

Divine Liturgy, December 20, 2009
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Ancestors

Hymn

melody: St. Louis (O Little Town of Bethlehem)



1. O come, you lov - ers of the feasts! With glad - ness let us raise
2. Be - liev - ers, let us praise this day the fa - thers on faith's trek;
3. For Mi - riam, Sar - ah, Ra - chel fair, for Han - nah and for Eve,
4. O Beth - le - hem, pre - pare your - self, O Eph - ra - thah, re - joice!



For Pa - tri - archs and Proph - ets blest a hymn of thank - ful praise!
For Ad - am, E - noch, No - ah and the great Mel - chiz - e - dek!
For all the moth - ers who con - ceived and bore those to be - lieve
The gate of E - den's o - pen wide! Cry out with joy - filled voice:

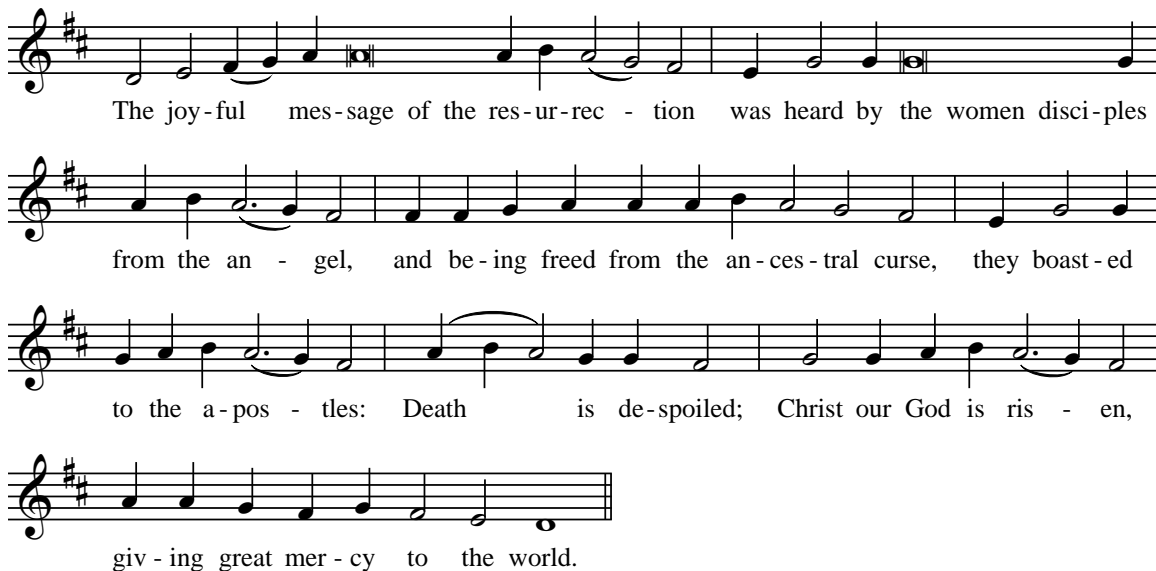


For A - bra - ham and I - saac and Ja - cob and his seed
For proph - ets like I - sai - ah, for Dan - iel and the youths
That God would keep His prom - ise, we give You thanks this day;
Our Christ makes haste to come now and brings us back to grace.



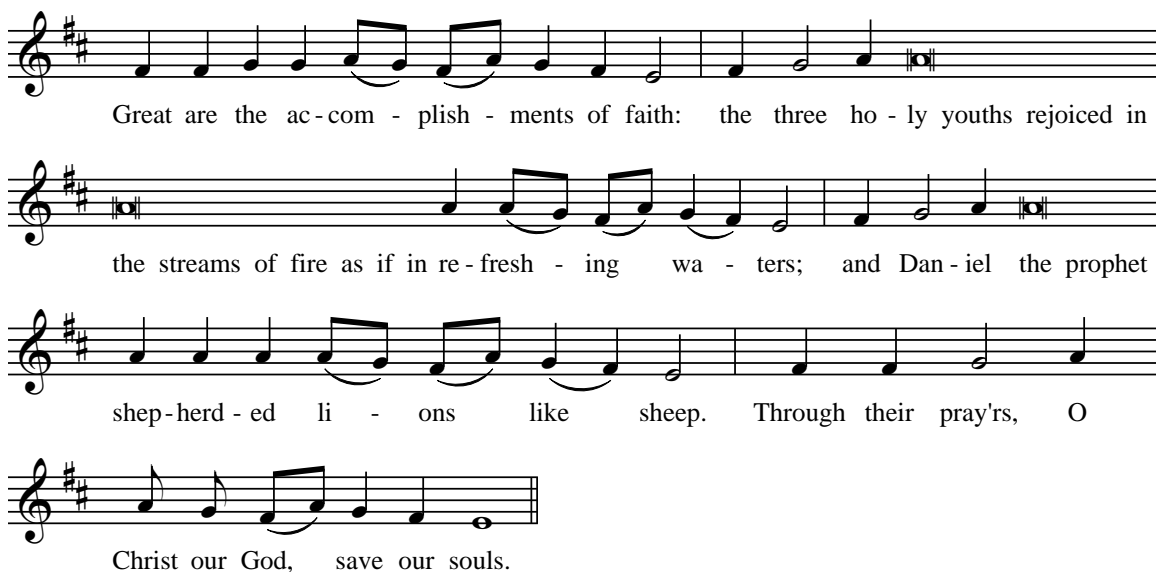
Whose cov - e - nant with God en - dured, we give You praise, in - deed!
Who, in the face of e - vil, still pro - claimed Your ho - ly truths.
So give us grace, in all our deeds, to serve you, as did they!
Pre - pare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the fin - est place!

Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 4*



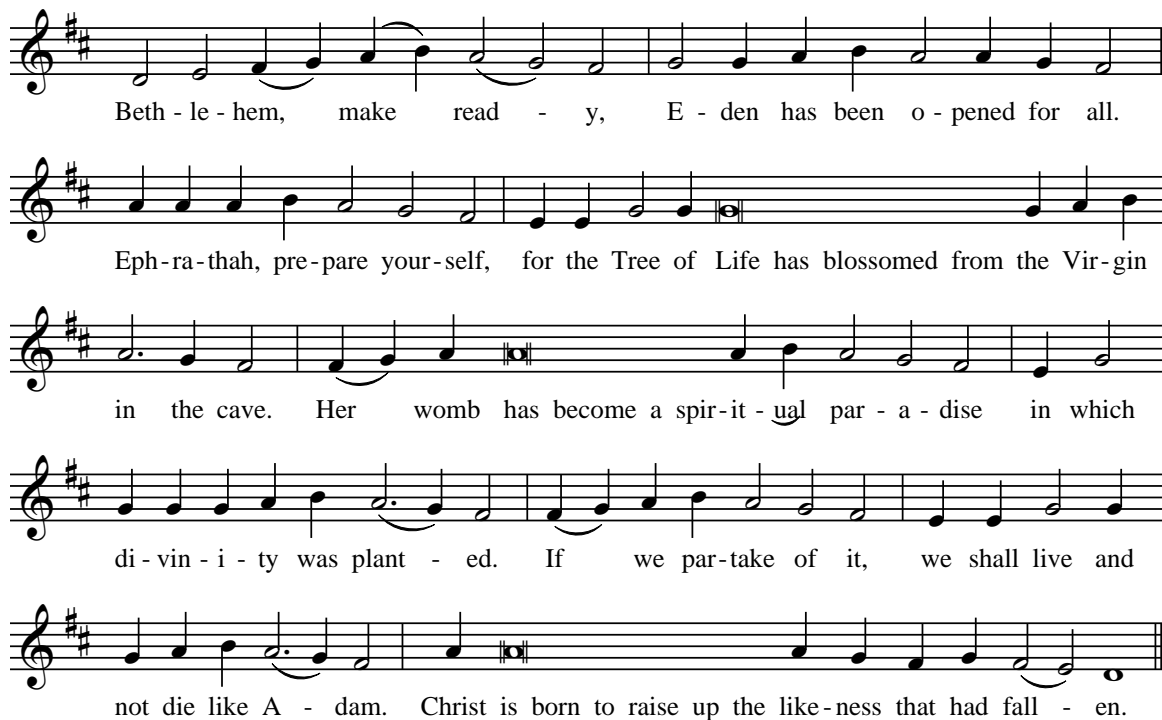
The joy-ful mes-sage of the res-ur-rec - tion was heard by the women disci-ples
from the an - gel, and be-ing freed from the an-ces-tral curse, they boast-ed
to the a-pos - tles: Death is de-spoiled; Christ our God is ris - en,
giv - ing great mer - cy to the world.

Troparion of the Ancestors - *Tone 2*



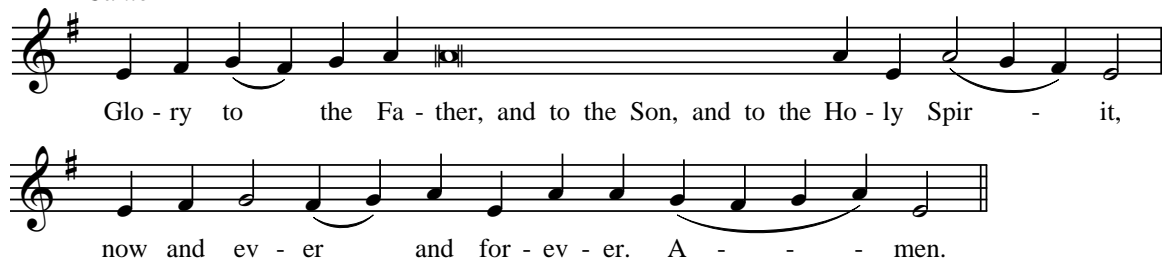
Great are the ac-com - plish - ments of faith: the three ho - ly youths rejoiced in
the streams of fire as if in re-fresh - ing wa - ters; and Dan - iel the prophet
shep-herd - ed li - ons like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O
Christ our God, save our souls.

Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4



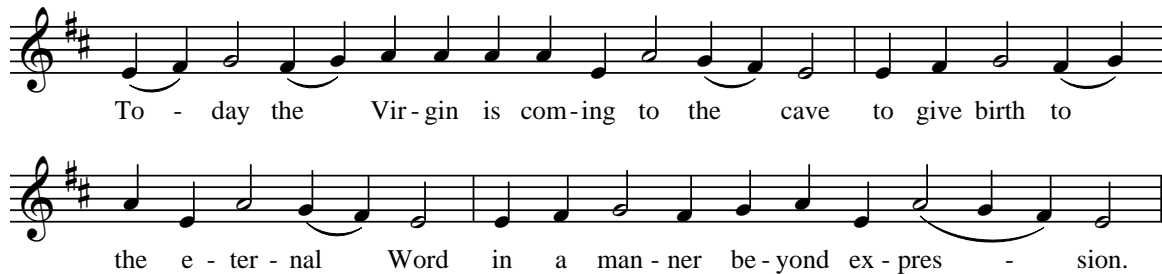
Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.
Eph-ra-thah, pre-pare your-self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir-gin
in the cave. Her womb has become a spir-it - ual par - a - dise in which
di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par-take of it, we shall live and
not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall - en.

Cantor



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

Kontakion of the Pre-feast - Tone 3



To - day the Vir-gin is com-ing to the cave to give birth to
the e - ter - nal Word in a man - ner be - yond ex - pres - sion.

Let the world dance when it hears the news; with the an - gels and
 shep - herds glorify the e - ter - nal God who chose to ap - pear as a
 new - born child.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Daniel 3:26,27):

Bless - ed are you and praise - wor - thy, O Lord, the God of our Fa - thers,
 and glo - ri - ous for - ev - er is your name.

Verse: For you are just in all that you have done for us.

Alleluia - Tone 4 (Psalm 43:2,8):


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Verse: O God, we have heard with our own ears;
 our fathers have told us the deed you did in their days.


Verse: You saved us from those who oppressed us; and those who hated us you put to shame.

Cherubic Hymn


Melody: O kto, kto



Let us, who mys-tic-'ly rep-re-sent the cher-u-bim, and sing the thrice-ho-ly




hymn to the life-cre-at-ing, life-cre-at-ing Trin-i-ty,




now set a-side all earth-ly cares.


After the commemorations:



A-men. That we may re-ceive the King of All, in-vis-i-bly



es-cort-ed by an-gel-ic hosts. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!



Al-le-lu-ia!

Anamnesis Acclamation



We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, thank you, O



Lord, and we pray to you, our God, and we pray to you, our God,



and we pray to you, our God.

Communion Hymn for Sunday (Psalm 148:1):




Praise the Lord from the heav-ens, praise him in the high-est.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

For the Ancestors (Psalm 32:1):



Re - joice in the Lord, you right-eous ones; praise from the up-right is fit-ting.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!