

*Vespers of the Nativity
of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
and the Divine Liturgy
of Our Holy Father Basil the Great*

Vesper Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

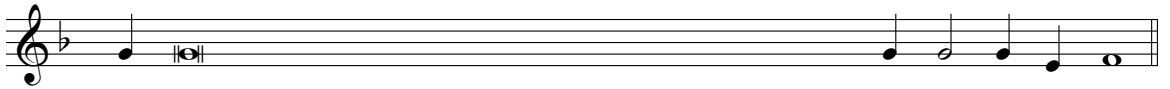
Response: 
A - - men.

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence:



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Psalm 103



1. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Lord my God, how great you are,



2. clothed in maj-es-ty and glo - - - ry, wrapped in light as in a robe.



3. You stretch out the heav-ens like a tent. A-bove the rains you build your



dwell - ing. 4. You make the clouds your char - i - ot, you walk on




the wings of the wind; 5. you make your an-gels spir - - - its



and your min-is-ters a flam-ing fire. 6. You found-ed the earth



on its base, to stand firm from age to age. 7. You make the grass grow for



the cat - - - tle and the plants to serve man's needs, 8. that he may



bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer man's heart;




9. oil, to make his face shine and bread to strength - en



man's heart. 10. I will sing to the Lord all my life, make mu-sic



to my God while I live. 11. You made the moon to mark the months;



the sun knows the time for its set - ting. 12. How man - y are your

works, O Lord! In wis-dom you have made them all. 13. Glo - ry to
the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
14. now and ev - - - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Three times, each with a reverence

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo-ry to you, O God!

Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God,
and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [*or*: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

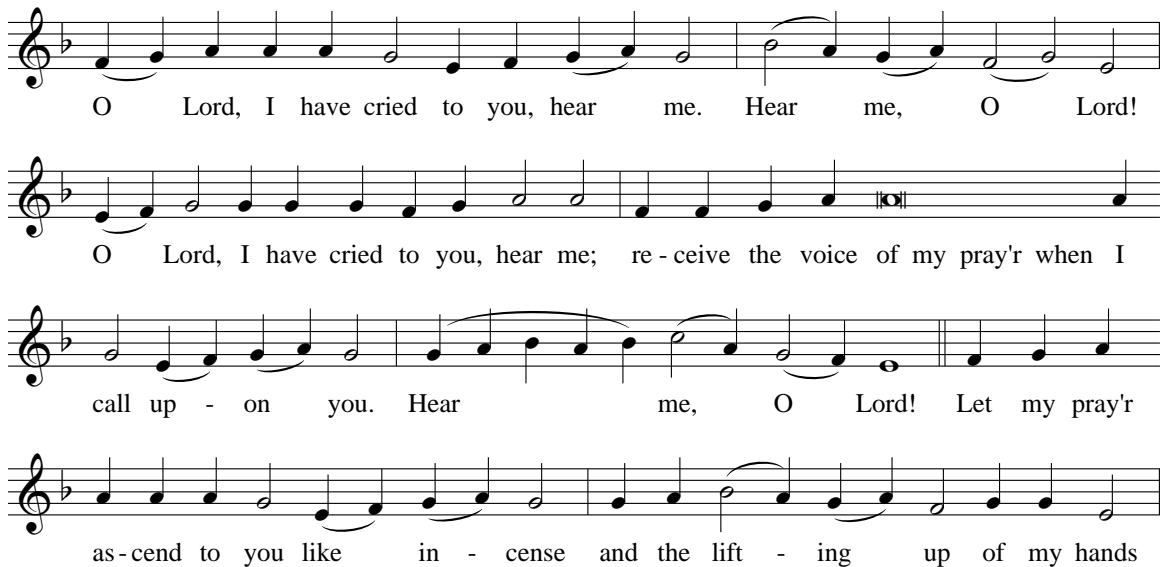
Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - *Tone 2*



O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as-cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands



O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

Psalm 141 To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

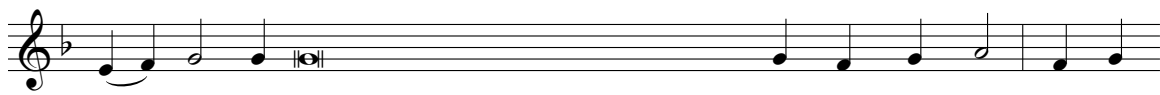
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *un*harméd.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *en*trap me.



by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword with-held. Now the



Cherubim shall let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I



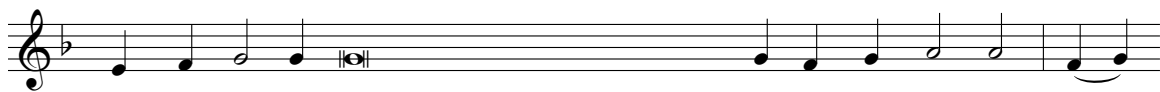
am returning to the bliss of Paradise from which I had been banished by



disobedience. Behold! The Image of the Father and his unchangeable



eternity has taken the form of a servant.



Without suffering he has come forth to us from an all-pure Virgin, and



yet he has remained unchanged. He is true God as he was before,



and he has taken on himself what he had not been, becoming man out of



his love for all. Therefore, let us raise our voices in hymns singing:



O God, born of the Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.



Be-cause the Lord Je - sus was born of the ho - ly Vir - gin, all cre - a - tion is



en-light - ened. Be-hold! The shep - herds keep watch and the ma-gi are a - dor - ing;



the an - gels are sing - ing hymns of praise and Her - od is trem - bling;



for the Sav - ior of our souls has re - vealed him - self in the flesh.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all you nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples.



O Christ our God, your king - dom is e - ter - nal, and your reign is from




gen - eration to gen - er - a - tion. You be - came in - carnate of the Ho - ly Spir - it



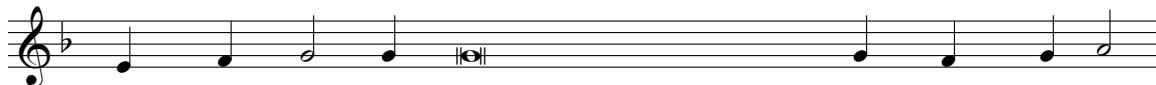
and be - came man from the ev - er - vir - gin Mar - y. Your com - ing,



O Christ, has shed a great light up - on us. You are the Light of Light



and the ra-diance of the Fa - ther. You have il-lum-ined the whole cre-a - tion.



There - fore, ev - 'ry - thing that breathes sings a hymn of praise to you.



You are the im - age of the Fa - ther's glo - ry. You are




the e - ternal God, existing be-fore all a - ges, who shone forth from the Vir-gin.




O Lord our God, have mer - cy on us.

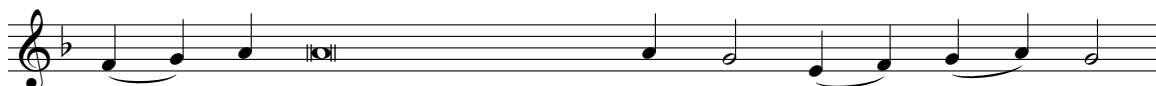
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



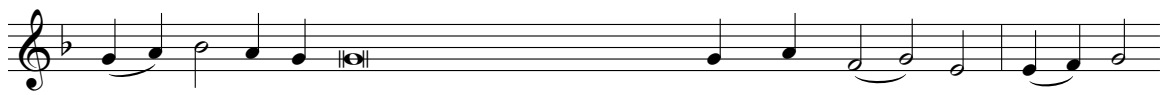
O Christ, what shall we of-fer you for your com-ing on earth in our human-



-i - ty for our sake? Ev-'ry crea-ture that has its being from you gives thanks to you:



the an - gels offer hymns of praise, the heav - ens give a star;



the Ma - gi pre - sent their gifts and the shep - herds, their won - der; the earth



pro - vides a cave and the des - ert a man - ger. As for us, we offer a



Vir - gin Moth - er. O God who are from all eter - ni - ty, have



mer - cy on us.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon



When Au - gus - tus became su - preme rul - er of the world, the man - y king - doms



a - mong the peo - ple came to an end. Like - wise, when you be - came incarnate



of the Im - mac - u - late One, the wor - ship of man - y gods had to cease.



The cit - ies came under a uni - ver - sal pow - er, and the Gen - tiles believed in one



su - preme Di - vin - i - ty. Na - tions were re - gistered in the name of Cae - sar



Au - gus - tus, and we, the faith - ful, were registered in your divine name,



O In - car - nate One. O Lord, great is your mer - cy; glo - ry to you!

The Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening



O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,



the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have



reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise



a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the



Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Evening Prokeimenon

Saturday, from Psalm 92: Tone 6 samopodoben



The Lord reigns, the Lord reigns; he is clothed in maj - es - ty.

The Deacon chants the verses as follows:

Verse: Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

Verse: The world he made firm, not to be moved.

Verse: Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord, until the end of time.

Reading 1 *For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.)*

Genesis 1:1-13

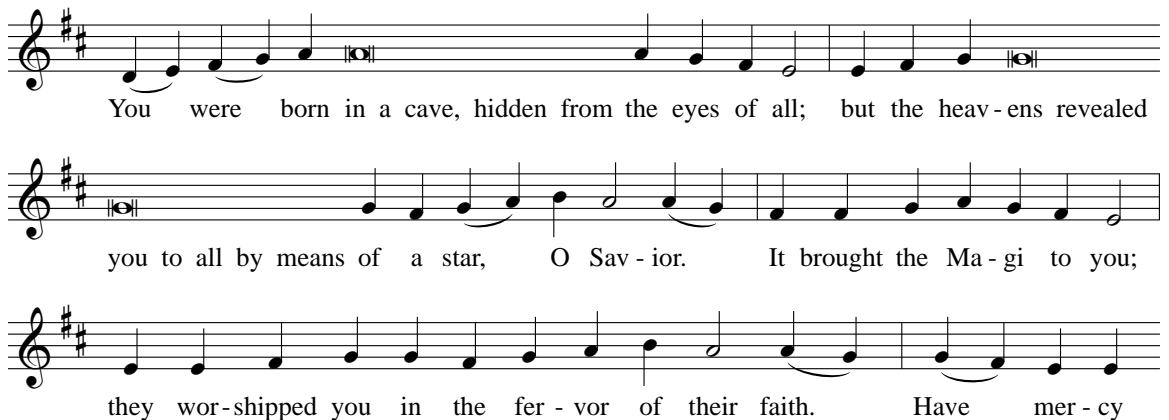
Numbers 24: 2-3, 5-9, 17-18

Micah 4: 6-7, 5: 2-4

First Responsorial Troparion

All:

Tone 6



You were born in a cave, hidden from the eyes of all; but the heav-ens revealed
you to all by means of a star, O Sav-ior. It brought the Ma-gi to you;
they wor-shipped you in the fer-vor of their faith. Have mer-cy

up - on all of us.

Cantor:

On the ho - ly moun - tain is his city cher-ished by the Lord. The Lord

pre - fers the gates of Zion to all Ja-cob's dwell - ings.

All:

It brought the Ma-gi to you; they wor-shipped you in the fer-vor of their faith.

Have mer - cy up - on all of us.

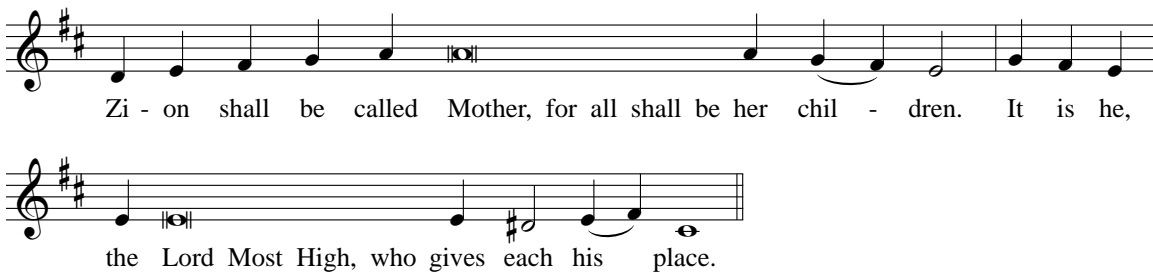
Cantor:

Of you are told glo - rious things, O cit - y of God. Bab - y - lon and Egypt I will

count among those who know me.

All: *Repeat : "It brought the Magi to you..."*

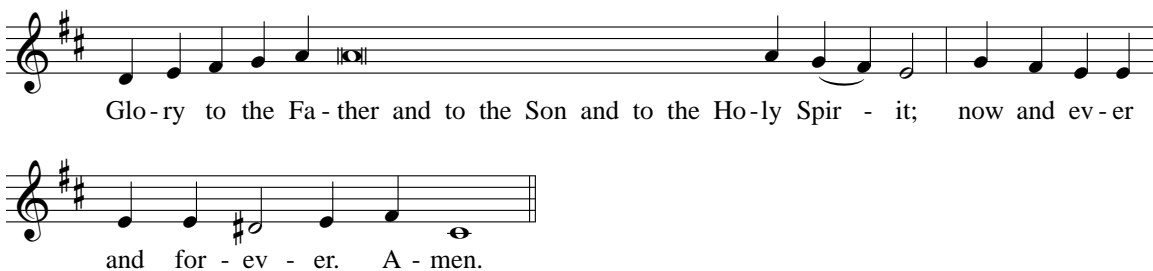
Cantor:



Zi - on shall be called Mother, for all shall be her chil - dren. It is he,
the Lord Most High, who gives each his place.

All: *Repeat : "It brought the Magi to you..."*

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.

All: *Repeat: "You were born in a cave..."*

Reading 2: *(For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.)*

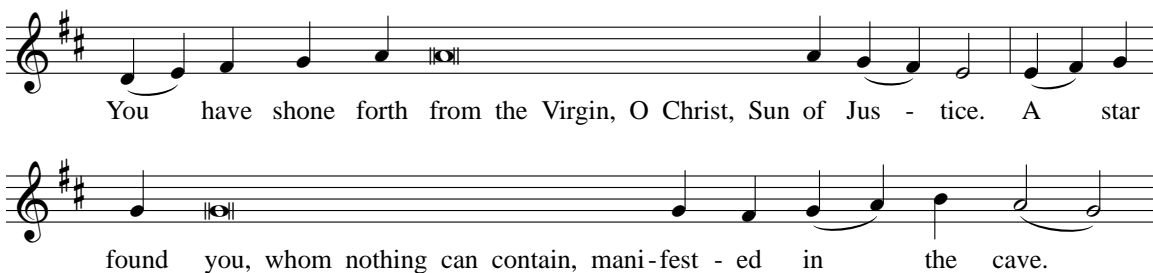
Isaiah 11:1-10

Baruch 3: 35 through 4: 4

Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45

Second Responsorial Troparion

All:



You have shone forth from the Virgin, O Christ, Sun of Jus - tice. A star
found you, whom nothing can contain, mani - fest - ed in the cave.

It led the Magi to a - dore you. With them we wor - ship you,
 O Giv - er of Life; glo - ry to you!

Cantor:

The Lord is King, with majes - ty en - robed; the Lord has robed
 him - self with might; he has gird - ed him - self with power.

All:

It led the Magi to a - dore you. With them we wor - ship you,
 O Giv - er of Life; glo - ry to you!

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.

All: *Repeat " You have shone forth from the Virgin..."*

Reading 3 (*For the sake of brevity, only one reading may be taken.*)

Isaiah 9: 6-7

Isaiah 7:10-16; 8: 1-4, 9-10 (*This reading should always be taken.*)

The Liturgy of St. Basil begins here, with the Small Litany followed by the Trisagion.

Prokeimenon, December 25 Vigil - Tone 1

The Lord said to my Lord: You are my Son;
this day have I be - got - ten you.

Verse: Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for an inheritance.

Epistle: Hebrews 1: 1-12

Alleluia - (Tone 5):

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

Verse: The Lord's revelation to my Master: Sit at my right; your foes I will put beneath your feet.

Verse: Rule in the midst of your enemies; the Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power.

Verse: Before the daystar, like the dew, I have begotten you; the Lord has sworn and he will not repent.

The Liturgy of St. Basil continues.

Cherubic Hymn

(*melody: Divnaja novina*)

Let us, who mys-tic - 'ly re - pre-sent the cher - u - bim, and sing the thrice -
-ho - ly hymn, thrice - ho - ly hymn to the life - cre - a - - ting,




life-cre - a-ting Trin-i - ty, now set a-side all earth-ly cares, all earth-ly cares.



A - men. That we may re-ceive, 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, O Lord, and we pray to you,



our God, pray to you, our God.

Instead of "It is truly proper"

Magnification



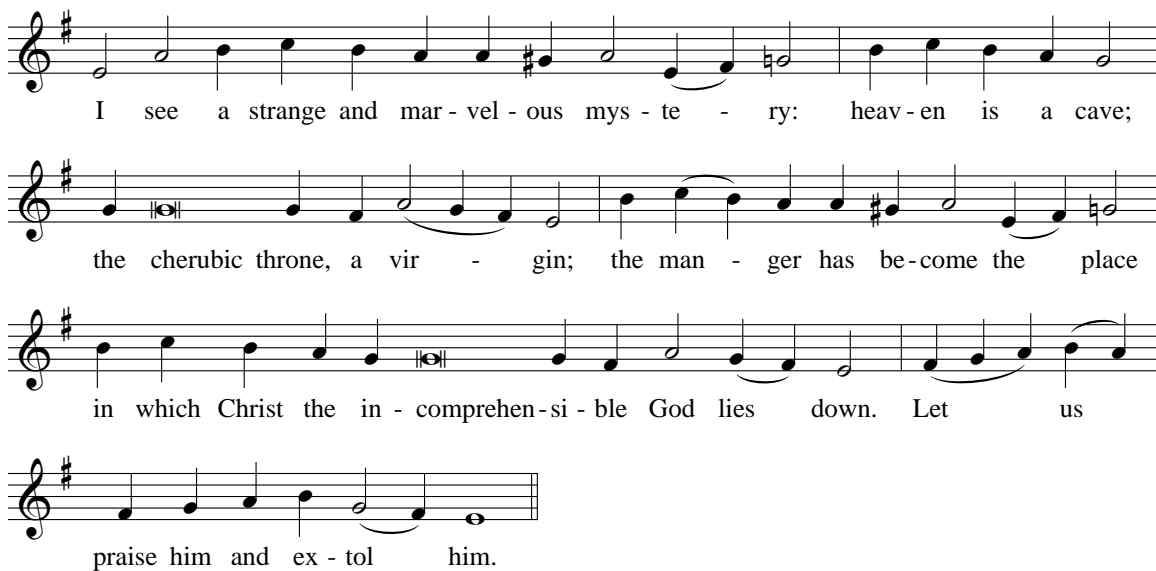
Ex - tol, ex - tol, O my soul, O my soul,



Christ the King born in a cave, Christ the King, born in a cave.

Irmos

Tone 1 samopodoben



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 - com - pre - hen - si - ble God lies down. Let us
praise him and ex - tol him.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 148:1):

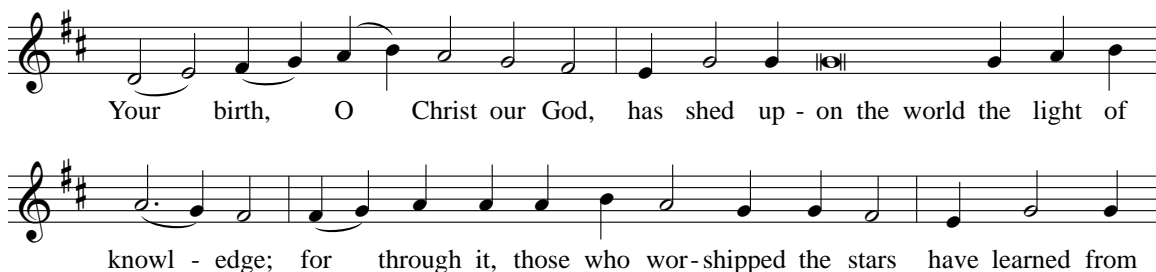
Refrain:



Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the high - est. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Immediately after the liturgy, a candle is lit and set in a candlestick in the middle of the church, and we sing:

Troparion - 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

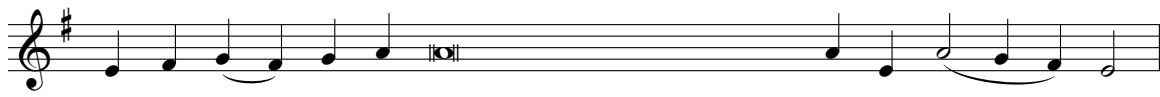


a star to worship you, the Sun of Jus - tice, and to know you, the Dawn



from on High. Glo - ry to you, O Lord!

Cantor

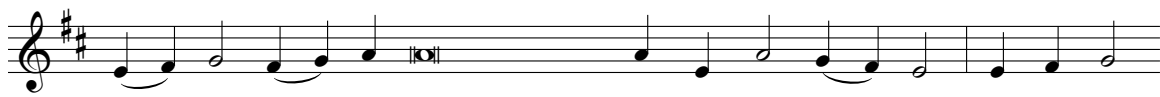


Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

Kontakion - 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.