

# SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

## Sunday of the Ancestors

December 23, 2007

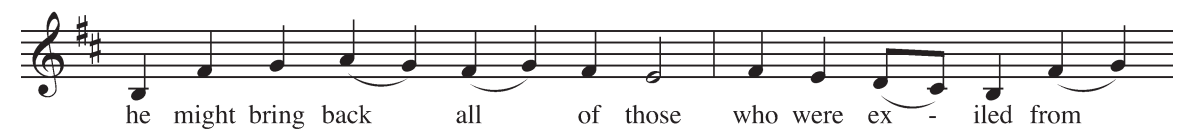
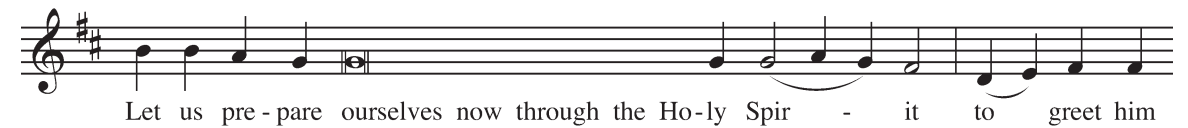
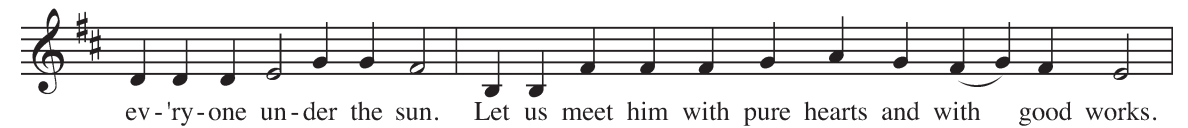
Supplement for *The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms, Tone 5, p. 69, stichera 10-7*

**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.

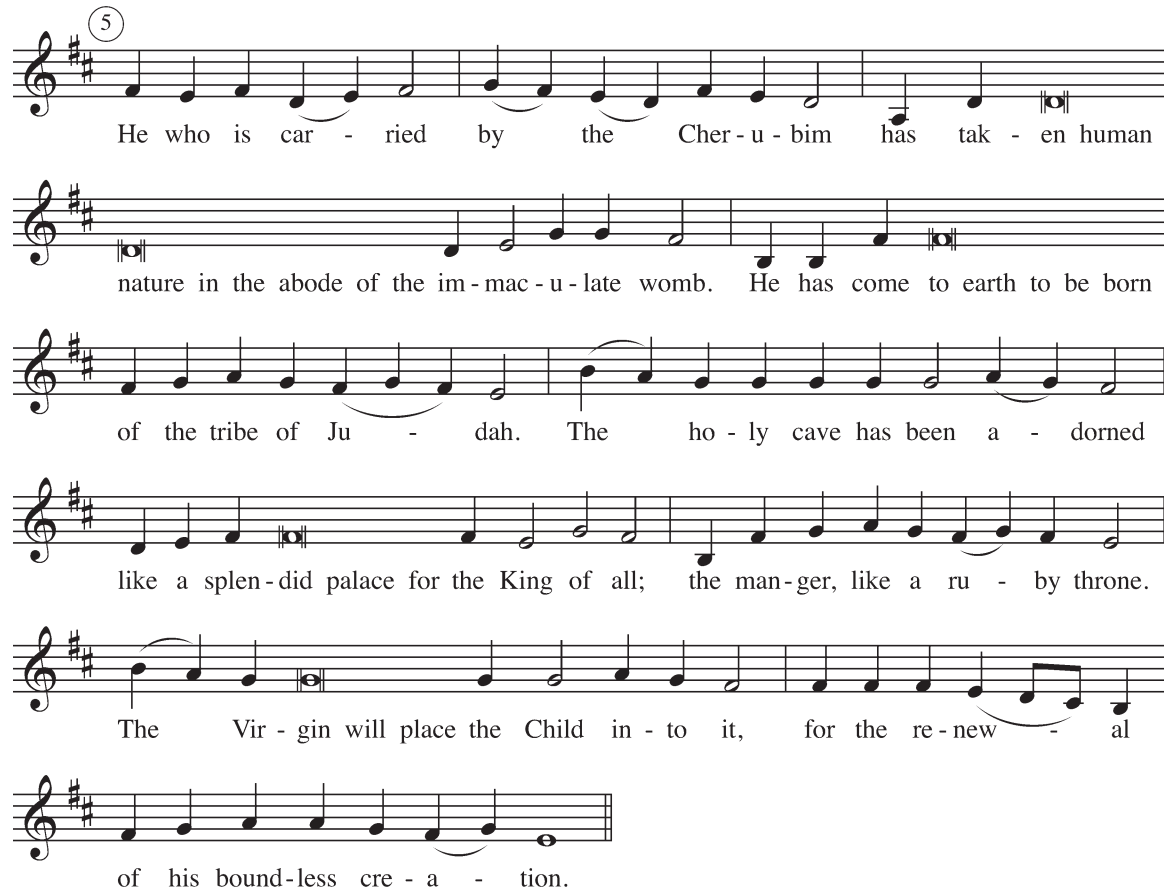
### Stichera of the Prefeast

*Tone 6 podoben: Vsju otloživše*



**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.

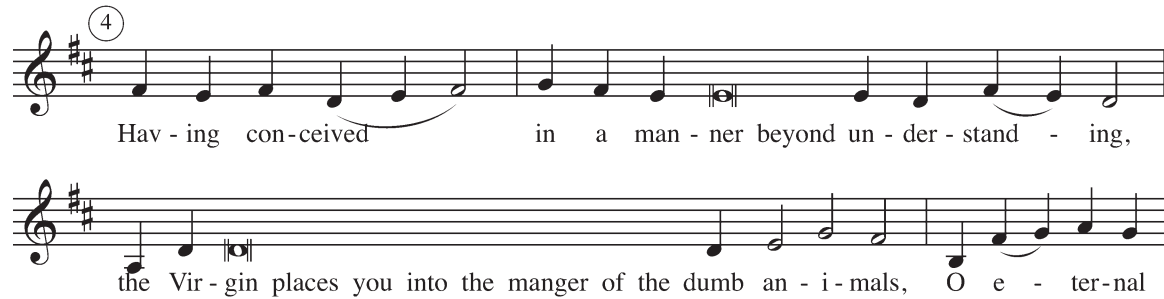
5



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

4



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

not die like A - dam. Christ is born to raise up the like-ness that had fall - en.

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:** 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**

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:** 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 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

**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.

*Glory...*

*All repeat the Troparion of the Ancestors  
 (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  
 di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par - take of it, we shall live and

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**

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,  
hear - en, for Christ is com - ing that he may save his cre - a - tion  
be-cause he is the Lov - er of us all.

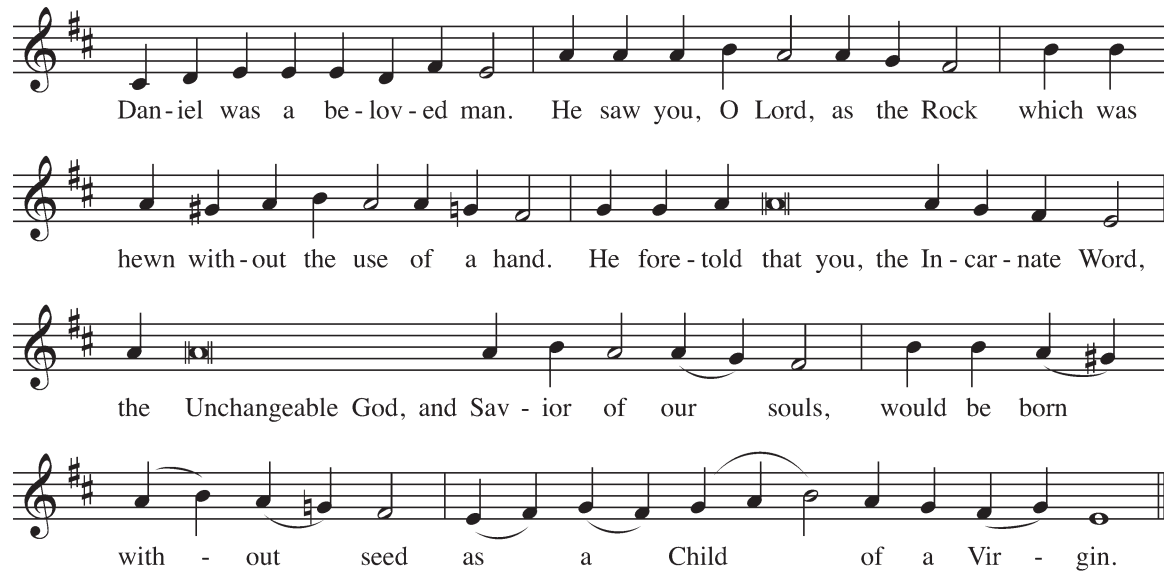
the Pa - tri - archs. Mel - chi - se - dek now sees from on high the birth  
with - out a fa - ther.

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

<sup>1</sup>  
The faith - ful and God - wise youths are ra - diant with joy in the fur - nace.  
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:** (Tone 6) Glory...

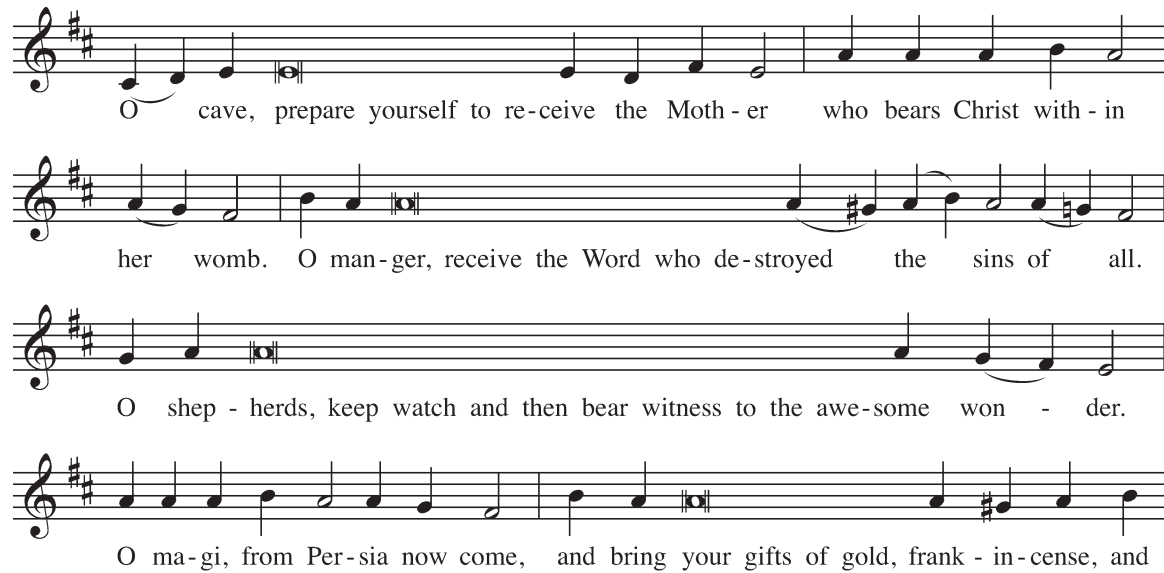
**Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen**



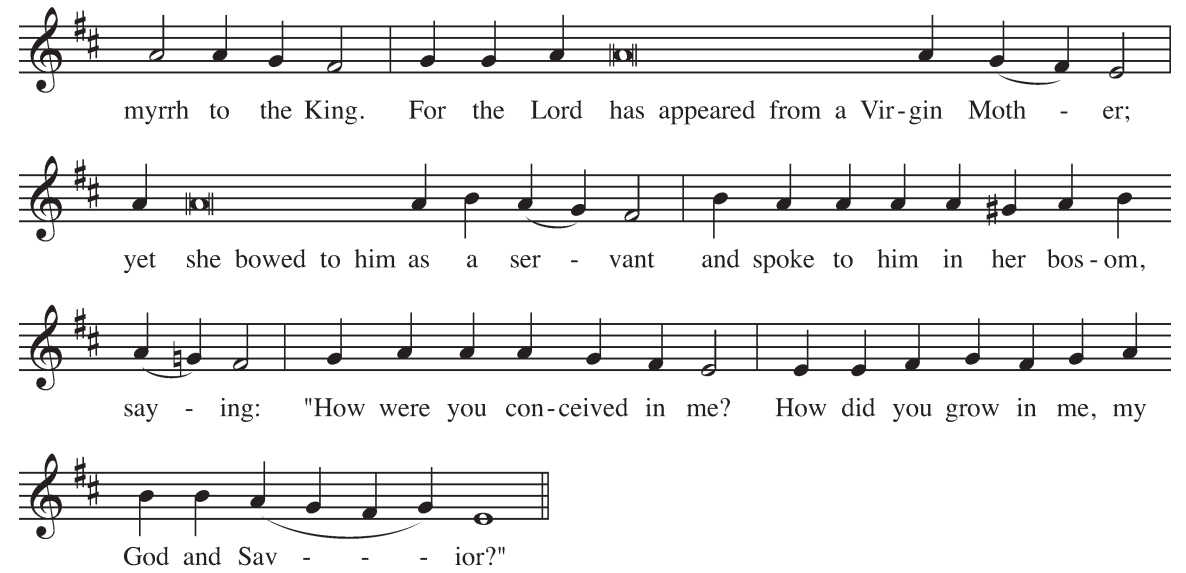
Dan-iel was a be-lov-ed man. He saw you, O Lord, as the Rock which was  
hewn with-out the use of a hand. He fore-told that you, the In-car-nate Word,  
the Unchangeable God, and Sav-ior of our souls, would be born  
with-out seed as a Child of a Vir-gin.

**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.  
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



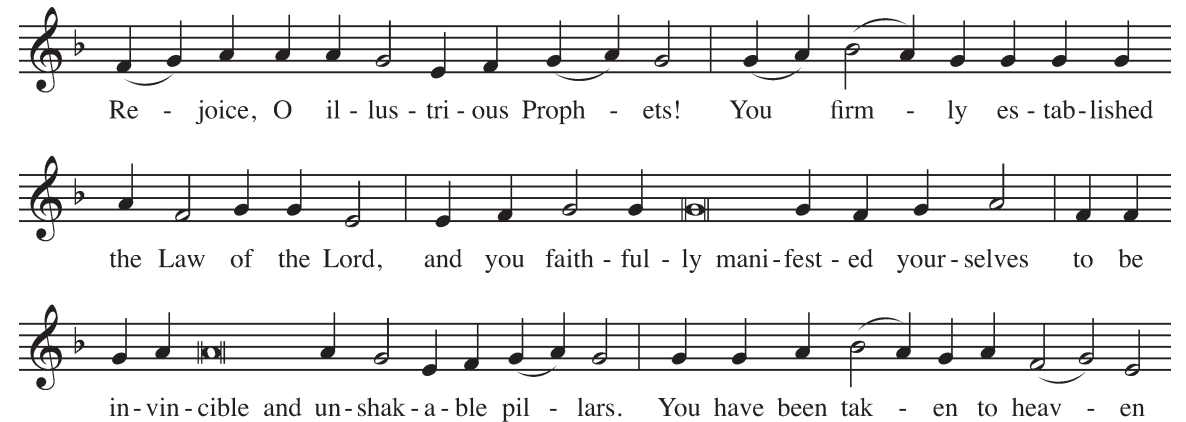
myrrh to the King. For the Lord has appeared from a Vir-gin Moth-er;  
yet she bowed to him as a ser-vant and spoke to him in her bos-om,  
say-ing: "How were you con-ceived in me? How did you grow in me, my  
God and Sav-ior?"

- Readings:** 1) Genesis 14:14-20  
2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11.15-17  
3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21

*Aposticha, Tone 5, p. 77*

**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