

DECEMBER 25

Music for the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

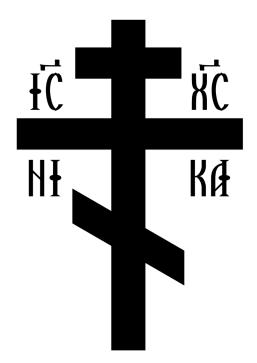
Δόμα ττώχα πέμα μυρομότημα

Holy Myrrh-bearers

Ο Οἶκος τῶν Άγίων Μυροφόρων

www.myrrh-bearers.org

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Choral arrangements from

Music for the Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

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Editor, Subdeacon Paul Daniels Редактор, иподиакон Павел Даниэлс

A.D. 2025 Meeting of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2025 г. Сретение Господа Нашего Иисуса Христа.

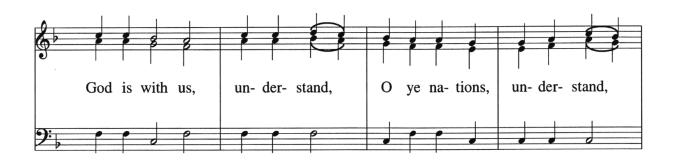
Music for the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

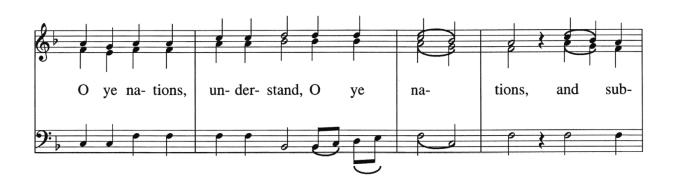
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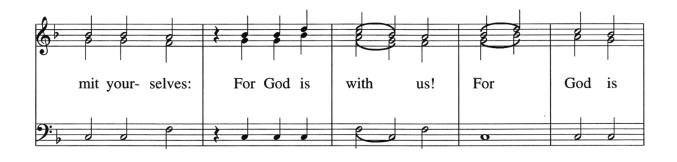
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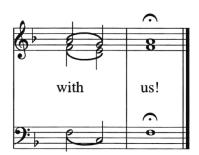
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Great Compline God Is With Us









Second Choir: God is with us, understand, 0 ye nations, and submit yourselves: For God is with us.

Reader: Hearken ye unto the ends of the earth.



Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: O ye powerful, submit yourselves:

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: For if ye again strengthen yourselves, ye shall again be vanquished.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And whatsoever counsel ye shall take, the Lord shall bring it to nought.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And the word, whatsoever ye speak, shall not remain with you.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And of your fear we shall be neither afraid nor in dread.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: But the Lord our God, Him will we hallow, and he shall be fear unto us.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And if I be trusting in Him, He shall be unto me sanctification.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And I will be hoping in Him, and shall be saved by Him.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: Ye that dwell in the region and shadow of death, a light shall shine upon you.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: Whose government is upon His shoulder.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And of His peace there is no end.

Choir: For God is with us.

Reader: And His name shall be called Angel of Great Counsel.

Choir: For God is with us. Reader: Wonderful Counselor.

Choir: For God is with us.

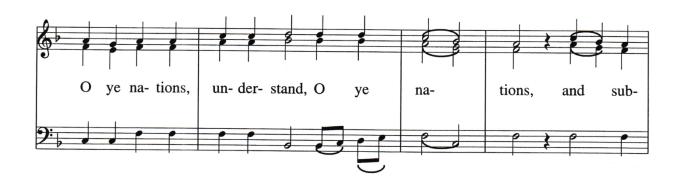
Reader: Mighty God, Ruler, Prince of Peace.

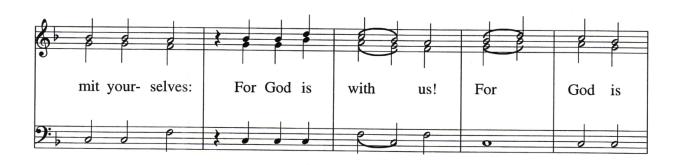
Choir: For God is with us.

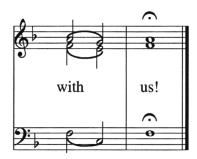
Reader: Father of the age to come.

Choir: For God is with us.



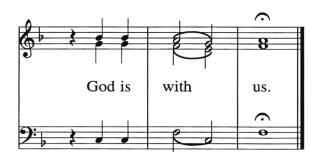






Second Choir: God is with us, understand, 0 ye nations, and submit yourselves: for God is with us.

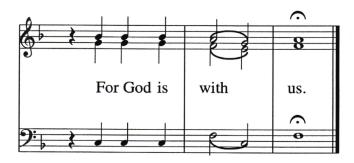
Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.



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

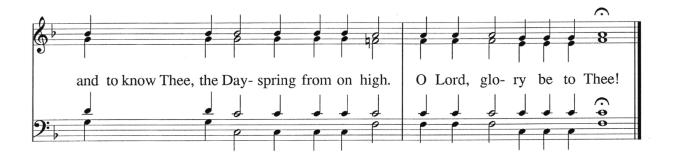
Second Choir: God is with us.

Both Choirs:

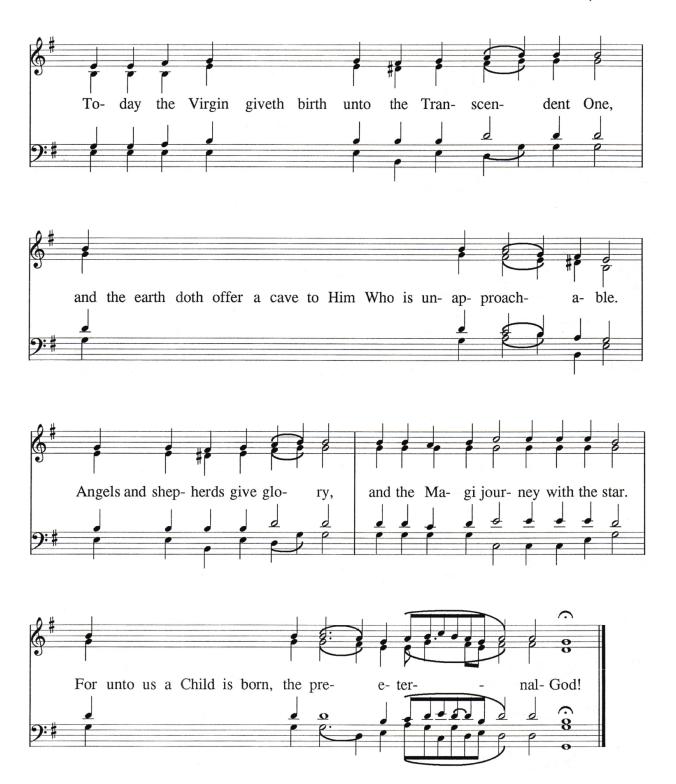


Obikhod, Tone IV





Obikhod, Tone III



Tone I

The composition of John the Monk

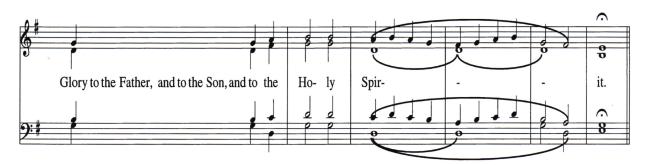
Heaven and earth are glad today,/ as the prophets said,/ and angels and men keep spiritual festival,/ for God, born of the Virgin/ hath appeared in the flesh/ to those who sit in darkness and shadow:/ the cave and the manger have received Him;/ the shepherds proclaim the wonder;/ the magi from the East bring gifts to Bethlehem;/ and with our unworthy lips we offer Him the praise of the angels:/ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!/ For the expectation of the nations hath come,// and coming hath saved us from slavery to the enemy.

Heaven and earth have now joined together today/ since Christ hath been born./ Today God hath come to earth/ and man hath ascended to the heavens./ Today He Who is invisible by nature/ is seen in the flesh for man's sake./ Wherefore, exclaiming in glorification,/ let us cry out to Him:/ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace:/ for Thou hast given us Thine advent!// O our Savior, glory be to Thee!

"Glory to God in the highest!"/ is heard from the incorporeal ones in Bethlehem today,/ addressed to Him Who was well pleased to become Peace on earth./ Now the Virgin is become more spacious than the heavens,/ for Light hath shone forth upon the benighted/ and lifted up the lowly, who chant with the angels:// Glory to God in the highest!

Beholding that which He had created according to His image and likeness/ corrupted by disobedience,/ Jesus descended,/ bowing down the heavens,/ and made His abode in the Virgin's womb/ without undergoing change,/ that in her He might restore Adam Who had become corrupt,/ yet crieth: Glory to Thine appearance,// O my Deliverer and God!

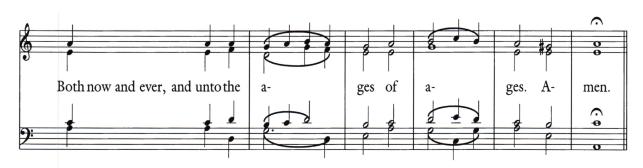
Glory, in Tone V



The composition of John the Monk

The magi, kings of Persia,/ manifestly recognizing the King of heaven Who was born on earth,/ arrived in Bethlehem, led by the radiant star,/ bearing choice gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh;/ and falling down, they offered worship,// for they beheld the Timeless One lying in the cave as a babe.

Both Now, Theotokion, in Tone VI



The composition of Germanus

Today all the angels join chorus in heaven,/ and men rejoice,/ and all creation leapeth for joy/ because of the Lord and Savior born in Bethlehem./ For all the falsehood of idolatry hath ceased,// and Christ reigneth forever.

Tone II

A great and most glorious wonder is wrought today:/ A Virgin giveth birth,/ yet her womb suffereth no corruption!/ The Word is incarnate,/ yet is not separated from the Father!/ Angels give glory in company with shepherds;/ and with them we cry out:/ Glory to God in the highest,// and on earth peace, good will toward men!

Tone III

Stichos: From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee.



Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Creator of all./ Eden offereth a cave,/ and the star showeth forth Christ the Sun to those in darkness./ The magi, illumined by faith, have offered homage with gifts,/ and the shepherds have beheld a wonder as the angels chant and say:// Glory to God in the highest!

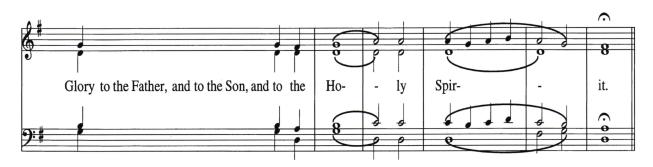
Stichos: The Lord said unto my Lord:



The composition of Anatolius

When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa,/ magi, arriving from the East,/ worshipped the God Who had become man,/ and eagerly disclosing their treasures,/ they offered Him precious gifts:/ pure gold, as to the King of the ages;/ frankincense, as to the God of all;/ and myrrh to Him Who is immortal, as to one three days dead./ Come, all ye nations,// let us worship Him Who hath been born, that He may save our souls!

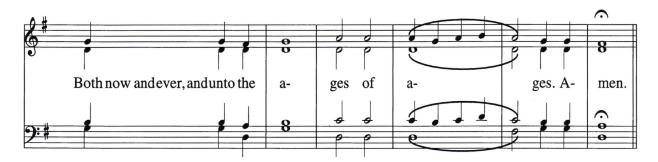
Glory, in Tone IV



The composition of John the Monk

Rejoice, O Jerusalem!/ Hold festival, all ye who love Sion!/ Today the ancient bonds of Adam's condemnation have been loosed!/ Paradise hath been opened unto us!/ The serpent hath been destroyed!/ He who deceived our first mother of old/ hath now seen a woman become the Mother of the Creator!/ O the depths of the richness, wisdom and understanding of God!/ The vessel of sin which brought death upon all flesh/ hath become the beginning of salvation for the whole world/ because of the Theotokos!/ For the most perfect God hath been born of her as a babe,/ and He sealeth her virginity by His nativity./ And loosing the bonds of sin by His swaddling-bands,/ He healeth Eve's pangs of labor through His becoming an infant!/ Let all creation then join chorus and leap up,// for Christ hath come to restore it and to save our souls.

Both Now, Theotokion, in Tone IV



Thou madest Thine abode within a cave, O Christ God./ The manger received Thee,/ and shepherds and magi offered Thee homage./ Then was the preaching of the prophets fulfilled,/ and the angelic hosts marvelled, crying out and saying:/ Glory to Thy condescension,// O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

Troparion of the Feast, in Tone IV

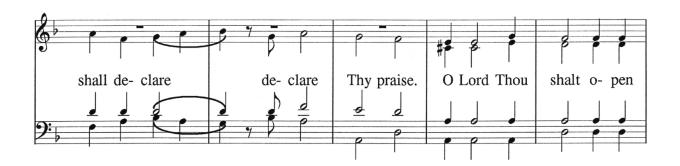
Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee! *Thrice*

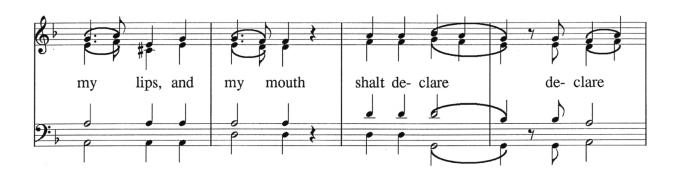
Matins

Glory to God in the Highest

Strokina, № 39

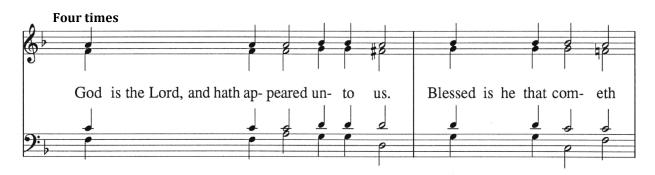


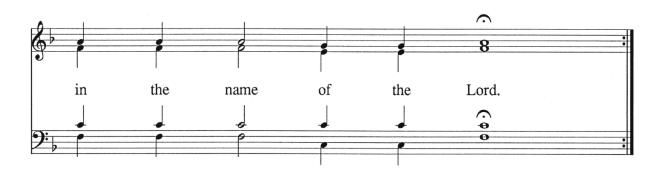






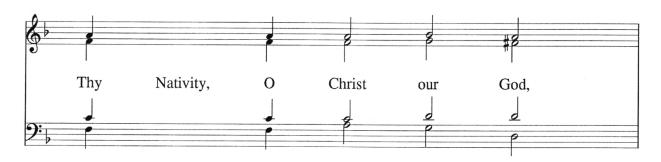
God is the Lord, in Tone IV

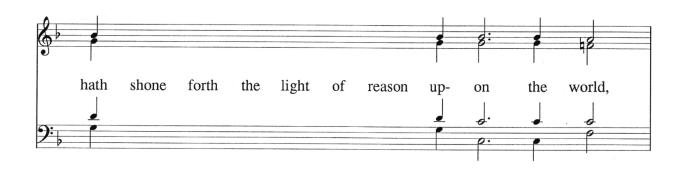


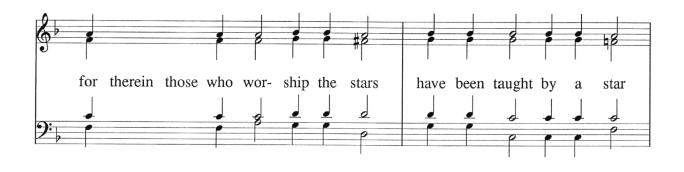


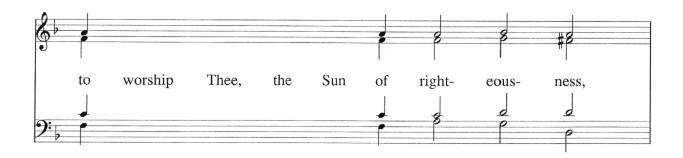
Troparion of the Feast

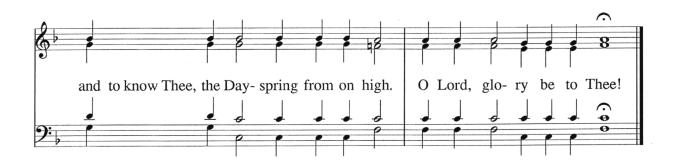
Obikhod, Tone IV











After the First Chanting of the Psalter, Sessional Hymn

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

For our sake Thou wast laid in a manger of dumb beasts, O long-suffering Savior, having become a babe of Thine own will; and the shepherds hymned Thee with the angels, crying aloud: "Glory and praise to Christ our God, Who hath been born on earth and deified the nature of mortals!"

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

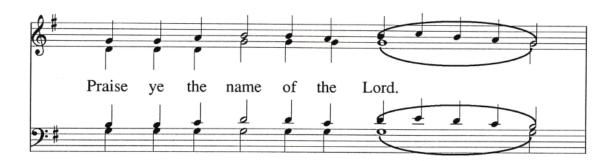
After the Second Chanting of the Psalter, Sessional Hymn

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

O Theotokos, thou didst bear in thy womb, in the flesh, the one and unconfused Godhead of the Trinity, the preëternal and unapproachable One, Who is equally everlasting with the invisible Father. Thy grace hath shone forth in the world, O most hymned one. Wherefore, we cry out unceasingly: Rejoice, O pure Virgin Mother!

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

Athonite Chant





Ye that <u>stand</u> in the <u>house</u> of the Lord, in the courts of the <u>house</u> of our God. Alle<u>lu</u>ia. O Lord, Thy name endureth for<u>ev</u>er, and Thy memorial unto gener<u>a</u>tion and gener<u>a</u>tion. Alle<u>lu</u>ia.

Blessed is the <u>Lord</u> out of <u>Sion</u>, who dwelleth in Je<u>ru</u>salem. Alle<u>lu</u>ia.







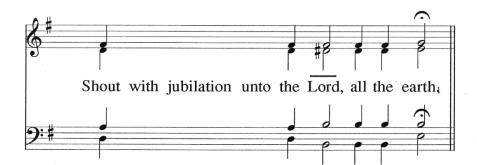
To Him that established the earth upon the \underline{wa} ters; Alle \underline{lu} ia, alle \underline{lu} ia; for His mercy endureth for \underline{ev} er. Alle \underline{lu} ia.

With a strong hand and a \underline{lof} ty arm; Alle \underline{lu} ia, alle \underline{lu} ia; for His mercy endureth for \underline{ev} er. Alleluia.

O give thanks unto the God of $\underline{\text{Hea}}$ ven; Alle $\underline{\text{lu}}$ ia, alle $\underline{\text{lu}}$ ia; for His mercy endureth for $\underline{\text{ev}}$ er. Alle $\underline{\text{lu}}$ ia.



Selected Psalm Verses



Chant ye unto His name. (Psalm 65: 2)

Give glory in praise of Him. (Psalm 65: 2)

Tell forth all His wonders. (Psalm 104: 2)

Say unto God: How awesome are Thy works. (Psalm 65: 3)

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice. (Psalm 95: 11)

Sing unto God, chant unto His name. (Psalm 67. 5)

Confession and majesty are His work. (Psalm 110: 3)

He hath sent redemption unto His people. (Psalm 110: 9)

Holy and terrible is His name. (Psalm 110: 9)

Out of Sion is the magnificence of His comeliness. (Psalm 49: 2)

Our God is in heaven and on earth; all things soever He hath willed, He hath done. (Psalm 113: 11)

Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing forever. (Psalm 88: 2)

He shall call upon Me and shall say: My Father art Thou. (Psalm 88: 27)

I will make Him My firstborn. (Psalm 88: 28)

Higher than the kings of the earth. (*Psalm 88: 28*)

And all the kings of the earth shall worship Him. (*Psalm 71: 11*)

What God is as great as our God? Thou art God Who worketh wonders. (Psalm 76: 14-15)

With the arm of Thy power hast Thou scattered Thine enemies. (Psalm 88: 11)

From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee. (Psalm 109: 3)

The Lord hath sworn and will not repent. (*Psalm 104: 4*)

Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. (*Psalm 109: 4*)

The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son. (Psalm 2: 7)

This day have I begotten Thee. (Psalm 2: 7)

Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance. (Psalm 2: 8)

And the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. (*Psalm 2: 8*)

In the heading of the book it is written concerning Me. (*Psalm 39: 8*)

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever. (Psalm 44: 7)

scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. (Psalm 44: 7)

Wherefore, God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows. (Psalm 44: 8)

For Thou shalt have an inheritance among all the nations. (Psalm 81: 8)

Blessed is the Lord forever. So be it. (*Psalm 88: 53*)

Glory..., Both now...

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! Thrice.

We magnify Thee, O Christ, Bestower of life, Who for our sake hast now been born in the flesh of the all-pure Virgin Mary who knew not wedlock.

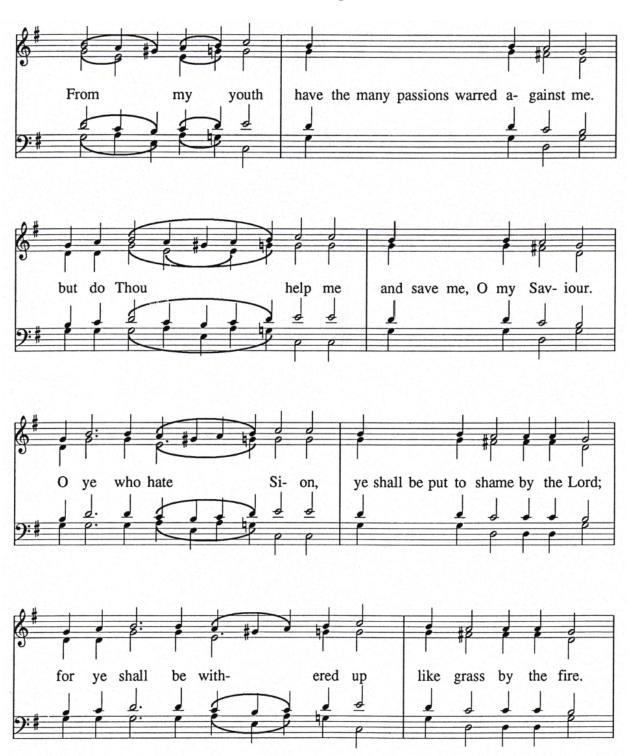
After the Magnification, Sessional Hymn

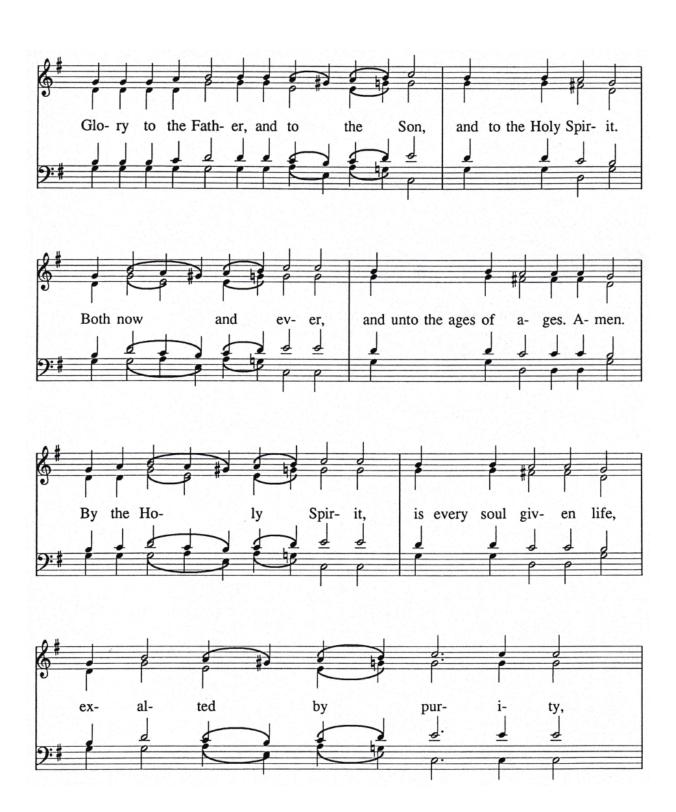
Tone IV, Special Melody: Joseph marvelled...

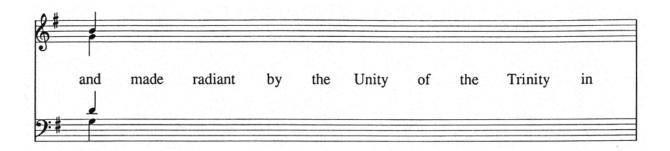
Come, ye faithful, let us behold where Christ was born, and let us follow whither the star goeth with the magi, the kings of the East. There the angels unceasingly hymn Him, and the shepherds play a fitting song on the pipes, singing: Glory in the highest to Him Who hath been born of the Virgin Theotokos in a cave in Bethlehem of Judæa!

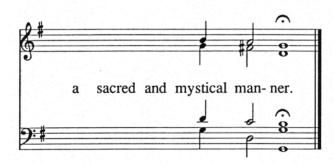
Glory..., Both now...: The foregoing is repeated.

Tone IV, Antiphon I



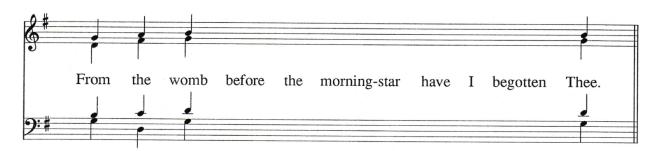


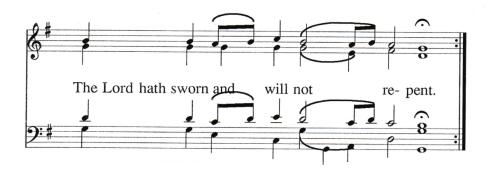




Prokeimenon, in Tone IV

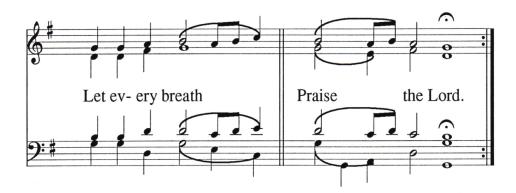
From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent.





Stichos: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet.

Let Every Breath Praise the Lord, in Tone IV

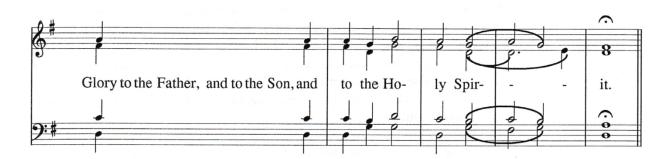


Holy Gospel

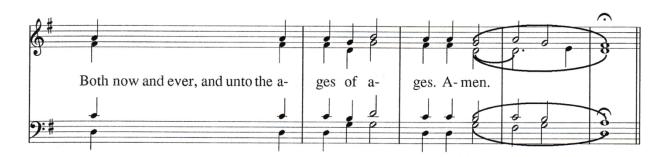
Matthew §2 (1:18-25)

The birth of Jesus Christ was in this way: When, as His Mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying: "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the Virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, (which, being interpreted, is) God with us." Then Joseph, being raised from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife, and knew her not until she had brought forth her first-born Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Tone II

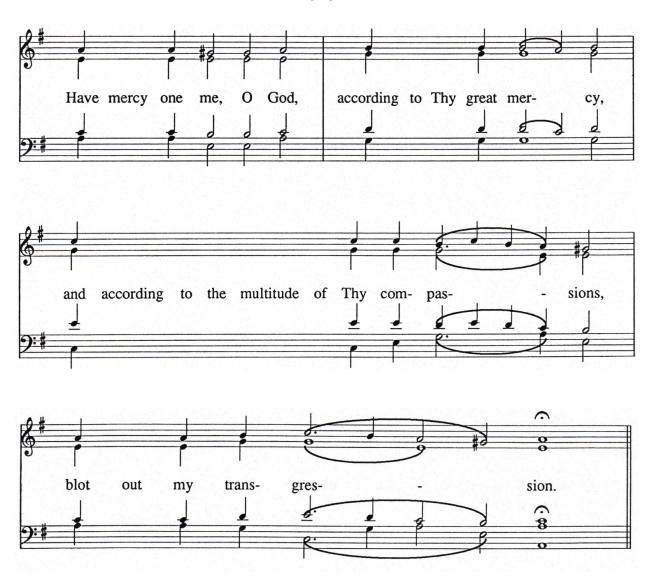


All things are filled with joy today!// Christ hath been born of the Virgin!



All things are filled with joy today!// Christ hath been born in Bethlehem!

Tone VI



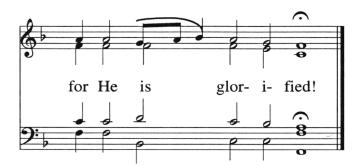
Sticheron, in Tone VI

Glory to God in the highest,/ and on earth peace!/ Today Bethlehem receiveth Him/ Who is ever seated with the Father./ Today the angels glorify as God the Babe Who was born./ Glory to God in the highest,// and on earth peace, good will among men!

Ode I

Canon I, the acrostic whereof is: "Having become man, Christ remaineth God as He was before", the composition of Cosmas of Maïuma, in Tone I





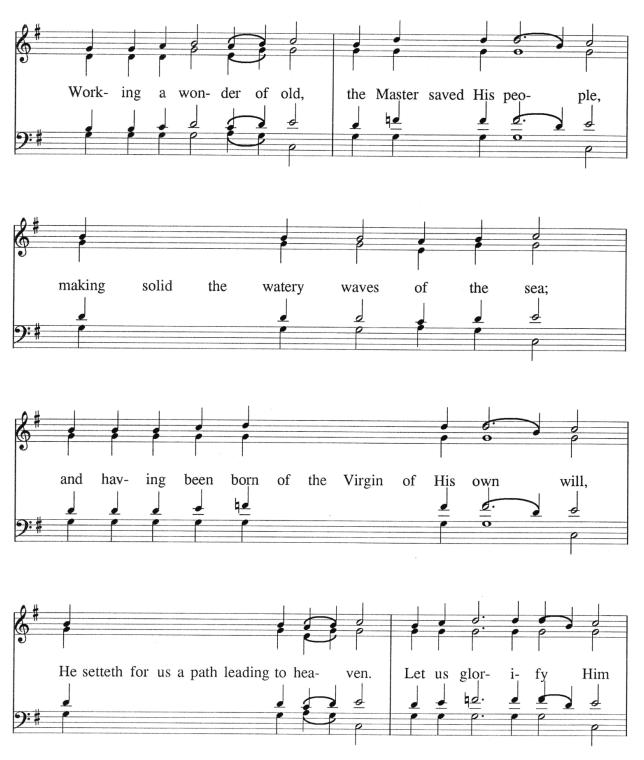
The composition of Cosmas of Maïuma, in Tone I

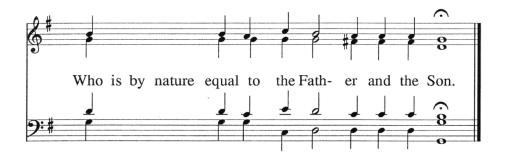
That which, though fashioned in the image of God, is become wholly corrupt through transgression, having fallen away from the higher divine life, hath the wise Creator restored, for He is glorified.

The Creator, seeing man, whom He had fashioned with His own hands, perishing, descendeth, bowing down the heavens; and, truly incarnate, He taketh upon Himself all man's essence through the pure and divine Virgin, for He is glorified.

Christ God, being the wisdom, Word, Power, Effulgence and Son of the Father, hiding Himself as much from the hosts of heaven as from those on earth, hath restored us, becoming man, for He is glorified.

 $\label{eq:composition} \textbf{Ode I} \\ \textit{Canon II, the composition of John of Damascus, in the same tone} \\$





The composition of John of Damascus, in the same tone

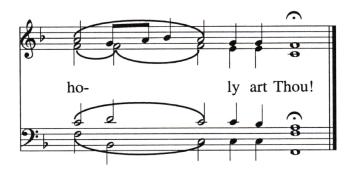
Thy sacred womb, which was depicted by the bush which burned without being consumed, manifestly bore the Word and mingled God with a human image, loosing the wretched womb of Eve from the bitter curse of old. Let us glorify Him, O ye mortals!

To the magi the star manifestly showed Thee forth, the Word, Who hast existed before the sun and camest to bring an end to sin, and Who in Thy mercy wast wrapped in swaddling bands in the wretched cave. And, rejoicing, they beheld the Lord Himself, a man.

Katavasia: The first choir chanteth the irmos of Canon I, whereupon the second choir chanteth the irmos of Canon II.

Ode III *Canon I*



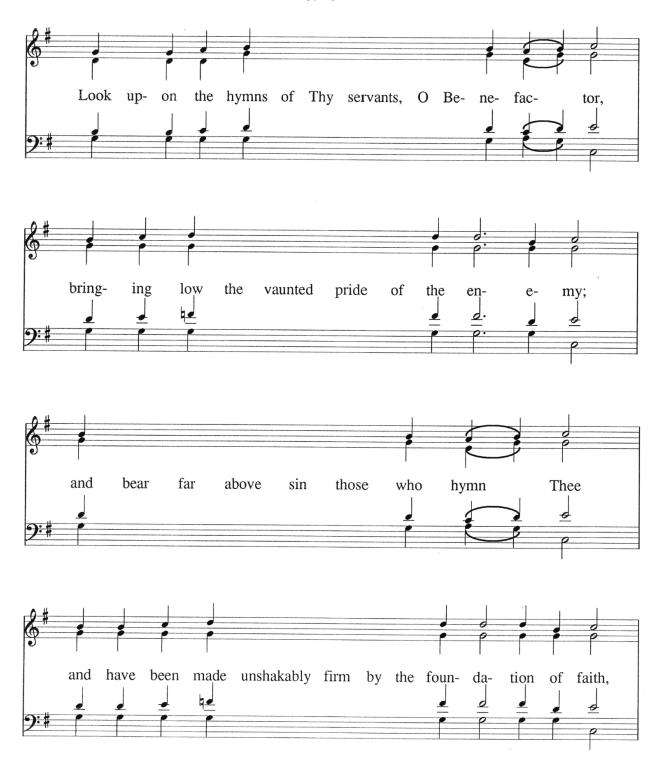


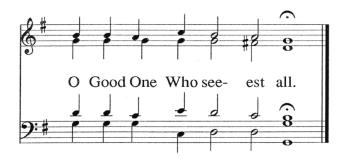
Adam who, though fashioned of dust, partook of higher inspiration, yet was led to stumble into corruption through a woman's deceit, seeing Christ born of a woman, crieth out: O Lord Who for my sake hast become like me, holy art Thou!

O Lord Christ, Who, mingling with clay, didst make Thyself conformable thereto, imparting Thy divine essence by participating in vile flesh, becoming earthly, yet remaining God, and Who hast lifted up our horn: Holy art Thou!

O Bethlehem, thou king of the princes of Judah, be glad! For Christ Who shepherdeth Israel, seated on the shoulders of the cherubim, hath manifestly come forth from thee, and, having lifted up our horn, hath established His reign over all.

Ode IIICanon II





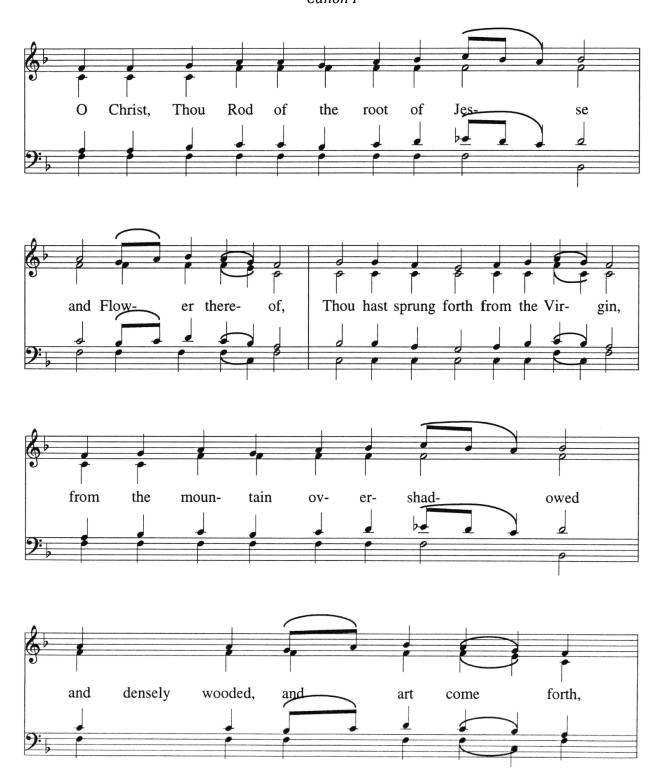
Having been vouchsafed to behold the all-rich Offspring of the all-pure Bride, which passeth understanding, the chorus of pipers bowed down in awe-filled homage; and the ranks of incorporeal beings hymn Christ the King, Who became incarnate without seed.

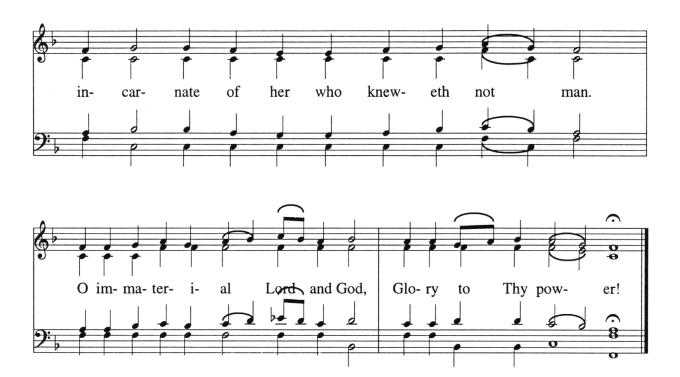
In His loving-kindness, He Who reigneth over the heights of heaven becometh like us through the unwedded Maiden; the Word Who before was immaterial later took upon Himself the matter of the flesh, that He might draw to Himself the first-created man, who had fallen.

Hypakoë

The sky hath brought the firstfruits of the nations to Thee Who liest in the manger as a babe, O Thou Who by the star summoned the magi, who were amazed to behold neither scepters nor thrones, but the uttermost poverty. For what is more lowly than a cave; what is more humble than swaddling-clothes? Yet therein the plenitude of Thy divinity shone forth. O Lord, glory be to Thee!

Ode IV *Canon I*





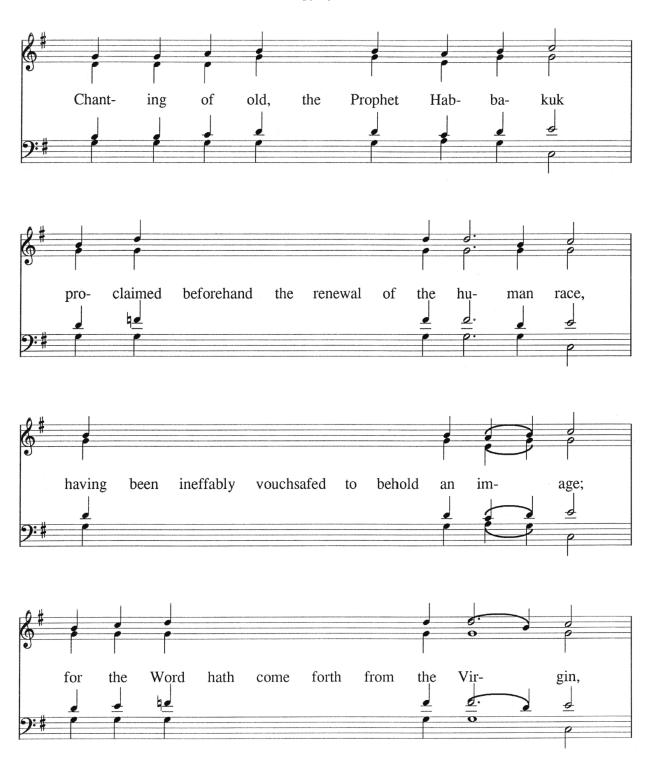
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

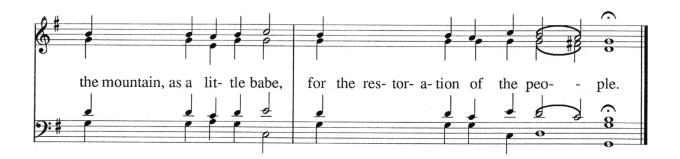
From the tribe of Judah Thou hast shone forth, O Christ, the expectation of the nations, Whom Jacob foretold of old, and hast come to overthrow the power of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria, transforming falsehood into godly faith. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Shining forth, a Star out of Jacob, O Master, Thou hast filled with joy the wise watchers of the stars, the followers of the words of Balaam, the soothsayer of old; and Thou hast manifestly received the firstfruits of the nations who have entered in to worship Thee. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou hast descended on the womb of the Virgin like rain upon the fleece, O Christ, and like drops of rain falling upon the earth. Ethiopia and Tharsis, the islands of Arabia and Saba, and they who rule all the land of the Medes, have fallen down before Thee, O Savior. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode IVCanon II



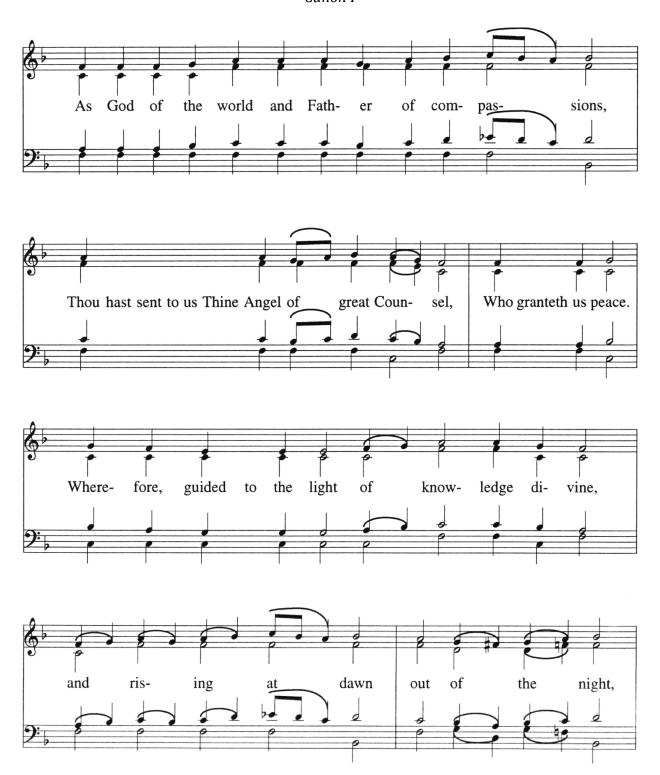


Receiving flesh from the Virgin of His own will, the Most High hath issued forth, equal to men, to purge away the venom of the serpent's head, leading all from the sunless gates of hades to life-bearing light, in that He is God.

The nations who of old were overwhelmed by corruption, having escaped the greatest enemy, lift up their hands with hymns of praise, honoring the one Christ as Benefactor, Who hath come to us in His mercy.

Having grown forth from the root of Jesse, O Virgin, thou didst transcend the laws of human nature, giving birth to the preëternal Word of the Father, in that He Himself was well pleased to pass through thy sealed womb in His strange abasement.

Ode V *Canon I*



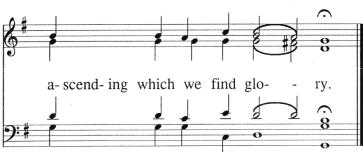


Submitting to be recorded among Thy servants at the command of Cæsar, Thou hast freed us slaves from the enemy and sin, O Christ; and having abased Thyself for us, Thou hast made our clay divine through Thy union and sharing therein.

Behold, the Virgin hath conceived in her womb, as was foretold of old, and hath given birth to God made man, yet remaineth virgin. O sinners who for her sake have been reconciled with God, let us faithful hymn her as the true Theotokos.

Ode V *Canon II*



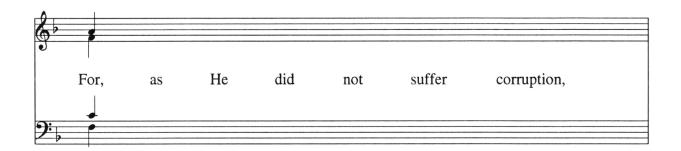


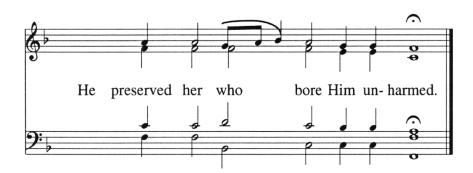
By His coming in the flesh the Master hath again cut down the cruel enmity directed against us, that He might destroy the soul-destroying ruler, uniting the world with the immaterial beings, making the Begetter accessible to creation.

The people who of old were benighted have finally seen the light of the radiance of the Most High; and the Son bringeth the nations to the Father as an inheritance, bestowing ineffable grace where sin once flourished exceedingly.

Ode VICanon I





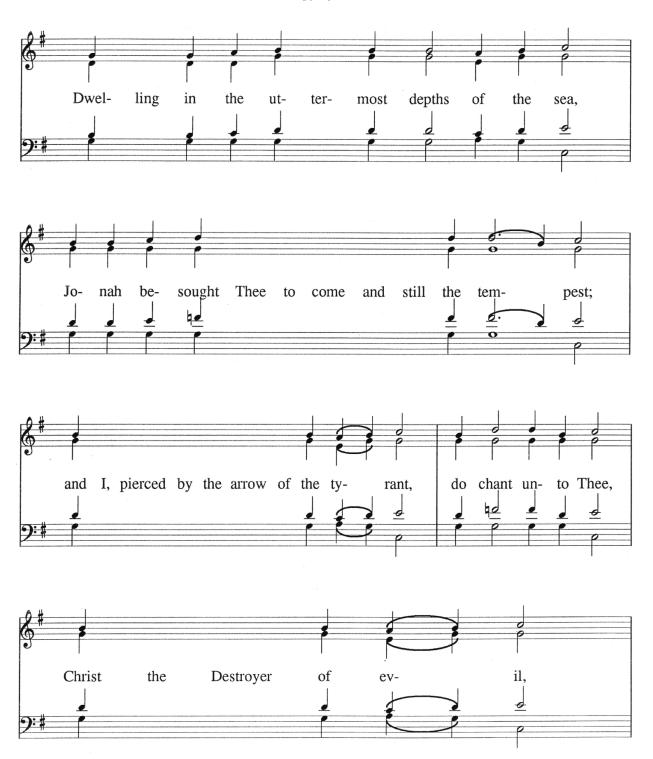


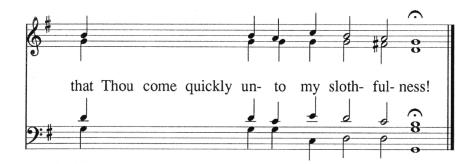
Refrain: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

Christ our God, Whom the Father begat before the morning star, is come forth, incarnate, from the womb. He Who ruleth over the all-pure powers lieth in a manger of dumb beasts and is wrapped in swaddling-bands; and he looseth the knotted bonds of transgressions.

A young Child, a Son, is born of the clay of Adam and given to the faithful: He is the Father and Prince of the age to come, and is called the Angel of great Counsel. He is the mighty God Who exerciseth dominion over all creation.

Ode VICanon II

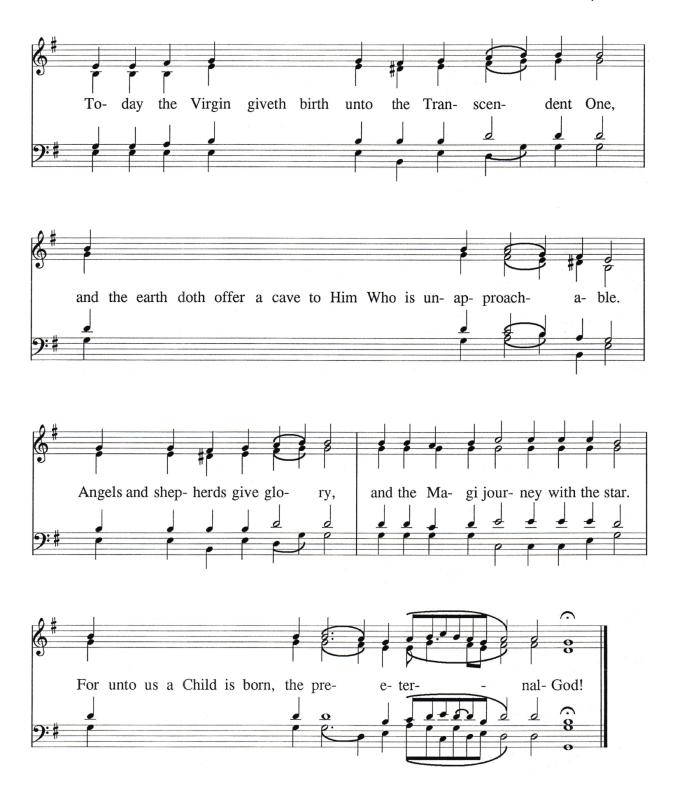




God the Word, Who from the beginning was with God, intending to preserve the nature which He Himself shareth with us, now strengtheneth it, which from of old was weak, by another fellowship with it, straightway showing it to be free from the passions.

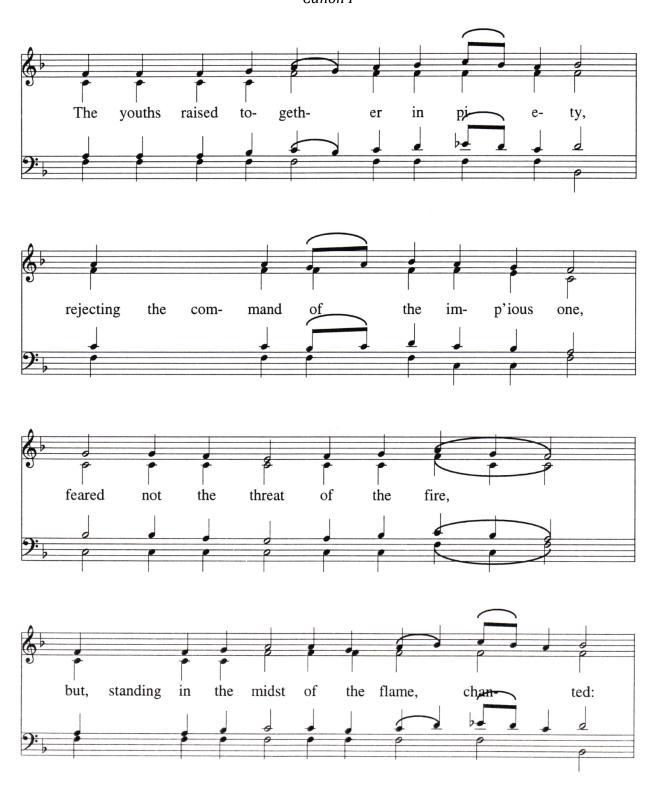
He Who dwelleth in light, and, contrary to His dignity, hath now been well pleased to dwell in a manger, cometh forth for our sake from the loins of Abraham for us who have benightedly fallen into the darkness of transgressions, that, for the salvation of men, He might raise up His children who have fallen low.

Obikhod, Tone III



Ikos: Bethlehem hath opened Eden! We have found Joy in a secret place: come, and let us receive the things of paradise within the cave. There the unwatered Root hath blossomed, bearing forgiveness as its fruit. There an unfailing Wellspring hath been found, whence of old David longed to drink. There the Virgin hath given birth to the Babe, quenching the thirst of Adam and David straightway. Wherefore, let us hasten to this place where now is born a young Child, the preëternal God!

Ode VII *Canon I*





The piping shepherds received an awesome vision of light; for the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and an angel cried out: Sing ye, for Christ, the blessed God of your fathers, is born!

Suddenly, at the voice of the angel, the armies of heaven cried out: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will among men! Christ hath shone forth: the blessed God of your fathers!"

"What words are these?" said the shepherds; "Let us go and see what hath taken place, the blessed Christ!" And hastening to Bethlehem, they bowed down in worship with the Theotokos, chanting: "O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!"

Ode VIICanon II



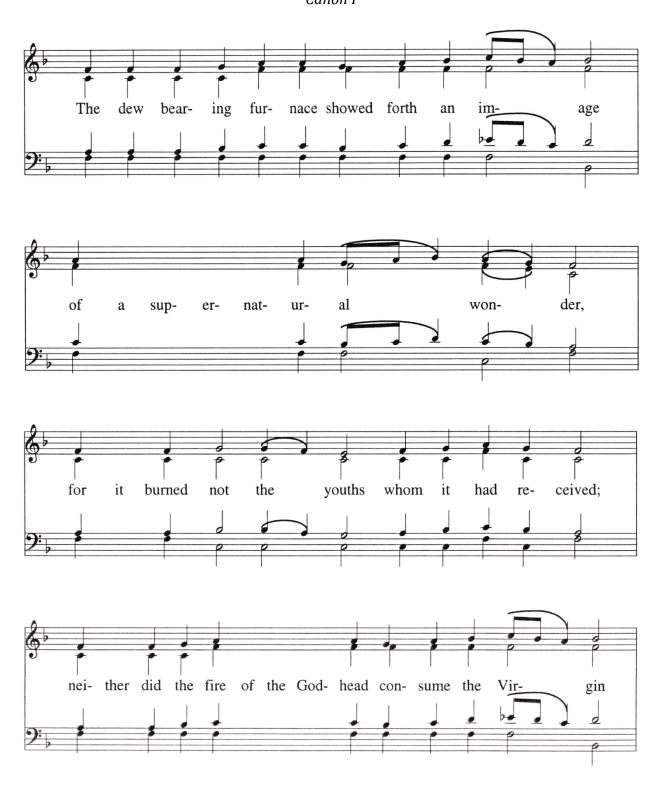


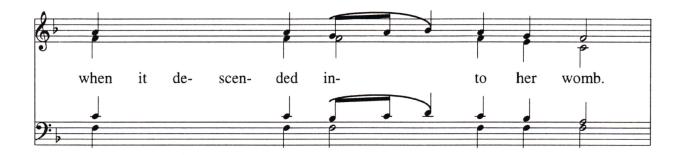
The furnace which had been raised to a sevenfold heat savagely burneth the minions, but spareth the youths who were wholly consumed with the fear of God; and the flame crowned them when the Lord freely granted them dew for their piety's sake.

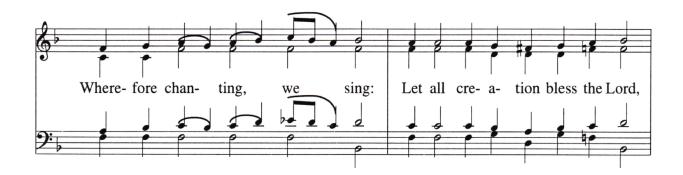
O Christ our Helper, using Thine ineffable incarnation as a bulwark of defense, having taken on form, Thou hast put to shame the adversary of men, bearing the richness of Thy deification, in hope of which we had fallen from the heights down into the darkness of the uttermost depths.

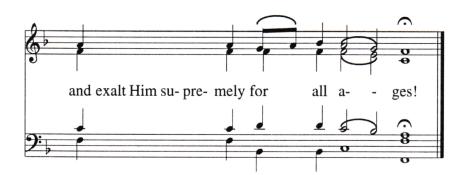
Omnipotently Thou hast cast down sin, which is exalted in evil without restraint and is incited to a vile frenzy by the perversion of the world; and those whom it formerly attracted Thou savest from its snares today, having become incarnate of Thine own will, O Benefactor.

Ode VIII *Canon I*







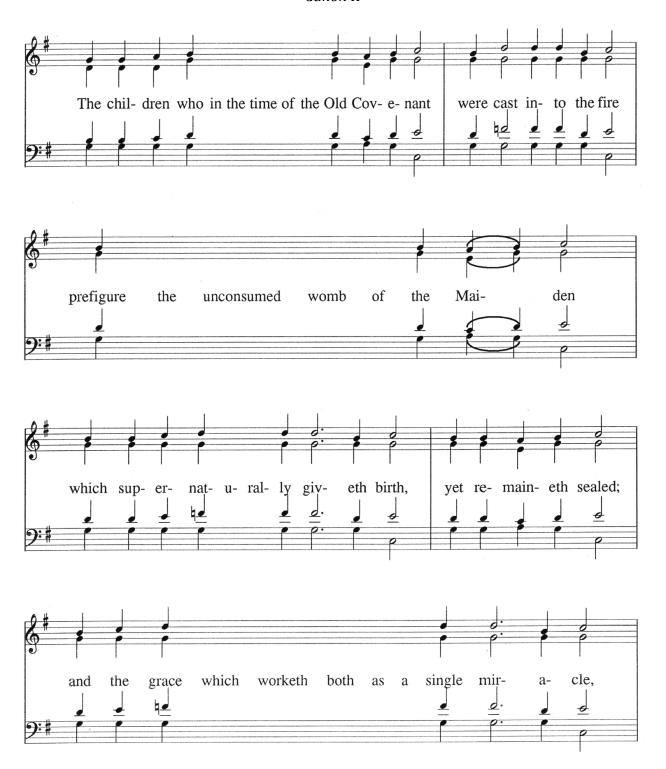


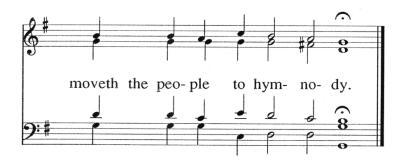
The daughter of Babylon carrieth off the captive children of David from Sion to herself; but now she sendeth her own children, the magi bearing gifts, to the God-pleasing daughter of David, who prayeth. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

The harps refused to play their sad songs, for the children of Sion would not sing in a strange land; but Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, destroyeth all the falsehood of Babylon and her musical instruments. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Babylon received the plunder of the kingdom of Sion and its captive riches; but Christ draweth its treasures to His Sion, guiding the star-watching kings by a star. Wherefore, chanting, let us sing: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Ode VIIICanon II





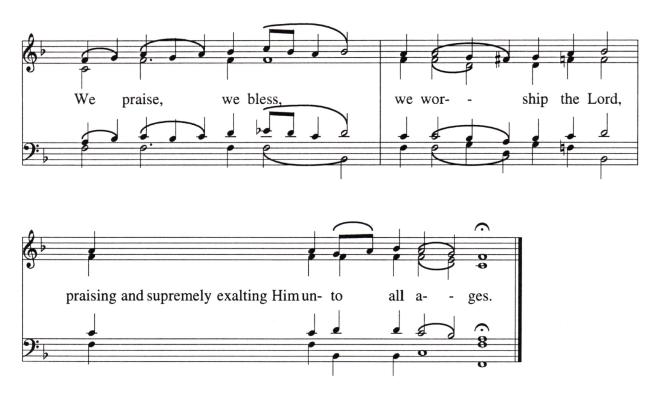
We bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: the Lord.

Having escaped the destruction resulting from man's being deceived into becoming divine, like the youths all creation with trembling unceasingly hymneth the Word Who hath abased Himself, and with fear it offereth meager praise, in that it is corrupt, even though it hath endured such with wisdom.

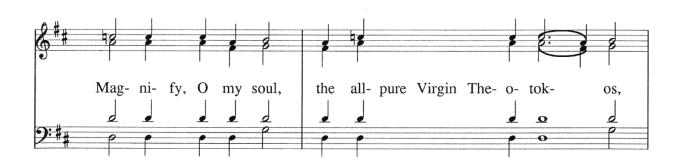
Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

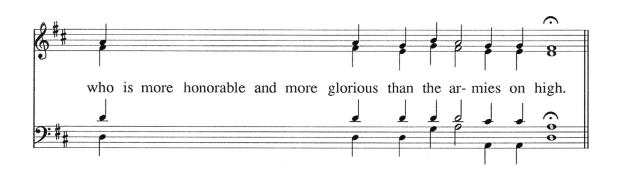
Thou comest, O Restoration of the nations, to bring lost human nature back from the hills of the wilderness to the pasture rife with flowers, that Thou mightest put down the violent power of the slayer of men, having, in Thy forethought, become God as well as man.

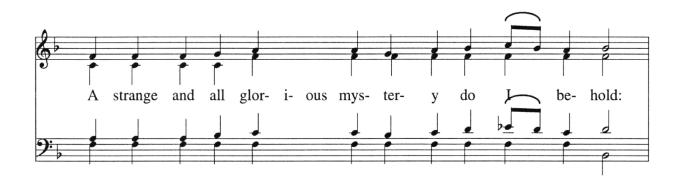
We Praise, We Bless



Ode IX *Canon I*



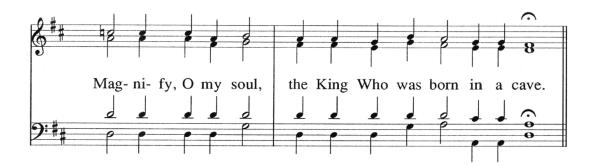




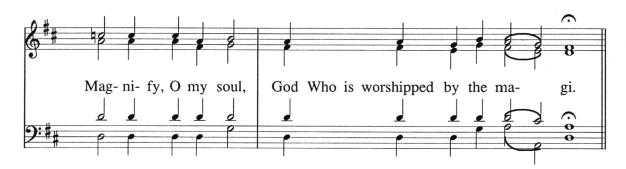




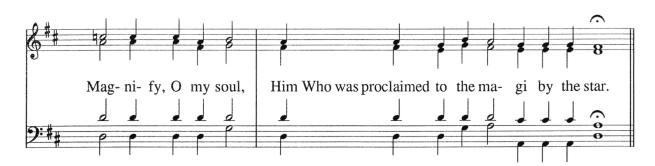
The magi beheld the excellent course of the strange star which was newly appeared, illumining the heavens and marking the birth of Christ the King in Bethlehem, for our salvation.



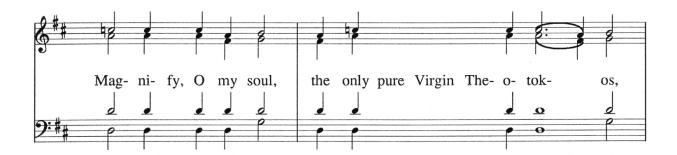
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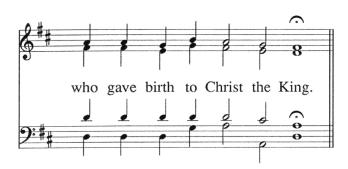


The star revealed the newborn infant King to the magi who said: "Where is He, for we have come to worship Him?" But Herod who fought against God, enraged, was troubled, seeking to slay the Christ.

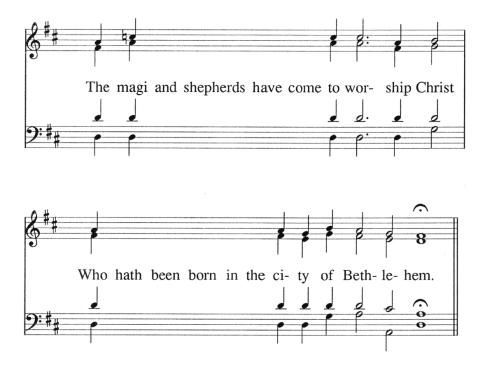


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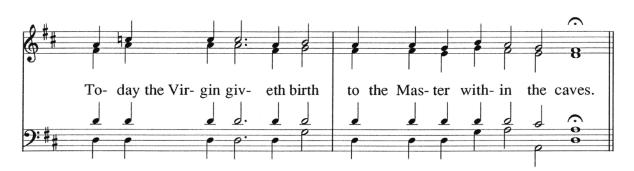
Herod inquired concerning the time of the star, following whose course the magi worshipped Christ with gifts in Bethlehem; but, guided thereby to their homeland, they left the cruel murderer of the infants behind in mockery.



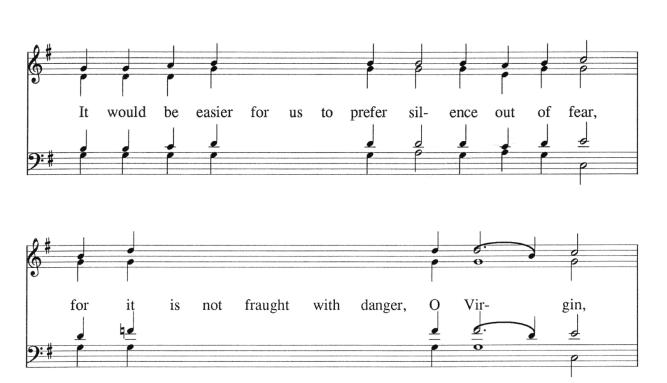
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Ode IX
Canon II

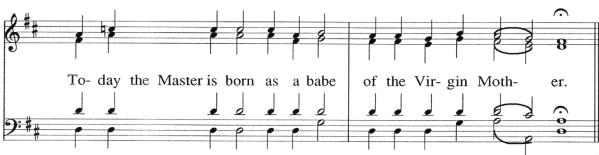
Refrain:



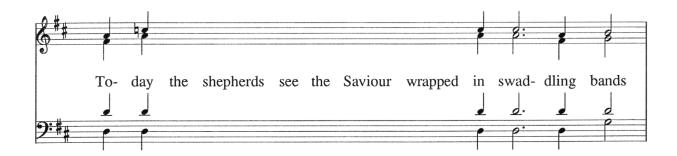
Irmos:







Better would it be for us to keep silence in fear,/ for it is without peril; and it is difficult, O Virgin,/ to weave complex hymns harmoniously with love./ But grant us, O Mother,// the strength to fulfill our intent.

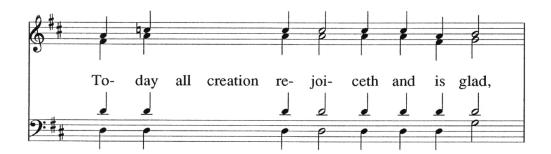


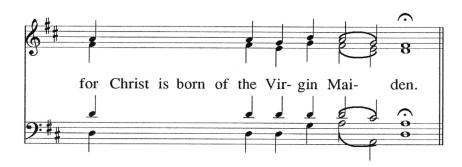


O pure Mother, having beheld the indistinct images and dim shadows of the Word Who hath newly appeared through the gates that were closed, but mindful now of His true radiance, we bless thy womb as is meet.

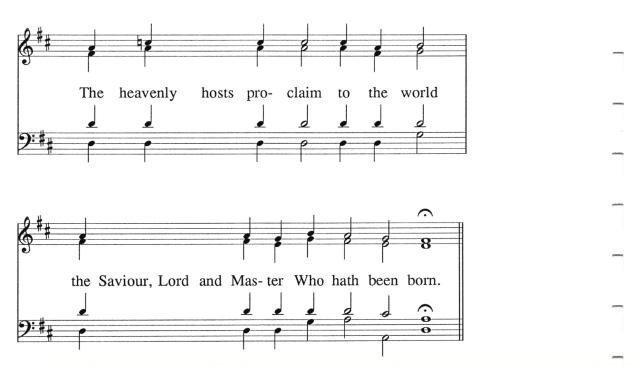


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O pure Mother, having beheld the indistinct images and dim shadows of the Word Who hath newly appeared through the gates that were closed, but mindful now of His true radiance, we bless thy womb as is meet.



Having attained their desire and been vouchsafed to see the advent of God, the people who delight in Christ are now consoled by regeneration; for thou bestowest life-bearing grace to pay homage to glory, O pure Virgin.

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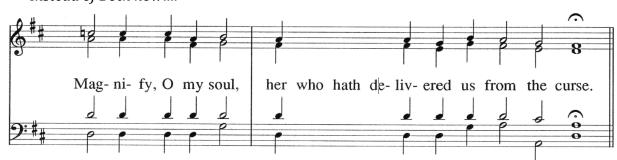
Instead of Glory...:





Having attained their desire and been vouchsafed to see the advent of God, the people who delight in Christ are now consoled by regeneration; for thou bestowest life-bearing grace to pay homage to glory, O pure Virgin.

Instead of Both now...:



Having attained their desire and been vouchsafed to see the advent of God, the people who delight in Christ are now consoled by regeneration; for thou bestowest life-bearing grace to pay homage to glory, O pure Virgin.

Then both choirs, having come down together, chant the first refrain of the feast, and the irmos of Canon I, and afterward the first refrain of Canon II, and its irmos. And all bow down.

Trio



Glory...

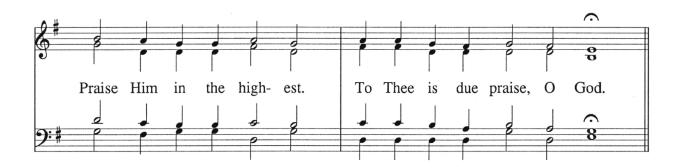
From on high our Savior, the Dayspring of the East, hath visited us, and we who are in darkness and shadow have truly found Him; for the Lord hath been born of the Virgin.

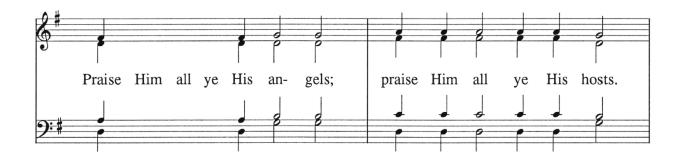
Both now...

From on high our Savior, the Dayspring of the East, hath visited us, and we who are in darkness and shadow have truly found Him; for the Lord hath been born of the Virgin.

Let Every Breath Praise the Lord, in Tone IV

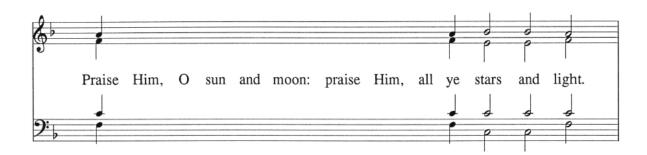


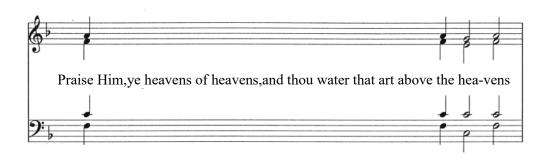






Verses of the Psalms of Praise





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 <u>not</u> pass away.

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

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 <u>judges</u> 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 <u>Him</u> 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 <u>nigh</u> unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the <u>church</u> 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 <u>chant</u> 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 <u>be</u> in their hands,

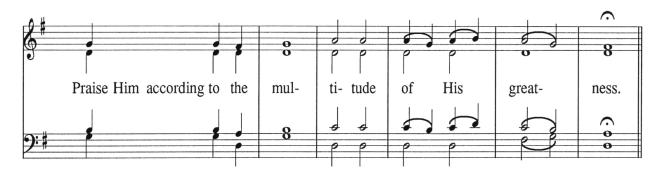
To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the <u>peoples</u>,

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 <u>all</u> His saints.

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

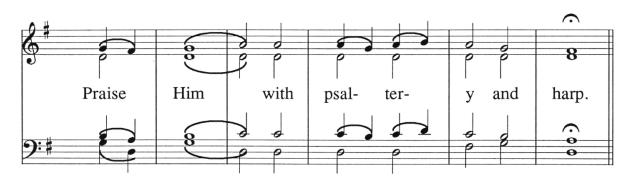
Stichos: Praise Him for His mighty acts:



The composition of Andrew of Jerusalem

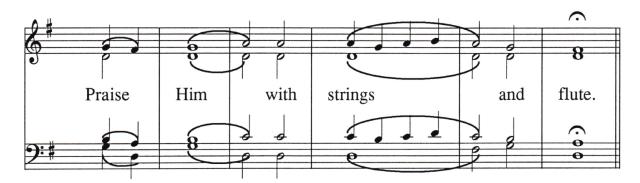
Be glad, O ye righteous!/ Rejoice, O heavens!/ Leap up, ye mountains, for Christ hath been born!/ The Virgin sitteth, holding the incarnate Word of God in her bosom,/ like unto the cherubim./ Shepherds marvel at Him Who hath been born;/ the magi offer gifts to the Master;/ and the angels say, chanting:// O unapproachable Lord, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet:



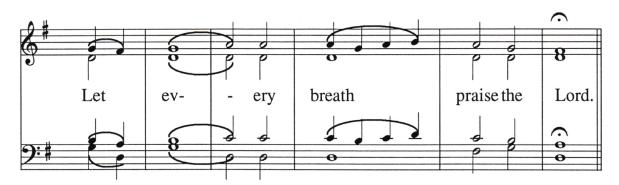
O Virgin Theotokos who gavest birth to the Savior,/ thou hast annulled the ancient curse of Eve;/ for thou becamest the Mother of Him/ in Whom the Father is well pleased,/ bearing the incarnate Word of God in thy bosom./ This mystery is not subject to testing,/ but with faith alone we all glorify it,/ crying out with thee and saying:// O ineffable Lord, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance:



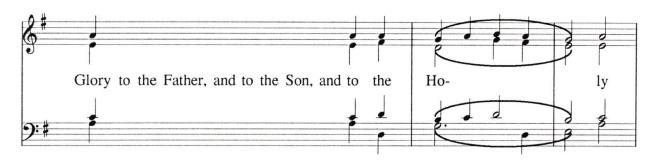
Come, let us hymn the Mother of the Savior,/ who even after giving birth wast still shown to be a Virgin./ Rejoice, O animate city of God the King,/ wherein Christ, making His abode, hath wrought salvation!/ We chant with Gabriel/ and offer up glory with the magi, saying:// O Theotokos, entreat Him Who became incarnate of thee, that we be saved!

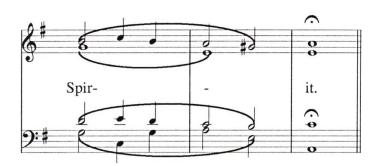
Stichos: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation:



The Father was well pleased;/ the Word became flesh;/ the Virgin gave birth to God incarnate;/ the star proclaimeth Him;/ the magi offer Him worship;// the shepherds marvel, and creation rejoiceth.

Glory, in Tone VI

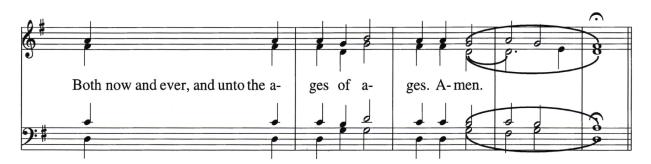




The composition of Germanus

When the time arrived for Thy coming to earth,/ the first census of the whole world took place./ And Thou didst desire then to record the names/ of those who believed in Thy nativity./ Wherefore, such a decree was proclaimed by Cæsar;/ for the timelessness of thine eternal kingdom was restored by Thy birth./ For this cause we offer unto Thee,/ as to the God and Savior of our souls,/ the wealth of Orthodox theology,// which far surpasseth the registry of taxation.

Both Now, Theotokion, in Tone II



The composition of John the Monk

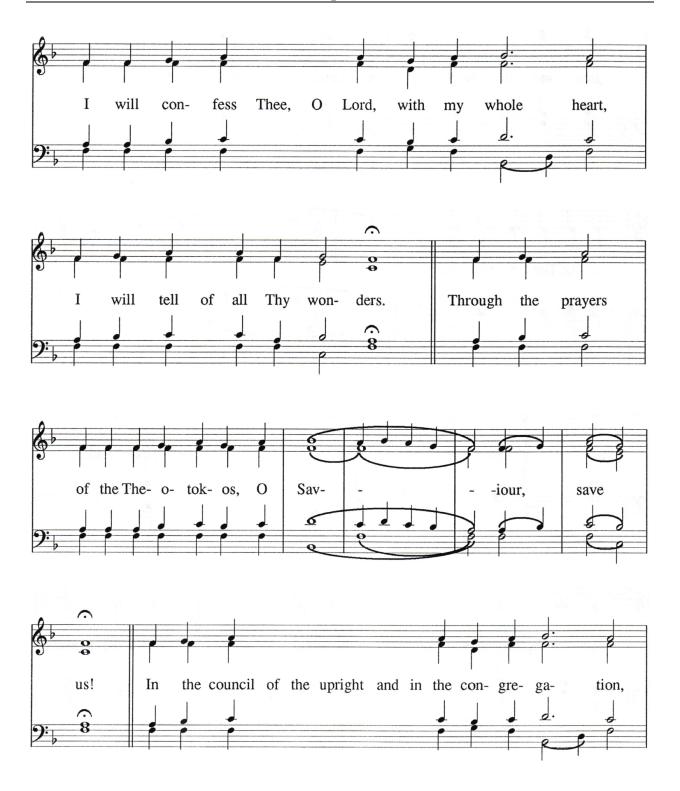
Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem!/ Today the Unoriginate doth begin to be/ and the Word becometh incarnate!/ The hosts of heaven rejoice, and earth and men are glad!/ The magi offer gifts to the Master,/ and the shepherds marvel at Him Who hath been born!/ And we cry out unceasingly:/ Glory to God in the highest,// and on earth peace, good will among men!

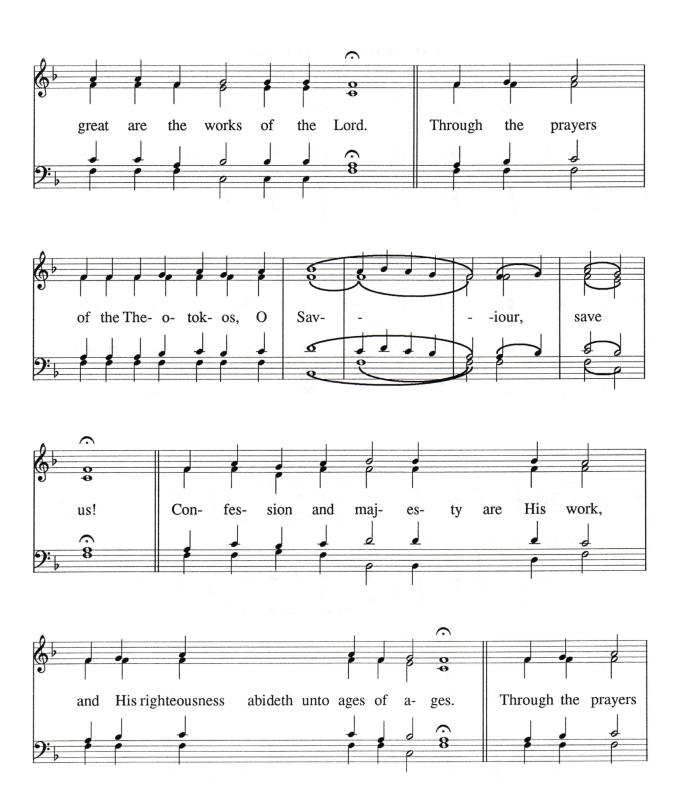
Troparion of the Feast, in Tone IV

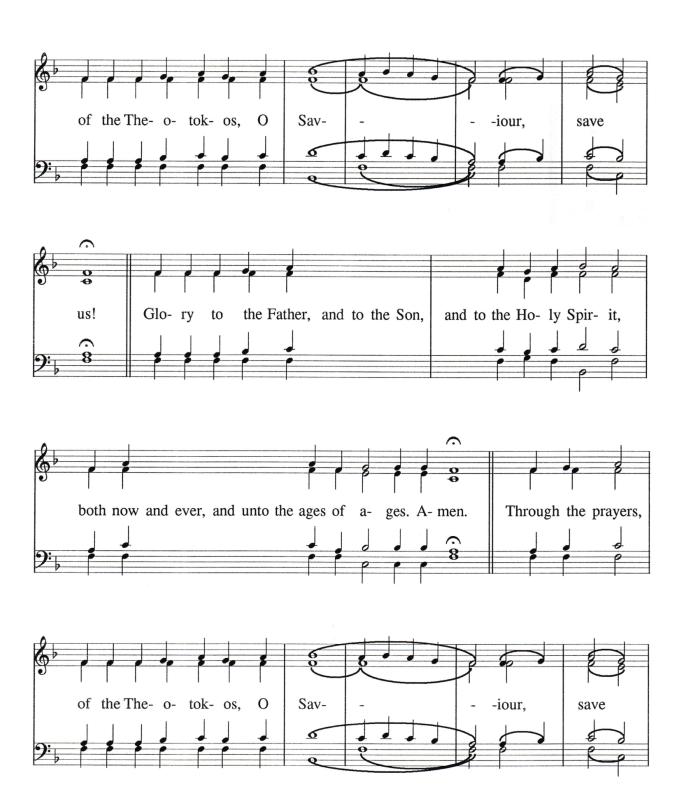
Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee! *Thrice*

Divine Liturgy

Antiphon I









Antiphon II

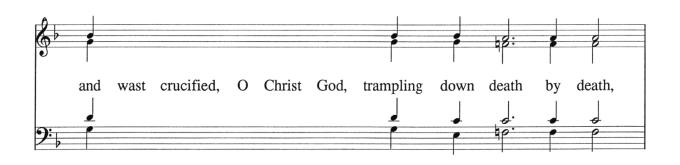


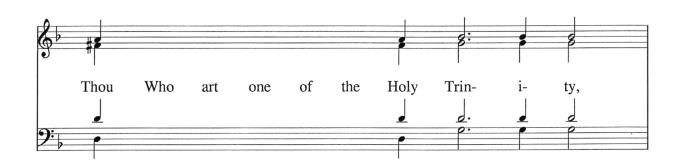


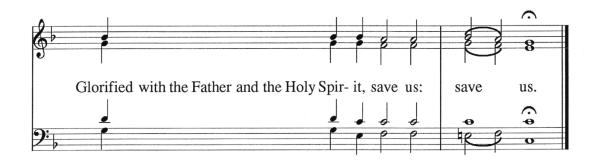












Antiphon III

Stichos: The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand.

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee! *Stichos:* Until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet.

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee!

Stichos: A scepter of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Sion; rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies.

Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee! *Stichos:* With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints.

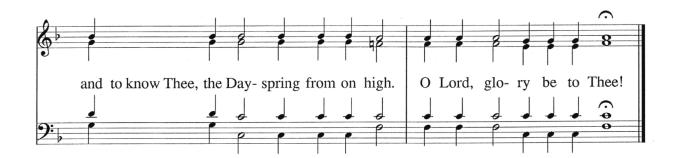
Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of reason upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star/ to worship Thee, the Son of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high.// O Lord, glory be to Thee!

At the Entrance

From the womb before the morning-star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.

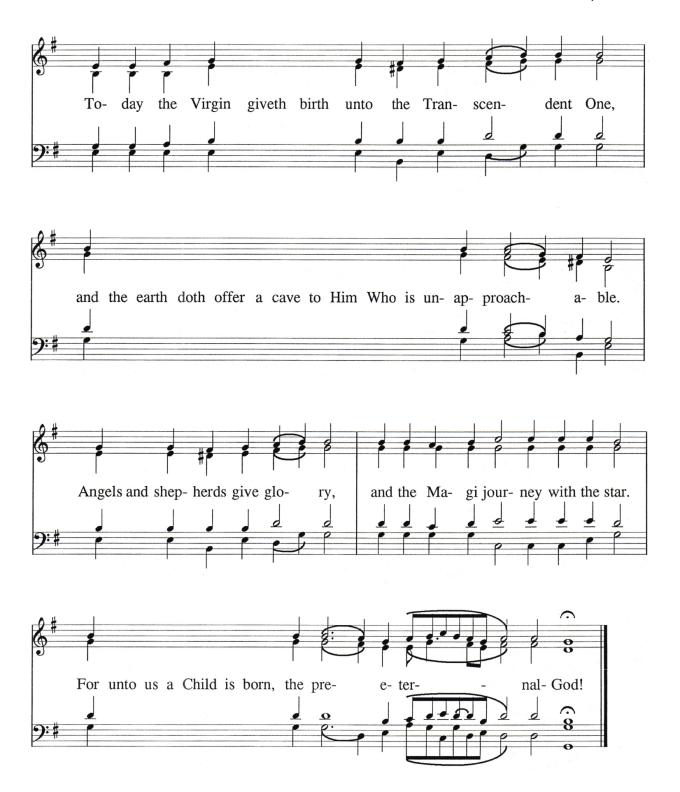
Obikhod, Tone IV



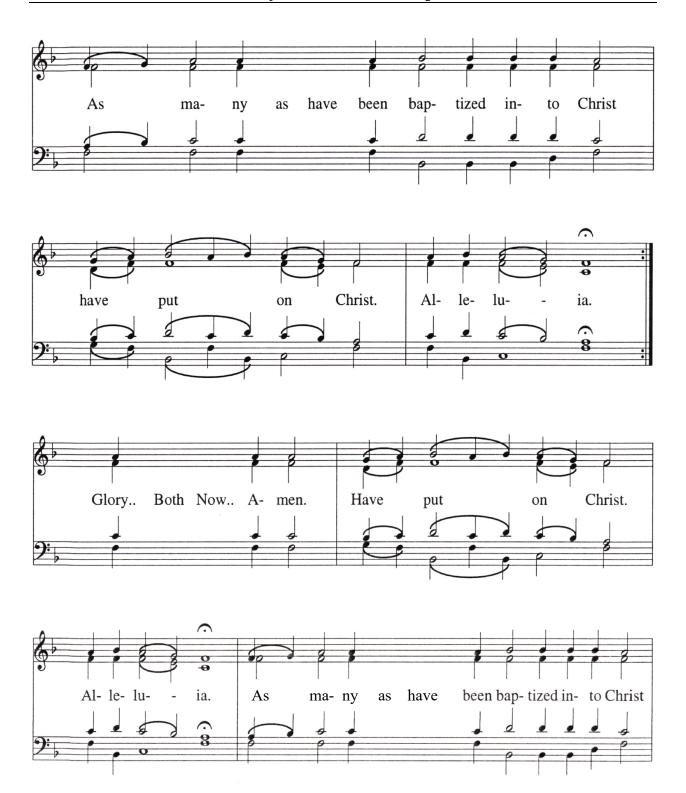


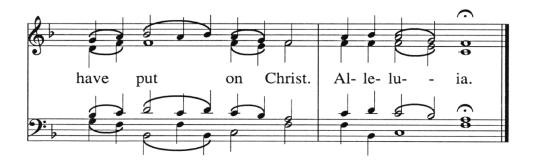
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Obikhod, Tone III

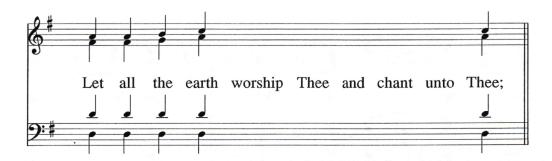


As Many As Have Been Baptized





Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; let them chant unto Thy name, O Most High.







Stichos: Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth; chant ye unto His name, give glory in praise of Him.

Epistle

Galatians §209 (4:4-7)

Brethren: When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying: Abba, Father! Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.





The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

Stichos: Day unto day poureth forth speech, and night unto night proclaimeth knowledge.

Holy Gospel

Matthew §3 (2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule My people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young Child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.





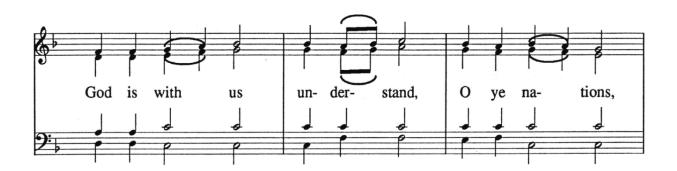


Communion Verse

The Lord hath sent redemption unto His people.

Appendix I God Is With Us

Kiev Chant

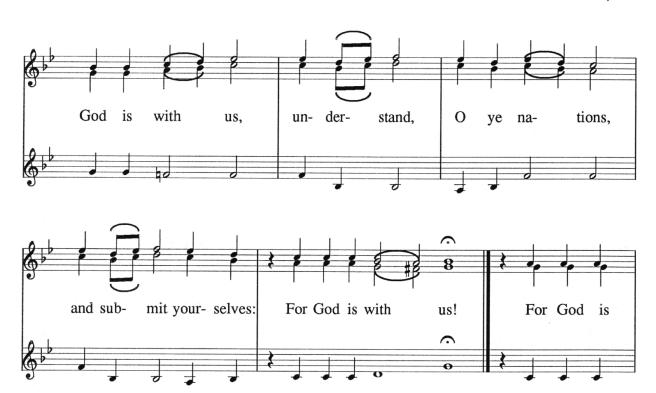


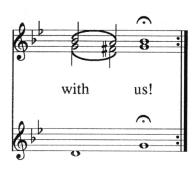




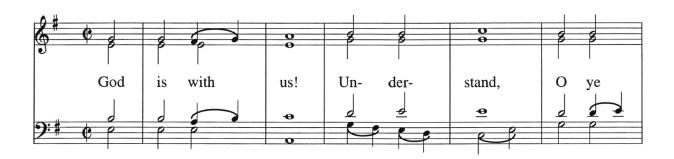


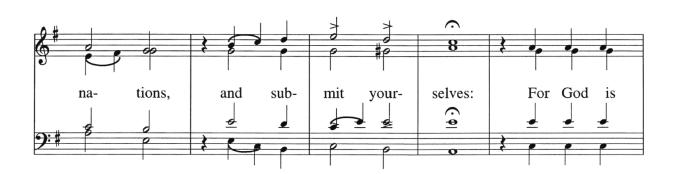
Kiev, Trio

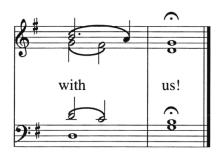




Smirnova, № 14

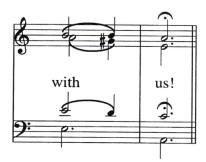






Smirnova, № 15

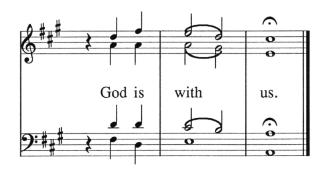




Smirnova, № 16





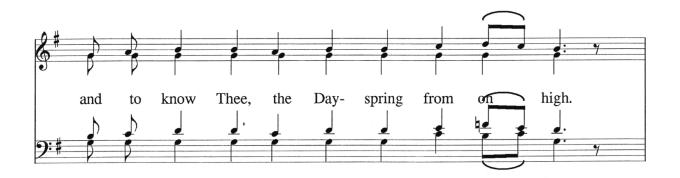


Appendix II

Troparion of the Feast

Greek Chant





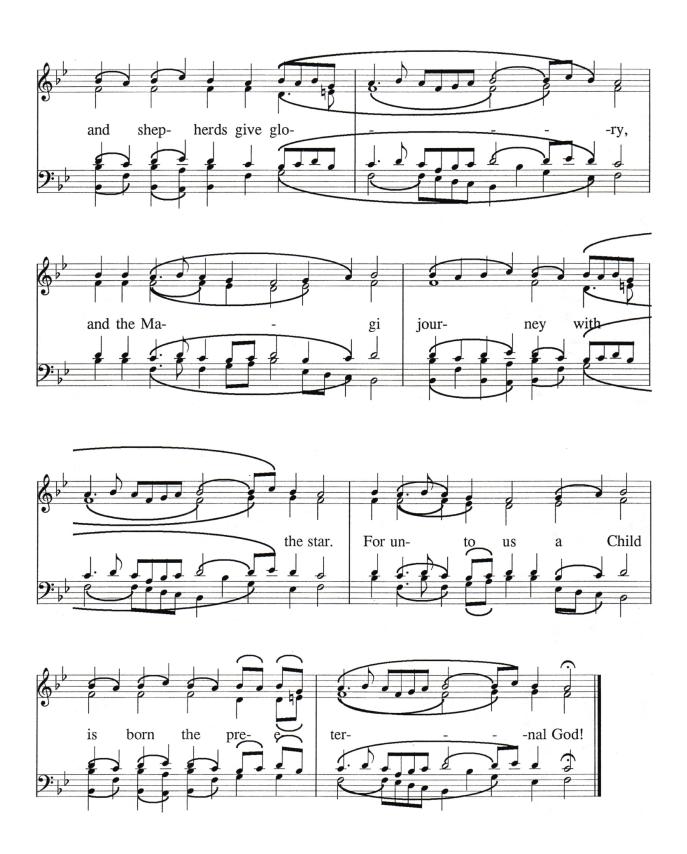


Appendix III

Kontakion of the Feast

Johnson, Special Melody: Today the Virgin giveth birth...





Appendix IV

Glory to God in the Highest

Strokina, № 42

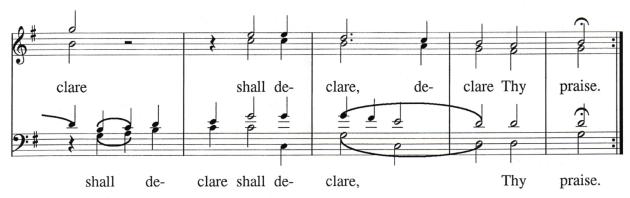














Appendix V

Canon of Holy Nativity

Ode I

Allemanov

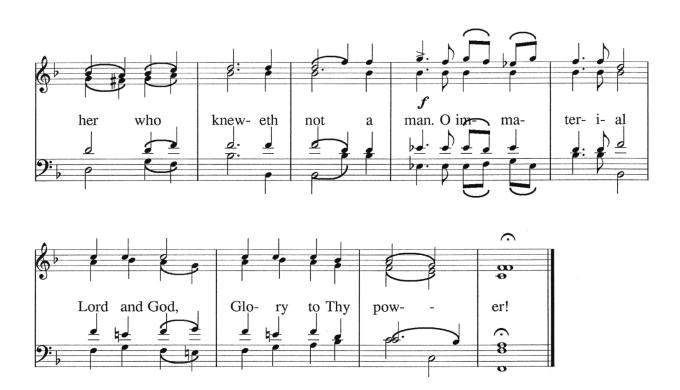




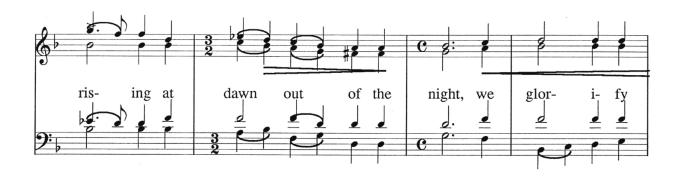


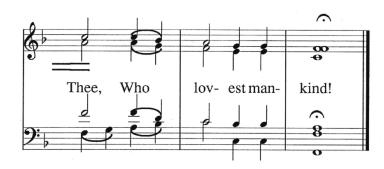






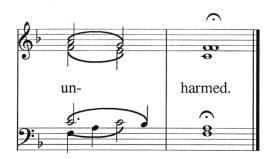








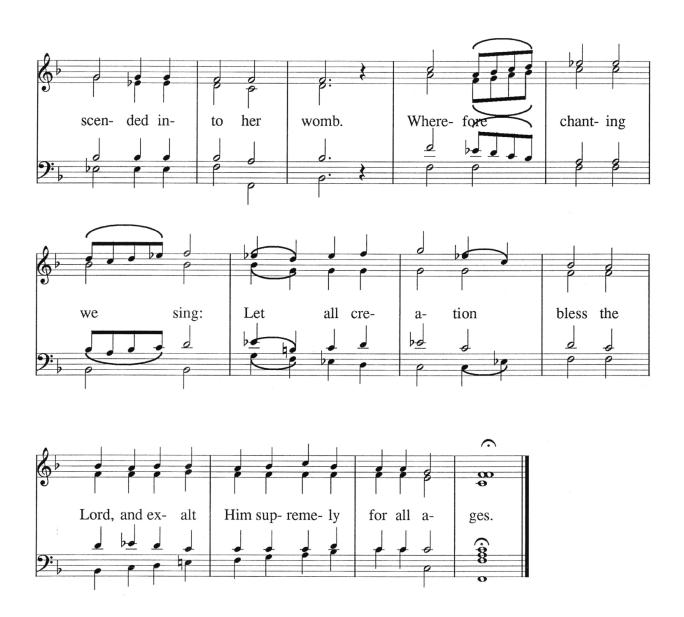
















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