

Vesper Propers, December 20, 2020
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 4, p. 58), 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 podoben: 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.

5

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.

4

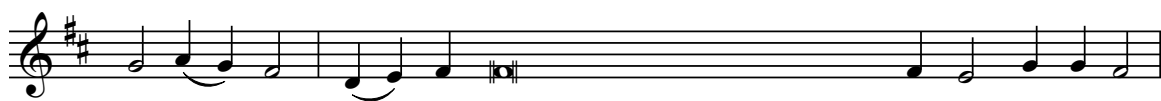
Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing,
the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal

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

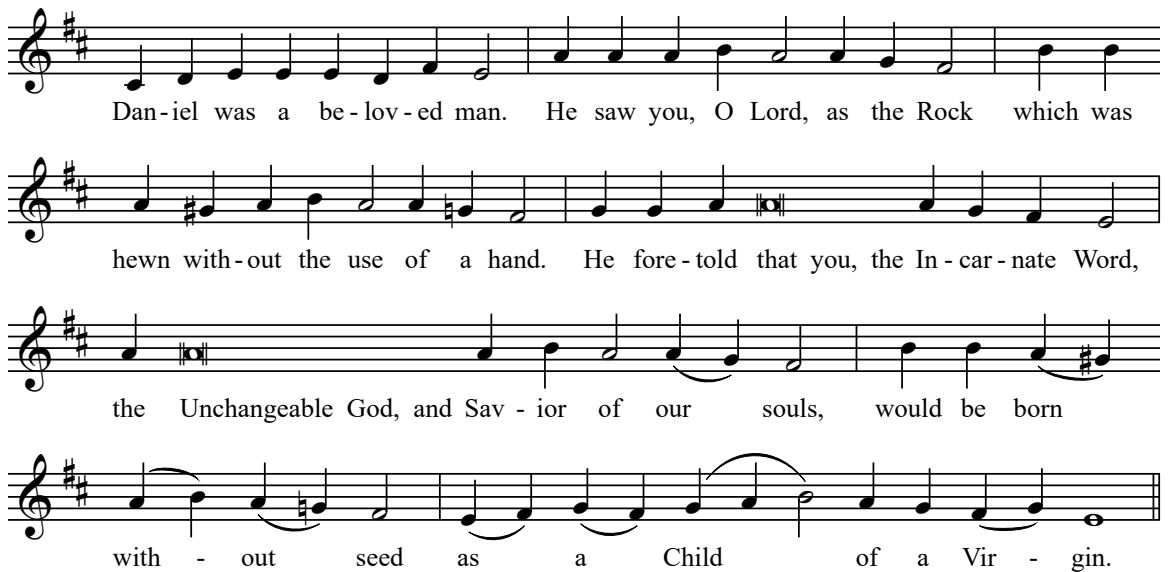
the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi-se-dek now sees from on high the birth
with - out a fa - ther.

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...

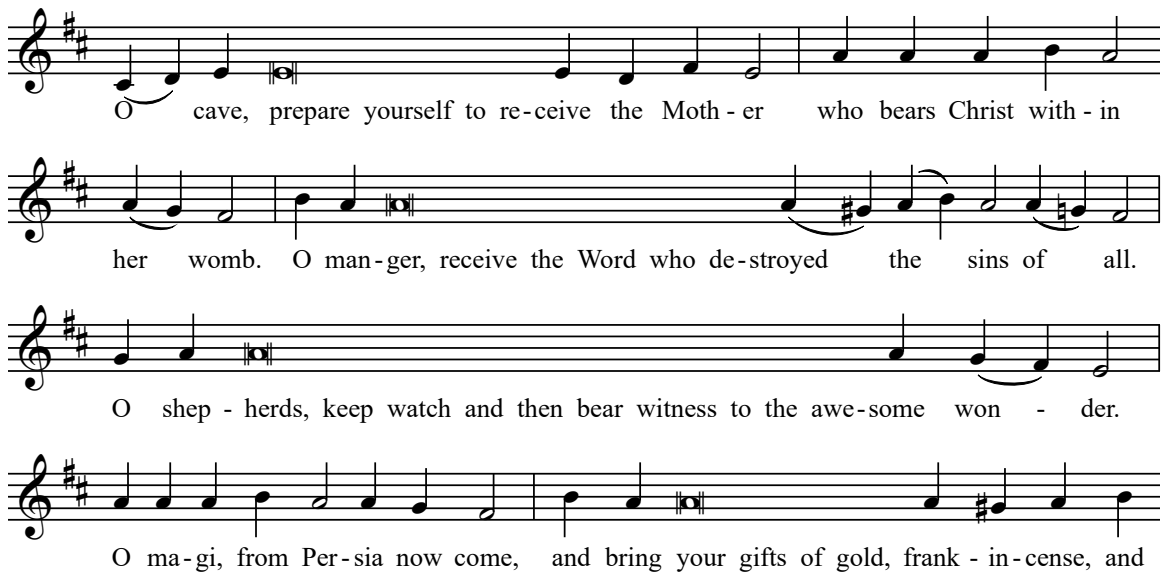
Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen



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-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

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 65), 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 - in the same tone

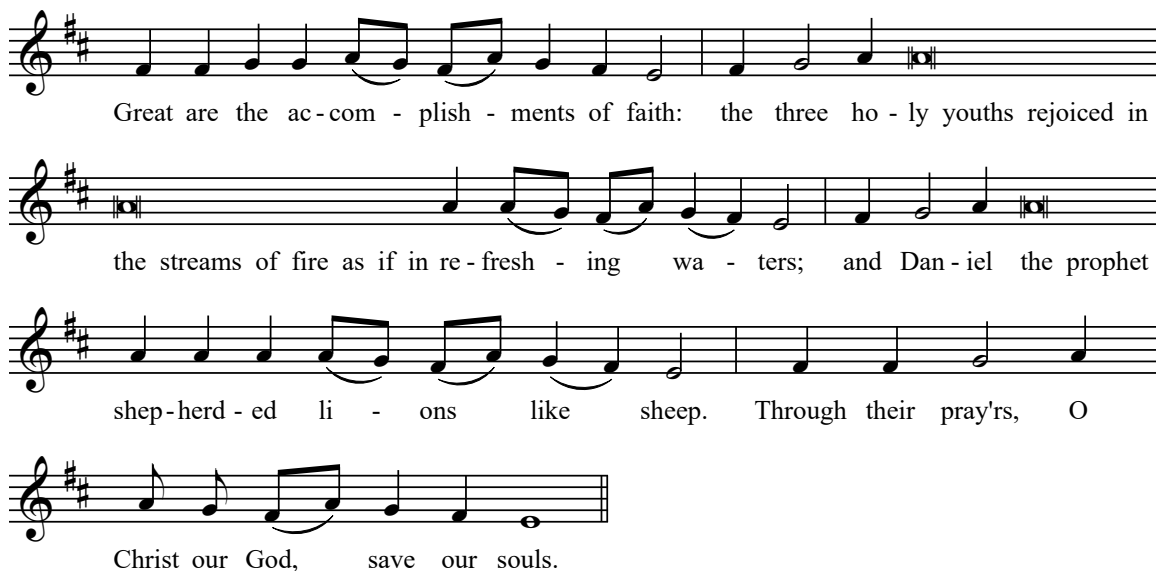
Be - hold, the time of sal - va - tion is draw - ing near. O Cave, pre - pare
your-self, for the Vir - gin is com - ing to give birth. O Beth - le - hem, O land
of Ju - dah, a - dorn your-self and be hap - py since the Lord will
shine forth from you, O moun - tains and hills and lands a - round Ju - 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 4, page 68), then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

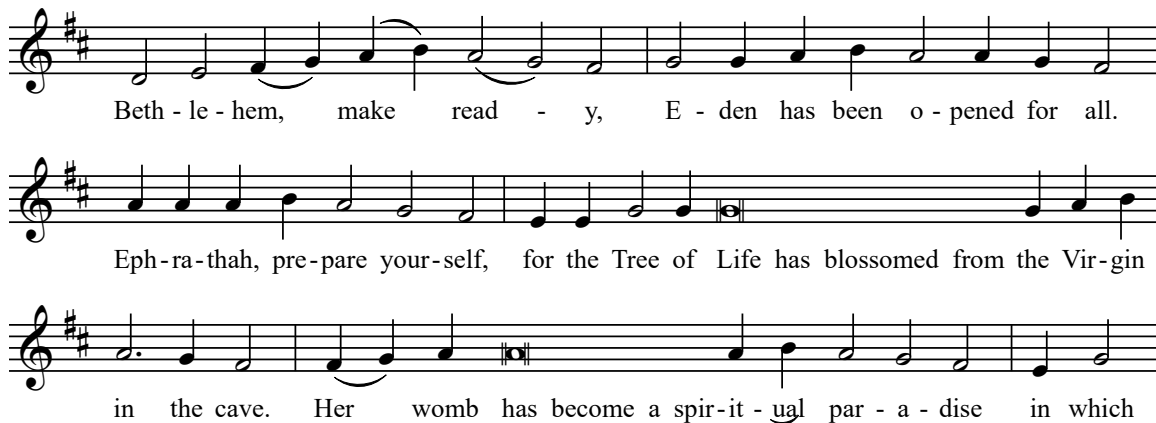
Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2



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