

Vesper Propers, December 23, 2018
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 podobn: Vsju otloživše

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 pre - pare 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 be - ing 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.

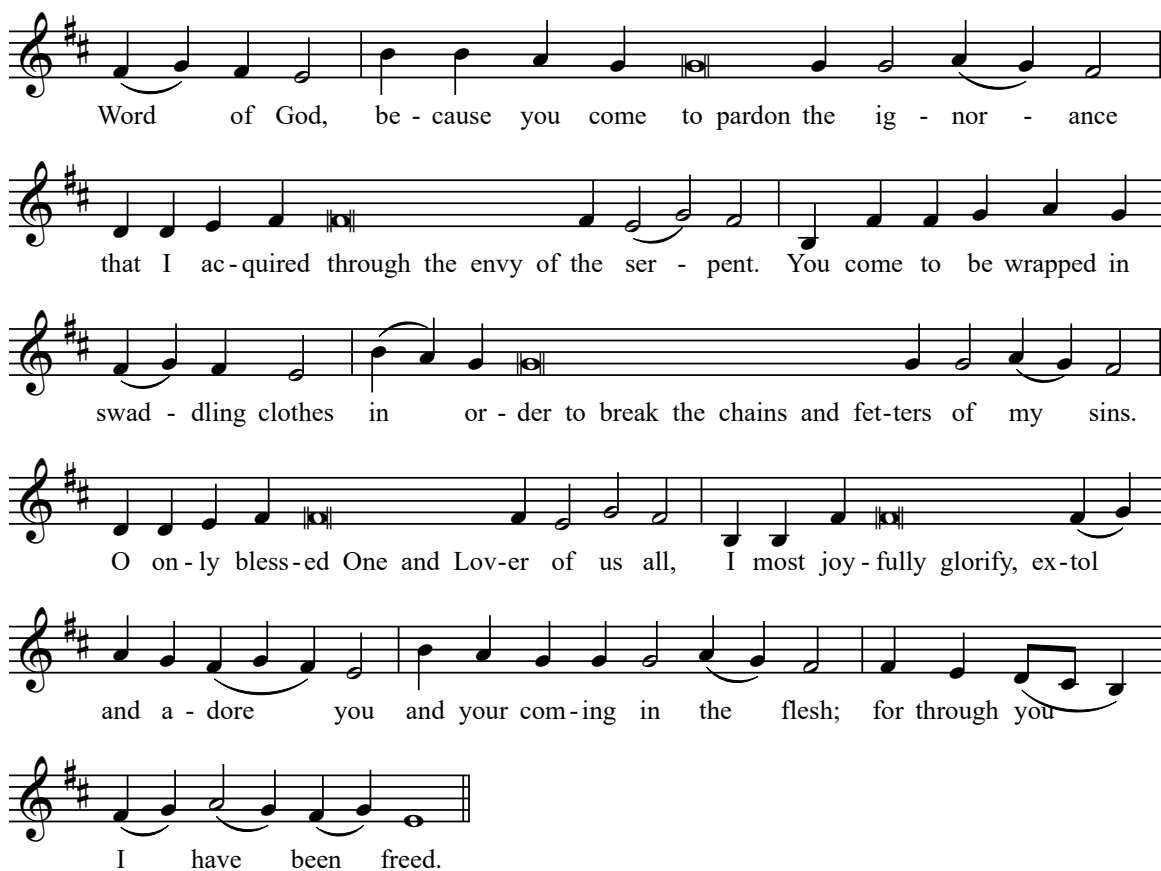
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He who is car - ried by the Cher - u - bim has tak - en human nature in the abode of the im - mac - u - late womb. He has come to earth to be born of the tribe of Ju - dah. The ho - ly cave has been a - dorned like a splen - did palace for the King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

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

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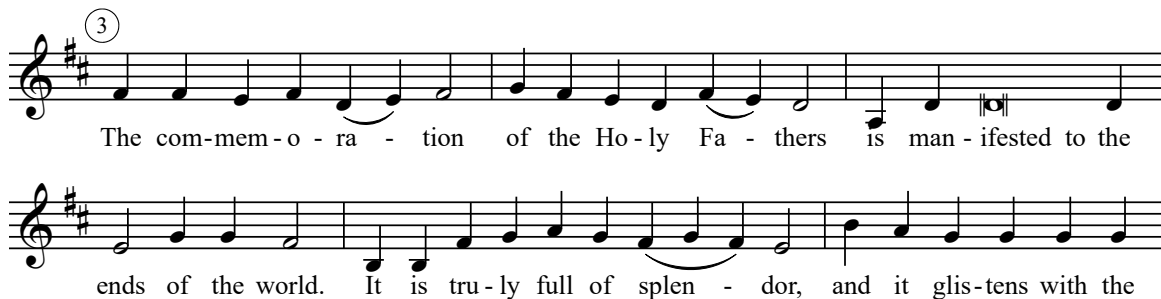
Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing, the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal



Word of God, be - cause you come to pardon the ig - nor - ance
that I ac - quired 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 on - ly bless - ed 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.

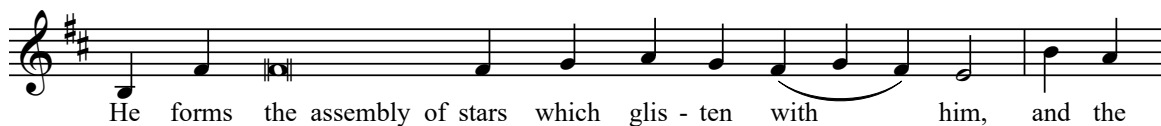
Stichera of the Ancestors



³
The com - mem - o - ra - tion 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.

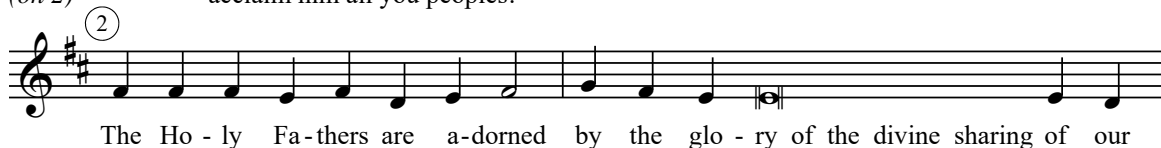


There - fore, we pi - ous - ly and faith - ful - ly clap our hands and leap with joy at

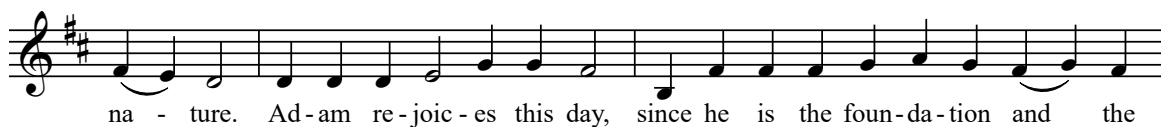


this na - tiv - i - ty, and we give praise be - fore the feast.

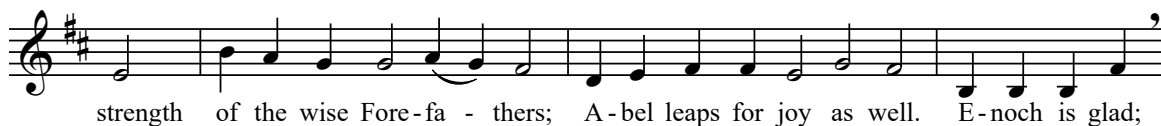
Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!



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



na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the foun - da - tion and the



strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy as well. E - noch is glad;



Seth and No - ah dance to - geth - er. The praise - worthy Abraham sings with

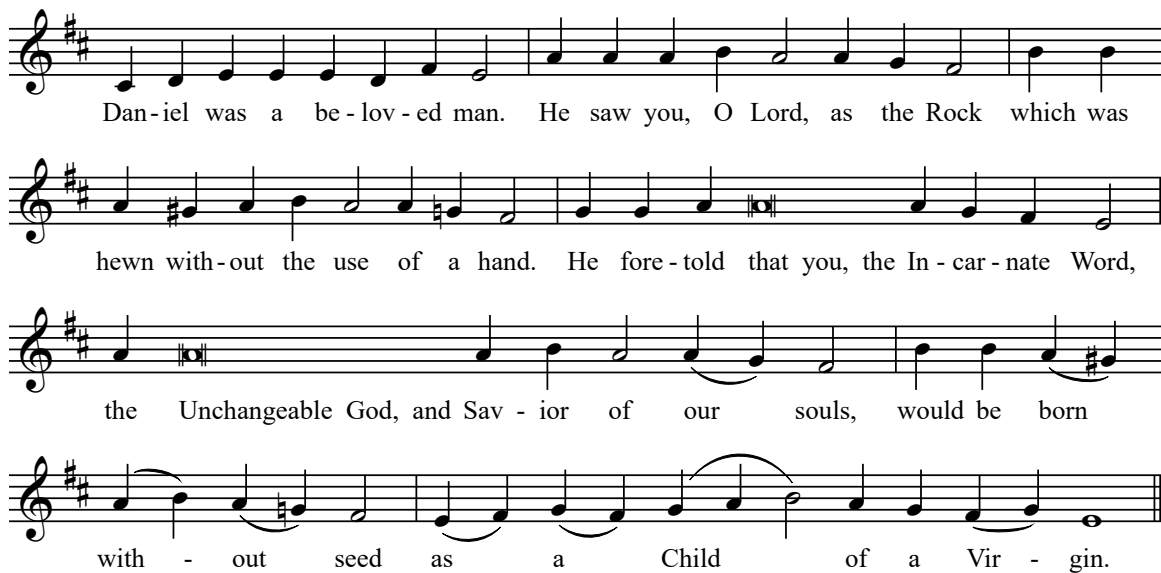
the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high the birth
with - out a fa - ther.

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

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 preserves the Virgin 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 vis - ion
of the un - hewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal - ous - ly
prays for our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

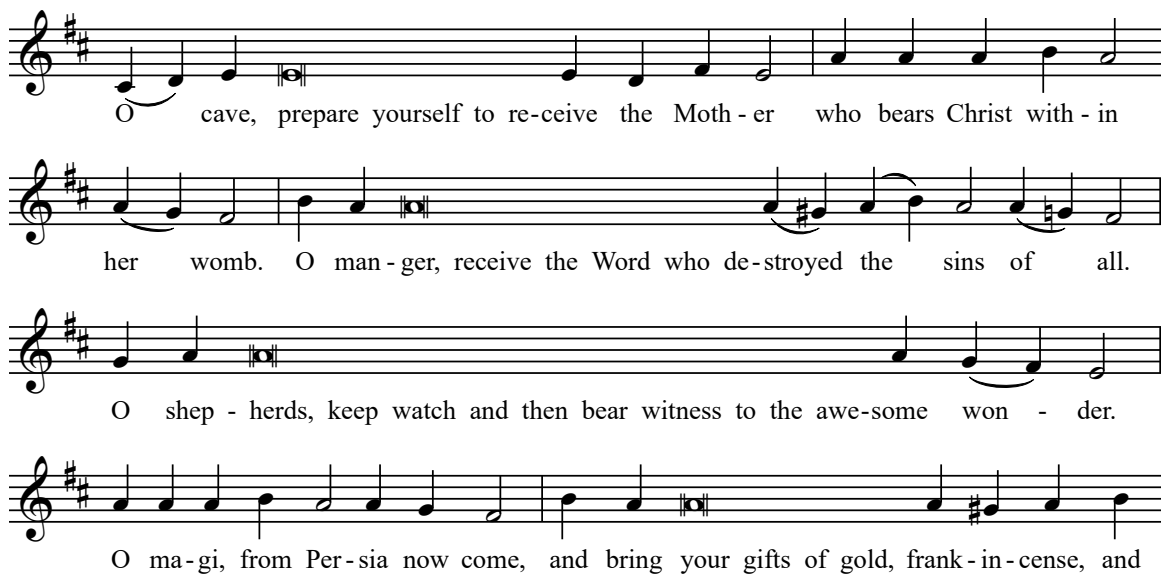
Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen



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-plore 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, p. 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...

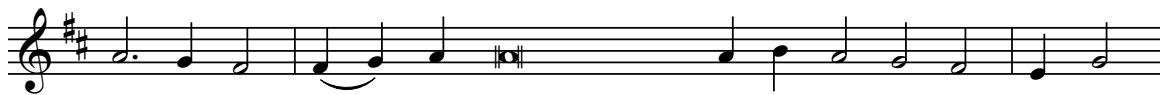
Troparion of the Prefeast - Tone 4



Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.



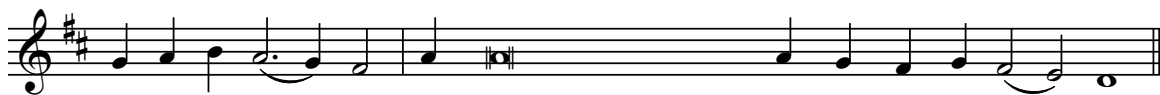
Eph-ra-thah, pre-pare your-self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir-gin



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



not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall - en.