1. O come, you lovers of the feasts! With gladness let us raise
2. Believers, let us praise this day the fathers on faith’s trek;
3. For Miriam, Sarah, Rachel fair, for Hannah and for Eve,
4. O Bethlehem, prepare yourself, O Ephra-thah, rejoice!

For Patriarchs and Prophets blest a hymn of thankful praise!
For Adam, Enoch, Noah and the great Melchizedek!
For all the mothers who conceived and bore those to believe
The gate of Eden’s open wide! Cry out with joy-filled voice:

For Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and his seed
For prophets like Isaiah, for Daniel and the youths
That God would keep His promise, we give You thanks this day;
Our Christ makes haste to come now and brings us back to grace.

Whose covenant with God endured, we give You praise, indeed!
Who, in the face of evil, still proclaimed Your holy truths.
So give us grace, in all our deeds, to serve you, as did they!
Prepare your hearts, your homes, your lives! Give Christ the finest place!

Text: JMT, based on the Vespers stichera for the Sunday before Nativity
Melody: St. Louis (O Little Town of Bethlehem)