

**Divine Liturgy, December 21, 2008**  
**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:

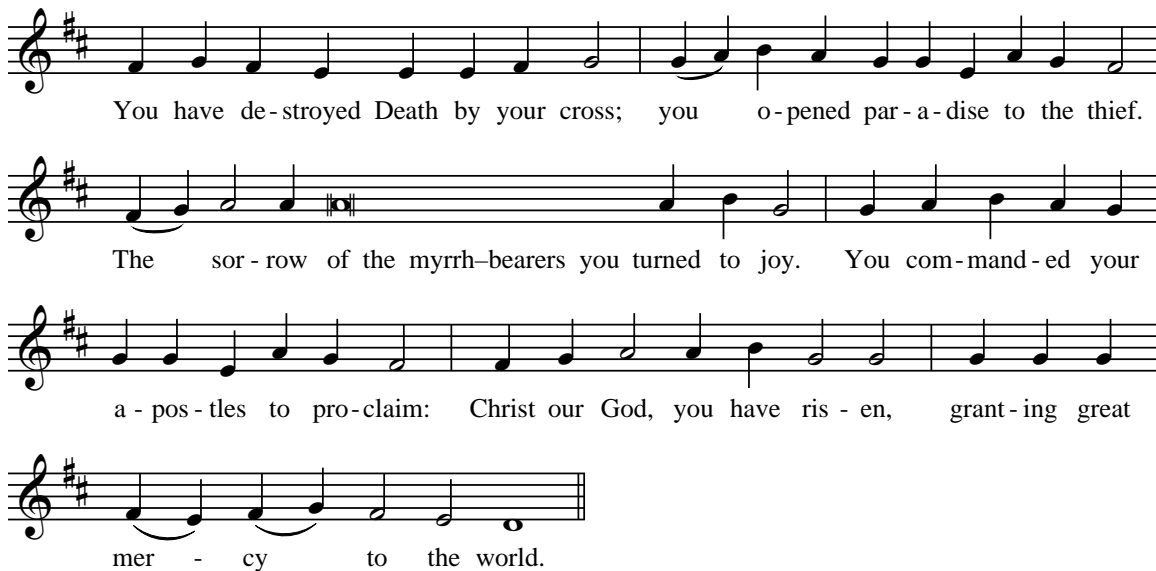


For A - bra - ham and I - saac And Ja - cob and his seed  
For proph - ets like I - sai - ah, For Dan - iel and the youths  
That God would keep His prom - ise, We give You thanks this day;  
Our Christ makes haste to come now And brings us back to grace.



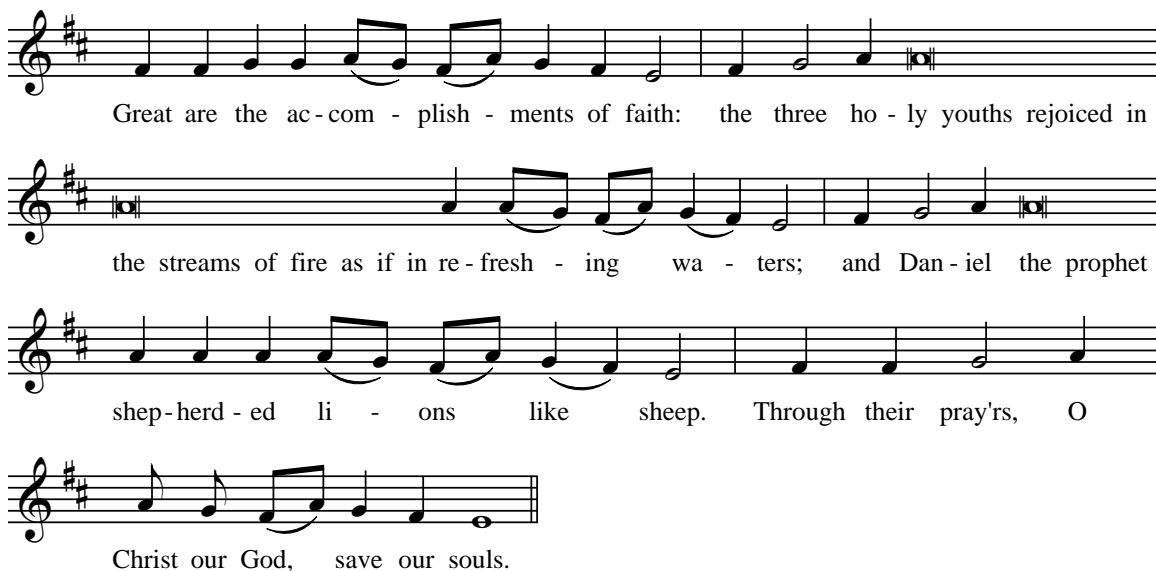
Whose cov - e - nant with God en - dured, We give You praise, in - deed!  
Who, in the face of e - vil, still Pro - claimed Your ho - ly truths.  
So give us grace, in all our deeds, To serve you, as did they!  
Pre - pare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the fin - est place!

### Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 7*



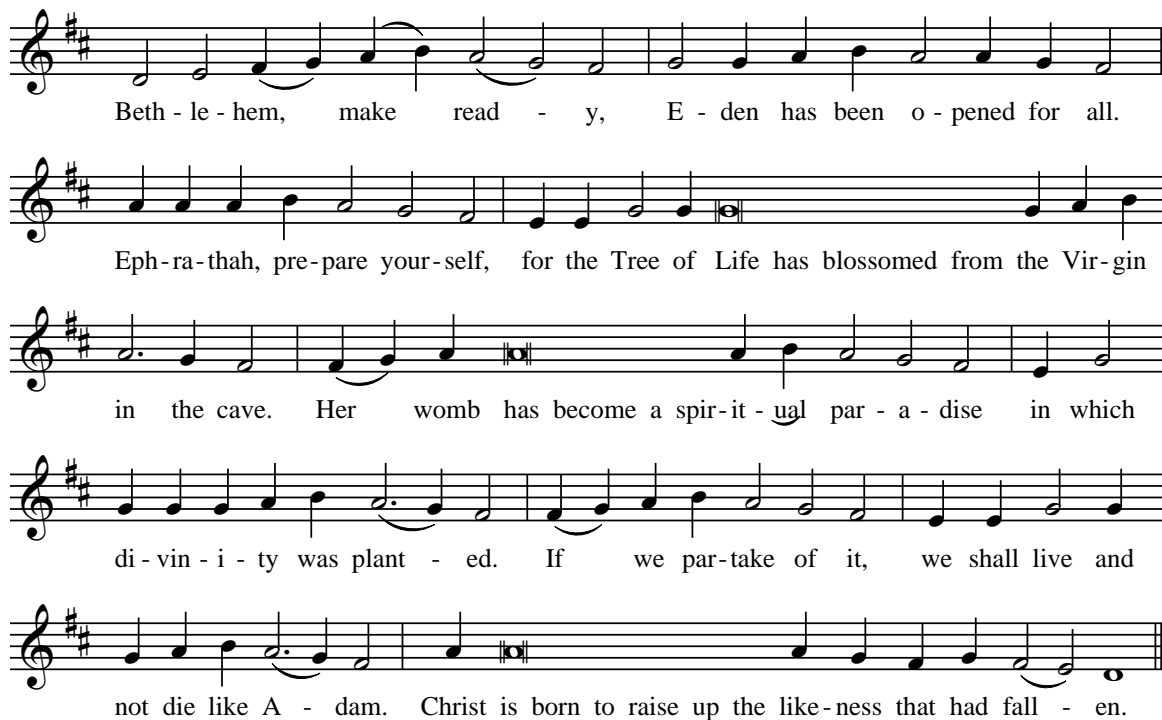
You have de-destroyed Death by your cross; you o-pened par-a-dise to the thief.  
The sor-row of the myrrh-bearers you turned to joy. You com-mand-ed your  
a-pos-tles to pro-claim: Christ our God, you have ris-en, grant-ing great  
mer-cy to the world.

### Troparion of the Ancestors - *Tone 2*



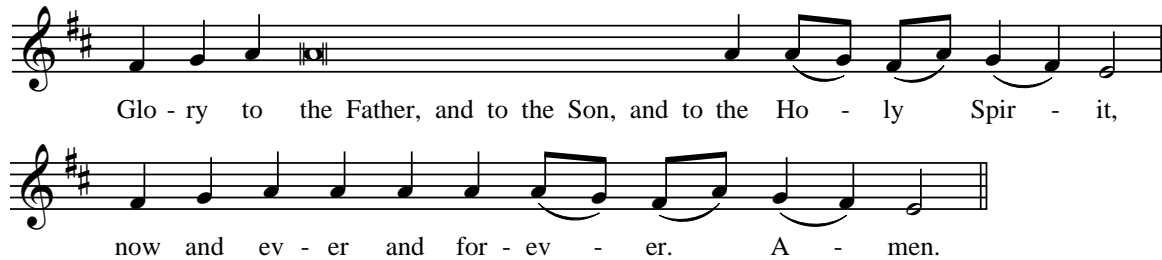
Great are the ac-com-lish-ments of faith: the three ho-ly youths rejoiced in  
the streams of fire as if in re-fresh-ing wa-ters; and Dan-iel the prophet  
shep-herd-ed li-ions like sheep. Through their pray'rs, O  
Christ our God, save our souls.

### Troparion of the Pre-feast - Tone 4



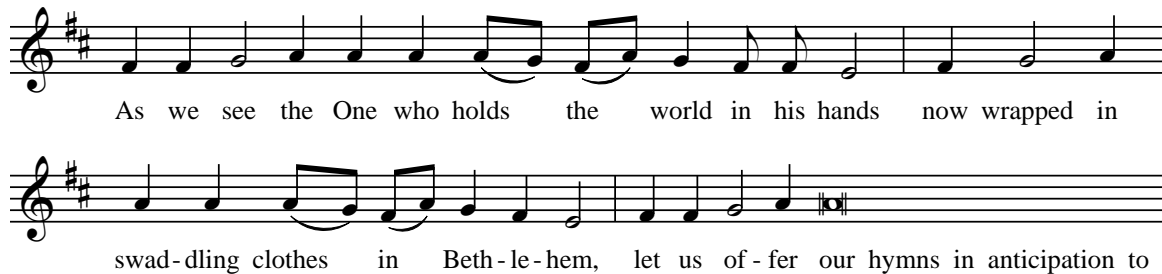
Beth - le - hem, make read - y, E - den has been o - pened for all.  
Eph-ra-thah, pre-pare your-self, for the Tree of Life has blossomed from the Vir-gin  
in the cave. Her womb has become a spir-it - ual par - a - dise in which  
di - vin - i - ty was plant - ed. If we par-take of it, we shall live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

#### *Cantor*



Glo - ry to the Father, 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 2



As we see the One who holds the world in his hands now wrapped in  
swad-dling clothes in Beth-le-hem, let us of-fer our hymns in anticipation to




the one who gave him birth; for with a mother's joy she cradles the



Son of God.

**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!