

**Vesper Propers, December 22, 2013**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**Sunday of the Ancestors**

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*  
*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 82), 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.

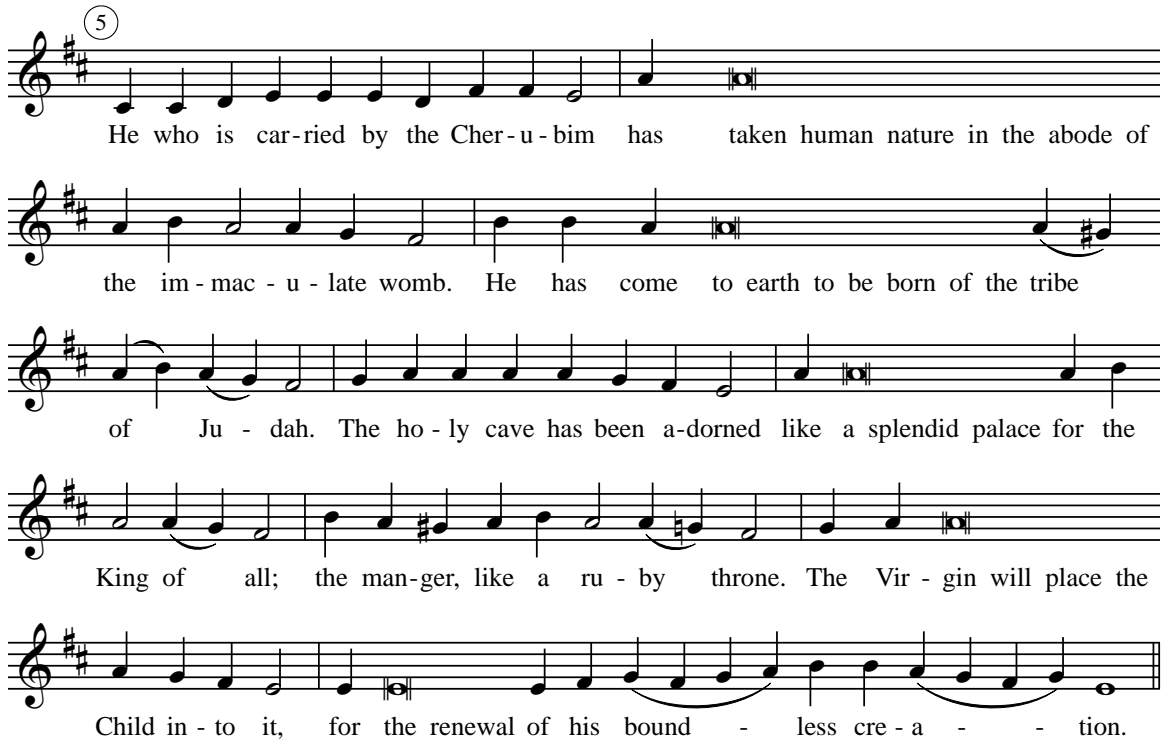
**Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 6 samohlasen**

⑥

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.

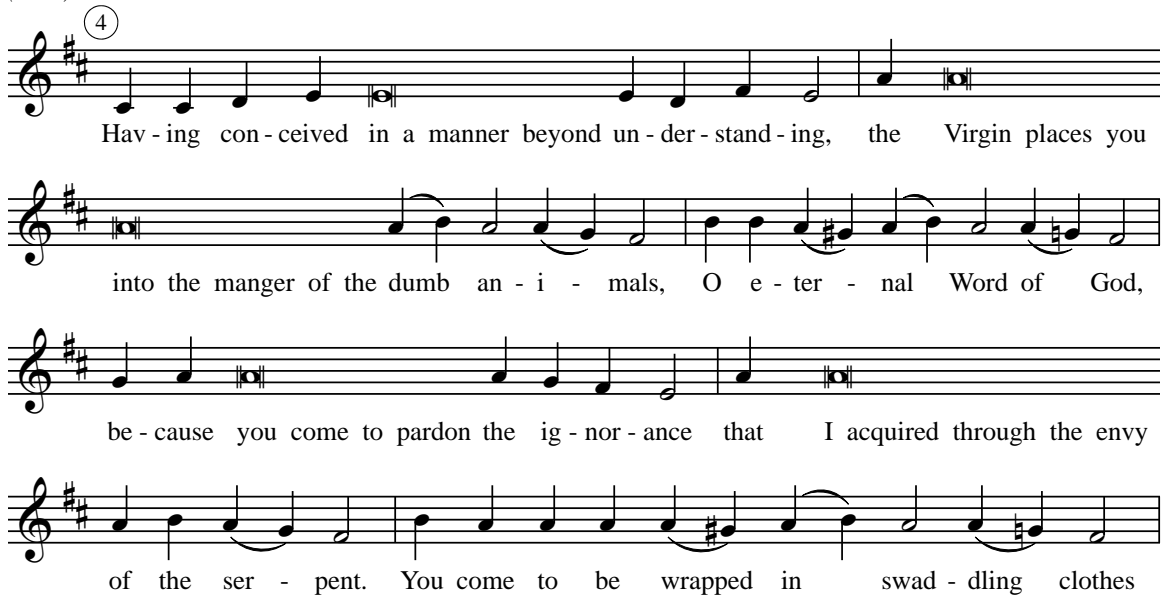
5



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**

<sup>3</sup>  
 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 glisten 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 faithful-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!



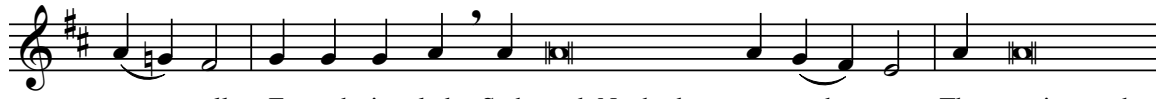
The Ho - ly Fa - thers are a - dorned by the glory of the divine sharing of our



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.

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

①



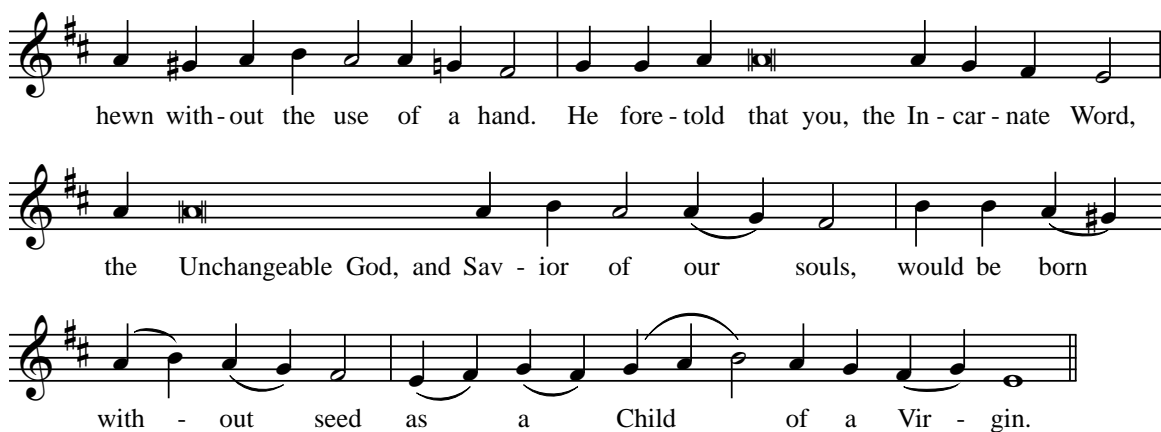
The faith-ful and God-wise youths are radiant with joy in the fur-nace.  
They her-ald the na-tiv-i-ty of Christ on earth. As the pre-cious dew which  
the Lord sent down, he now preserves the Vir-gin with-out stain, and en-rich-es  
her with sub-lime gifts. There-fore Dan-iel, in-spired by God,  
is 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**



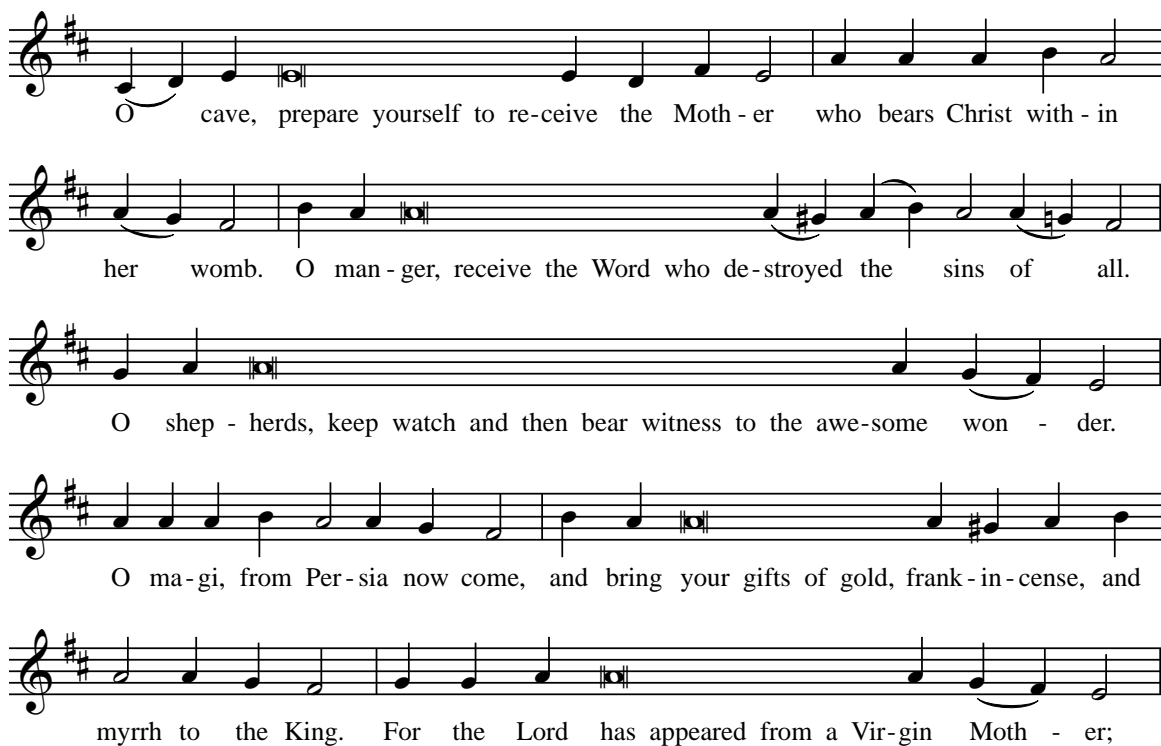
Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was



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-destroyed 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 (EOT pp. 301-302)  
 2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17  
 3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

## Aposticha

*Sunday aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 6, p. 88), 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 - pore him  
to give peace to the world and to save our souls.

**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,  
heark - 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 6, page 91).*

**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



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...

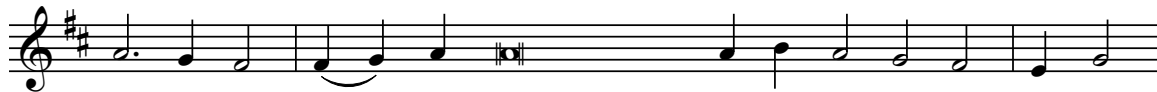
### **Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4**



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

The first line of musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It contains 12 measures. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are: "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.

The second line of musical notation is on a single staff in G major. It contains 12 measures. The melody continues from the first line, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall - en."