

Vesper Propers, Sunday of the Fathers December 17, 2005

18 The holy martyr Sebastian and his companions. Born in Italy and brought up in the city of Milan, he intended to be a soldier. The emperor Diocletian made him captain of the imperial guard. During this time, Sebastian professed the Faith and was a great help to those persecuted for it. After many of his converts were martyred, the emperor called Sebastian and rebuked him for his betrayal, and he replied, "I always pray to my Christ for your health and for the peace of the Roman Empire." The emperor ordered him stripped and shot with arrows. Since this did not kill him, he was beaten to death with staves. (287)

Supplement for **The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2005**

Tone of the Week: Tone 6 (begins on page 82), stichera 10 -5

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

Stichera of the Fathers - Tone 8

The com-me - moration of the Ho - ly Fa - thers is man - ifested to the ends of the world.

It is tru - ly full of splen - dor, and it glis - tens with the rays of grace:

for Christ the wondrous Sun has shone forth on high from a - far.

He forms the assembly of stars which glis - ten with him, and the star reveals that

the nativity of the God - man will be in Beth - le - hem. We, there - fore, piously and

faith-ful - ly clap our hands and leap with joy at this na - tiv - i - ty,
and we give praise be - fore the feast.

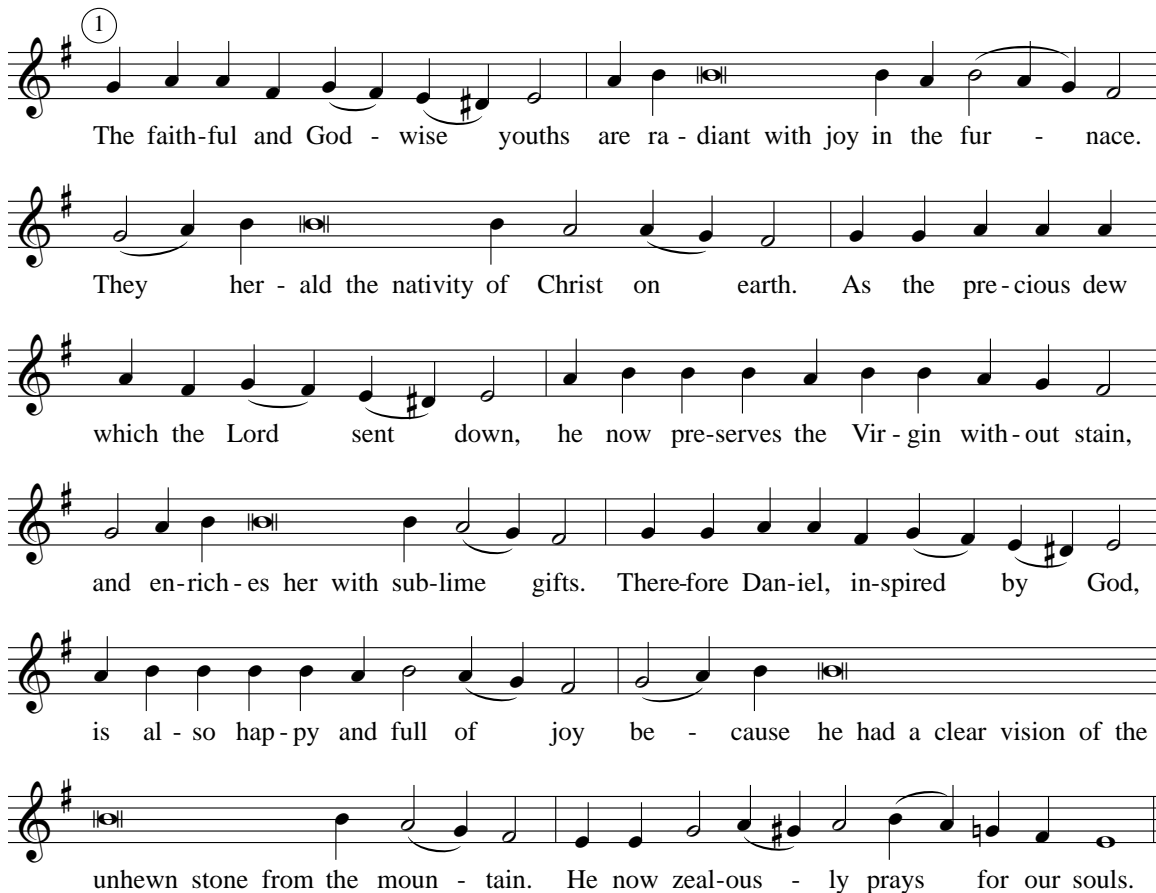
Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.
All repeat "The commemoration of the Holy Fathers..."

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you people.

The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a - dorned by the glo - ry of the divine sharing of our
na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the foundation and the
strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy as well.
E - noch is glad; Seth and Noah dance to - geth - er. The praise - worthy Abraham
sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high
the birth with - out a fa - - - ther.

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

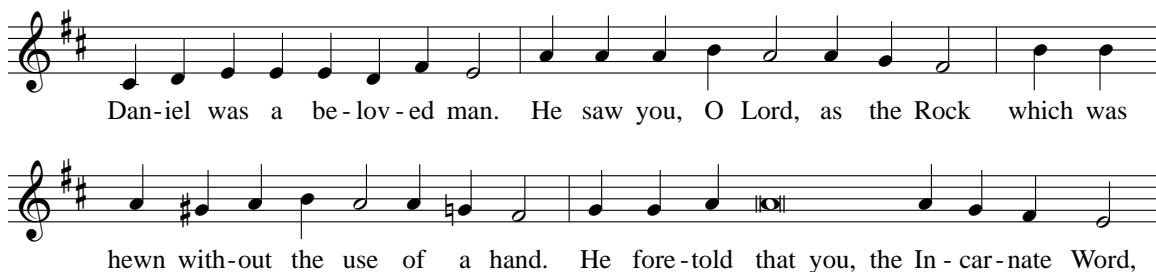
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The faith-ful and God - wise youths are ra - diant with joy in the fur - nace.
They her - ald the nativity of Christ on earth. As the pre-cious dew
which the Lord sent down, he now pre-serves the Vir - gin with-out stain,
and en-rich-es her with sub-lime gifts. There-fore Dan-iel, in-spired by God,
is al - so hap-py and full of joy be - cause he had a clear vision of the
unhewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal-ous - ly prays for our souls.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon of the Holy Fathers - Tone 6



Dan-iel was a be - lov - ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was
hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In - car - nate Word,

the Unchangeable God, and Sav - ior of our souls, would be born
with - out seed as a Child of a Vir - gin.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon, Tone 6, p 87

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, p. 12

- Readings:**
- 1) Genesis 14: 14 - 20
 - 2) Deuteronomy 1: 8 - 11 and 15 - 17
 - 3) Deuteronomy 10: 14 - 21

Apostichera, Tone 6, p 88

Cantor: Glory...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Holy Fathers - Tone 2

Re - joice, O il - lus - tri - ous Proph - ets! You firm - ly es - tab - lished
the Law of the Lord, and you faith - ful - ly mani - fest - ed your - selves to be
in - vin - cible and un - shak - a - ble pil - lars. You have been tak - en to heav - en
and have shown your - selves to be mediators of the new Law of Christ. Im - plo - re him



Cantor: Now and ever...

Aposticha Theotokion, Tone 2, p 45

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19

Troparion, Tone 6, p 91

Glory...

Troparion of the Fathers - Tone 2

Musical notation in D major, 4/4 time. The melody is spread across four staves. The lyrics are: Great are the ac-com - plish - ments of faith: the three ho - ly youths rejoiced in the streams of fire as if in re-fresh - ing wa - ters; and Dan - iel the prophet shep-herd - ed li - ons like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O Christ our God, save our souls.

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shep-herd - ed li - ons like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O
Christ our God, save our souls.

Now and ever...

Theotokion, Tone 2, p 47