

The Order of Matins

**Nativity of the Honorable, Glorious
Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John**

The priest, vested in epitrachilion and phelonion, incenses the Holy Table, Icon Screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The priest then stands before the Holy Doors, holding the censer.

The deacon stands to his right and says:

Deacon: In the name of the Lord, Father, give the blessing.

While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the priest says:

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, ✝
always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

The Lector, holding a lighted candle and standing in the midst of the church, reads Psalm 3. During this psalm, the priest, having removed his phelonion, says the Prayers of Light of Matins in front of the Royal Doors. The deacon returns to the altar.

Psalm 3 How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!

How many are saying about me:
"There is no help for him in God."

But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.

I cry aloud to you, Lord.
He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
you who strike my foes on the mouth,
you who break the teeth of the wicked!

O Lord of salvation,
bless your people!

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

The third time, with melody:



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

The deacon comes to the ambon to say the Litany of Peace. He and the priest bow to each other, and the priest returns to the altar. If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany before the Holy Doors, remaining outside the altar.

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 bishop, (*Name*), whom God loves, 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, 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.

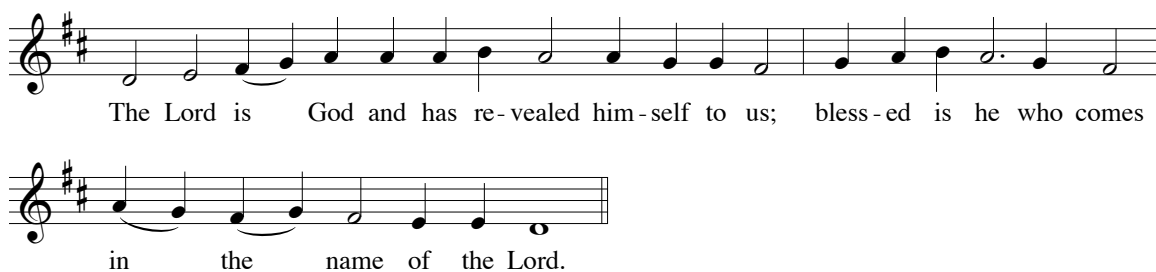
Priest: We thank you, Lord, our God, for you have wakened us from our sleep,
and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship you and call
upon your holy name. We beg of your compassion that you have always
shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before
your holy glory, awaiting your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those
who serve you in fear and love may praise your ineffable goodness.
For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:
A - men.

"The Lord is God" is intoned recto-tono by the deacon, and then sung by the faithful in the Tone of the Troparion that follows it. The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses (also recto-tono); the faithful repeat "The Lord is God" after each verse. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the Royal Doors and chants the verses.

"The Lord is God" with Troparion and Theotokion

Tone 4



The Lord is God and has re-vealed him-self to us; bless-ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

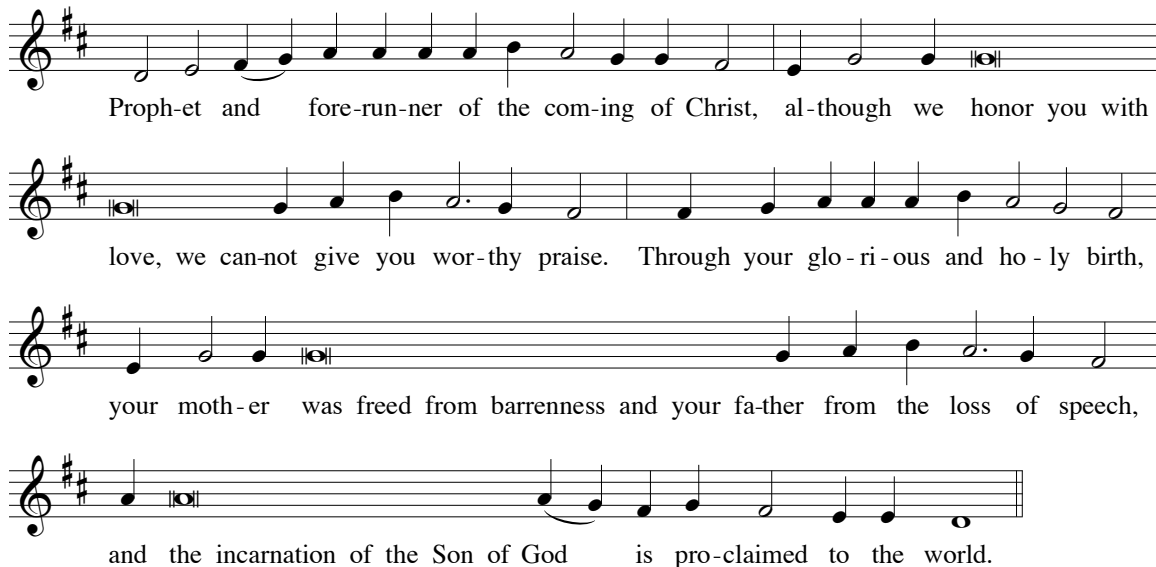
verse: They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

verse: I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

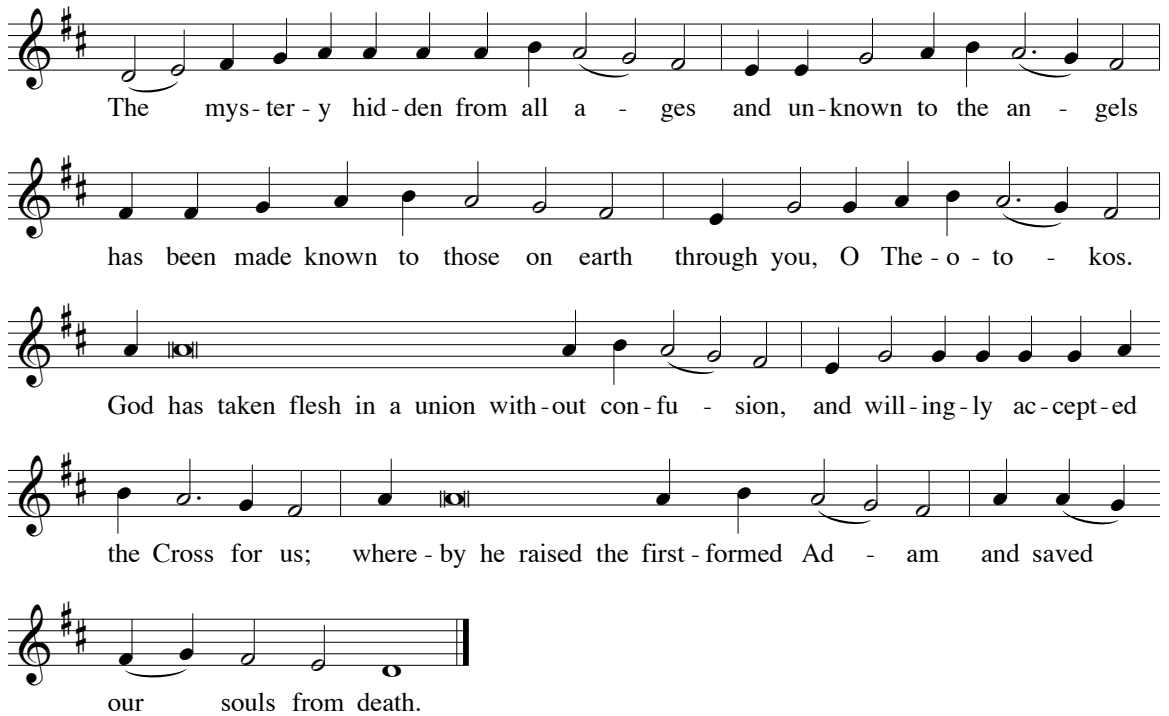
verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Troparion of the Nativity of John the Baptist (*sung twice*)

Tone 4



Proph-et and fore-run-ner of the com-ing of Christ, al-though we honor you with
love, we can-not give you wor-thy praise. Through your glo-ri-ous and ho-ly birth,
your moth-er was freed from barrenness and your fa-ther from the loss of speech,
and the incarnation of the Son of God is pro-claimed to the world.



The mys-ter-y hid-den from all a - ges and un-known to the an - gels
has been made known to those on earth through you, O The - o - to - kos.
God has taken flesh in a union with-out con-fu - sion, and will-ing-ly ac-cept-ed
the Cross for us; where - by he raised the first - formed Ad - am and saved
our souls from death.

First Psalter Reading

The deacon returns to the altar. Psalm 92 is read by the lector

Psalm 92 It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this
and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass
and all who do evil thrive,
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.
See how your enemies perish;
all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild ox's strength;
you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;
my ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

Third time, with melody:



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

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final phrase that includes a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

The deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon.


Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



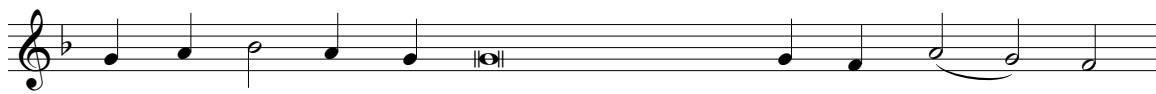
To you, O Lord.

Priest: For yours are the might and the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

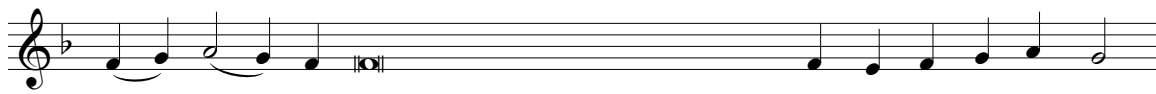
Response: 
A - - men.

Sessional Hymn 1

Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif




and he un - der - stand - ingly gladdens the hearts of the faith - ful.



The Fore - run - ner of Christ and the true witness of his com - ing has ap - peared.



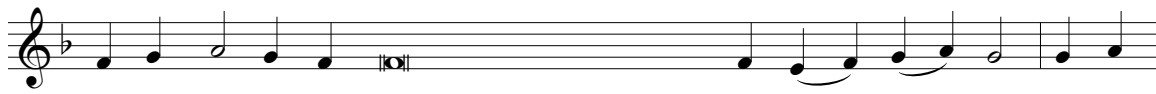
There - fore, let us cry aloud to the Baptiz - er with spir - it - ual hymns: O Proph - et



and preach - er of the truth, in - ter - cede for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

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


Theotokion




Jo - seph was a - mazed when he saw that which was be - yond na - ture. In your



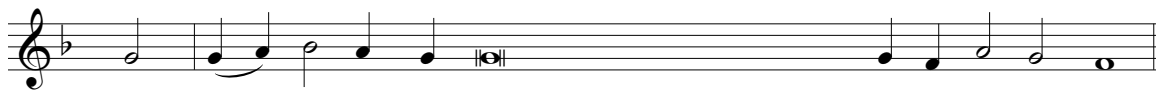
seed - less con - cep - tion, O The - o - to - kos, he thought of the dew which



re - mained on the fleece, the bush un - consumed by fire and the rod of Aa - ron



which sprout - ed. Your be - trothed and guard - ian testified by call - ing out to the



priests: A Vir - gin bears a child and still remains a virgin af - ter giv - ing birth.

Second Psalter Reading

The lector reads Psalm 97.

Psalm 97 Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right and hand his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy

at the presence of the Lord: for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

The third time, with melody:



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

The deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:


Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

Sessional Hymn 2

Tone 8 podoben: Premusdrosti



You are the true her-ald of the com-ing of Christ. You have been most
glo - ri - ous - ly born, O praise wor - thy John. Be - ing the foun - tain-head
of the proph - ets, and the voice of the Word, you cried out:
Re - pent! for the king - dom of heav-en is at hand. There-fore, hav - ing
pre-pared the way of the Lord, you have been re-vealed to the ends of the earth
as the Fore-runner of grace, O Baptiz-er and A - pos - tle. In - ter-cede with
Christ our God to grant the re-mis-sion of sins to those who loving-ly cel - e-brate
your ho - ly mem - o - ry.

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

Theotokion



O most ho - ly Vir - gin and The - o - to - kos, I pray that you heal the
wick - ed pas - sions of my soul, and grant me knowl - edge of my sins
which I have com - mit - ted fool - ish - ly. I am sor - ry that I have defiled
my bod - y and soul. Woe is me! What shall I do when the an - gels
sepa - arate my soul from my suffer - ing bod - y? At that time, O La - dy,
be my help and most fer - vent in - ter - ces - sor be - cause
I, your unwor - thy serv - ant, call up - on you as my hope.

Third Psalter Reading

Before the Polyeleos, the priest vests in the phelonion. The deacon opens the Holy Doors, and, when the Polyeleos is sung, the priest incenses the Holy Table, the icon screen, the church, and the people, preceded by the deacon carrying a lighted candle.

Polyeleos (Psalms 134 and 135)



Praise the name of the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, praise him, serv - ants of the Lord,



serv - ants of the Lord.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God,



the house of our God.

Refrain



Lord, your name stands for - ev - - - er, un - for - got - ten from age to age,



from age to age.

Refrain



From Zi - on may the Lord be blessed, he who dwells in Je - ru - sa - lem,



in Je - ru - sa - lem.

Refrain



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,



al - le - lu - ia, for his love en - dures for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



who fixed the earth firm - ly on the seas,

Refrain



and he snatched us a - way from our foes,

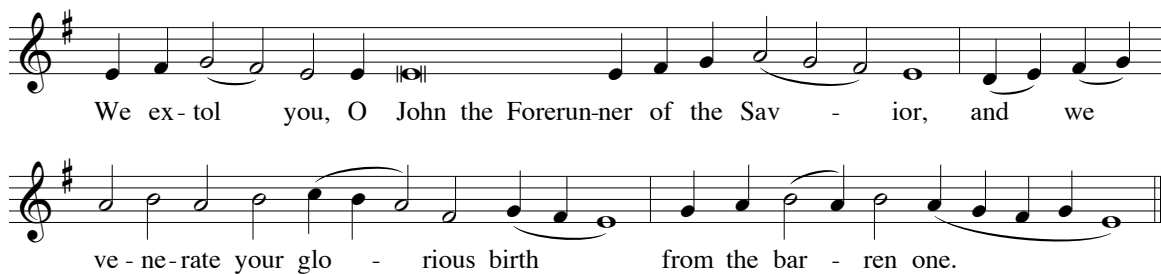
Refrain



To the God of heav - en, give thanks,

Refrain

Exaltation



We ex - tol you, O John the Forerun - ner of the Sav - ior, and we
ve - ne - rate your glo - rious birth from the bar - ren one.

verse: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and ransomed his people


verse: He has raised a horn of saving strength for us in the house of David.

verse: And you, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High.

verse: For you shall go before the Lord to prepare straight paths for him.

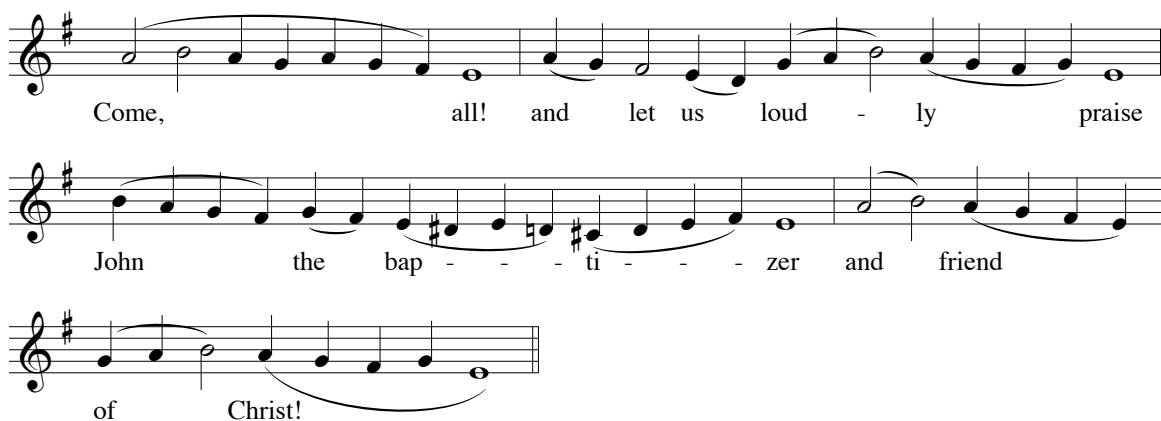
verse: Glory...now and ever...

Three times



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to You, O God!

Bulgarian Verse



Come, all! and let us loud - ly praise
John the bap - - - ti - - - zer and friend
of Christ!

Sessional Hymn 3

Tone 8 podoben: Povelinnoje Tajno

May the fa - ther re - joice, and you, O moth - er, be hap - py,
for ac - cord - ing to the prom - ise, you have giv - en
birth to - day to a proph - et on earth, the fore -
--run - ner named by God. The bar - ren moth - er nurs - es the
in - fant, the bap - tiz - er; and Zech - a - ri - ah re - joic - es at this child - birth,
say - ing: My tongue is loos - ed by your com - ing, O Lamp of the
great Light! This is tru - ly a strange and glo - rious won - der.

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

Theotokion

At all times we give thanks and ex - tol you, O The - o - to - kos.

We bow down to you, O pure one. We sing
hymns at your-birth - giv - ing, O full of grace; we cry
out un - - ceas-ing - ly: Save us, all mer - ci - ful Vir-gin, since
you are gra - - cious. Re - move us from the pow - er of the
de - mons at the time of the awe - some judg - ment
so that we, your serv - ants, may not be put to shame.

Gradual Hymns

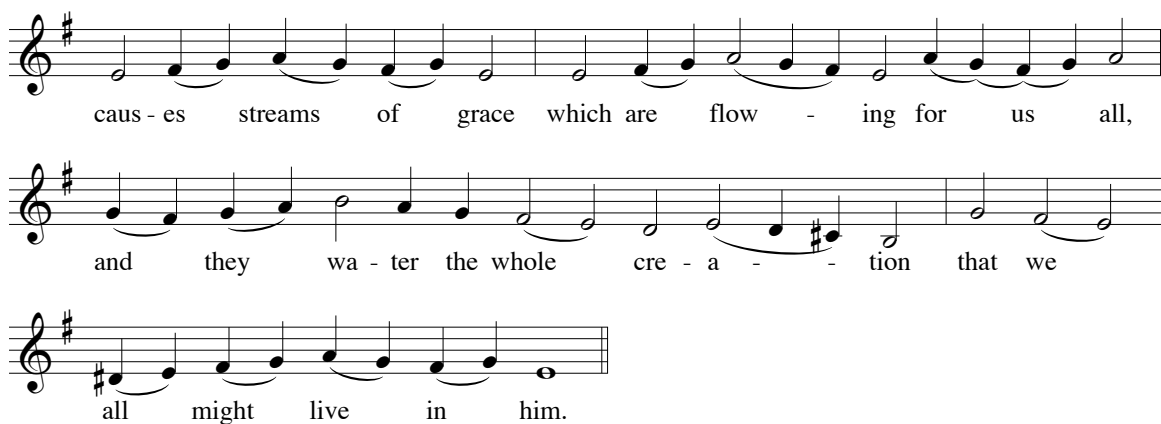
①
Ev - er since the days of my youth, man - y pas - sions have
fierce - ly waged a bat - tle a - gainst me: but

has - ten to my res - cue and save me, O my Sav - ior.

② All of you that hate Zi - on shall be put to shame by the Lord: all of you shall be with - - - ered up, as the grass is by the fire. Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and

③ to the Ho - ly Spir - it: The Ho - ly Spir - - - it gives his life to ev - 'ry soul; it is ex - alt - ed in pu - ri - ty; it is il - lu - - - mined by the one God in three Per - sons in a sā - cred mys - ter - y. Now and ev - er and

④ for ev - er. A - men. The Ho - ly Spir - - - it



caus - es streams of grace which are flow - ing for us all,
 and they wa - ter the whole cre - a - - tion that we
 all might live in him.


Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace ☩ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Tone 4



And you, O child, shall be called proph-et of the Most High.

verse: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
 because he has visited and ransomed his people.

Preparation for the Gospel

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.


Response:



1. Lord, have mer - cy.


Response: 
 And to your spir - it, to your spir - - - it.

Priest: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist Luke.

Response: 
 Glo - - ry to you, glo - ry to you, O Lord, O Lord.

The priest reads the Gospel, even when a deacon is present.

Priest: *Luke 1:24-25, 57-68, 76. 80*

Response: 
 Glo - - ry to you, glo - ry to you, O Lord, O Lord.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. *
 In your compassion blot out my offense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt *
 and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; *
 my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned; *
 what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence *
and be without reproach when you judge,

O see, in guilt I was born, *
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; *
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean; *
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, *
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.

From my sins turn away your face *
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God; *
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, *
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; *
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.

that I may teach transgressors your ways *
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper, *
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

O Lord, open my lips *
and my mouth will declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, *
burnt offering from me you would refuse,

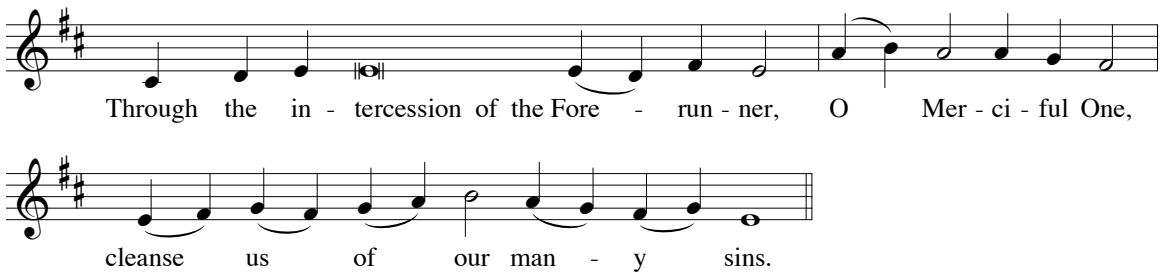
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit, *
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion: *
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed, *
then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

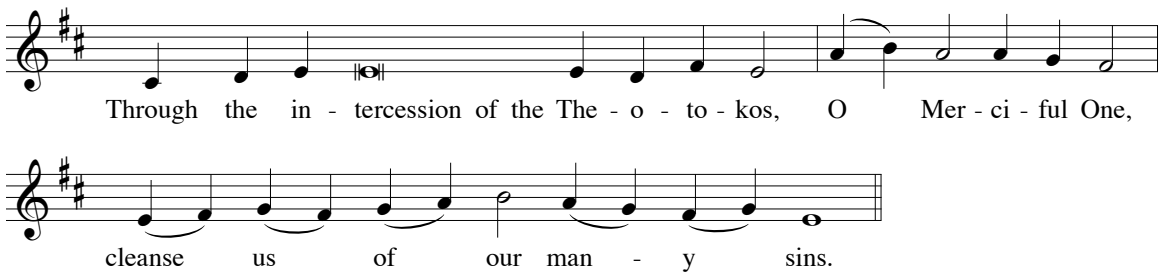
Cantor: Glory...

Tone 6 samohlasen



Through the in - tercession of the Fore - run - ner, O Mer - ci - ful One,
cleanse us of our man - y sins.

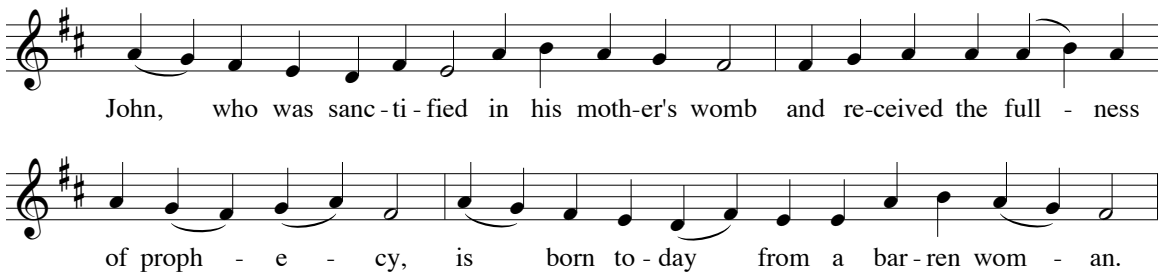
Cantor Now and ever...



Through the in - tercession of the The - o - to - kos, O Mer - ci - ful One,
cleanse us of our man - y sins.

Cantor: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

Tone 2 Bolhar




John, who was sanc-ti-fied in his moth-er's womb and re-ceived the full - ness
of proph - e - cy, is born to - day from a bar - ren wom - an.

Clear-ly he an-nounc - es the com-ing of the Lord: Re-pent, for the
king - dom of heav-en is at hand.

The deacon, standing before the icon of the Lord, says

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 

1. Lord, have mer - cy.

The priest, standing before the Holy Doors, says

Priest: O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, O Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath.

Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

A - men.

Canon
with *Katavasiai* of the Theotokos

Ode 1

Irmos

O strong Cap - tain, born of a Vir - - - gin,
drown the three parts of my soul in the depths of free - dom
from pas - sion, I pray you: that with the mor - ti - fi - ca - tion
of the bod - y as with a tim - brel, I may sing
a hymn of vic - to - ry.

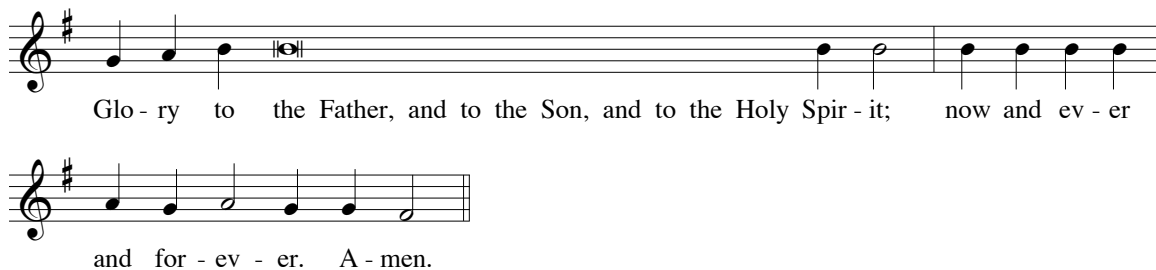
Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

As a fair dawn coming before the sun, the offspring of a barren mother clearly announces to all that the Child of the Virgin will make the light of grace and faith shine upon the whole world. *Refrain*

"Truly, O wondrous John, you shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before Christ to prepare the way for the Creator," said Zechariah to his son, moved by the Holy Spirit. *Refrain*

Hearing the words of Gabriel, Zachariah remained unbelieving before the message of God; condemned to silence, he was set free by the nativity of the Voice, the Forerunner of the Word, holy John.

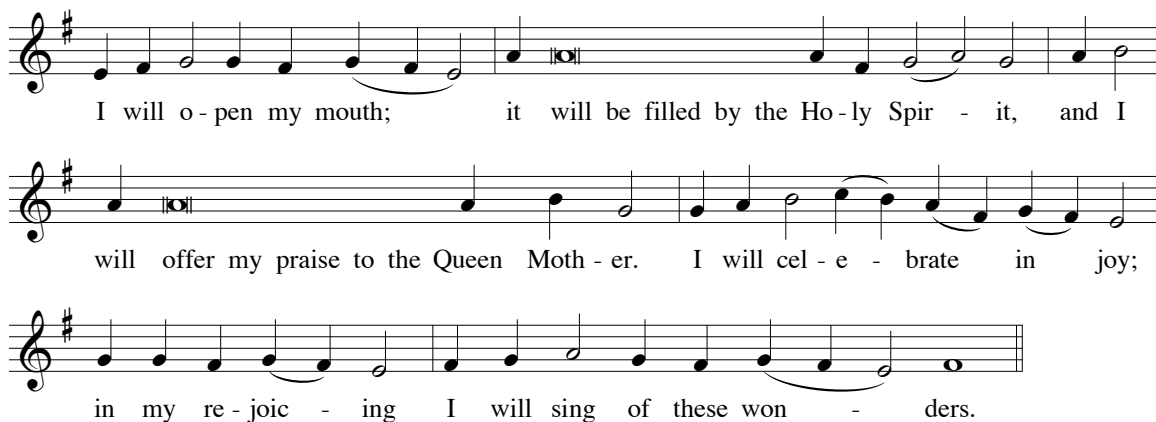


Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er
and for - ev - er. A - men.

City of our God, pure and divine treasure of the King of All, all-spotless Theotokos: protect your inheritance, the believers who ceaselessly acclaim you and glorify your childbearing.

Katavasia

Tone 4



I will o - pen my mouth; it will be filled by the Ho - ly Spir - it, and I
will offer my praise to the Queen Moth - er. I will cel - e - brate in joy;
in my re - joic - ing I will sing of these won - ders.

**Ode 3
Irmos**



Not in wis - dom nor in strength nor in rich - es do we boast,
but in you, O Wisdom in Person of God the Fa - ther, O Christ: for none is

ho - ly save you, O Lov - er of all of us.

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

The Lord is born from a Virgin; but his loyal servant is born from an aged and barren mother; the greater miracle is preceded by another. *Refrain*

In her old age, the barren woman embraces the Virgin Mother, for she knows well that by her maternity, God has delivered her from her sterility. *Refrain*

Without knowing man, O pure Virgin, you conceived God made flesh: strengthen me against the assaults of the passions which threaten to shake me, for I have no other helper but you.

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.

O Virgin, your childbearing frees all mankind from the bonds of its condemnation, and by grace, it binds us to him who blesses all those who praise your divine maternity.

Katavasia

Tone 4

O The o - to - kos, life - giv - ing source of bles - sings, grant strength

to those unit-ed in faith who sing hymns of praise to you.

In your glo - ry, grant them the crowns of vic - to - ry.

After the Third Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response:

2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

A - men.

Ode 4**Irmos****Tone 4**

Je - sus the true God, who sits in glory upon the di - vine throne,



now ap - pears rid - ing on a swift cloud; and with his pure hand



he saves those who cry: Glo - ry to your pow - er, O Christ!

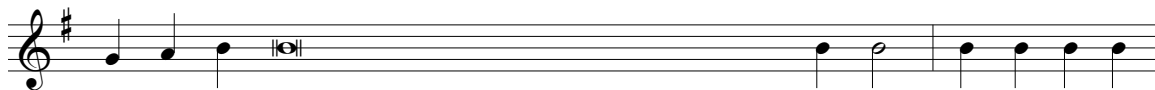
Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

Before your ineffable mysteries, O Christ, comes a mystery in which the laws of nature are renewed, for the deliverance from infirmity foretells that human nature will also be restored and divinized. *Refrain*

For the Son coming from the Father and about to be incarnate, Isaiah had foretold a human messenger equal to the angels, when he said, "Behold, I send him before your face to cry out, 'Glory to Your power, O Christ!'" *Refrain*

"I have been born to serve the Master as a servant. For this have I come: to announce his coming, just as the wondrous maternity of an aged and barren woman confirms the childbearing of the Virgin!"



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.

The holy Theotokos, that perfumed temple in which would dwell the Word of the Father, the Most High God, would not suffer corruption nor travail in her womb, for she bears Emmanuel, God made man.

Katavasia: Repeat Irmos from above.

Ode 5

Irmos

Now shall I a-rise, said God prophet - ic-'ly; now shall I be glo-ri-fied,
now shall I be ex - alt - ed, tak - - - - ing
fal-len man from the Vir - gin and rais - ing him towards the
won - drous light of my di - vin - i - ty.

Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

The earth has raised up the true herald, that voice which proclaims to all with the tongue of the Spirit the Son of the Virgin, who in a material body is going to make oiliness come down upon us from heaven. *Refrain*

The Lord has made you the true lampstand for Christ; you give light to us all, but you clothe all his enemies with shame as with a cloak, as you openly proclaim the Son and Word of God. *Refrain*

The whole creation divinely rejoices at your birth, for in its eyes you are an earthly angel, a heavenly man, O Forerunner who announce to us the incarnation of the heavenly God.

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.

The voices of the prophets have announced your wonders, O spotless Virgin, calling you the mountain of the Lord, the gate and lampstand of the Light whose wondrous radiance truly illumines the whole world.

Katavasia

Tone 4

All na - tions mar - velled at your di - vine glo - ry, for you,
O Virgin who have not known wed - lock, car - ried with - in your womb the
God of all, the eternal Son to whom you gave birth; he grants sal - va - tion
to all who sing your prais - es.

**Ode 6
Irmos**

I have gone down to the depths of the sea, and the

tem - - - pest of my sins has drowned me. But as you
 are God, lead my life up from cor - rup - tion,
 O most mer - ci - ful One.

Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

As a prophet, while in your mother's womb, you recognized the Word of God; with the voice of Elizabeth, you celebrated God, contemplating in a dark chamber the unapproachable Light. *Refrain*

Never-silent, as the voice of one crying aloud, O Baptist, do not cease praying to the Redeemer of the world to loose the spiritual barrenness of those singing the praises of your nativity.

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.

Your all-pure womb, O spotless Theotokos, has become the dwelling-place for the unapproachable God, upon whom the hosts of heaven cannot gaze without fear.

Katavasia**Tone 4**

Come, all you faith-ful, and clap your hands, as we cel - e - brate this holy and sol-enn
feast of the Moth-er of God. Glo-ri - fy him who was born of her.

After the Sixth Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response:

2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

To you, O Lord.

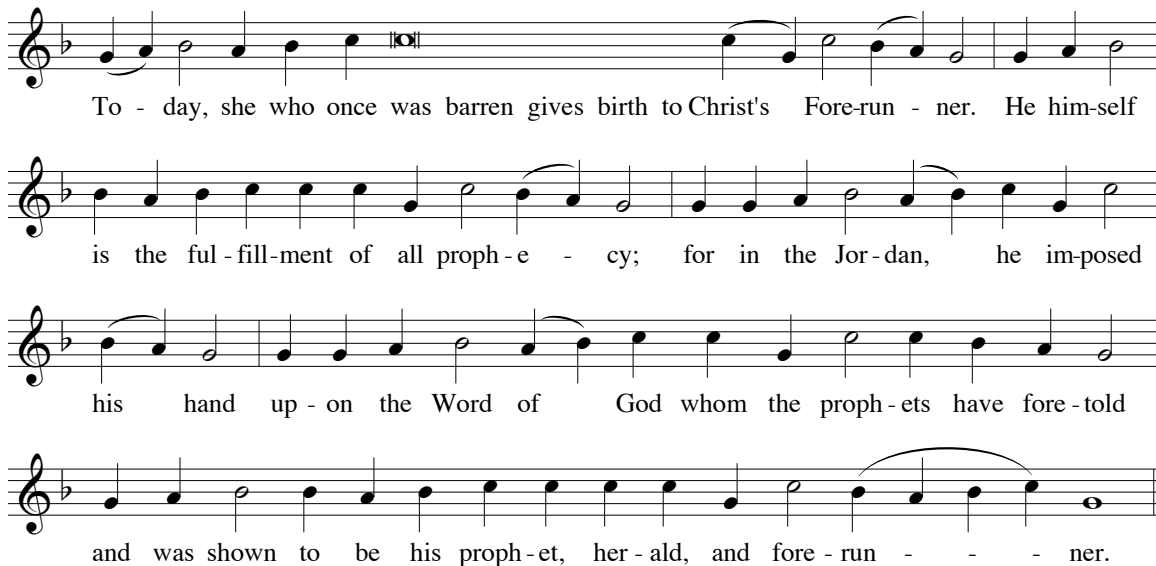
Priest: For you are the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and we give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

A - men.

Kontakion and Ikos

Tone 4

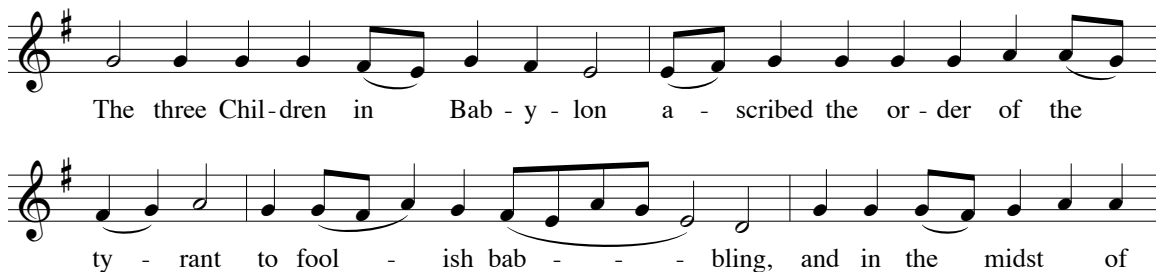


To - day, she who once was barren gives birth to Christ's Fore-run - ner. He him-self
is the ful - fill - ment of all proph - e - cy; for in the Jor - dan, he im - posed
his hand up - on the Word of God whom the proph - ets have fore - told
and was shown to be his proph - et, her - ald, and fore - run - - - ner.

Ikos Let us now praise the Forerunner of the Lord. Elizabeth gave birth to him from a barren womb, but not without seed, for Christ alone passed through the impassable gate without seed. Elizabeth, the barren one, gave birth to John, but not without a father. The pure Virgin, however, by the overshadowing of the Father and the Spirit of God, gave birth to Jesus. And John, who was born from a barren one, manifested himself to be a prophet, a preacher, and also the forerunner of the One born without seed.

Ode 7

Irmos



The three Chil - dren in Bab - y - lon a - scribed the or - der of the
ty - rant to fool - ish bab - - - bling, and in the midst of

the fire they raised their song: Bless - - - ed are
you, O Lord, God of our fa - thers.

Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

Previously all human nature lay in darkness; but you appeared like the dawn, O Forerunner, crying aloud, "Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers!" *Refrain*

By your wondrous birth from a barren mother, O Forerunner, our sick nature was healed, for it learned to sing, "Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers!" *Refrain*

You were born of a barren woman, O Forerunner, for in view of the barrenness of the Law, grace has come to sing to Christ, "Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers!"

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.

O pure and blessed Virgin, intercede for us who entreat you, for we all place our hope in you, O Lady, and sing to you: do not turn your servants away!

Katavasia

Tone 4

The three youths cou - rageously walked about in the flam - ing fur - nace,

pre-fer-ring to wor-ship the Creator rather than cre-a-ted things, and they sang
 out in joy: Bless-ed are you and praised a-bove all, O God
 of our fa - thers.

**Ode 8
 Irmos**

O Ben-e-fac-tor al - - - might - y, you have come down
 and sprin-kled with dew those stand-ing in the midst of
 the flames, and you have taught them to sing:
 All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Refrain

Ho - ly John the Forerun-ner, pray to God for us.

Moses was the servant of the Law; Jesus is the God of the New Testament. And now, as mediator of them both, the Forerunner sings, "All you his works, praise and bless the Lord!" *Refrain*

A dove has come from a barren womb: the Forerunner has brought the Church of Christ and divinely-planted branch, and he leads it in singing, "All you his works, praise and bless the Lord!" *Refrain*

O God-bearing people, holy nation, imitate the dove of Christ; living in purity like him, sing with gentle hymns, "All you His works, praise and bless the Lord!"

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spir-it, Lord. Now and ev - er
and for - ev - er. A - men.

Let us honor the spotless Virgin who transcended nature in giving birth to the eternal, uncreated Word for our salvation. Let us say to her: "O Virgin, we bless the fruit of your womb."

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord; sing-ing and highly exalting him a-bove
all for ev - - - er.

Katavasia

Tone 4

The three youths in the fur - nace were saved by the
Off - spring of the The-o - to - kos. He who was foretold has been born

on earth, and he joins to - gether a crea - tion to sing: All you works
of the Lord, bless the Lord and praise him a - bove all for - ev - er.

Canticum of the Theotokos

At the end of the Eighth Ode, the deacon (or priest if there is no deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Theotokos on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

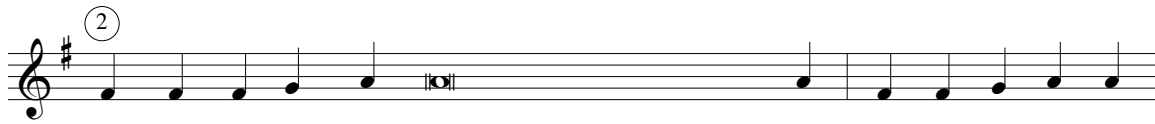
Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns!

Then he incenses the whole Church as usual, beginning with the Holy Table, while the faithful sing the Canticum of the Theotokos.

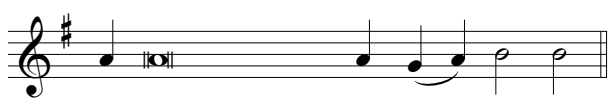
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spir - it rejoices in God, my Sav - ior.

Refrain

More hon - orable than the Cher - u - bim, and be - yond com - pare more
glo - rious than the Ser - a - phim, who, a vir - gin, gave birth to God the Word;
you, tru - ly the Theoto - kos, we mag - ni - fy!

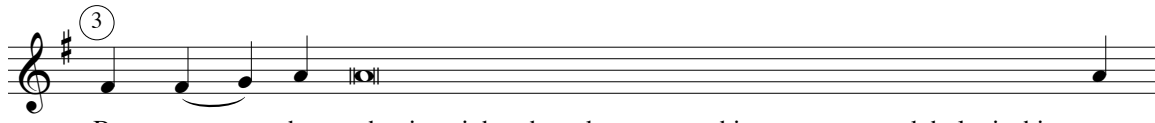


Be - cause he has looked upon the humility of his serv - ant, from this day for - ward

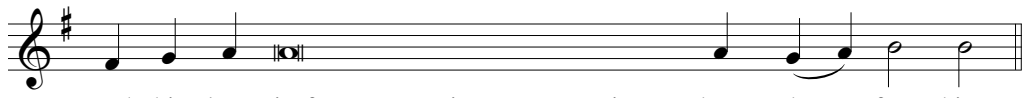


all generations shall call me bless - ed

Refrain



Be - cause he who is mighty has done great things to me, and holy is his name,



and his love is from generation to generation to those who fear him.

Refrain

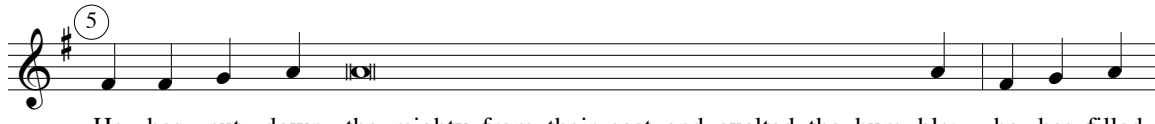


He has shown might in his arm; he has scat - tered the proud in the con - ceit of

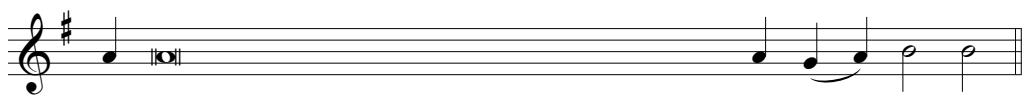


their heart.

Refrain

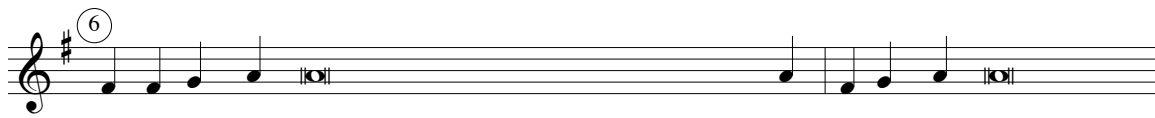


He has put down the mighty from their seat and exalted the hum - ble; he has filled

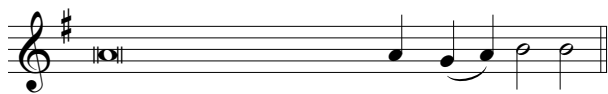


the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.

Refrain



He has re-ceived Israel his servant, being mindful of his love, as he spoke to our fathers:



to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.

Refrain

Ode 9

Irmos



Of old, O Forerunner, in the all-Holy Spirit, you clearly proclaimed the Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; entreat him now to grant remission of sins to your flock. *Refrain*

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.

You reign over every creature: grant trophies of victory, and submit the enemy to the Church, that we may magnify you as Theotokos.

Katavasia **Tone 4**

May ev - 'ry child of the earth ex - ult in spir - it and hold a - loft
the burn - ing lamp; may the an - gels in heav - en praise with joy the ho - ly
feast of the Mother of God and sing to her: Re - joice, O blessed and ev - er - Vir - gin,
ho - ly The - o - to - kos.

After the Ninth Ode, the deacon (or priest) stands before the Holy Doors and says the Small Litany at the ambon:

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



To you, O Lord.

Priest: O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - - men.

Hymns of Light

Podoben: Ženy uslyšik

To-day the joy - cre - a - ting birth of the Fore - - -
-run - - - er ends the sad - ness of his fa - ther's
mute - - - ness and the bar - - - ren - ness of his moth - er.
In - deed his birth her - alds the pres - ent joy and hap - pi - ness;
there - fore all cre - a - - - tion cel - e - brates in splen - dor.

Cantor: Glory... *All repeat "Today the joy-creating birth..."*

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

The proph - ets fore - told, the - a - pos - tles taught,
the di - vine mar - - - - tyrs plain - - - - ly con - fessed
that your Son is the God of all,

O all-pure The - o - to - kos. De - liv - er ed
 through you from the an - cient curse, to - geth - er with
 them, we mag - ni - fy you.

Psalms of Praise

Psalm 148

Tone 8

Let ev' - ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.
 Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the heights.
 To you is due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his an - gels,
 praise him, all his host. To you is due a hymn, O God.

Praise him, sun and moon, *
 praise him, shining stars.
 Praise him, highest heavens *
 and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord. *
He commanded; they were made.
He fixed them forever, *
gave a law which shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, *
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist, *
stormy winds that obey his word;
all mountains and hills, *
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame, *
reptiles and birds on the wing;
all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers.
young men and maidens, *
old men together with children.
Let them praise the name of the Lord *
for he alone is exalted.
The splendor of his name *
reaches beyond heaven and earth.
He exalts the strength of his people, *
he is the praise of all his saints,
of the children of Israel, *
of the people to whom he comes close.

Psalm 149 Sing a new song to the Lord, *
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, *
let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing *
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people. *
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory, *
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations *
and punishment on all the peoples;

to bind their kings in chains *
 and their nobles in fetters of iron.
 To carry out the sentence pre-ordained: *
 this honor is for all the faithful.

Psalm 150 Praise God in his holy place, *
 praise him in his mighty heavens.

Cantor: Praise him for his powerful deeds,
 (on 4) praise his surpassing greatness.

Tone 8 podobn: O preslavnoho cudesé

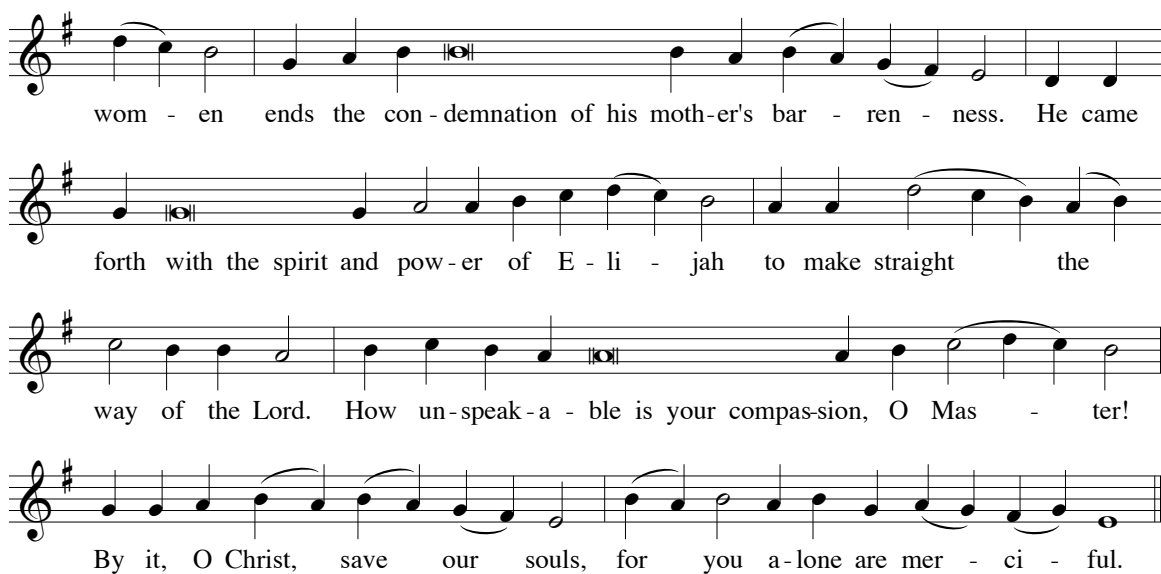
④

How won-der-ful is the mir - a - cle! To-day John, the fore-most her - ald
 of the Word, now has - tens to come forth from his a - ged moth - er.
 By his birth, he loos - ens the tongue and clear-ly re-veals how to speak with
 glo - ry. How in - ef - fa - ble is your provi-dence, O Mas - ter! By it, O
 Christ, save our souls, for you a - lone are mer - ci - ful.

Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
 (on 3) praise him with lute and harp.

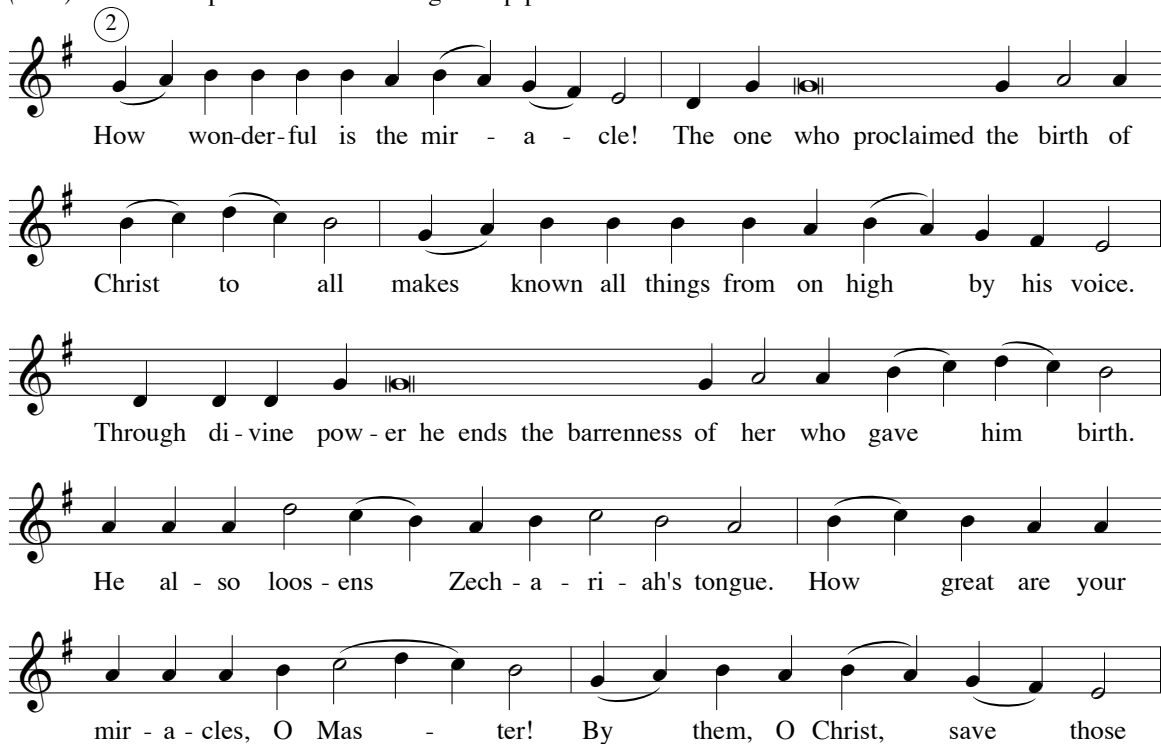
③

How won-der-ful is the mir - a - cle! The high-est prophet of those born of



wom - en ends the con - demnation of his moth - er's bar - ren - ness. He came
 forth with the spirit and pow - er of E - li - jah to make straight the
 way of the Lord. How un - speak - a - ble is your com - pas - sion, O Mas - ter!
 By it, O Christ, save our souls, for you a - lone are mer - ci - ful.

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
 (on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.



②
 How won - der - ful is the mir - a - cle! The one who proclaimed the birth of
 Christ to all makes known all things from on high by his voice.
 Through di - vine pow - er he ends the barrenness of her who gave him birth.
 He al - so loos - ens Zech - a - ri - ah's tongue. How great are your
 mir - a - cles, O Mas - ter! By them, O Christ, save those



who hon - or your great Fore - run - ner.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals,
(on 1) praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes
give praise to the Lord.



How won - der - ful is the mir - a - cle! The Proph - et and Fore - run - ner,



the great - est of the proph - ets born of wom - en, and the fore - most her - ald



of Christ, leaped for joy in his moth - er's womb. How great are your gifts, O



Lov - er of all of us! By them, O Christ, save our souls,



for you are all - pow - er - ful.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon

Tone 6 samohlasi



The star of stars and the For - run - ner, John, the one de - sired by God,

to-day is born on earth from a bar-ren womb, and he-re-veals the star of Christ,
 the O - ri - ent from on high and the Pass-o - ver of all the faith - ful.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O Theo-o - to-kos, you are the true vine laden with the fruit of life.
 There-fore, we im-plore you, O La - dy, to in - tercede together with the apos-tles
 and the saints so that we may ob - tain mer - cy for our souls.

The Great Doxology

During the Psalms of Praise, the priest vests in the phelonion. At the “Glory to the Father...” of the Psalms of Praise, the deacon (or priest) opens the Holy Doors. After the last sticheron, the priest stands before the Holy Table, facing east, raises his hands, and intones:

Deacon: Glory to you who show us the light!

And the faithful continue the Great Doxology. At “Holy God,” the priest takes the Gospel Book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the Holy Doors and replaces it on the Holy Table.



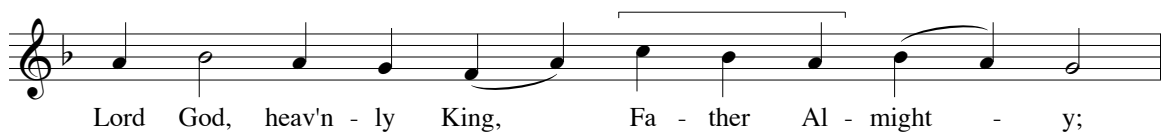
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth, peace;



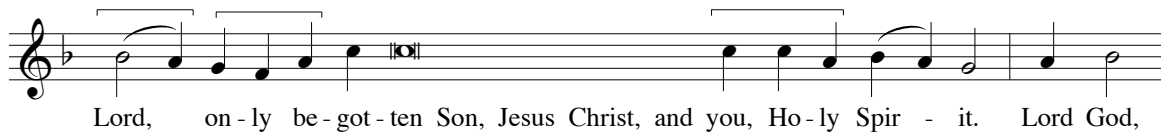
good will a - mong men. We praise you, we bless you,



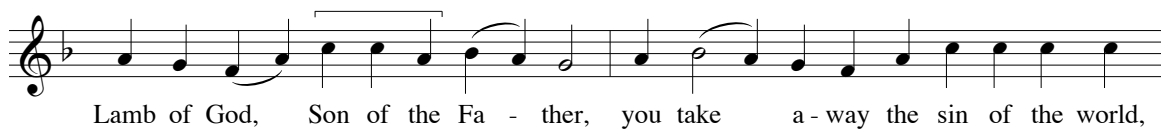
we wor - ship you, we glo - ri - fy you, we thank you for your great glo - ry.



Lord God, heav'n - ly King, Fa - ther Al - might - y;



Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and you, Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,



Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,



have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.




You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.




For you a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ,



to the glory of God the Fa - ther. A - men. I will bless you day aft - er



day, and praise your name for - ev - er. Make us wor - thy, O Lord,



to be kept sin - less this morn - ing. Bless - ed are you, O Lord,



the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy and glorious is your name for ev - er.



A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us who have placed our

reverence



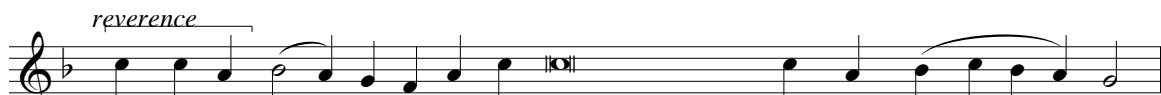
hope in you. Bless - ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com - mand - ments.

reverence



Bless - ed are you, O Mas - ter; make me understand your com - mand - ments.

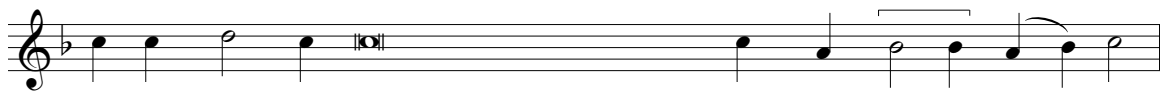
reverence



Bless - ed are you, O Ho - ly One; enlighten me with your com - mand - ments.



O Lord, you have been our re - fuge from one gen - er - a - tion to the next.



I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned a- gainst you.



O Lord, I have fled to you for re - fuge. Teach me to do your will, for



you, O Lord, are my God. In you is the source of life and in your



light we see light. Ex - tend your mer - cy to those who know you.

Three times, each with a reverence:



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly and Im - mort - al have mer - cy on us.



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.

reverence, and sung more slowly



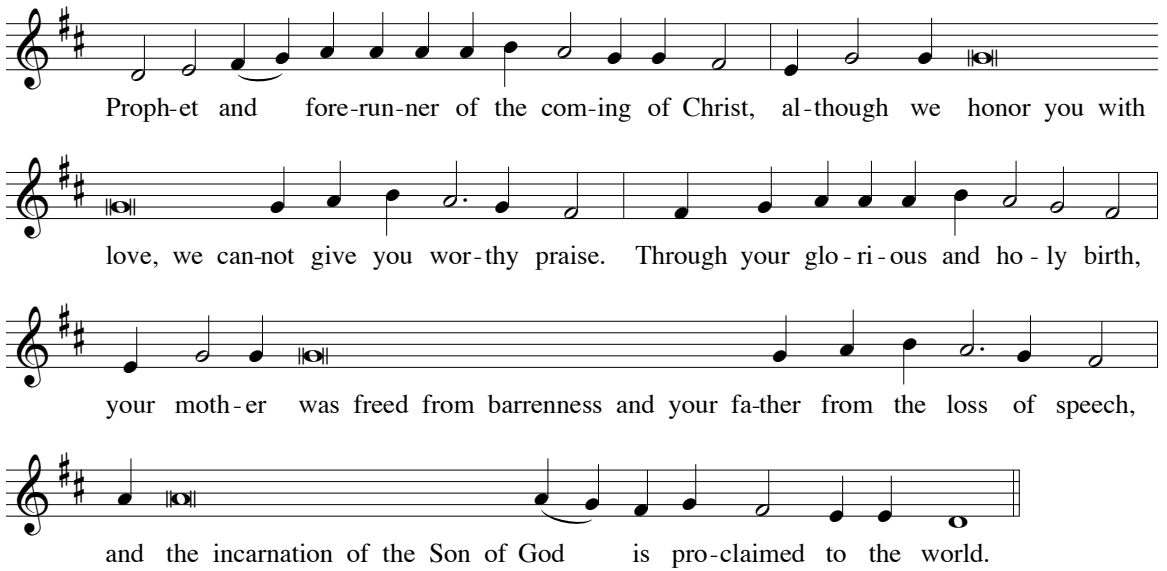
Ho - ly and Im - mort - al have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,



Ho - ly and Im - mort - al have mer - cy on us.

Troparion

Tone 4



Proph-et and fore-run-ner of the com-ing of Christ, al-though we honor you with
love, we can-not give you wor-thy praise. Through your glo-ri-ous and ho-ly birth,
your moth-er was freed from barrenness and your fa-ther from the loss of speech,
and the incarnation of the Son of God is pro-claimed to the world.

The deacon says the following litany at the ambon. If there is no deacon, the priest says this litany at the Holy Doors.

Litany of Supplication


Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 
3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 
4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

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: We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - men.

Prayer over Bowed Heads

Priest: Peace ☩ be to all!

Response: And to your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind

and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

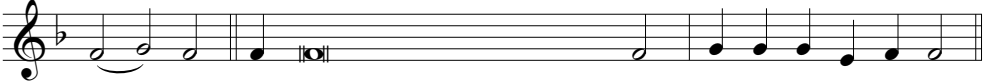
Response: 
A - men.

Dismissal

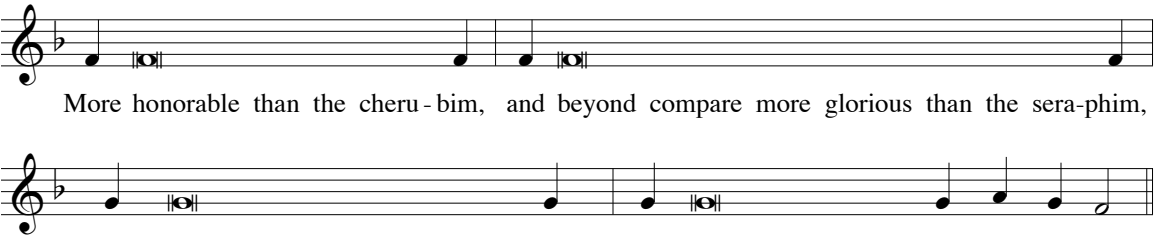
Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 
Give the bless-ing!

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for-ev - er and ev - er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: 
More honorable than the cheru-bim, and beyond compare more glorious than the sera-phim,
who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we mag - ni - fy.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

