

raise up the like - ness that had fall - en.

*If there is no Litija:*

**Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 4**

The joy-ful mes-sage of the res-ur-rec - tion was heard by the women disci-ples  
from the an - gel, and be-ing freed from the an-ces-tral curse, they boast-ed  
to the a-pos - tles: Death is de-spoiled; Christ our God is ris - en,

*(Tone 2) Glory...*

*Troparion of the Ancestors: "Great are the accomplishments of faith..."*

*(Tone 4) Now and ever...*

*Troparion of the Vigil: "At that time, Mary registered..."*

**Vesper Propers, December 24, 2017**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY**  
**Sunday of the Ancestors**

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

*"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 6, page 82*

**Cantor:** Bring my soul out of this prison  
*(on 10)* and then I shall praise your name.

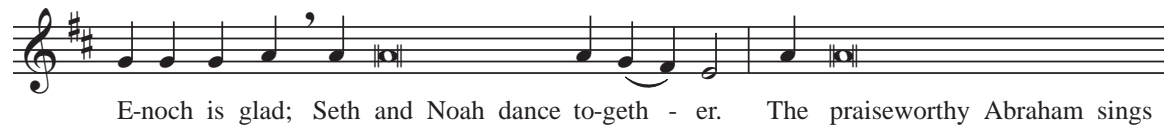
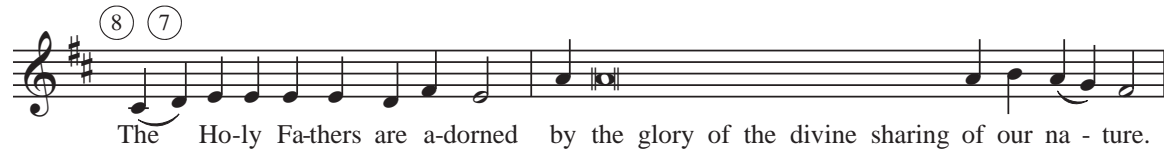
**Stichera of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**

<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>(9)</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 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



**Cantor:** Around me the just will assemble  
(on 9) because of your goodness to me. *All repeat "The commemoration..."*

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!



**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *All repeat "The Holy Fathers..."*

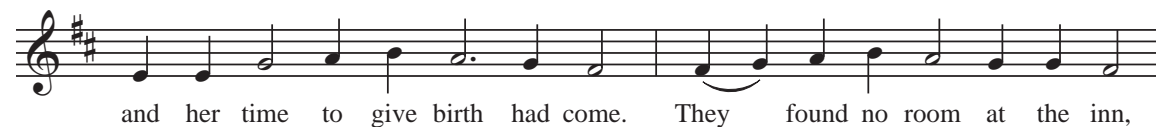
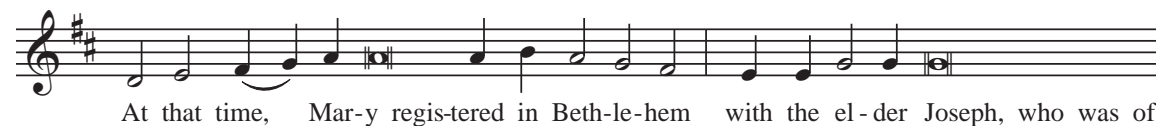
### Troparia at the Blessing of Bread

#### Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2 (sung twice)



**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

#### Troparion of the Vigil - Tone 4



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.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

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.

**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.

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:** 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.  
*All repeat "The faithful and God-wise youths..."*

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

**Stichera of the Pre-feast - Tone 6 samohlasen**

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:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (*Repeat "The Never-setting Sun..."*)

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116  
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

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

from the ho-ly, un-de-filed Vir-gin to save the hu-man race.

*Cantor*

O Lord, I heard your voice and I was a-fraid; I knew your deeds,  
 and I was ter-ri-fied.

Come let us faith-fully celebrate be-fore-hand the birth of Christ.

Let us sing spir-it-u-al hymns of praise. With the shep-herds, let us cry out:

The Sav-ior of all has come from a Vir-gin, and he sum-mons

all the faith-ful.

**Cantor:** (*Tone 2*) Glory...

**Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen**

Re-joice, O il-lus-tri-ous Proph-ets! You firm-ly es-tab-lished

sal - va - tion. Be - hold, while lying in the man - - - ger,  
 he in - vites the sing - ing of spirit - ual hymns from those who cry out  
 with - out ceas - - - ing: O Lord, glo - ry to you!

**Aposticha**

*Tone 2 samohlasen*

①  
 O house of Eph - ra - thah and ho - ly cit - y!  
 O boast of the proph-ets! A-dorn the house in which the Di-vine One is born.  
*Cantor*  
 God comes from Te-man; the Hol - y One from Mount Pa - ran.  
 ②  
 O Beth - le - hem, O land of Ju - dah, you are the bright a - bode  
 of the One-Who - Is. Pre - pare the cave, for God is to be born in the flesh

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

①  
 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:** (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.

Da-vid; to-geth-er with I-sa-iah, Ezekiel, and Je-re-mi-ah,

Dan-iel and the twelve mi-nor proph-ets; like-wise Elijah, Elisha, and all the  
 oth-ers; al-so Ze-cha-ri-ah and the Bap-tist, and all those  
 who preached Christ, the life and the Res-ur-rec-tion of our race.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

O Beth-le-hem, a-dorn yourself because Paradise is o-pened. Pre-pare your-self,  
 O Eph-ra-thah, be-cause Adam is re-newed and Eve with him;  
 the curse is de-stroyed. Sal-va-tion blos-soms in the world,  
 and the souls of the just are made beau-ti-ful, as they car-ry  
 their gifts of hymns instead of myrrh, and they re-ceive in exchange eter-nal

won - der: Whom do you seek? For I see that you have come from a far coun-try. You have the ap-pear-ance but not the thoughts of the Per - sians. You have come with zeal to wor-ship him who jour-neyed as a stranger from on high, and who won-drous-ly took up a-bode in me in a way known on - ly to him-self. He grants great mer - cy to the world.

**Cantor:** (Tone 3) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 3 samohlasen**

Come, O lov - ers of the feast, let us sing a hymn of praise to the assembly of the Fore - fa - thers: Ad - am, the father of the hu-man race, E - noch, No - ah, Mel - chisedek, Abraham, Isaac, and Ja - cob. Let us al - so honor those who came af - ter the Law: Mo - ses, Aaron, Joshua, Sam-uel and

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

- [Optional Readings:** 1) Genesis 46:8-27;  
2) 1Kings 9:3-7;  
3) Isaiah 7:14-15; 11:1-9]

## Litija

①



You bear the form of Ad-am, yet you are all-perfect, be-ing in the form of God.



Of your own will you are held in hu-man hands, e-ven though in your own power



you up-hold all things. The pure and unde-filed Vir-gin spoke a-loud:



How shall I wrap you in swad-dling clothes like an in-fant? How shall I nurse



the One who gives nourishment to the world? How shall I not wonder in amazement



at your poverty be-yond un-der-stand-ing? How shall I, who am your handmaid-en,



call you my Son? I sing your prais-es and I bless you, for you grant great



mer-cy to the world.

②



The un-de-filed Virgin beheld the pre-eternal God as a child who had tak-en



flesh from her. She held him in her arms and with-out ceas-ing kissed him.



Filled with joy, she cried out: O most high God and un-seen King,



how is it that I look up-on you? I can-not understand the mystery of



your immeas-ur-a-ble low-li-ness. For the small-est of caves is a strange



dwel-ling for you; yet it finds room for you with-in it-self. You have been



born without destroy-ing my vir-gin-i-ty, and you have kept my womb as it



was be-fore child-birth. Now you grant great mer-cy to the world.

③



When the Vir-gin saw the Magi standing be-fore the cave, she spoke to them in