

raise up the like - ness that had fall - en.

If there is no Litija:

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 5

O faith-ful, let us praise and a-dore the Word e - ter - nal with the Fa-ther
and the Spir - it, and born of the Vir-gin for our sal - va - tion.
For he chose to as-cend the cross in the flesh and to suf - fer death, and to
raise the dead by his glo - ri - ous res - ur - rec - - - tion.

(Tone 2) Glory...

Troparion of the Ancestors: "Great are the accomplishments of faith..."

(Tone 4) Now and ever...

Troparion of the Vigil: "At that time, Mary registered..."

Vesper Propers, December 24, 2023
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
Sunday of the Ancestors

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

"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 6, page 82

Cantor: Bring my soul out of this prison
(on 10) and then I shall praise your name.

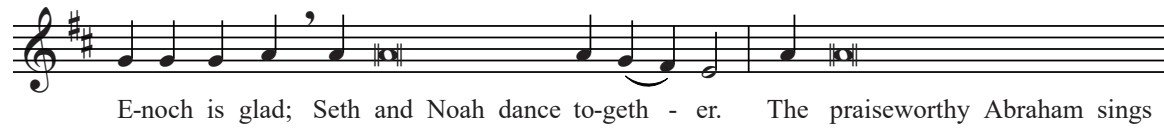
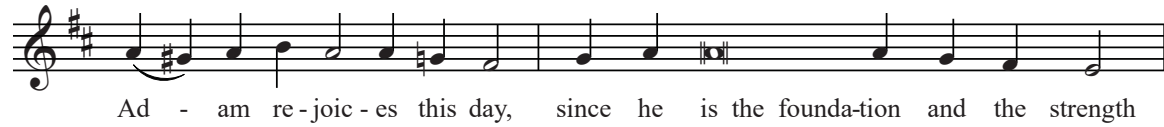
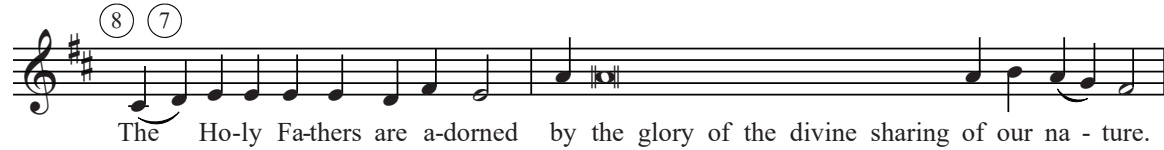
Stichera of the Ancestors - Tone 6 samohlasen

⁽¹⁰⁾ ⁽⁹⁾
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 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 - ously and faithful-ly clap our hands
and leap with joy at this na - tiv - i - ty, and we give



Cantor: Around me the just will assemble
(on 9) because of your goodness to me. *All repeat "The commemoration..."*

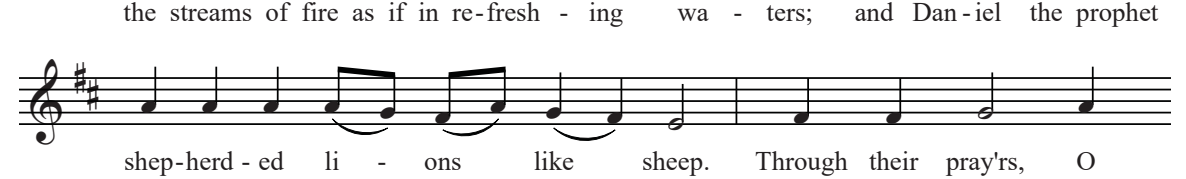
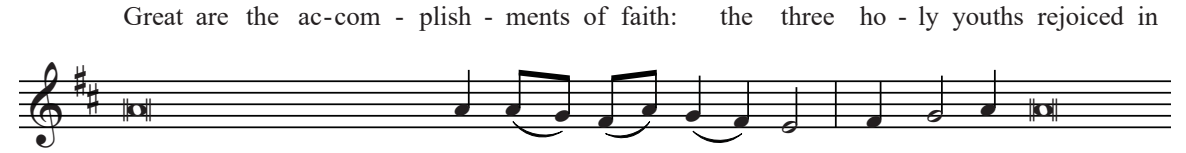
Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!



Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *All repeat "The Holy Fathers..."*

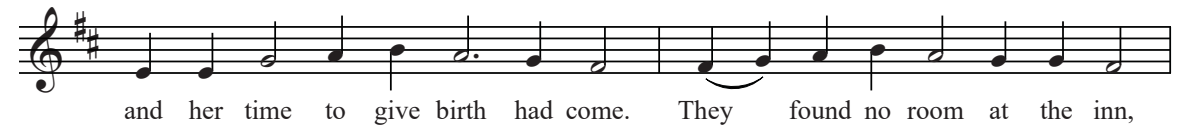
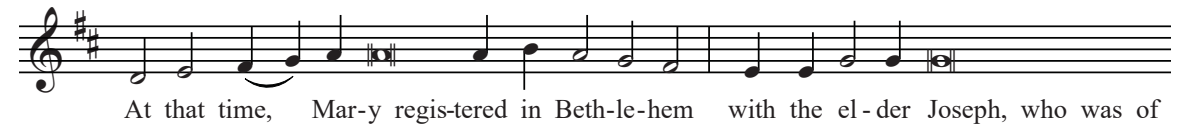
Troparia at the Blessing of Bread

Troparion of the Ancestors - Tone 2 (sung twice)



Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

Troparion of the Vigil - Tone 4



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...

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.

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.

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: 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.
All repeat "The faithful and God-wise youths..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Stichera of the Pre-feast - Tone 6 samohlasen

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: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *All repeat "The Never-setting Sun..."*

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

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

from the ho-ly, un-de-filed Vir-gin to save the hu-man race.

Cantor

O Lord, I heard your voice and I was a-fraid; I knew your deeds,
 and I was ter-ri-fied.

Come let us faith-fully celebrate be-fore-hand the birth of Christ.

Let us sing spir-it-ual hymns of praise. With the shep-herds, let us cry out:

The Sav-ior of all has come from a Vir-gin, and he sum-mons

all the faith-ful.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 2 samohlasen

Re-joice, O il-lus-tri-ous Proph-ets! You firm-ly es-tab-lished

sal - va - tion. Be - hold, while lying in the man - - - ger,
 he in - vites the sing - ing of spirit - ual hymns from those who cry out
 with - out ceas - - - ing: O Lord, glo - ry to you!

Aposticha

Tone 2 samohlasen

① O house of Eph - ra - thah and ho - ly cit - y!
 O boast of the proph - ets! A - dorn the house in which the Di - vine One is born.
Cantor
 God comes from Te - man; the Hol - y One from Mount Pa - ran.
 ② O Beth - le - hem, O land of Ju - dah, you are the bright a - bode
 of the One - Who - Is. Pre - pare the cave, for God is to be born in the flesh

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

① 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: (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.

Da-vid; to-geth-er with I-sa-iah, Ezekiel, and Je-re-mi-ah,

Dan-iel and the twelve mi-nor proph-ets; like-wise Elijah, Elisha, and all the oth-ers; al-so Ze-cha-ri-ah and the Bap-tist, and all those who preached Christ, the life and the Res-ur-rec-tion of our race.

Cantor: Now and ever...

O Beth-le-hem, a-dorn yourself because Paradise is o-pened. Pre-pare your-self, O Eph-ra-thah, be-cause Adam is re-newed and Eve with him; the curse is de-stroyed. Sal-va-tion blos-soms in the world, and the souls of the just are made beau-ti-ful, as they car-ry their gifts of hymns instead of myrrh, and they re-ceive in exchange eter-nal

won - der: Whom do you seek? For I see that you have come from a
far coun-try. You have the ap-pear-ance but not the thoughts of the Per - sians.
You have come with zeal to wor-ship him who jour-neyed as a stranger from on high,
and who won-drous-ly took up a-bode in me in a way known on - ly to him-self.
He grants great mer - cy to the world.

Cantor: (Tone 3) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Ancestors - Tone 3 samohlasen

Come, O lov - ers of the feast, let us sing a hymn of praise to the
assembly of the Fore - fa - thers: Ad - am, the father of the hu-man race,
E - noch, No - ah, Mel - chisedek, Abraham, Isaac, and Ja - cob. Let us
al - so honor those who came af - ter the Law: Mo - ses, Aaron, Joshua, Sam-uel and

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

- [Optional Readings:** 1) Genesis 46:8-27;
2) 1Kings 9:3-7;
3) Isaiah 7:14-15; 11:1-9]

Litija

①



You bear the form of Ad-am, yet you are all-perfect, be-ing in the form of God.

Of your own will you are held in hu-man hands, e-ven though in your own power

you up-hold all things. The pure and unde-filed Vir-gin spoke a-loud:

How shall I wrap you in swad-dling clothes like an in-fant? How shall I nurse

the One who gives nourishment to the world? How shall I not wonder in amazement

at your poverty be-yond un-der-stand-ing? How shall I, who am your handmaid-en,

call you my Son? I sing your prais-es and I bless you, for you grant great

mer-cy to the world.

②



The un-de-filed Virgin beheld the pre-eternal God as a child who had tak-en

flesh from her. She held him in her arms and with-out ceas-ing kissed him.

Filled with joy, she cried out: O most high God and un-seen King,

how is it that I look up-on you? I can-not understand the mystery of

your immeas-ur-a-ble low-li-ness. For the small-est of caves is a strange

dwel-ling for you; yet it finds room for you with-in it-self. You have been

born without destroy-ing my vir-gin-i-ty, and you have kept my womb as it

was be-fore child-birth. Now you grant great mer-cy to the world.

③



When the Vir-gin saw the Magi standing be-fore the cave, she spoke to them in