The Order of Great Compline for the Feast of the NATIVITY of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

Together with the Propers for the Divine Liturgy of the Nativity, and Traditional Hymns for the Feast in English and Slavonic

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
December 2010
In the tradition of the Byzantine Rite, the night-time vigil for the feast of the Nativity consists of:

- the service of Great Compline
- the litija procession, with prayers for the world
- the service of Matins, with the Gospel of the Nativity, and the Great Doxology which begins with the words of the angels, announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem: “Glory to God in the highest!”

This booklet provides that portion of the service which was printed by Father William Levkulic in 1969, bearing the title “Christ is born – Glorify Him.”

The texts used by Father Levkulic have been updated where necessary to bring them into conformity with translations officially promulgated for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. The music has been prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, following the standard established by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission.

Until such time as the full vigil of Christmas is officially promulgated for use in our churches, we hope that this booklet will serve as a useful replacement for Monsignor Levkulic's service book. To that aim, the other materials in the previous booklet – the propers for the Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day, and a selection of carols and hymns in English and Slavonic – have also been included.

See the website of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute for more information about the services for the Nativity and their music:

www.metropolitancantorinstitute.org

The icon image on the cover is taken from the Roman edition of the Ruthenian Časoslov (1950).
The Celebrant, vested in bright epitrachilion and phelonion, incenses the Holy Table, Icon Screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The Celebrant then stands before the Holy Doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands to his right and says:

Deacon: Give the command!.

People:

Rev'-rend Fa-ther, give the bles-sing!

or if there is no deacon:

People:

In the name of the Lord, Fa-ther, give the bles-sing!

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

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

Response:

A - men.

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

Then the people chant the psalms of Great Compline. (Three of the six appointed psalms are given here). The psalms may be chanted antiphonally - that is, one side of the church taking the first verse, and the other side of the church the next verse, and so on. The deacon returns to the altar.

Psalm 4

Joyful confidence in the Lord

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!
O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
will you love what is futile and seek what is false?
It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves;  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.  
Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still.  
Make justice your sacrifice, and trust in the Lord.

“What can bring us happiness?” many say.  
We have been signed, O Lord, with the light of your face.  
You have put into my heart a greater joy  
than they have from abundance of wheat, wine, and oil.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 6
Prayer in times of trial

Lord, do not reprove me in your anger;  
punish me not in your rage.  
Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength;  
Lord, heal me, my body is racked;  
my soul is racked with pain.

But you, O Lord, how long?  
Return, Lord, rescue my soul.  
Save me, O Lord, in your merciful love;  
for in death no one remembers you;  
from the grave, who can give you praise?

I am exhausted with my groaning;  
every night I drench my pillow with tears;  
I bedew my bed with weeping.  
My eye wastes away with grief;  
I have grown old surrounded by my foes.

Leave me, all you who do evil;  
for the Lord has heard my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my plea;  
The Lord will accept my prayer.
All my foes will retire in confusion,
foiled and suddenly confounded.

Psalm 12
Prayer of a sorrowful man

How long, O Lord, will you forget me?
How long will you hide your face?
How long must I bear grief in my soul,
this sorrow in my heart day and night?

How long shall my enemy prevail?
Look at me, answer me, Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
lest my enemy say: “I have overcome him”;
lest my foes rejoice to see my fall.

As for me, I trust in your merciful love.
Let my heart rejoice in your saving help:
Let me sing to the Lord for his goodness to me,
singing psalms to the name of the Lord, the Most High.

And again:
Look at me, answer me, Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
lest my enemy say: “I have overcome him.”

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! (reverence)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! (reverence)
And the last time, all sing together:

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

God is with us

The faithful STAND. The clergy sing the following hymn using the first melody, and the people repeat it using the second melody. The people then sing the hymn as a refrain after each verse that the celebrant (or, in some places, the cantor) intones.

Verses:

Give ear all you distant lands, for God is with us. (1)

You mighty ones, submit yourselves, for God is with us. (2)

If you strengthen yourselves again, again you will be defeated, for God is with us. (1)

Form a plan, but the Lord will thwart it, for God is with us. (2)
Whatever word you speak will not stand even among yourselves, for God is with us. (1)

We will not fear what you fear nor shall we be dismayed, for God is with us. (2)

Hallow the Lord our God and He will be your fear, for God is with us. (1)

If you trust in Him, He will be your refuge, for God is with us. (2)

We will hope in Him and by Him will we be saved, for God is with us. (1)

Here am I with the children God has given me, for God is with us. (2)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, for God is with us. (1)

Upon you who dwelt in the shadow of death a light has shone, for God is with us. (1)

For a child is born to us; a son is given to us, for God is with us. (2)

Upon His shoulder dominion rests, for God is with us. (1)

Of His peace there is no end, for God is with us. (2)

They call Him Angel of Great Counsel, for God is with us. (1)

Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us. (2)

Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace, for God is with us. (1)

Father of the age to come, for God is with us. (2)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, for God is with us. (1)

Now and ever and forever. Amen, for God is with us. (2)

Then the clergy (or cantors) sing "God is with us" once more to the first melody, and the people repeat is using the second melody.
Then the people sing the troparion and kontakion of the Nativity:

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Cantor

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

Kontakion of the Nativity - Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory
with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star.

The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Litija

At this point in the service, the clergy, servers and people go in procession to the narthex (porch or vestibule of the church) to pray for the needs of the whole world. The celebrant takes the hand cross, and the deacon the censer. (If there is no deacon, a server takes the censer.) The celebrant and deacon go around the Holy Table, then through the Royal Doors, and through the center of the Church to the narthex, followed by the servers and people. The Hymns of the Litija are sung during this procession:

By tradition, the Bolhar or Bulgarian melodies are used for these hymns. For settings of these hymns to the samohlasen melodies, see pages 21-22

Tone 1 Bolhar

May heaven and earth rejoice prophetically this day. May angels and people spiritually celebrate, for God appeared in the flesh to those groping in the darkness and resting in a shadow. Having been born of a Virgin, a cave and a manger received him.
Shepherds relate a miracle; the Magi from the East bring gifts to Bethlehem, while we, with unworthy lips, render him angelic praise:

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, for the hope of nations has arrived. Having come, he has saved us from hostile bondage.

Cantor

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All

Tone 5 Bolhar

The Persian Magi clearly recognized the heavenly King born on earth.

Led by a bright star, they arrived at Bethlehem bearing choice gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh; and falling down, they adored him; for they saw the eternal One, lying as a Child, in the cave.

An-gels re-joice in heav-en, and peo-ple ex-ult to - day, and all crea-tures
leap with joy be-cause of the birth of the Lord and Savior in Beth-le-hem; for
all deceit of i-dol-at-ry has ceased, and Christ reigns for-ev - er.

Then the deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) censes the people, and intones the Litany of the Litiša:

**Deacon:** Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable and heavenly angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačev; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the holy _____, patron of this church; of the holy ______ (saint of the day), and of all
the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

Response:

*Sing this twice.*

Deacon: Again we pray for our Holy Father (Name), pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

Response: "Lord, have mercy", *twelve times, as above.*

Deacon: Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan (Name), for our God-loving bishop (Name); for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say:

Response: "Lord, have mercy", *twelve times, as above.*

Celebrant: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. 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: 

\[ \text{\textbf{A - m e n.}} \]

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Response: 

\[ \text{And to your spirit.} \]

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response: 

\[ \text{To you, O Lord.} \]

Celebrant: All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable: through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.
Amen.

A great and glorious miracle was wrought today: the Virgin gives birth without corrupting her virginity; the Word is made flesh without separation from the Father; the angels and shepherds give praise, and we exclaim with them: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth.

Cantor

From eternity you have been born of my womb, vows the Lord who does not repent.

Aposticha

Tone 2 samohlasen

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Creator of all, Paradise offers
a cave, and a star presents Christ as the Sun in darkness; the Magi with their gifts, enlightened by faith, adore; the shepherds behold a miracle, while the angels exclaim: Glory to God in the highest.

Cantor

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.

When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea, the Magi, coming from the East, adored God made man, and unfolding their treasures, they brought precious gifts: the purest of gold as to the eternal King; and incense as to the God of all; and myrrh as to the immortal dead of three days. Come all nations, let us adore him who is born
to save our souls.

Cantor

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

All

Re-joice, Je-ru-sa-lem; ex-ult, all those who love Zi-on. To-day

the tempo-rar-y bond of Ad-am's con-demna-tion is dis-solved; Par-a-dise

is o-pened to us, and the ser-pent is crushed; for woman, whom he first de-cieved,

he now per-cieves as mother of the Cre-a-tor. O a-byss of divine

wealth, wis-dom, and in-tel-lect! She, who had been a sinful vessel con-veying death

to all flesh, has be-come through the The-o-to-kos the means

of salvation to the whole u-ni-verse; for of her is born a Child, ever-per-fect
God, whose birth confirms virginity, loos'ning the bonds of sins
with swaddling clothes, and, through his infancy, healing Eve's care-laden pains.

May the whole universe exult and leap with joy, for Christ has come
to regenerate it and to save our souls.

Cantor

Now and ever and ever. Amen.

All

You have dwelt in a cave, O Christ God, and a manger received you;
the shepherds and the Magi adored you. Then were the predictions of prophets
fulfilled; and angelic powers stood amazed, singing and saying:

Glo - ry to your con - de - scen - sion, for you al - one love all cre - a - tion.
Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord, in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. Three times Holy God! Holy and Mighty! Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.
Your birth, O Christ our God,
has shed upon the world the light of

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

The Troparion of the Nativity is now sung three times (once by the Celebrant and twice by the faithful) while the Celebrant incenses the four sides of the tetrapod, on which has been placed bread, wheat, wine, and oil.

Troparion of the Nativity - Tone 4

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of
knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Blessing of Bread

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

The celebrant now sings the following:

Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, now and for-ev-er,

And the people respond with:
The cantor and faithful chant Psalm 33:

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
    his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
    Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
    from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
    let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
    and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
    around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
    He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
    They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
    but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Celebrant: The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness,
    always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: Give the blessing.

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

Response: Amen.

O God, strengthen the true faith forever and ever.

Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokitos, we magnify.

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

Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, who for our salvation deigned to be born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea and lay in a manger, have mercy on us and save us … for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.
May heaven and earth rejoice prophetically this day. May angels and people spiritually celebrate, for God appeared in the flesh to those groping in the darkness and resting in a shadow. Having been born of a Virgin, a cave and a manger received him. Shepherds relate a miracle; the Magi from the East bring gifts to Bethlehem, while we, with unworthy lips, render him angelic praise: Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, for the hope of nations has arrived. Having come, he has saved us from hostile bondage.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

The Per - sian Magi clearly recognized the heavenly King born on earth. Led by a bright star, they ar - rived at Beth - le - hem bear - ing choice gifts of gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh; and fall - ing down, they a - dored him; for they saw the E - ter - nal One, ly - ing as a Child, in the cave.

Continue with "Now and ever" at the top of page 9.
First Antiphon

I shall thank you, O Lord, with all my heart; I shall declare all your wondrous deeds.

Through the pray'rs of the The-o-to-kos, O Sav-ior, save us.

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. Through the pray'rs of the The-o-to-kos, O Sav-ior, save us.

Second Antiphon

Hap-py the man who fears the Lord and great-ly de-lights in his com-mands.

O Son of God, born of the Vir-gin, save us who sing to you: Al-le-lu-ia!
The Lord said to my Lord:
Sit at my right hand till I make your
enemies your footstool.

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of
knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from
a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn
from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

From the womb, before the morning star, I have begetten you. The Lord has
sworn and he will not repent: You are a priest forever according to the
order of Melchizedek.
Troparion of the Nativiy - Tone 4

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Cantor

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

Kontakion of the Nativiy - Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One; and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable. The angels sing his glory with the shepherds; the wise men journey with the star.
The eternal God is born for us as an infant child.

Instead of "Holy God"

All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Al-le-lu-ia! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Or this melody:

All you who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Al-le-lu-ia! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Have been clothed with Christ.

Prokeimenon - Tone 8 (Psalm 65:4,1,2):

Verse: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;
sing praise to his name, give to him glorious praise.

Alleluia - Tone 1 (Psalm 18:2,3):

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Verse: Day unto day pours out the word and night unto night imparts knowledge.
Let us, who mystically represent the cherubim, and sing the thrice-holy hymn, thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating, life-creating Trinity, now set aside all earthly cares, all earthly cares.

After the commemorations:

Amen. That we may receive, may receive the King of All, invisibly escorted by angelic hosts. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.
Ex - tol, ex - tol, O my soul, O my soul, Christ the King born in a cave, Christ the King, born in a cave.

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 - preh - en - si - ble God lies down. Let us praise him and ex - tol him.

The Lord has sent de - liv - er - ance to his peo - ple. Al - le - lu - ia!
1. An - gels from heav - en came to you shep - herds.
2. There in a man - ger, you will be - hold Him,
3. So close be - side Him, Mar - y His moth - er;

1. So ne - bes An - hel pri - šed - še ko vam,
2. U - zri - te Sy - na Bož - ja rož - den - na
3. Pri nem jest’ Ma - ti, Je - ho pre - či - sta

Have no fear! Have no fear! Has - ten to hon - or Him,
Son of God. Son of God. Child whose hu - mil - i - ty
Vir - gin pure! Vir - gin pure! Sootherd by her gen - tle hands,
Pa - sty - r'i, pa - sty - r'i. Do Vif - le - je - ma
Vo jas - lach, vo jas - lach. On bu - det vs' im vam
Ma - ri - ja, Ma - ri - ja. Mež - du by - dl'a - ty,

born near in Beth - le - hem; Of - fer gifts though poor and small.
veils His di - vin - i - ty, Our true Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.
while beasts in won - der stand, Her true Son, yet Son of God.

hirja - d'i - te sko - ro, S da - ra - mi, s da - ra - mi.
Ot - ku - pi - te - lem, Na - i - st'i, na - i - st'i.
Pi - ta - jet Je - ho, Jak Sy - na, jak Sy - na.
Eternal God
Boh predv'ičnyj narodilsja

1. Eternal God, through gates of birth,
2. Bethlehem's child, born in a cave;

1. Boh predv'ičnyj na - ro - dil - sja:
2. V Vif - le - je - mi na - ro - dil - sja:

From heav'n's throne came down to earth.
Messiah sent here to save.

(THIS LINE OF MUSIC NOT SUNG IN SLAVONIC)

Shep - herds a - dore, an - gels sing;
Destined to make sac - ri - fice;
Prior to dnes', so ne - bes;
Me - si - ja Chri - stos naš

Star shines on the new - born King.
Jesus Christ is born.

Only God could pay such price
For the fall of man.

A - by spas l'ud svoj v ves', I u - t'i - šil - sja.
I Pan naš dl'a vs'ich nas, Nam na - ro - dil - sja.
God the Lord Eternal
Hospod' Boh predvienyj

1. God the Lord eternal Shows Himself to us.
2. Shepherds in their pastures Hear the joyful story.

1. Hospod' Boh predvienyj Nyñí nam javil-sja.
2. Tu-ju pisñí na po-l’i Pas-tyr-jam holosjat’.

Born in humble manager from a virgin spotless.
Kings and poor together At the crib of glory.

Z ne-po-rocnoj D’i-vy V jas-lach narodil-sja.
Vs’ich l’u-dej u-bo-hich So ver-te-pa prosjat’.

Choirs of angels joyfully sing:
So they may honor this newborn King,

Cho-ry an-hel-ski spi va jut’
Čtob I-su-su čest’ voz dal-i

Welcome to this newborn King.
Raising voices, gloriously sing:

Na-rož-den-na ho vi-ta jut’:
I ve-se-lo za-spi va-li:

Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!
Sla-va! Sla-va! Sla-va!

Glo-ry to God in the highest.
Sla-va v vyš-nich Boh-hu.
God's Son is Born
Boh sja raždajet

God's Son is born, but a mystery to our mind.
Boh sja ražda - jet, ktož Ho možet zna - ti,

Jesus, His name, means the Savior of mankind.
I - sus Mu im - ja, Ma - ri - ja Mu ma - ti.

Now the angels sing their prayer, Making known this Child so fair.

Sheep herds hear the angels' song, Come and keep watch all night long.
A vol sto - jit' trja - set - sja, o - sel smut - no pa - set - sja.

Sheep and oxen gaze and warm this new-born Babe; For
Pa - sti - ri - je kl'a - čut, v plo - ti Bo - ha ba - čut',

all creation knows this is their Lord.
Tu - tže, tu - tže, tu - tže, tu - tže, tut!
Heaven and Earth
Nebo i zeml'a

1. Heaven and earth, heaven and earth
2. In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem
1. Nebo i zeml'a, nebo i zeml'a
2. Vo Vifleje mi, vo Vifleje mi

Now welcome their Redeemer. Angels and people,
God's Word is given birth. Born of a virgin,
Nyňi toržest vu-jut'. Anhel y l'ude,
Vešla novina, Čistaja D'iva,
an-gels and people join in a celebration.
born of a virgin, Master of heav'n and earth.
anhel y l'ude Vešlo spraz dnu-jut'.
čistaja D'iva Poro dilu Sy- na.

Salvation is begun, born is the Virgin's Son;
Christos rodilsja, Boh voplostisja,

Angel voices ringing, Wise men gifts are bringing;
Anhely spa-jut', Carije vatajut,

Shepherds tell the story; star proclaims the glory;
Poklon ot-da-jut', pastyri je hrajut',

Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Čudo, čudo povida-jut'.
In the Town of Bethlehem
V Viflejemi novina

1. In the town of Bethlehem, Mar-y's Son is born a King.
2. In a cave at Bethlehem, Bed of straw His royal throne.

1. V Vif-le-jem-i no-vi-na, D'i-va Sy-na po-ro-di-la,
2. Po-lo-ži-la na s'i-ňi V Vif-le-jem-skoj ja-ski-ňi.

Born to bless us and to save us
Mar-ty won-dered, Jo-seph pon-dered
Po-ro-di-la v bla-ho-da-ti,
Jo-sif D'i-vu po-t'i-ša-je,

And to lead all men to God, O Sav-i-or.
How the Child was Son of God, the Sav-i-or.
Ne-po-roč-na D'i-va Ma-ti, Ma-ri-ja.
Po- vi-va-ti po-mo-ha-je, Ma-ri-ji.
Jesus Came From Heaven
Spas naš narodilsja

NATIVITY

Je - sus came from heav-en,    Ad - am's son through birth.
Spas naš na - ro - dil - sja V t'i - l'i Boh ja - vil - sja.

Just a low - ly sta - ble,    A King's pal - ace on earth.

Choirs of an - gels joy - ful - ly sing:
Cho - ry an - hel - ski spi - va - jut'

Wel - come to this new - born King.
Na - rož - den - na - ho vi - ta - jut':

Glo - ry!    Glo - ry!    Glo - ry!
Sla - va!    Sla - va!    Sla - va!

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
Sla - va v vyš - nich Bo - hu.
Joyful News
Nova radost' stala

1. Joyful news to the whole world: Christ is born to redeem men.
2. Royal born in a stable' Born to be King of all kings.
3. Angel's came to the shepherds Singing this wondrous story.

1. Nova radost' stala, Jaca ne by vala,
2. An-he-ly spi-va-jut' "Sla-va" vos-kli-ca-jut'.
3. Kol' Chri-stos ro-dil-sja, Z D'i-ly vo-plo-til-sja,

Brilliant star shines in the heavens
He was wrapped in swaddling clothing
Heav'n and earth resounded loudly:

Nad ver-te-pom, zviz-da jas-na
Na ne-be-si, i na zem-li
Jak če-lo-vik pe-le-na-mi

Lead-ing kings to Beth-le-hem.
To be like us in all things.
Glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!

Svit-lo za-si ja-la.
Ra-dost' voz- vi šća- jut'.
U-bo-ho po-vil-sja.
Joyful Tidings Come Our Way  
Radost' nam sja javl'ajet

1. Joy-ful tid-ings come our way;  Je-sus Christ is born to-day.
2. Jo-seph lend your lov-ing care,  Guard this Child and moth-er fair.

1. Ra-dost' nam sja jav-l'a-jet  D'i-va Sy-na raž-da-jet,
2. Ty Jo-si-fe sta-reñ-kij,  Pa-če I-sus ma-leñ-kij!

Won-drous night, ho-ly night; N'er be-fore star so bright.

Ne-be-sa, ne-be-sa, ne-be-sa Po-jut', po-jut'.
Po-ma-haj, po-ma-haj, po-ma-haj, Je-ho, Je-ho,

An-gels kneel in a-do-ra-tion;
An-gels sing a sal-va-tion
An-hel-vy sja u-div-l'a-jut' 
Či-stoj D'i-vi ko-ly-sa-ti,

Crea-tures hushed in con-temp-pla-tion.
To the Mas-ter of Cre-a-tion.
Pa-sty-ri-je po-klon da-jut', 
I pišñ Je-mu spi-va-ti:

Hail the new-born King.
Hail the new-born king.
Na-rož-den-no-mu.
L'u-l'aj, Car-ju naš!
Rejoice All Nations
Christos rodilsja, Boh voplotilsja

Rejoice all nations, God has become man
In Beth-le-hem as
Christos rodilsja, Boh voplotilsja, Vo Vif-le-jem-skoi

was his plan. The virgin Mary pure as no other
ja-ski-ni. V staj-ni ubo-hoj ni-shce-ty mno-hoj,

Accepts God's will made known to her. The angels sing His glory.
Ve-li-ka radost nam ny-ni. An-he-ly spi-va-jut',

The shep herds fall on their knees. Christ is born in Beth-le-hem.
Cest' Je-mu ot-da-jut' Bo-hu i Tvor-cu na-she-mu.

Let us adore the new-born Messi-ah, For He redeemed us
Likuj ce-lo-vi-če, z rož-dest-va to-ho! Christos bo spa-se-jet

as said I-sai-ah. Christ is born in Beth-le-hem.
zada duš mno-ho, Iz ne-vol' i vra-ži-ja.
Wondrous News
Divnaja novina

1. Wondrous news to all the earth; First and only virgin birth.
2. Royal palace not for him; Turned away from Bethlem's inn.
1. Div-naja no-vi-na, Ny-ni D'va Syna,
2. Ne v car-skoj pa-la-t'i. No mež-du by-dl'a-ti,

Born in Bethlehem, Born of Mary, Yet both God and man.

God had deigned it so To serve the poor, These things He must know.

Po-ro-di-la v Vif-le-je-mi Ma-ri-ja je-di-na.
Vo pu-sty-ni, vo jas-ki-ñi, Tre-ba to vs'im zna-ti.
To Jordan's Water

1. To Jordan's water, to Jordan's water
2. Three Persons in God, Three Persons in God,
3. Saint John the Baptist, Saint John the Baptist

Christ comes to be baptized. John the Forerunner,
Are now revealed to us. Father and Son,
Foretells release today: The Lamb of God,

John the Forerunner, Now humbly steps aside.
Father and Son, Holy Spirit, One God.
The Lamb of God Will wash our sins away.

Christ our Lord is baptized. Salvation is now realized.

Skies of heaven open, God the Father spoken, O'er the Jordan a Dove,

Holy Spirit of Love: Revelation from above.
Traditional English Christmas Carols

Angels we have heard on high

Anonymous

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hark! the herald angels sing

C. Wesley – Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!

It came upon the midnight clear

E. Sears – R. S. Willis

It came upon the midnight clear
The glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heav'n’s all-gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
Joy to the world
Isaac Watts – G. F. Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n
and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
rocks, hill and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

O come, all ye faithful
John F. Wade

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!
Glory to God in the highest.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!
**O little town of Bethlehem**

P. Brooks – L. H. Redner

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O, morning stars together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God our King, and peace to men on earth.

**Silent night**

Joseph Mohr – Franz Gruber

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav’nly hosts sing, alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth!
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.
Troparion of the Nativity

Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshipped the stars have learned from a star to worship you, the Sun of Justice, and to know you, the Dawn from on High. Glory to you, O Lord!

Roždestvó Tvojé, Christé Bóže naš, vozsijá mírovi svít rázuma: v nem bo zv’izdám služáščii zvizdóju učáchusja, Tebí kláňatisja Sólncu právdy, i Tebé víď’iti s vysotý Vostóka: Hóspodi, sláva Tebí.

Hymn of Great Compline

God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!

S námi Boh, razumíjte jazýci, i pokarjájtesja: jáko s námi Boh.

Troparion of Theophany

At your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father’s voice bore witness to you, calling you his beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, you appeared and enlightened the world. Glory to you!

Vo Jordáňi kreščájuščusja Tebí Hóspodi, Trójčeskoje javísja poklonénije: rodítelev bo hlas svid’ítel’stvovaše Tebí, vozl’úblennaho Ťa Sýna imenúja, i Duch v víď’i holubíňi, izvístvovalše slovesé utverždénije, javléjsja Christé Bóže, i mir prosviščéd, sláva Tebí.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Christós raždájetsja! Slávite Jeho!