

Vesper Propers, December 21, 2014  
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 3, p. 48), stichera 10-7

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) 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.

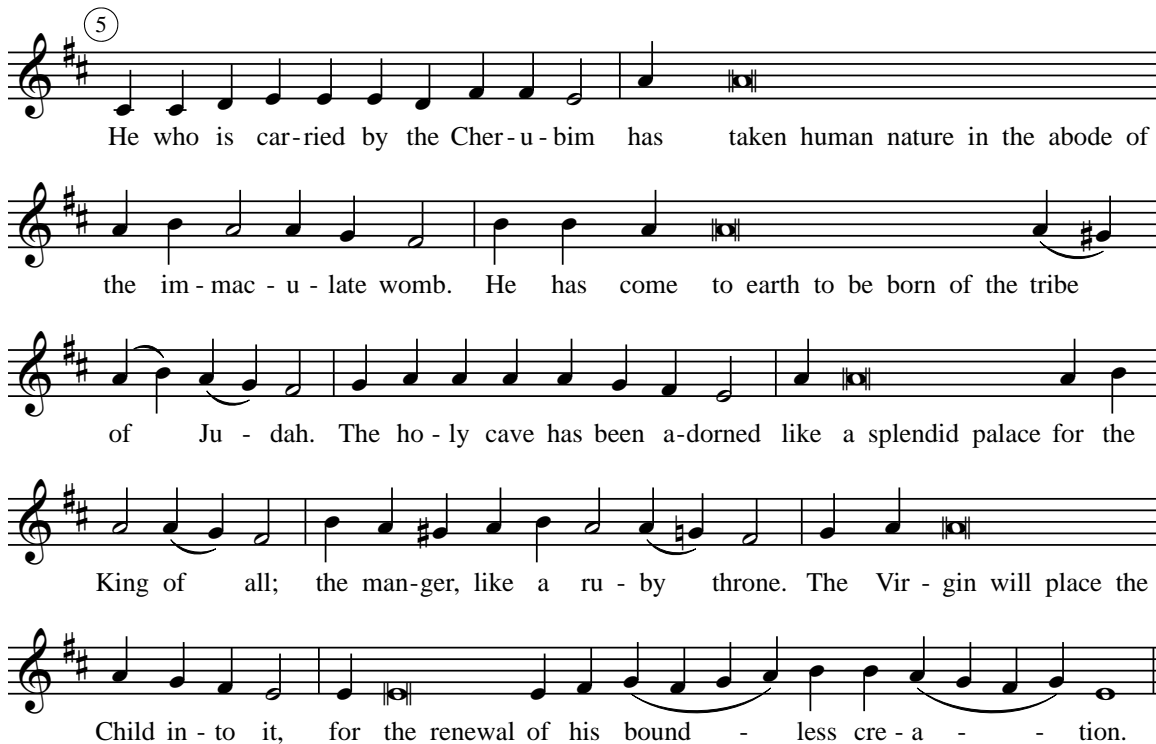
**Stichera of the Prefeast - Tone 6 samohlasen**

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 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:** 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.

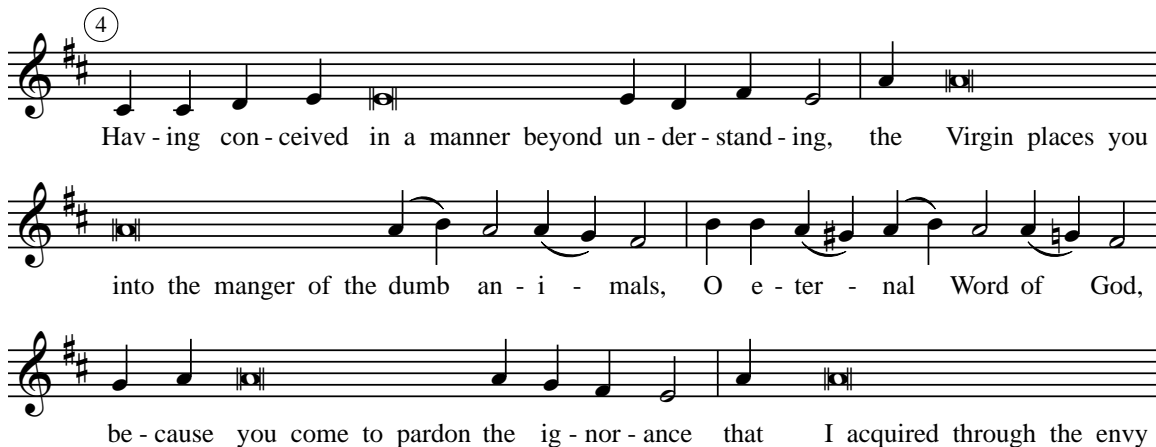
⑤



He who is car-ried by the Cher-u-bim has taken 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 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:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

④



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:** 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 - in the same tone**

<sup>3</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 glisten 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 faithful-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 glory of the divine sharing of our  
na - ture. Ad - am re - joic - es this day, since he is the founda - tion  
and the strength of the wise Fore - fa - thers; A - bel leaps for joy  
as well. E - noch is glad; Seth and Noah dance to - geth - er. The praiseworthy



Abraham sings with the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high



the birth with - out a fa - - ther.

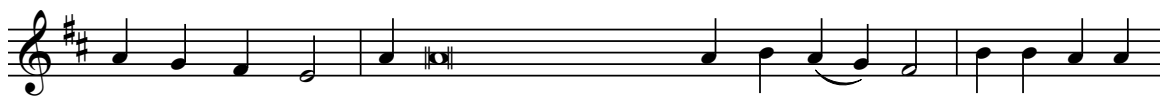
**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



The faith - ful and God - wise youths are 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



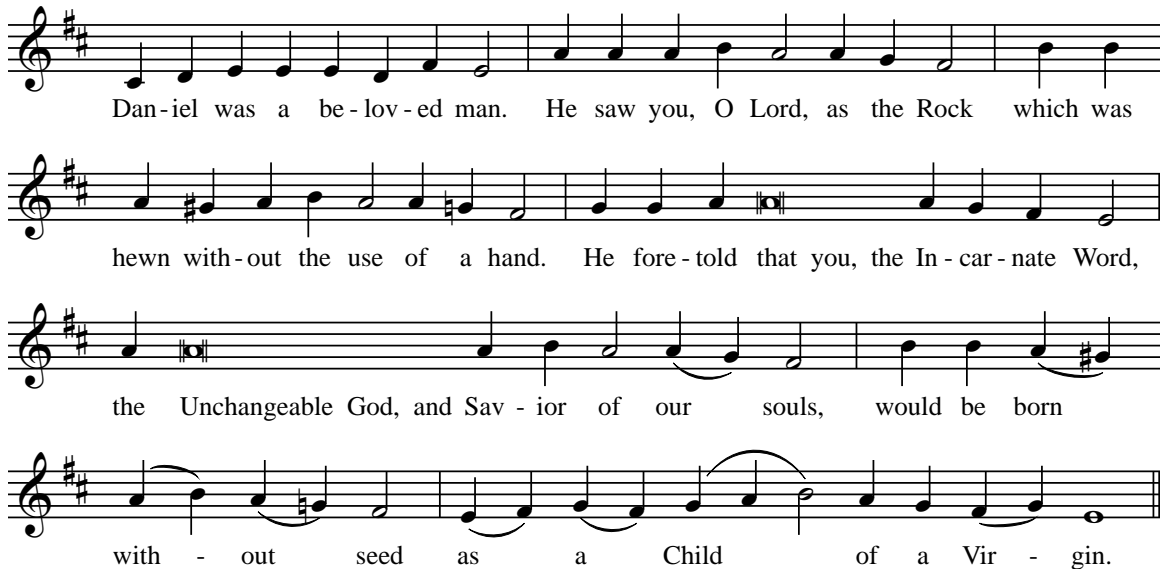
of the un - hewn stone from the moun - tain. He now zeal - ous - ly prays



for our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

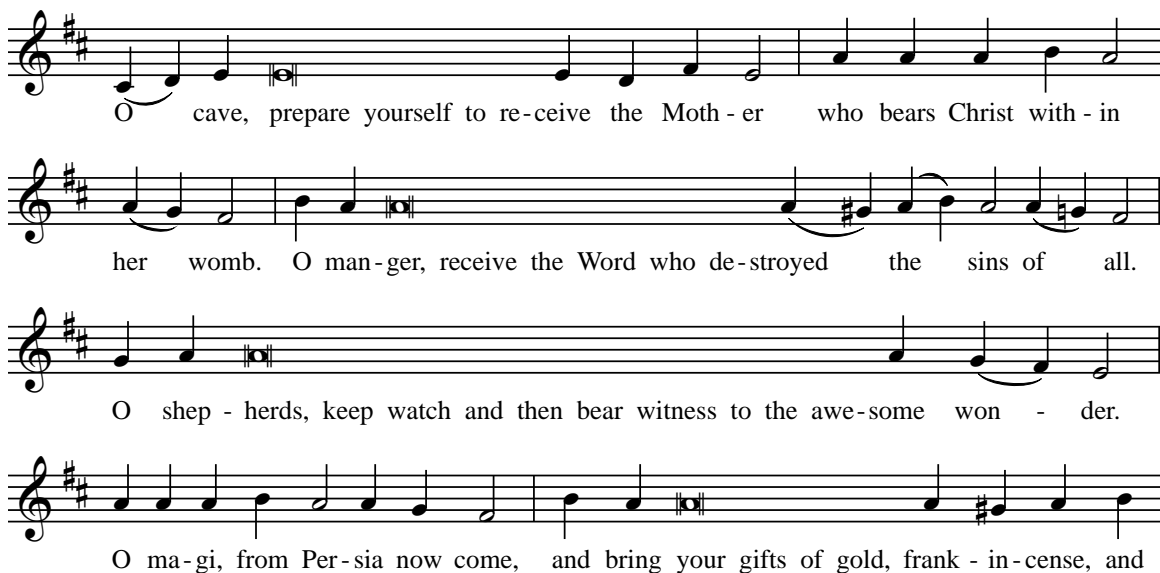
**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**



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 - in the same tone**



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 3, p. 54), 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.

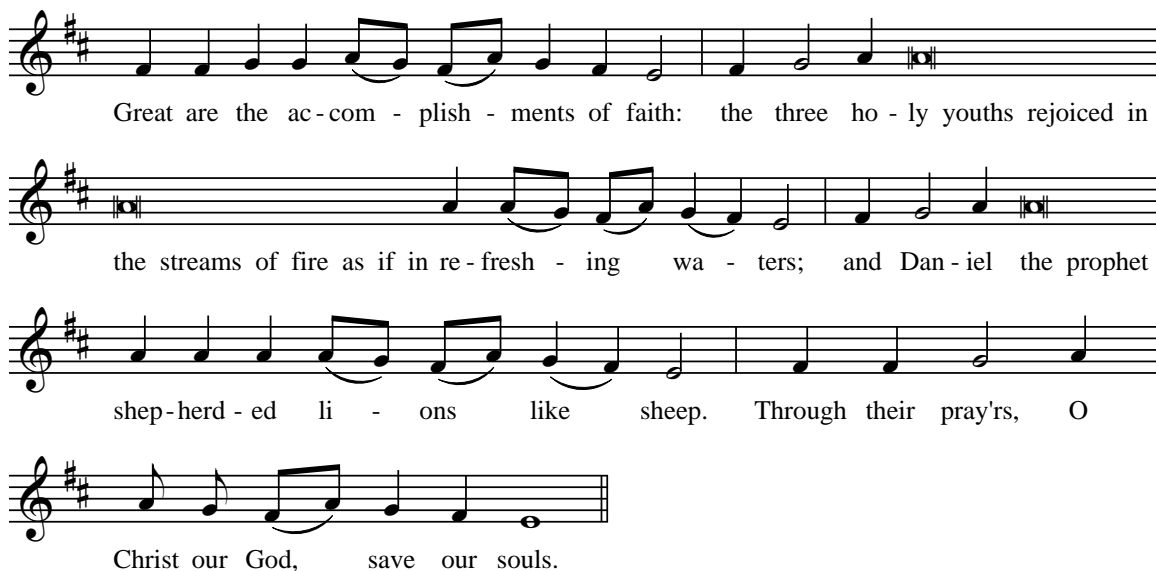


## Troparia

*Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, page 57), then:*

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

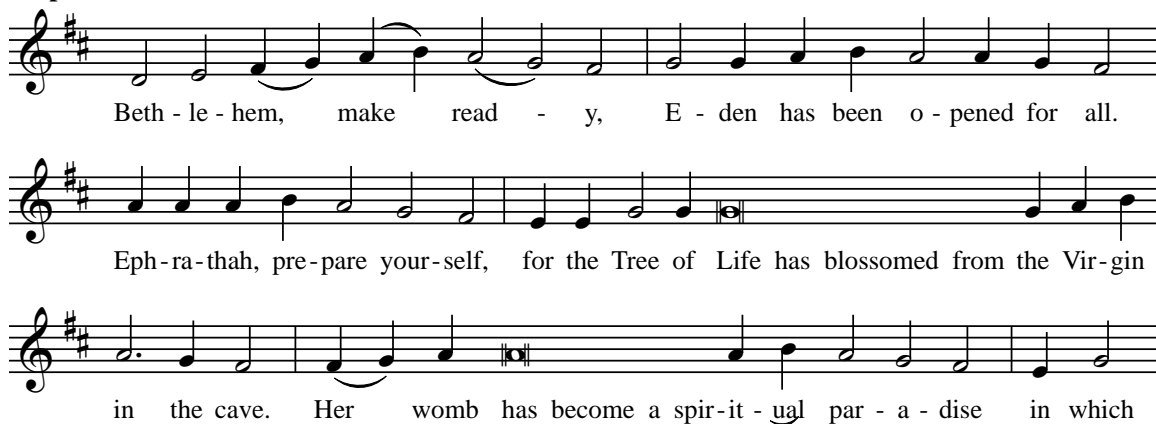
### Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2



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

The image shows a musical score for two staves. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff contains the lyrics: "di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par-take of it, we shall live and". The second staff contains the lyrics: "not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall - en." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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.