

Matins propers, December 27, 2020

The Sunday after Christmas:

The Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed,

David the King, and James the Brother of God

The Holy Apostle, First Martyr, and Archdeacon Stephen

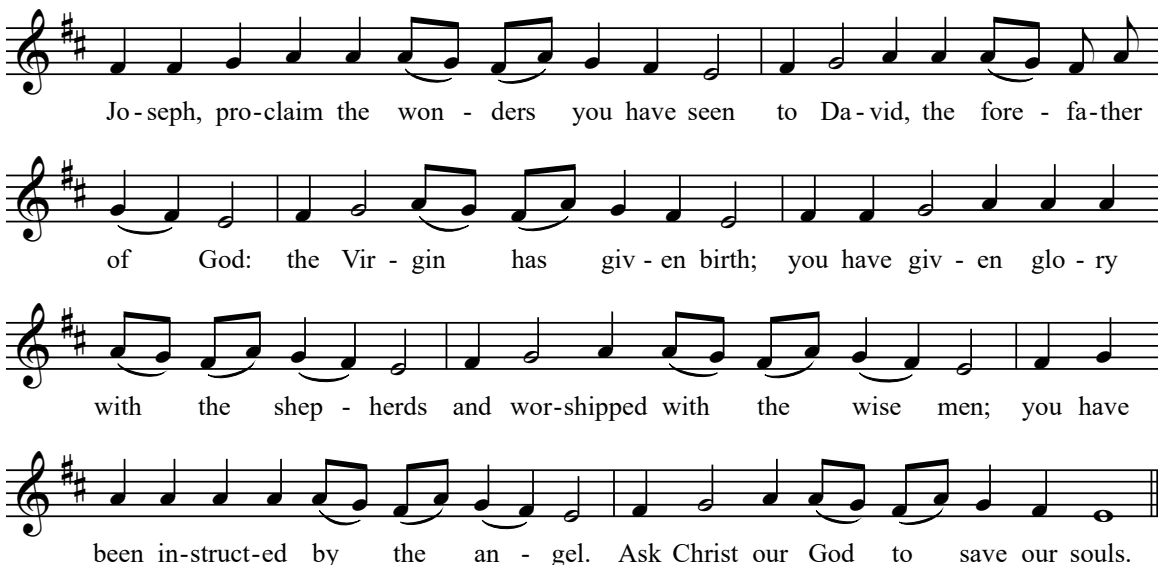
Supplement for The Order of Matins: Sunday and Feasts, 2006

“The Lord is God” is sung in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 162).

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 191), sung twice. Then:

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Troparion of the Saints - Tone 2



Jo-seph, pro-claim the won - ders you have seen to Da-vid, the fore - fa-ther
of God: the Vir - gin has giv - en birth; you have giv - en glo - ry
with the shep - herds and wor-shipped with the wise men; you have
been in-struct-ed by the an - gel. Ask Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Now and ever...

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4



Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed up - on the world the light of

knowl - edge; for through it, those who wor-shipped the stars have learned from
a star to worship you, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to know you, the Dawn
from on High. Glo - ry to you, O Lord!

The service continues as on Sunday, with sessional hymns for Sunday in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 192). Psalm 118 (rather than the Polyelelos) is chanted, followed by Hosts of Angels. Matins Gospel 8 (John 20:11-18).

There are three canons: of Sunday in the Tone of the Week, of the Saints, and of the holy protomartyr; one canon may be chosen. Here we provide the Canon for the Nativity.

The Canon of the Nativity

Ode 1

Irmos

Tone 1 samopodoben

Christ is born: glo - ri - fy him. Christ from the heav - ens: go out
to wel - come him. Christ on earth: ex - alt him. All the
earth, sing to the Lord, and praise him with joy, O peo-ples,
for he is glo - ri - fied.

Refrain

Glo - ry to your ho - ly Na - ti - vi - ty, O Lord!

Although created in the image of God, humankind fell from the divine and higher life, and through transgression became entirely subject to corruption and decay. But now the all-good Creator fashions human nature anew; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

When the Creator saw the one whom He had created with his own hands perishing, He lowered the heavens and came down; He took upon himself human nature from the most holy and pure Virgin, truly becoming flesh; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it;
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.

The irmos may be repeated as katavasia, if desired.

Ode 3

Irmos

Let us sing to the Son begotten of the Father without change be-fore all
a - ges. Let us cry a-loud to Christ our God, in - car-nate

with-out seed from the Virgin in these lat - ter days: you have ex - alt - ed our horn;

Ho - ly are you, O Lord.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

Although Adam was formed from the clay of the earth, he shared In God's life; yet through the tempting of a woman, he sunk and fell into corruption. But now when he sees Christ born of a woman, he cries aloud: For my sake, You have become as I am; glory to You, O Lord! *Refrain*

You made yourself, O Christ, a creature in the form of clay, and even took on our flesh, thereby making us partakers in your divine nature. You have become a mortal, yet still remain God. You are our strength; glory to You, O Lord!

Glory.... now and ever...

Rejoice, O Bethlehem, for you are the Queen among the princes of Judah; because from you comes forth, in the sight of all, Christ himself, the Shepherd who watches over Israel, and He that is seated upon the Cherubim. He is our strength and reigns over all.

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3

To - day the Vir - gin gives birth to the Tran - scen - dent One; and the earth

of - fers a cave to the Un - ap - proach - a - ble. The an - gels sing his glory

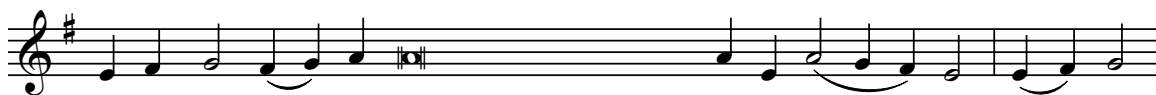
with the shep - herds; the wise men jour - ney with the star.



The e - ter - nal God is born for us as an in - fant child.

Ikos: Bethlehem has opened up Eden for us. Come and let us see the delights that we have found there in secret. Come and let us gather the fruits of Paradise that are within the cave. There, the unwatered Root has manifested itself, and it has sprouted forgiveness. There, the undug Well, of which David yearned to drink, is found. There, the Virgin, who gave birth to the Infant, immediately quenched the thirst of Adam and David. Therefore, let us hasten to the place where the young Infant, the Eternal God, is born.

Sessional hymn of the saints - Tone 3 kontakion



Let us praise the right-eous Joseph, the betrothed of the Vir - gin, with James



and Da-vid as is most pro - per; for, ha-ving trod the right-eous path, they have



come to the man-sions of hea - ven, and join-ing cho - rus with the angels



as is fit - ting, they beg for - give-ness of sins for us.

Cantor: (*Tone 1 troparion*) Glory... now and ever...

Sessional hymn of the protomartyr - Tone 3 kontakion



O a - pos - tle of Christ, first among the deac - cons, wise pro - to -

mar - ty, first among the mart - tyrs: hav - ing sanc - ti - fied the ends
of the earth with your suf - fer - ings, you have al - so il - lu - mined the souls of
men with mir - a - cles. O all - praised Stephen, from all man - ner of trib - u - la - tions
de - li - ver those that hon - or you.

Ode 4

Irmos

O Christ, the rod from Jes - se's root and its flow'r, you blos - somed from the
Vir - gin; Praise - wor - thy one, from the overshadowed sha - dy moun - tain.
You came in the flesh from her who knew not man.
God not made of mat - ter, glo - ry to your pow'r, O Lord.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

In the days of old, Jacob foretold You, O Christ, calling You the Expectation of the nations. You have come forth from the tribe of Judah and have overcome the might of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, turning their idolatry into faith pleasing to God. Glory to Your power, O Lord!

Refrain

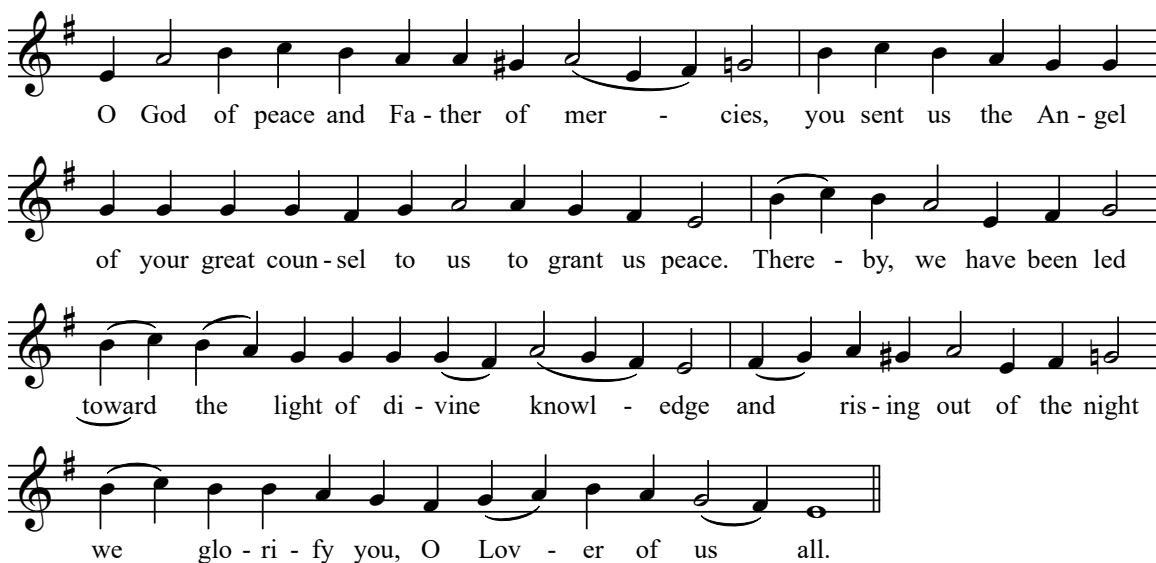
Rising as a Star out of Jacob, O Master, You have brought joy to the Magi who interpreted wisely the words of Balaam, the prophet of old. They were led to You as the first fruits of the Gentiles, and You graciously received them as they brought You pleasing gifts. Glory to your power, O Lord!

Glory.... now and ever...

You have descended, O Christ, into the womb of the Virgin as dew upon the fleece and as drops of rain that shower the earth. Ethiopia, Tarshish, and the Isles of Arabia; the kings of Saba, of the Medes, and those of all the earth, bow down before You, O Savior. Glory to your power, O Lord!

Ode 5

Irmos



O God of peace and Fa - ther of mer - cies, you sent us the An - gel
of your great coun - sel to us to grant us peace. There - by, we have been led
toward the light of di - vine knowl - edge and ris - ing out of the night
we glo - ri - fy you, O Lov - er of us all.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

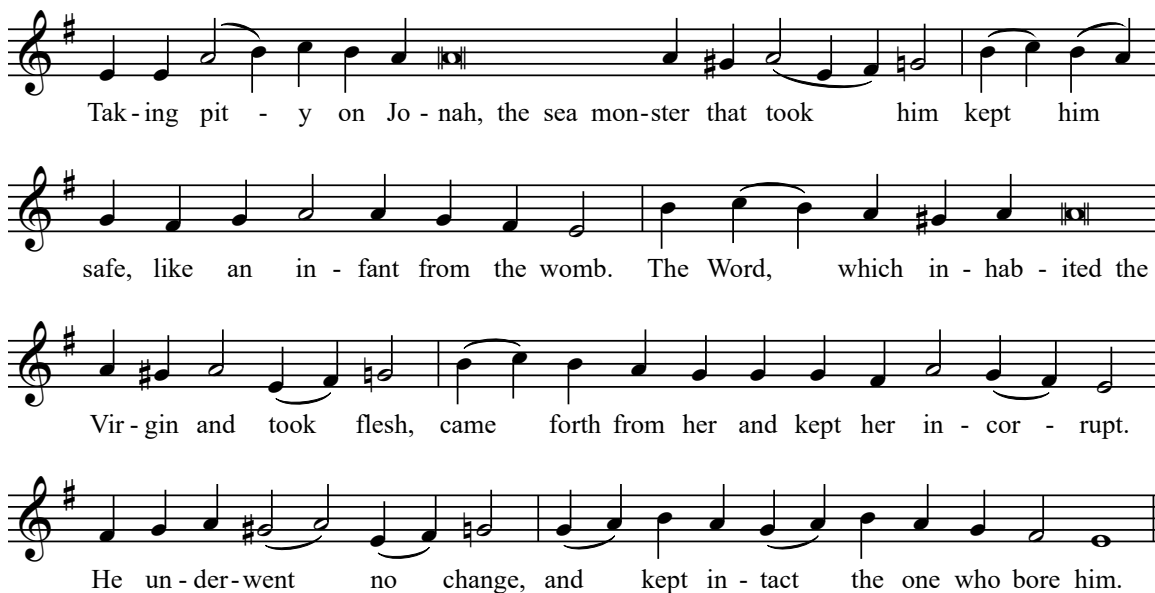
In obedience to the decree of Caesar, O Christ, You were registered among his servants; and You have set us free from being enslaved to the enemy and sin. Completely sharing in our poverty, You made our nature godlike by uniting yourself to us and by participating in our nature.

Glory.... now and ever...

As it was prophesied in times past, behold, the Virgin has conceived in her womb and has given birth to God in the flesh and still remained a virgin. Through her we are reconciled to God; let us sinners sing her praises, for she is truly the Mother of God.

Ode 6

Irmos



Tak - ing pit - y on Jo - nah, the sea mon - ster that took him kept him
safe, like an in - fant from the womb. The Word, which in - hab - ited the
Vir - gin and took flesh, came forth from her and kept her in - cor - rupt.
He un - der - went no change, and kept in - tact the one who bore him.

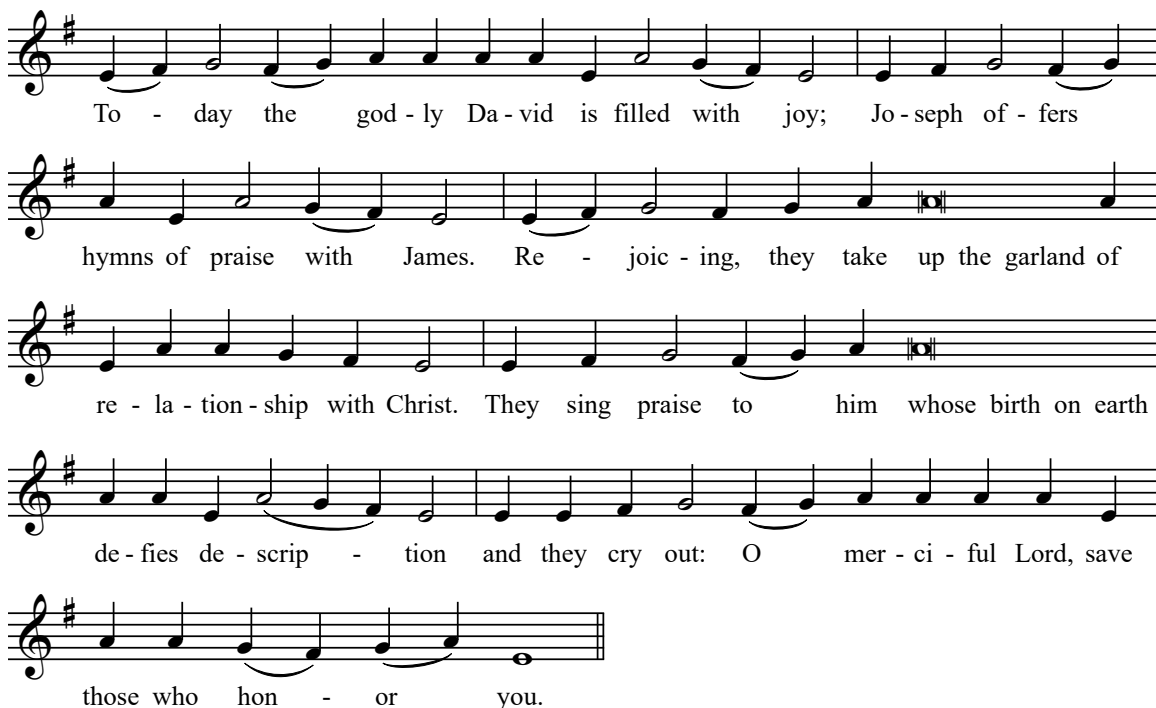
Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

Christ our God, begotten from the Father before the morning star, appears in the flesh; He, who directs the armies of heaven, is laid in a manger of dumb beasts. He, who frees the twisted bonds of sin, is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Glory.... now and ever...

A young child, a Son is born from the race of Adam and is given to the faithful. He is the Father and Prince of the World to come; He is the all-powerful God who rules over all creation; He is called the Angel of great counsel.

Kontakion of the Saints - *Tone 3*

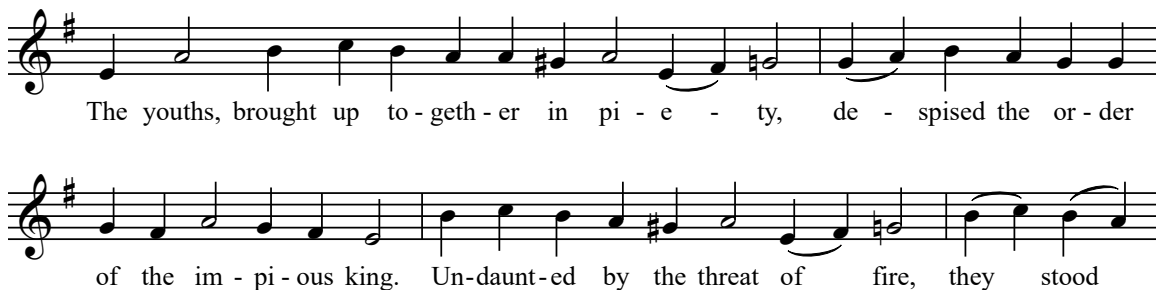


To - day the god - ly Da - vid is filled with joy; Jo - seph of - fers
hymns of praise with James. Re - joic - ing, they take up the garland of
re - la - tion - ship with Christ. They sing praise to him whose birth on earth
de - fies de - scrip - tion and they cry out: O mer - ci - ful Lord, save
those who hon - or you.

Ikos: By an ineffable plan, the bodiless one is born in the flesh; the uncontained one is now contained in a body, and without change keeps both natures; the one who, by nature is without beginning and alone eternal accepts a beginning; the supremely perfect one becomes an infant. The one who carries all creation is carried in arms. Therefore he crowns with relationship those who honor his birth. Let us glorify them in faith, shouting without ceasing: O merciful Lord, save those who honor you.

Ode 7

Irmos



The youths, brought up to - geth - er in pi - e - ty, de - spised the or - der
of the im - pi - ous king. Un - daunt - ed by the threat of fire, they stood

in the midst of the flames and sang this hymn: Bless-ed are you, God
of our fa - thers.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds keeping night watch over their flocks. The shepherds were frightened as they saw the glory of the Lord around the angel and heard him say: Rejoice, for Christ is born. Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers. *Refrain*

At the word of the angel, the heavenly hosts cried aloud: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to all; Christ has shone forth. Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers.

Glory.... now and ever...

When the angel had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: Let us go and see this event which the Lord has made known to us. They hastened to Bethlehem and worshiped with Mary the One whom she had borne. They cried out: Blessed are You, O God of our Fathers.

Ode 8

Irmos

The fur - nace cooled like dew, mir - ac - u - lous - ly, fore - shad-owed a
great mar - vel. For it did not burn the youths it re-ceived, nor did the
fire of divinity burn the Virgin's womb by en - ter - ing it. There-fore, let us

strike up a hymn and sing: Let all cre - a - tion bless and ex - alt the Lord
for - ev - er.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

The children of David were once led captive from Zion by the daughter of Babylon through the strength of the sword; now, the Magi bringing gifts, are sent by her to beseech the Daughter of David in whom God took flesh. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever. *Refrain*

As captives, the children of Zion did not play upon their lyres; Christ, shining forth in Bethlehem, quiets all the iniquity of Babylon as well as the music of her harps. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

Glory.... now and ever...

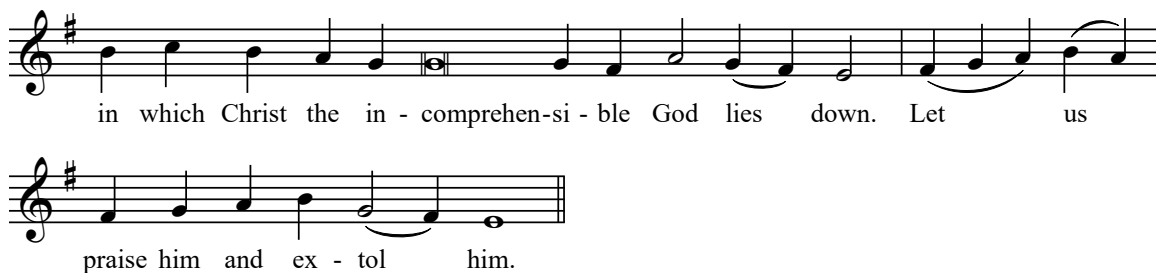
Babylon plundered Zion, the Queen, and seized all her riches. But Christ, by a guiding star, attracted to Zion the wealth of Babylon with her kings who studied the stars. Therefore, let us praise God, saying: Let all creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is sung.

Ode 9

Irmos

I see a strange and mar - vel - ous mys - te - ry: heav - en is a cave;
the cherubic throne, a vir - gin; the man - ger has be - come the place



in which Christ the in - comprehen-si - ble God lies down. Let us
praise him and ex - tol him.

Refrain: Glory to your holy nativity, O Lord!

Observing the unusual path of a mysterious and newly shining star which was brighter than any other heavenly light, the Magi learned that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation. *Refrain*

The Magi asked of Herod: Where is the newborn King whose star we have seen? We have come to worship Him. The enemy of God was troubled and irrationally schemed how to kill Christ. *Refrain*

Glory.... now and ever...

Herod asked the Magi, who had come to Bethlehem to worship Christ with their gifts, when they had first seen the star which directed them. But the Magi returned to their own country by the same star, thereby deceiving Herod, the killer of the Innocents.

Hymns of Light

“Holy is the Lord” is sung in the Tone of the Week (Tone 5, p. 214, followed by the Hymn of Light for the Resurrection Gospel. Then:

With James, the noble brother of the Lord, let us extol David, the ancestor of God, and the holy Joseph, the spouse of the God-bearer, for they served the holy Birth of Christ in Bethlehem, singing praises to him together with the angels, Magi and the Shepherds, for the new-born Jesus is our Lord and our God.

Glory...

(For the protomartyr) You beheld the all-unoriginate Word standing at the right hand of the Father, and your face was filled with ineffable light, O boast of the apostles and glory of the martyrs. And you were adorned with a crown fashioned of the rocks of your stoning, and you received a divine end.

Now and ever...

Hymn of Light for the Nativity - Tone 3 samopodoben:

Our Sav - ior, the Day - - - spring from
the East, has vis - i - ted us from on high, and we who were in
dark-ness and in sha - dow have found the truth;
for the Lord, the Lord is born of a Vir - gin.

The Praises (Psalms 148-150)

Four stichera are sung for the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week ; sing the first four stichera of Sunday in Tone 5, pp. 214-218. Then four stichera for Christmas:

Cantor: *(Tone 4)* Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipes.

②
O holy ones, be hap - py; O heav-ens, be glad; and all you mountains,
sing with joy be - cause Christ our God is born to - day. Be - hold,



the Vir - gin is enthroned like the Cher - u - bim, hold - ing in her arms the incarnate



Word of God. The shep - herds glo - rify with hymns the new - born Babe;



the Ma - gi of - fer gifts to their Mas - ter; and the angels sing prais-es

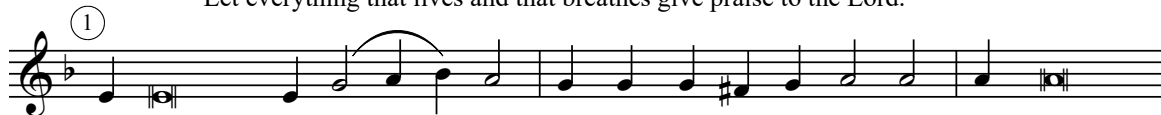


and say: O in - com - pre - hen - si - ble Lord, glo - ry to You!

Cantor:

O praise him with resound cymbals; praise him with clashing of cymbals.

Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.



O Virgin The-o - to - kos, you gave birth to the Sav - ior. You overthrew



the ancient curse of Eve. As a moth-er you were the benevolence of the Fa - ther.



You bore in your womb the in - car - nate Word of God. We cannot under-stand



this mys - ter - y, but we glo - rify it with one faith. We al - so join you



in praise to say: O In - ef - fa - ble Lord, glo - ry to You!

Cantor

From e - ter nity you have been born of my womb, vows the Lord who does
not re - pent.

(A)

Come, all you peo - ples, let us praise the Mo-ther of our Sav - ior, for
she remained a virgin af - ter child - birth. Re - joi - ce, O ho - ly city of our King and God.
The Sav - ior has cho - sen to live in you, and in you He has worked out our
sal - va - tion. With Ga - briel, we sing your prais - es; and with the shep - herds -
we glori - fy you, say - ing: O Mother of God, implore Him who became
in - car - nate from you, that He may save our souls.

Cantor

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.

(B)

By the will of the Fa - ther, the Word be - came flesh. The Virgin
gave birth to the In - car - nate God. The star pro - claims and the Ma - gi a - dore;
the shep - herds are a - mazed and all cre - a - tion re - joic - es.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Saints - Tone 8 samohlafen

The blood, fire, and pil - ars of smoke are the mir - acles of the earth which the
pro - phet Joel fore - saw: the blood is flesh, the fire is the God - head,
and the pil - lars of smoke, the Ho - ly Spi - rit who came u - pon the Vir - gin,
and brought a sweet fragrance into the whole world. Great is the mystery of your
be - com - ing a man, Glo - ry to you, O Lord!

Cantor: (Tone 2) Now and ever...

The service continues with the theotokion on p.40, followed by the Great Doxology and the rest of Matins.