

Vesper Propers, December 24, 2023
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
 Sunday of the Ancestors

and her time to give birth had come. They found no room at the inn,
 but the cave be - came a pleas-ant pal - ace for the Queen. Christ is born to
 raise up the like - ness that had fall - en.

If there is no Litija:

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 5

O faith-ful, let us praise and a - dore the Word e - ter - nal with the Fa - ther
 and the Spir - it, and born of the Vir - gin for our sal - va - tion.
 For he chose to as - cend the cross in the flesh and to suf - fer death, and to
 raise the dead by his glo - ri - ous res - ur - rec - - - tion.

(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..."

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 podoben: Vsju otloživše

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: 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!

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

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 ra - dant with joy in the fur - nace.

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 at the Blessing of Bread

Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2 (sung twice)

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) Glory...now and ever...

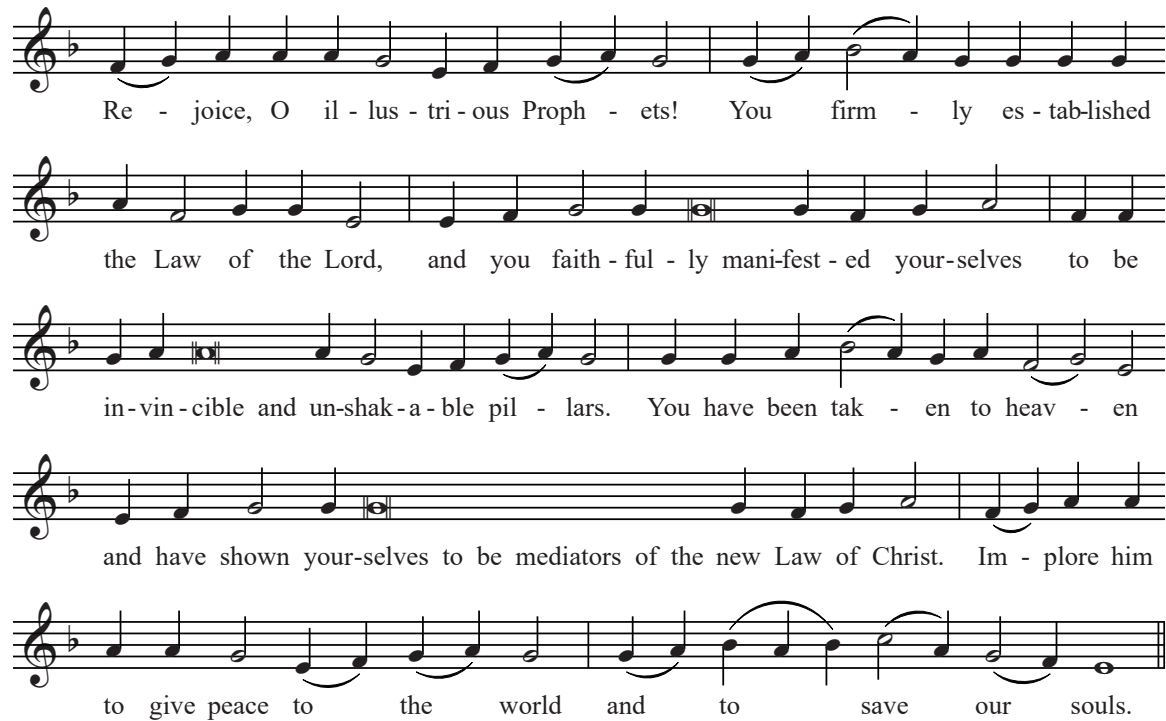
Troparion of the Vigil - Tone 4

At that time, Mar - y regis - tered in Beth - le - hem with the el - der Joseph, who was of

the house of Da - vid. She had con - ceived with - out seed and was with child,

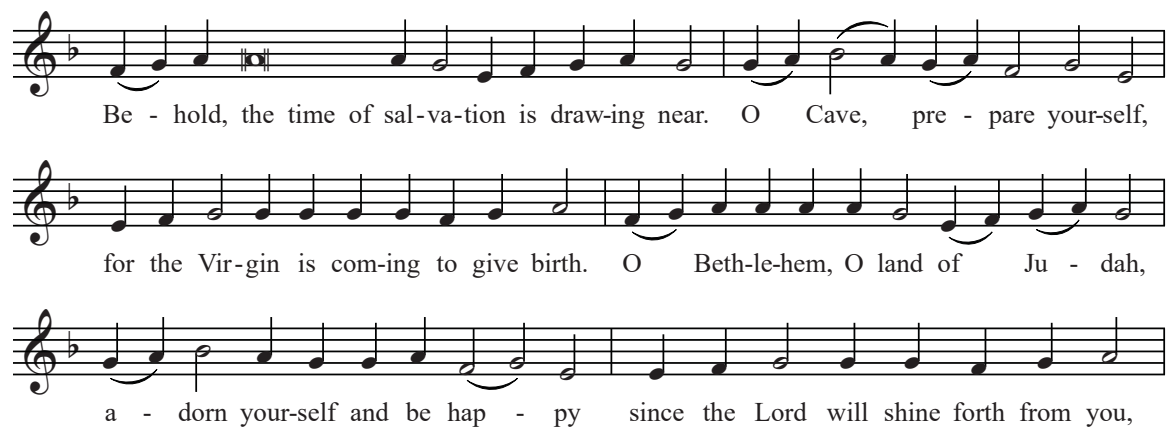
Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon - 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...



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,

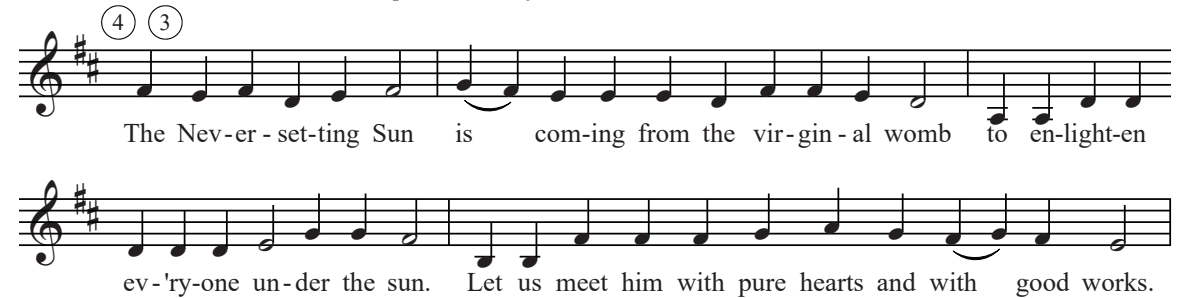


They her - ald the nativity of Christ on earth. As the pre - cious dew which the
Lord sent down, he now preserves the Virgin with - out stain,
and en - rich - es her with sub - lime gifts. There - fore Dan - iel, in - spired by God,
is al - so hap - py and full of joy be - cause he had a clear vis - ion
of the un - hewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal - ous - ly
prays for our souls.

Cantor: 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 podoben: Vsju otloživše



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

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

② 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

you are the bright a - bode of the One - Who - Is.
 Pre-pare the cave, for God is to be born in the flesh 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.

③ Come let us faith - ful - ly cel - e - brate be - fore-hand the birth of Christ.
 Let us sing spir - it - ual 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.

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 samopodoben: Dome Jefratov

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.

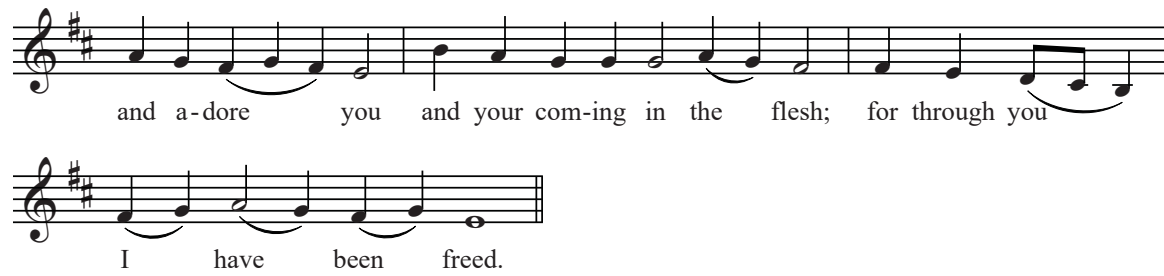
Cantor

God comes from Te - man; the Hol - y One from Mount Pa - ran.
 ②
 O Beth - - - le - - - hem, O land of Ju - dah,

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

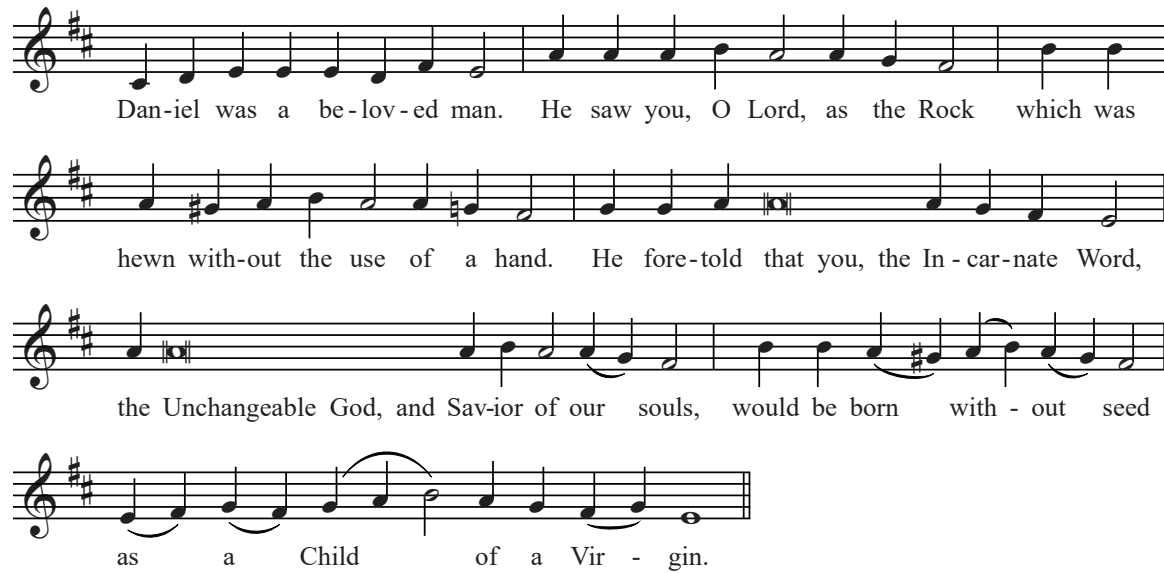
①
 Hav - ing con - ceived in a man - ner beyond un - der - stand - ing,
 the Vir - gin places you into the manger of the dumb an - i - mals, O e - ter - nal
 Word of God, be - cause you come to pardon the ig - nor - ance
 that I ac - quired through the envy of the ser - pent. You come to be wrapped in
 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: (Tone 6) Glory...

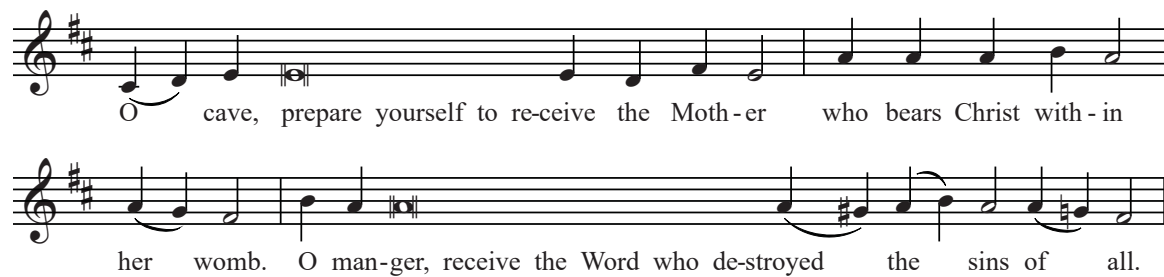
Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen



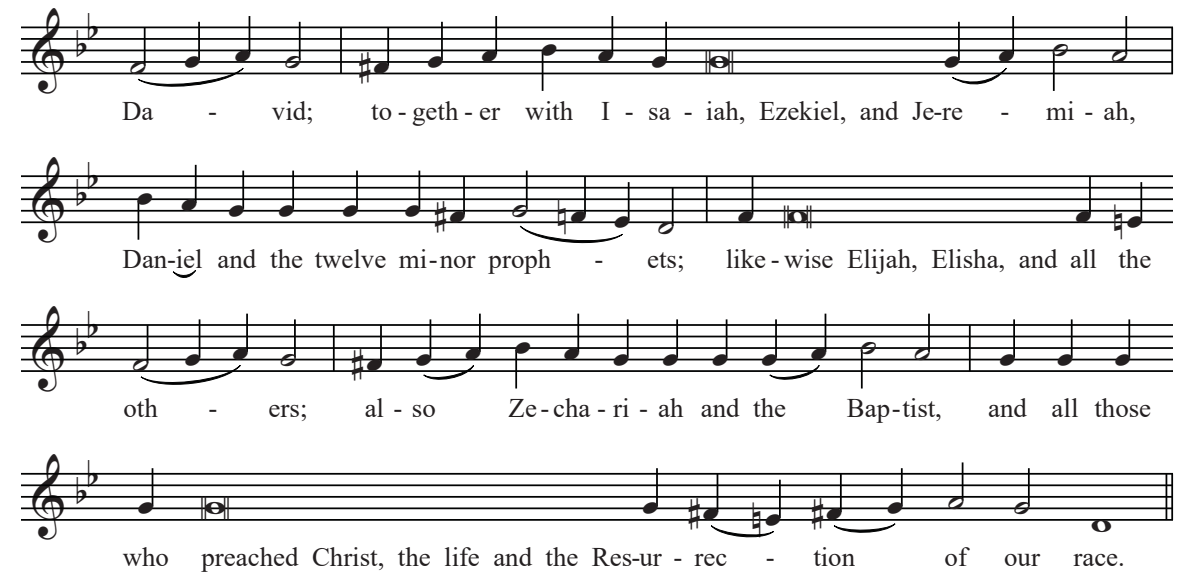
Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was
hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,
the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born with-out seed
as a Child of a Vir-gin.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of the prefeast

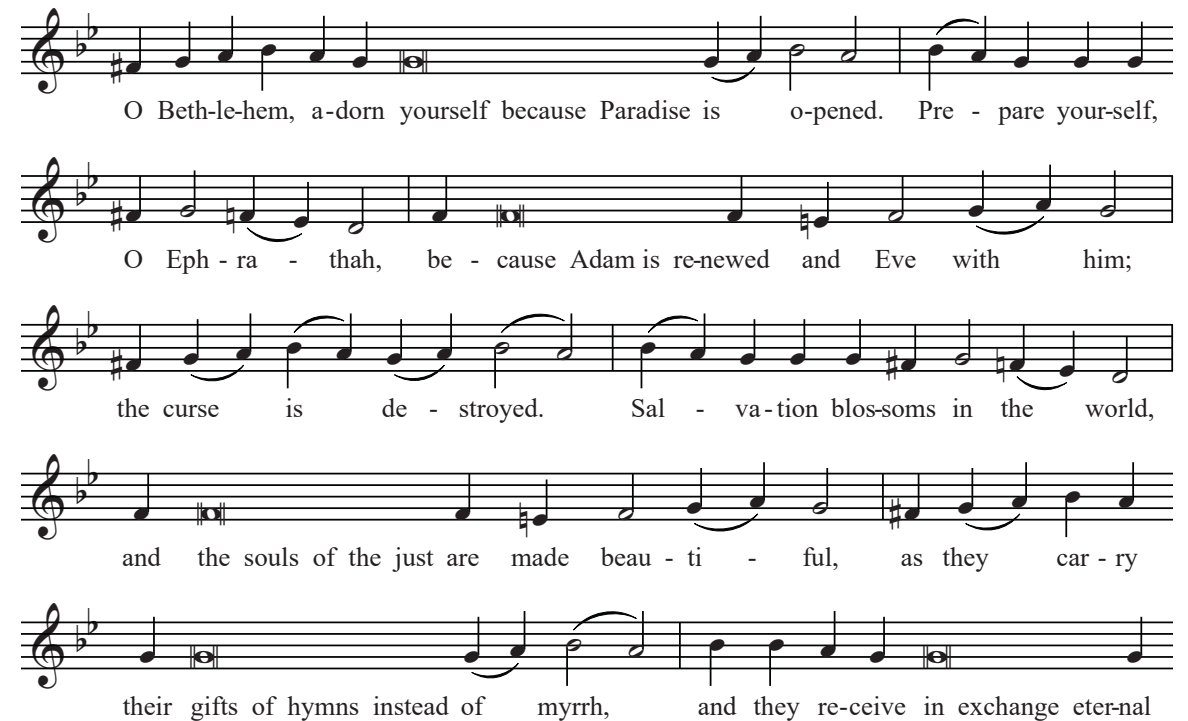


O cave, prepare yourself to re-ceive the Moth-er who bears Christ with-in
her womb. O man-ger, receive the Word who de-stroyed the sins of all.



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 Fathers - 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 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

[Optional Readings:

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

Litija

Tone 5 samohlasen

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