highest./ O ye people, let us say:/ Blessed art Thou Who hast come!// O our God, glory be to Thee!

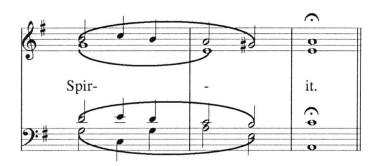
Stichos: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation:



Today Adam hath been recalled from deception/ and from captivity to the dark and lying enemy;/ for Christ is incarnate of the Virgin as a man,/ and He restoreth Adam,/ annulling the curse through the Virgin./ O ye people, let us say:/ Blessed art Thou Who hast come!// O our God, glory be to Thee!

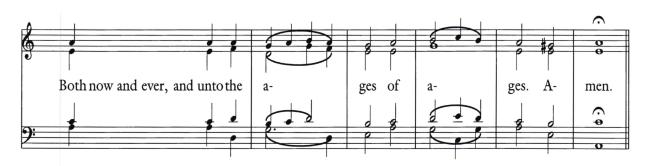
Glory, in Tone VI





Come, O Bethlehem, and prepare a place of birth!/ Come, O Joseph, and register thyself with Mary!/ The most precious manger, the God-bearing swaddling-bands,/ wherein our Life was wrapped,/ Christ our God breaketh asunder the bonds of death,// enfolding men in incorruption.

Both Now, in Tone VI



O blessed womb of the divine Maiden,/ thou hast noetically been shown to be greater than heaven!/ For thou bearest, holding within thee, Him Whom heaven cannot contain!/ O the blessed breasts of the Virgin,/ which Christ, Who feedeth every creature, doth suck, creating flesh for Himself// in the womb of the Maiden who knew not man!

The Lesser Doxology

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name for ever, yea, for ever and ever.

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in generation and generation. I said: O Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. O Lord, unto Thee have I fled for refuge, teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; for in Thee is the fountain of life, in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy mercy unto them that know Thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

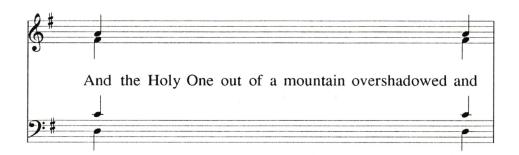
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

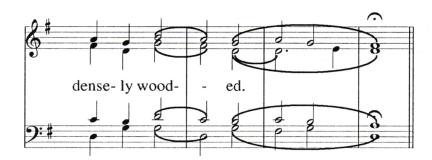
O Lord, Thy mercy endureth for ever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Aposticha, in Tone II,

Thou hast been shown to be/a dwelling-place of the Almighty, O Virgin;/ for, making His abode within thee,/ the Lord of glory// now issueth forth to be born.

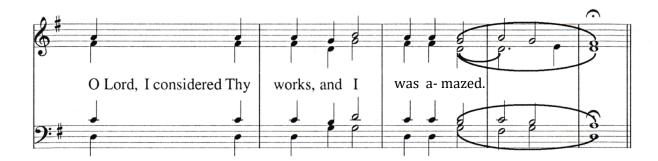
Stichos: God shall come forth out of Thæman:





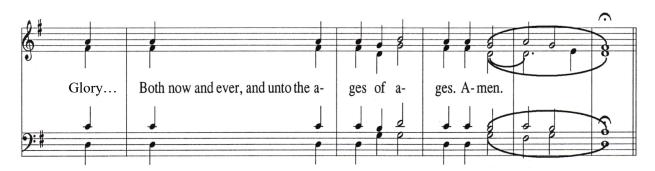
In Bethlehem, the preëternal God/ is born of the Virgin/ as a little babe, in a manger of dumb beasts.// O the wonder!

Stichos: O Lord, I have heard Thy report, and I was afraid:



O ye noetic ranks of the angels,/ with the shepherds and the magi/ lift your voices in song/ unto Him Who is born:// Glory to God in the highest!

Glory, Both Now, in Tone II



Glory to Thee, O Father,/ O Son and Spirit,/ by Whom this awesome mystery hath been accomplished// for the regeneration of men!

It is Good to Give Praise

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.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *Thrice*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *Thrice*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. *Priest*: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. *Choir*: Amen.

Troparion of the Forefeast, in Tone IV

Once Mary, bearing in her womb an Offspring conceived without seed,/ was registered in Bethlehem with the elder Joseph, as being of the seed of David./ And while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered./ There was no room for them in the inn./ But the cave showed itself to be a beauteous palace for the Queen,// and Christ is born to raise up the image that fell of old!

Appendix I

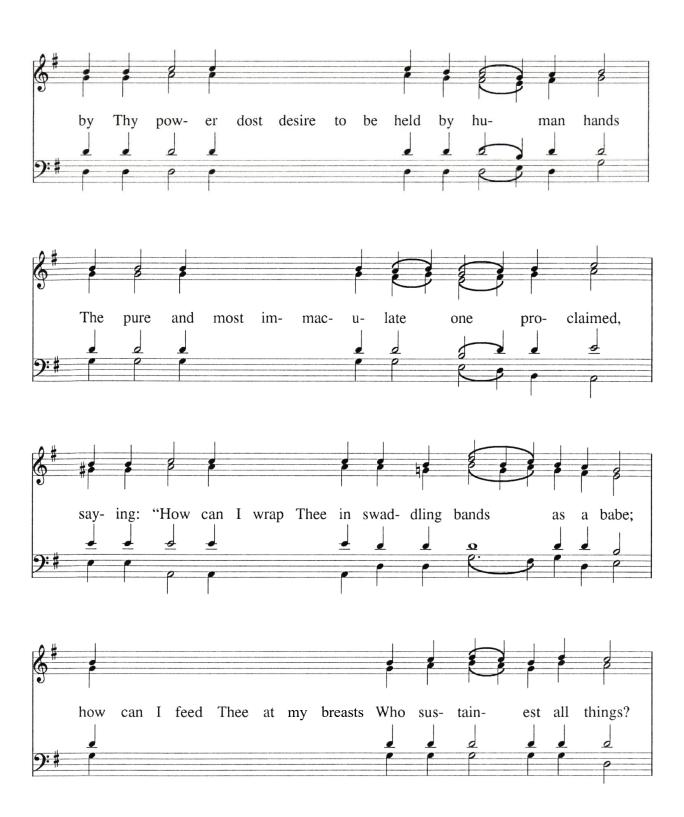
At Lord, I Have Cried

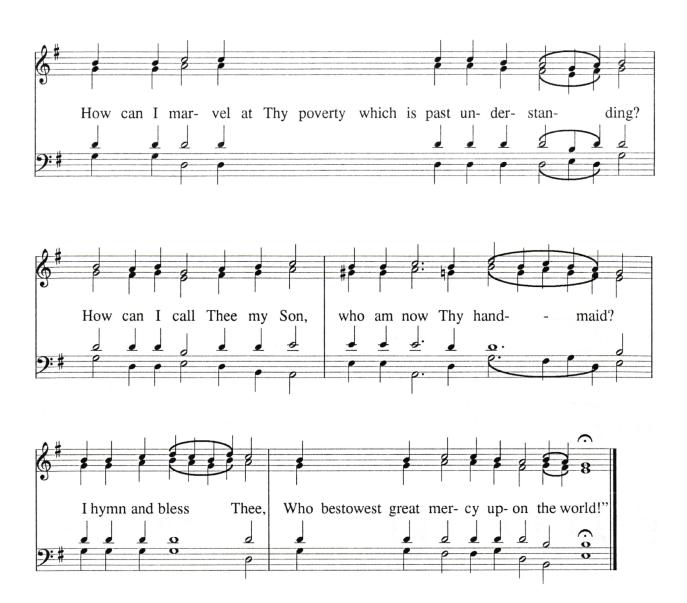
Stichera of the Forefeast, in Tone V

Special Melody: Rejoice...

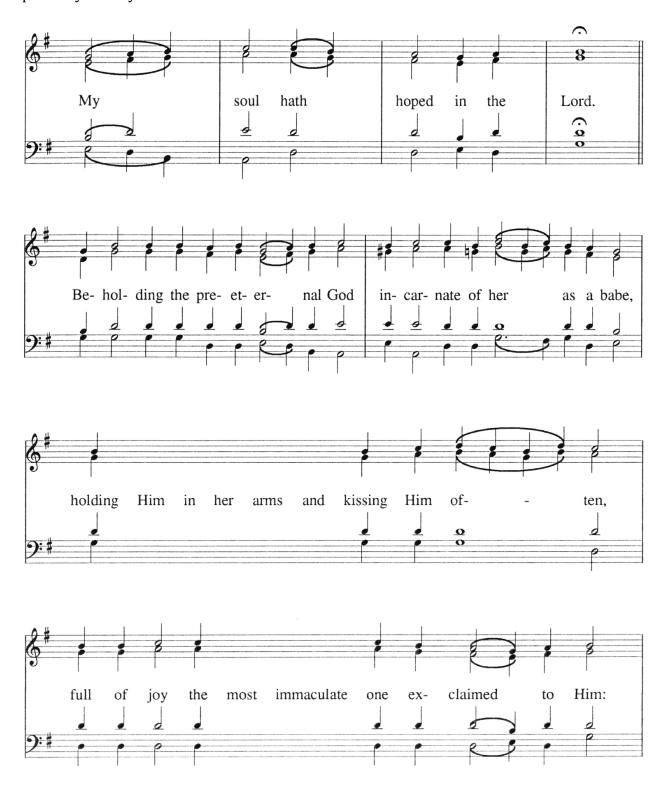
Stichos: If Thou shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?



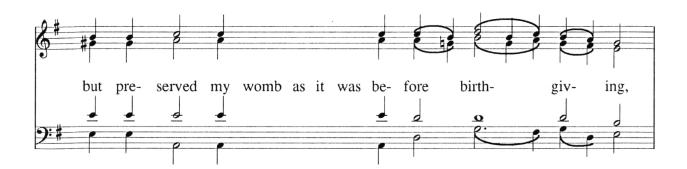




Stichos: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word:

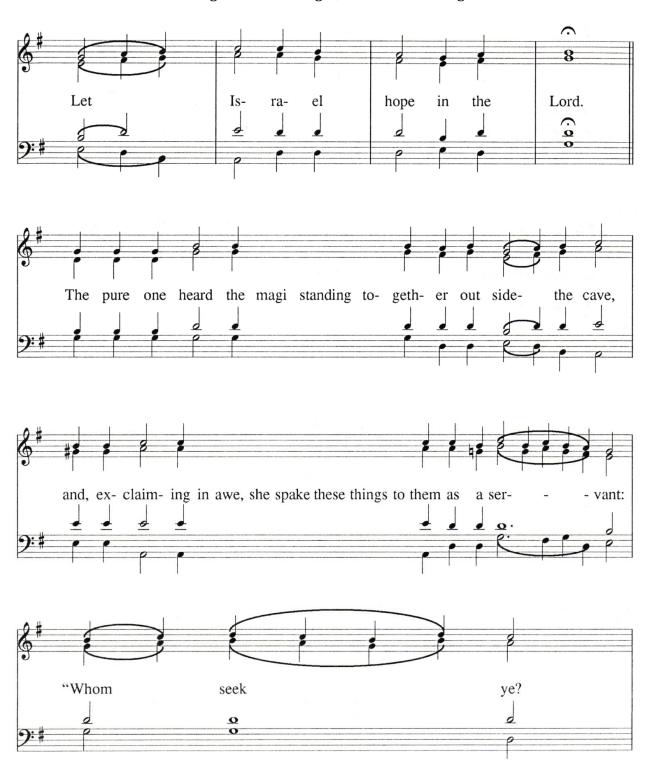


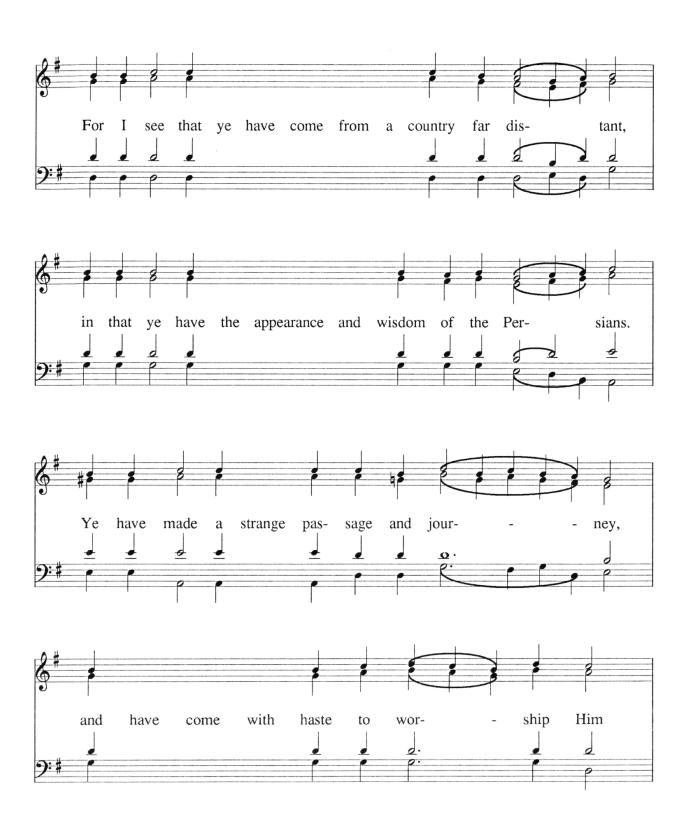


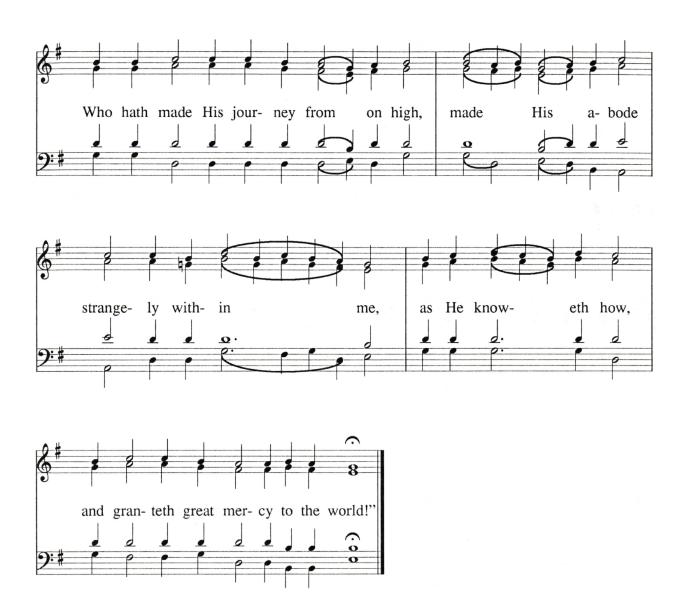




Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch:



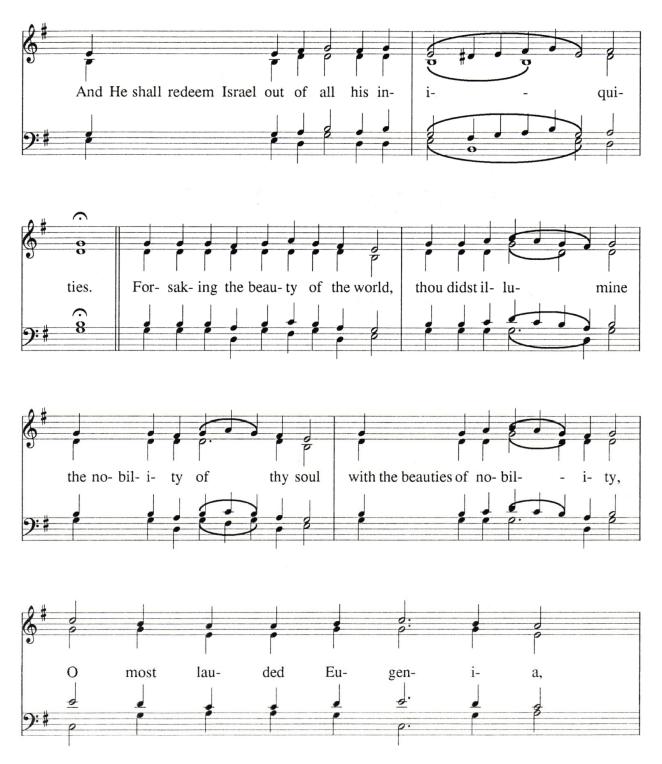




Stichera of the Martyr, in Tone VIII

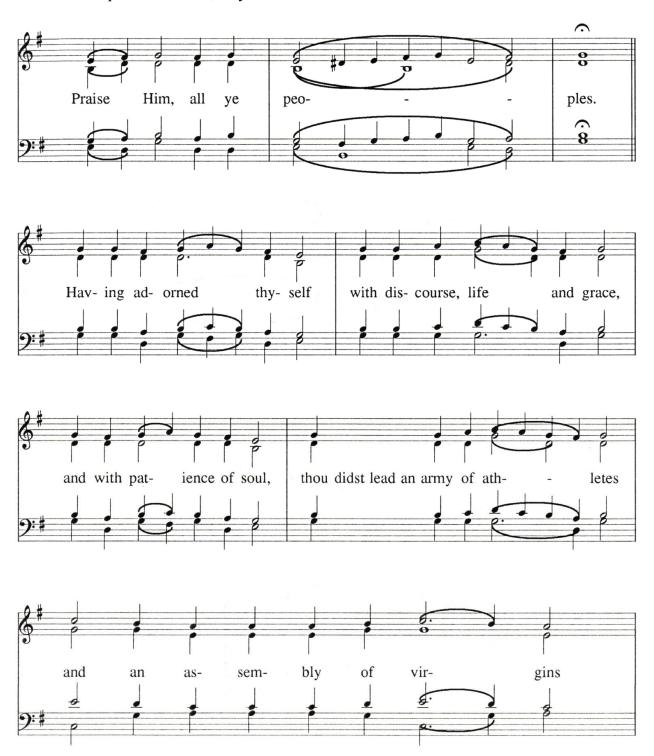
Special Melody: O all-glorious wonder...

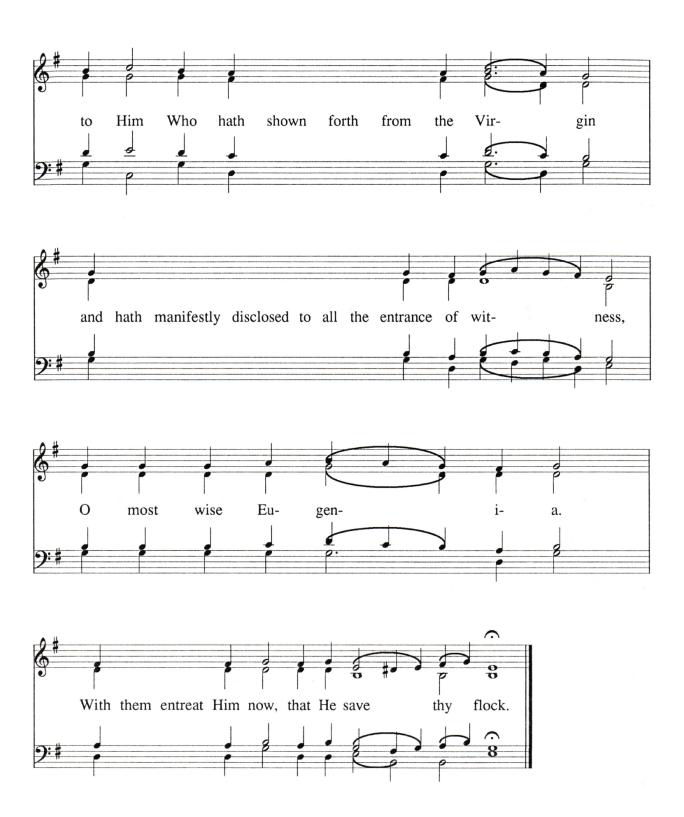
Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption:



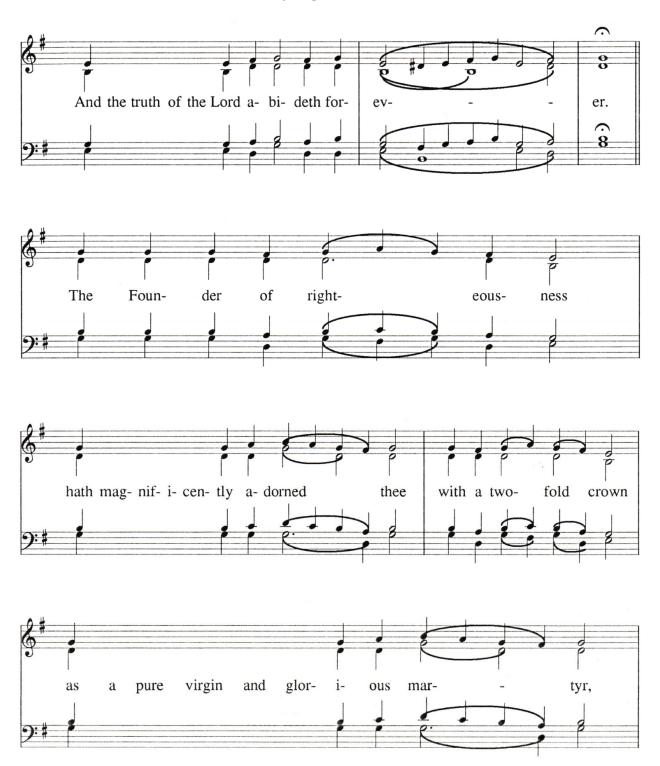


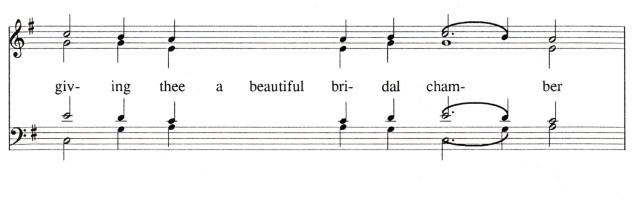
Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations:

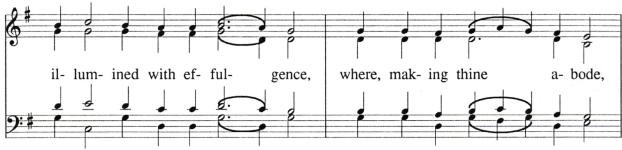


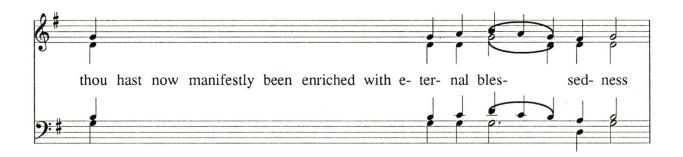


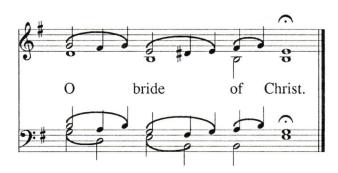
Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us:



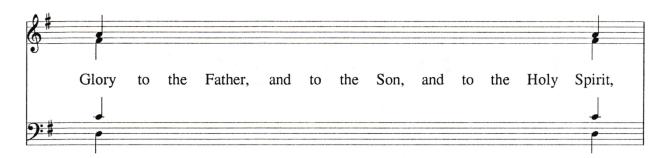


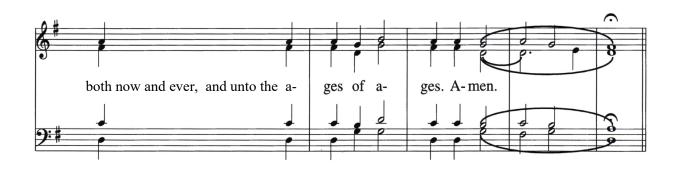






Glory, Both Now, of the Forefeast, in Tone II





Behold, the time of our salvation hath drawn nigh!/ Prepare thyself, O cave:/ the Virgin approacheth to give birth!/ O Bethlehem, thou land of Judah,/ adorn thyself and be glad,/ for our Lord hath shone forth from thee!/ Hearken, ye mountains and hills, and ye lands of Judæa round about:/ for Christ cometh, that He might save man whom He had created,// in that He loveth mankind!

Appendix II

Exapostilarion

Bulgarian Chant

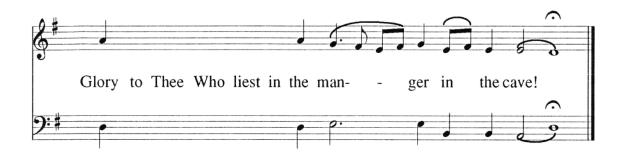




Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



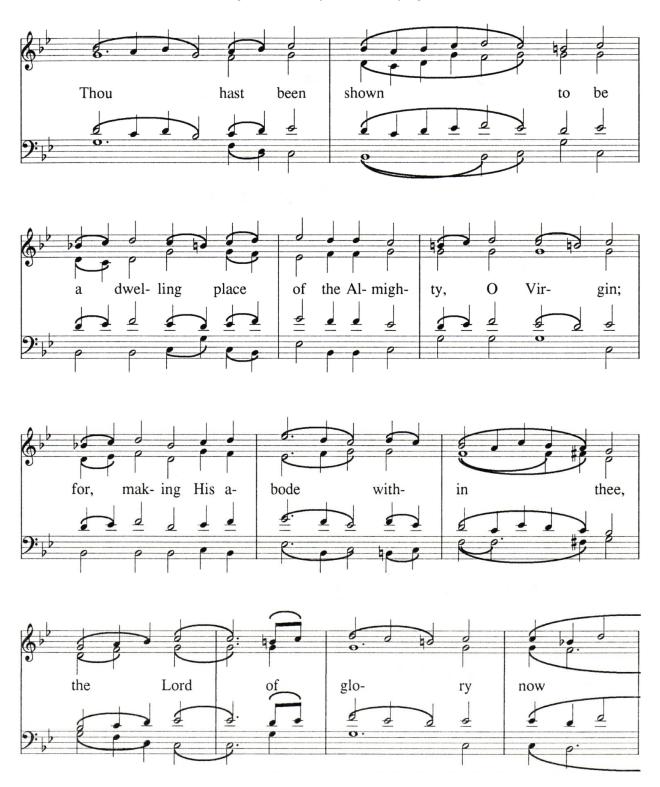


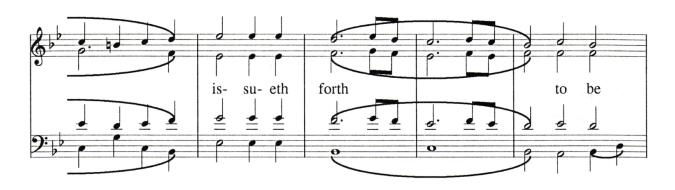


Appendix III

Aposticha of Matins

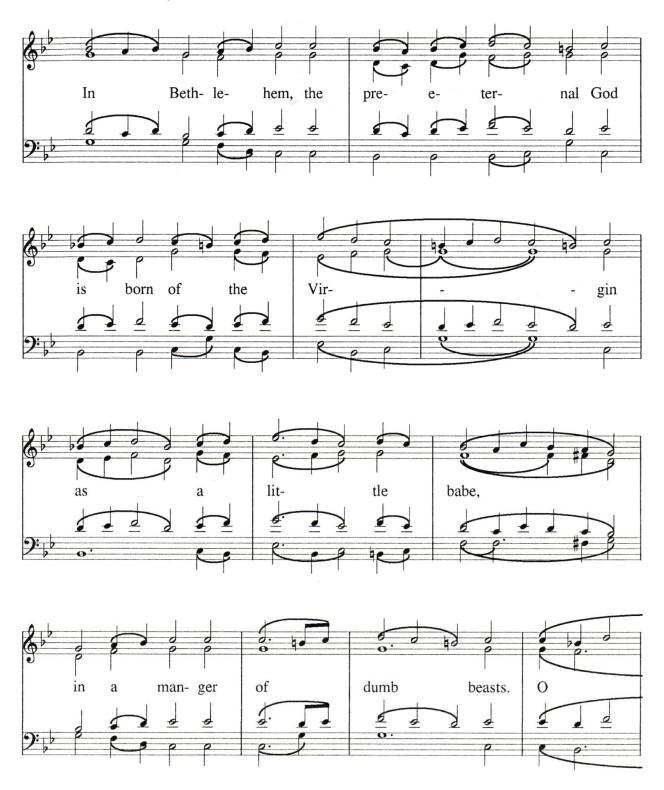
Tone II, Special Melody: O house of Ephratha...

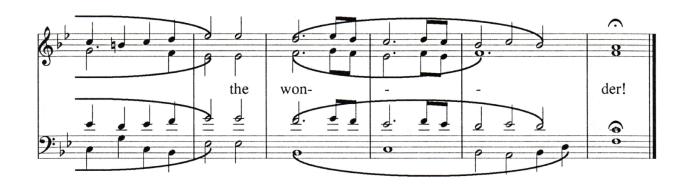




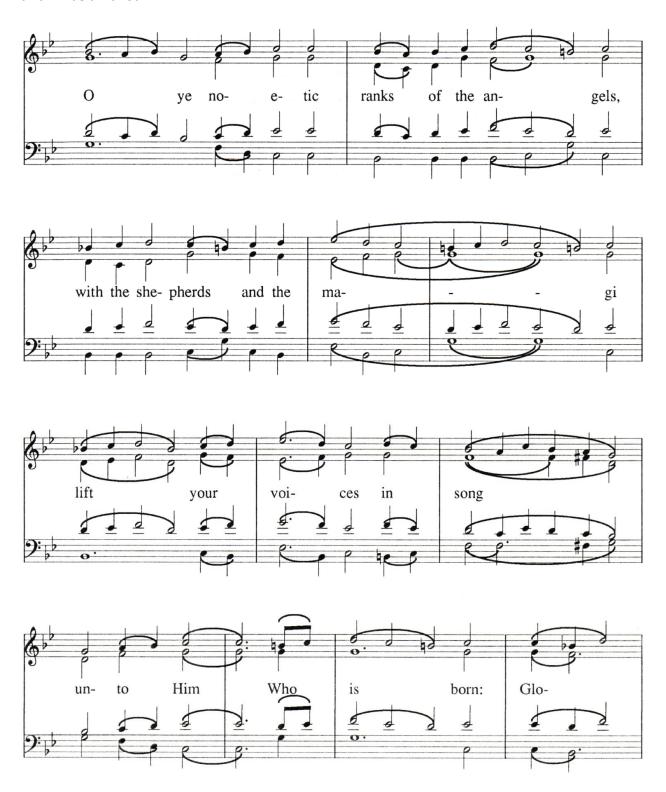


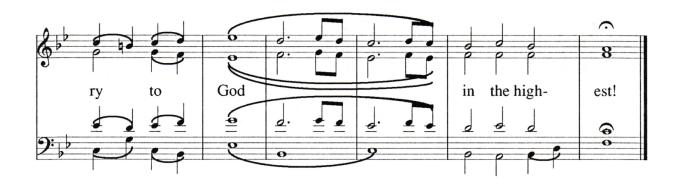
Stichos: God shall come forth out of Thæman, and the Holy One out of a mountain overshadowed and densely wooded.



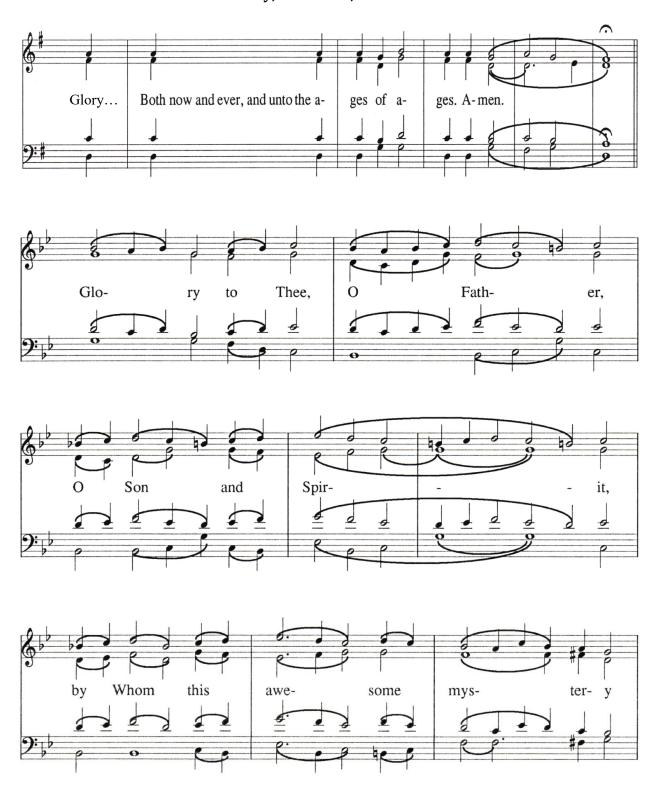


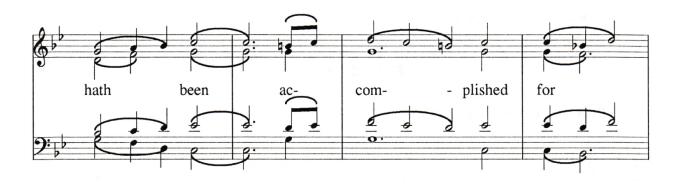
Stichos: O Lord, I have heart Thy report, and I was afraid; O Lord, I considered Thy works, and I was amazed.

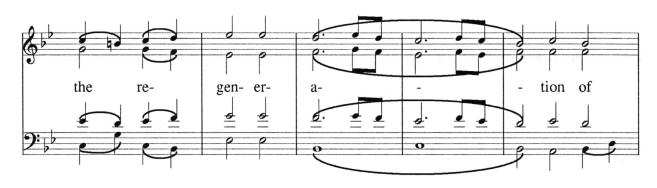




Glory, Both Now, in Tone II









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