

Vesper Propers, December 21, 2008
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Ancestors

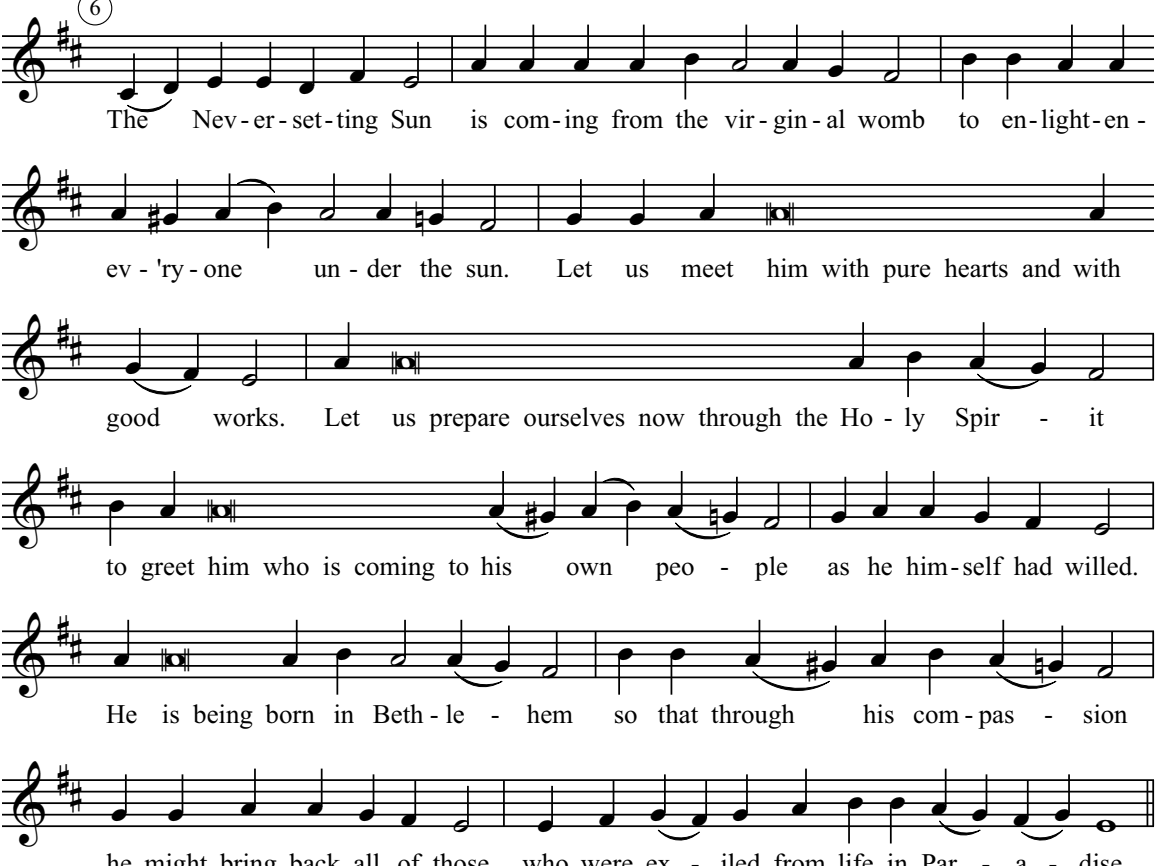
Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms, Tone 7, p. 92, stichera 10-7

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

Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 6 samohlasen

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The Nev-er-set-ting Sun is com-ing from the vir-gin-al womb to en-light-en -
ev - 'ry - one un - der the sun. Let us meet him with pure hearts and with
good works. Let us prepare ourselves now through the Ho - ly Spir - it
to greet him who is coming to his own peo - ple as he him-self had willed.
He is being born in Beth - le - hem so that through his com-pas - sion
he might bring back all of those who were ex - iled from life in Par - a - dise.

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

5

He who is car-ried by the Cher-u-bim has taken human nature in the abode of
 the im-mac-u-late womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe
 of Ju-dah. The ho-ly cave has been a-dorned like a splendid palace for the
 King of all; the man-ger, like a ru-by throne. The Vir-gin will place the
 Child in-to it, for the renewal of his bound-less cre-a-tion.

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

4

Hav-ing con-ceived in a manner beyond un-der-stand-ing, the Virgin places you
 into the manger of the dumb an-i-mals, O e-ter-nal Word of God,
 be-cause you come to pardon the ig-nor-ance that I acquired through the envy
 of the ser-pent. You come to be wrapped in swad-dling clothes

in or - der to break the chains and fet-ters of my sins. O only blessed One and
 Lov-er of us all, I most joy - fully glorify, ex-tol and a - dore you
 and your com-ing in the flesh; for through you I have been freed.

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

Stichera of the Ancestors

The com-mem - o - ra - tion of the Ho - ly Fa - thers is man - i - fest - ed to the
 ends of the world. It is tru - ly full of splen - dor, and it glistens 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. There - fore, we pi - ously 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: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a - dorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our
na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the founda - tion
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 praiseworthy
Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high
the birth with - out a fa - - - ther.

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.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Now and ever...

Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4

Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.
Eph - ra - thah, pre - pare your - self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir - gin
in the cave. Her womb has become a spir - it - ual par - a - dise in which
di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par - take of it, we shall live and
not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like - ness that had fall - en.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the Prefeast

Be - hold, the time of sal - va - tion is draw - ing near. O Cave, pre - pare
 your-self, for the Vir - gin is com - ing to give birth. O Beth - le - hem, O land
 of Ju - dah, a - dorn your-self and be hap - py since the Lord will
 shine forth from you, O moun - tains and hills and lands a - round Ju - dah,
 hear - en, for Christ is com - ing that he may save his cre - a - tion
 be - cause he is the Lov - er of us all.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, page 101), then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2

Great are the ac - com - plish - ments of faith: the three ho - ly youths rejoiced in

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

The faith - ful and God - wise youths are radiant with joy in the fur - nace.
 They her - ald the na - tiv - i - ty of Christ on earth. As the pre - cious dew which
 the Lord sent down, he now preserves the Vir - gin with - out stain, and en - rich - es
 her with sub - lime gifts. There - fore Dan - iel, in - spired by God,
 is also hap - py and full of joy be - cause he had a clear vis - ion
 of the un - hewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal - ous - ly prays
 for our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen

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...

Theotokion of the prefeast

O cave, prepare yourself to re-ceive the Moth-er who bears Christ with-in
 her womb. O man-ger, receive the Word who de-stroyed the sins of all.
 O shep-herds, keep watch and then bear witness to the awe-some won-der.
 O ma-gi, from Per-sia now come, and bring your gifts of gold, frank-in-cense, and
 myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Vir-gin Moth-er;
 yet she bowed to him as a ser-vant and spoke to him in her bos-om,

say-ing: "How were you con-ceived in me? How did you grow in me, my
 God and Sav-ior?"

- Readings:** 1) Genesis 14:14-20
 2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17
 3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 7, p. 99), concluding with:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 2 samohlasen

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-plore him
 to give peace to the world and to save our souls.