The Royal Hours of Nativity

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The Royal Hours of Nativity

First Hour

(The priest, vested in epitrachelion and phelonion, opens the curtain and begins:)

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!
O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; Who art everywhere present and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(3x)*
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

READER: Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(12x)*
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

(As the Psalms are chanted, the priest opens the royal doors, takes the Gospel and places it in the center of the Church, after which he makes a full censing of the Church beginning by censing around the Gospel, and concluding by censing before it.)

Psalm 5

Unto my words, give ear, O Lord; hear my cry. Attend unto the voice of my supplication, O my King and my God; for unto Thee will I pray, O Lord. In the morning Thou shalt hear my voice. In the morning shall I stand before Thee, and Thou shalt look upon me; for not a God that willest iniquity art Thou. He that worketh evil shall not dwell near Thee, nor shall transgressors abide before Thine eyes. Thou hast hated all them that work iniquity; Thou shalt destroy all them that speak a lie. A man that is bloody and deceitful shall the Lord abhor. But as for me, in the multitude of Thy mercy shall I go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee. O Lord, guide me in the way of Thy righteousness; because of mine enemies, make straight my way before Thee. For in their mouth there is no truth; their heart is vain. Their throat is an open sepulchre, with their tongues have they spoken deceitfully; judge them, O God. Let them fall down on account of their own devisings; according to the multitude of their ungodliness, cast them out, for they have embittered Thee, O Lord. And let all them be glad that hope in Thee; they shall ever rejoice, and Thou shalt dwell among them. And all shall glory in Thee that love Thy Name, for Thou shalt bless the righteous. O Lord, as with a shield of Thy good pleasure hast Thou crowned us.

Psalm 44

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king; my tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe. Comely art Thou in beauty more than the sons of men; grace hath been poured forth on Thy lips, wherefore God hath blessed Thee for ever. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. And bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king, because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and Thy right hand shall guide Thee wondrously. Thine arrows are sharp, O Mighty One, (under Thee shall peoples fall) sharp in the heart of the enemies of the king. Thy Throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of Thy Kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Where-

fore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy fellows. Myrrh and stacte and cassia exhale from Thy garments, from the ivory palaces, whereby they have made Thee glad, they the daughters of kings in Thine honor. At Thy right hand stood the Queen, arrayed in a vesture of inwoven gold, adorned in varied colours. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear; and forget thine own people and thy father's house. And the King shall greatly desire thy beauty, for He Himself is thy Lord, and thou shalt worship Him. And Him shall the daughters of Tyre worship with gifts; the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. All the glory of the daughter of the King is within, with gold-fringed garments is she arrayed, adorned in varied colours. The virgins that follow after her shall be brought unto the King, those near her shall be brought unto Thee. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing, they shall be brought into the temple of the King. In the stead of thy fathers, sons are born to thee; thou shalt make them princes over all the earth. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation. Therefore shall peoples give praise unto thee for ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Psalm 45

Our God is refuge and strength, a helper in afflictions which mightily befall us. Therefore shall we not fear when the earth be shaken, nor when the mountains be removed into the heart of the seas. Their waters roared and were troubled, the mountains were troubled by His might. The rushings of the river make glad the city of God; the Most High hath hallowed His Tabernacle. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be shaken; God shall help her right early in the morning. The nations were troubled, kingdoms tottered, the Most High gave forth His voice, the earth was shaken. The Lord of Hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob. Come and behold the works of God, what marvels He hath wrought on the earth, making wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. He will crush the bow and will shatter the weapon, and shields will He utterly burn with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. *(3x)*

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Mary was of David's seed,
So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the Birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
The cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen!//
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old!

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

What shall we call thee, O Full of Grace? Heaven, for from thee shone forth the Sun of Righteousness; Paradise, for thou hast budded forth the flower of immortality; Virgin for thou hast remained incorrupt; Pure Mother, for thou hast in thine arms the Son, who is God of all. Beseech Him to save our souls!

When Christmas Day falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22nd or 23rd, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden has been opened to all.
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha,
For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Fruit Divine;
If we eat of It we shall live forever and not die like Adam.///
Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Tone 8 ("Lord I Call")

Make ready, O Bethlehem.
Let the manger be prepared.
Let the cave show its welcome.
The Truth comes and the shadow flees.
God is born of a virgin and revealed to men.
He is clothed in our flesh, and makes it divine.
Therefore Adam is renewed, and cries out with Eve,
Thy favor has appeared on earth, O Lord,
For the salvation of the human race.

READER: God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain.

Tone 3 ("Lord I Call")

Now the prophesy approaches its fulfillment.
For it had mystically proclaimed:
"Thou, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are by no means the least among Judah's rulers!"
Prepare thy cave!

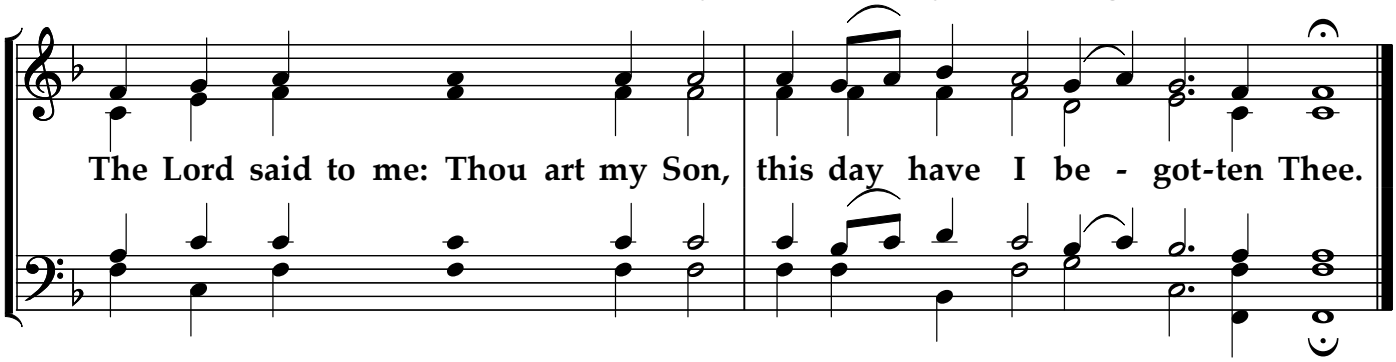
From thee the Ruler of the Nations comes to me in the Flesh:
Christ our God, born of a young virgin!
He will feed His flock the new Israel.///
Let us all give Him glory!

READER: O Lord, I have heard what thou hast done, and am filled with awe!
(REPEAT) Now the prophecy…
READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 8 ("Lord I Call")

Joseph said to the virgin:
What has happened to thee, O Mary?
I am troubled; what can I say to thee?
Doubt clouds my mind; depart from me!
What has happened to thee, O Mary?
Instead of honor, thou bringest me shame.
Instead of joy, thou fillest me with grief.
Men who praised me will blame me.
I cannot bear condemnation from every side.
I received thee, a pure virgin, in the sight of the Lord.///
What is this that I now see?
READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
(REPEAT) Joseph said…
(and immediately the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy follows)

PRIEST: Wisdom!
READER: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone:
The Lord said to me: Thou art my Son, / this day have I begotten Thee.



VERSE: Ask of me, and I shall give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Thy possession!
PRIEST: Wisdom!
READER: The reading from the prophecy of Micah. *(Micah 5:2-4)*
PRIEST: Let us attend.
READER: Thus says the Lord: But you, Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, are little among the thousands of Judah, yet from you shall come forth

to me Him who is ruler in Israel, and His going forth is from the beginning, from the days of eternity. So the Lord will abandon His people to their enemies until the time when she who is in travail has given birth; then the remnant of his brethren will be converted to the children of Israel. And He shall stand, and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, and they shall abide in the glory of the Name of the Lord their God, and they shall magnify Him even to the ends of the earth.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 1: 1-12)

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Brethren, **God**, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the Prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the Angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the Angels did He ever say: “Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee”? Or again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”? And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world. He saith: “Let all the Angels of God worship Him.” And of the Angels He saith: “Who makes His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flaming fire.” But unto the Son He saith: “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy Kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness more than Thy companions..." And: “Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thine hands; they shall perish, but Thou shalt remain; and they shall all grow old like a garment; like a cloak shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail..."

PRIEST: **GOSPEL** (St. Matthew [1:18-25])

(after the Gospel concludes):

PEOPLE: **Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.**

READER: My steps do Thou direct according to Thy saying, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep Thy commandments. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes. Let my mouth be filled with praise, that I may hymn Thy glory and Thy majesty all the day long.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(3x)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

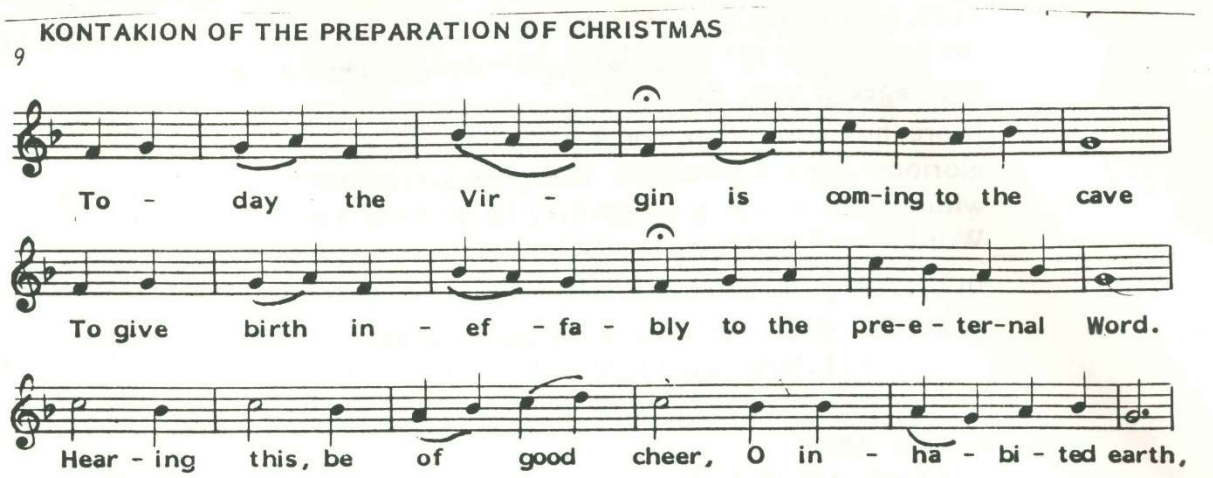
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

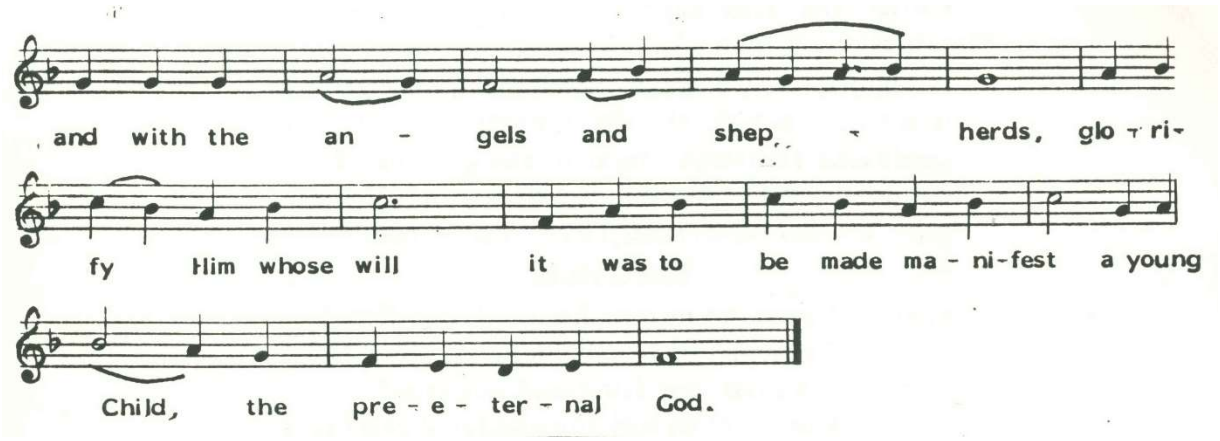
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.





READER: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Thou who in every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, most-merciful, and compassionate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy *(3x)*… Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

In the Name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

PRIEST: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

READER: Amen.

O Christ, the True Light Who enlightenest and sanctifiest every man who cometh into the world, let the Light of Thy Countenance shine upon us, that in it we may behold the unapproachable Light; and guide our footsteps aright to the keeping of Thy commandments; through the prayers of Thy Most-Pure Mother, and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

Third Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 66

God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us, That we may know upon the earth Thy way, among all the nations Thy salvation. Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee. Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for Thou shalt judge peoples with uprightness; and nations shalt Thou guide upon the earth. Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee; the earth hath yielded her fruit. Let God, our God, bless us; let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Psalm 86

His foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth the gates of Sion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. I will make mention of Raab and Babylon to them that know me. And lo, the foreigners and Tyre and the people of the Ethiopians, these were born there. A man will say: Mother Sion; and: That man was born in her; and: The Most High Himself hath founded her. The Lord shall tell it in the writ of the peoples and the princes, even these that were born in her. How joyous are all they that have their habitation in Thee.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast

Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. *(3x)*
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

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So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the Birth was at hand.
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For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Fruit Divine;
If we eat of It we shall live forever and not die like Adam.///
Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O Theotokos, thou art the true vine that hast put forth the Fruit of Life! We pray thee, O Lady: intercede together with the Apostles and all the Saints, that mercy may be granted to our souls!

Tone 6 ("Lord I Call")

He is our God:
There is no other to compare to Him!
Born of a virgin, He comes to live with men!
The Only-Begotten Son appears as a mortal man!
He rests in a lowly manger!
The Lord of Glory is wrapped in swaddling clothes!
A star leads the Wise Men to worship Him,
And with them we sing:///
O Holy Trinity, save our souls!

READER: God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain.

Tone 8 ("Lord I Call")

Before Thy birth, O Lord,
The hosts of Angels already perceived the mystery!
They were struck with wonder and trembled,
For Thou Who didst adorn the Heavens with stars
Art now well-pleased to be born as a babe.
Thou holdest the ends of the earth in Thy hands,
But now Thou art laid in a manger of dumb beasts.
Yet all these things fulfilled Thy saving plan,
By which Thy compassion was revealed to us.///
O Christ of great mercy, glory to Thee!

READER: O Lord, I have heard what thou hast done, and am filled with awe.

(REPEAT) Before Thy birth…

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

Tone 3 ("Lord I Call")

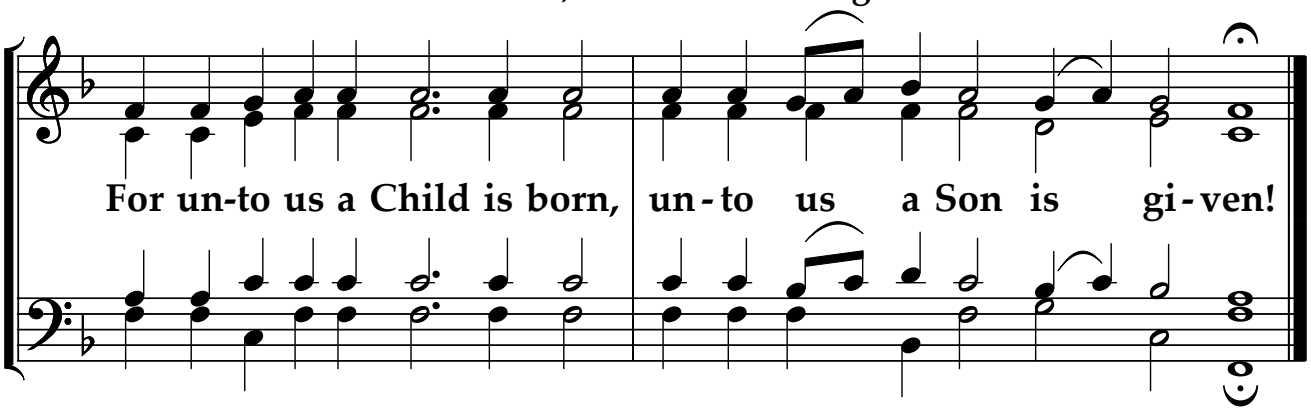
Tell us, O Joseph:
Why dost thou bring a maiden great with child to Bethlehem?
"I have searched the Prophets," he said.
"I have been instructed by an Angel!

I am convinced that Mary will give birth to God,
In a manner beyond understanding!
Wise men from the East will come to worship Him,
Offering precious gifts in adoration!"///
O Lord, incarnate for us, glory to Thee!

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
(REPEAT) Tell us, O Joseph…

(and immediately the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy follows)

PRIEST: Wisdom!
READER: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone:
For unto us a child is born, / unto us a son is given!



VERSE: And the government shall be upon His shoulder!

PRIEST: Wisdom!
READER: The reading from the prophecy of Micah. *(Micah 5:2-4)*
PRIEST: Let us attend.
READER: He is our God; there is no other to compare with Him. He discovered the entire path leading to understanding and gave wisdom to Jacob, His servant, and to Israel, His beloved.

Afterwards, Wisdom was seen on earth and He lived with men. Wisdom is the book of the commandments of God, the law that will endure forever. All who hold fast to it will live, but those who forsake it will die. Return, O Jacob, and take hold of it; walk in the presence of its brightness, that you may be illuminated. Do not surrender your honor to another people, or your dignity to a strange nation. How happy we are, O people of Israel; we have the advantage of knowing what is pleasing to God.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians. (Galatians 3:23-29)

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under the law, kept for the faith which should afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For you are all the children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise…

PRIEST: **GOSPEL** (St. Luke [2:1-20])

(after the Gospel concludes):

PEOPLE: **Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.**

READER: Blesséd be the Lord God, blesséd be the Lord from day to day, and may the God our salvation prosper us, for He is our God, the God of salvation!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(3x)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

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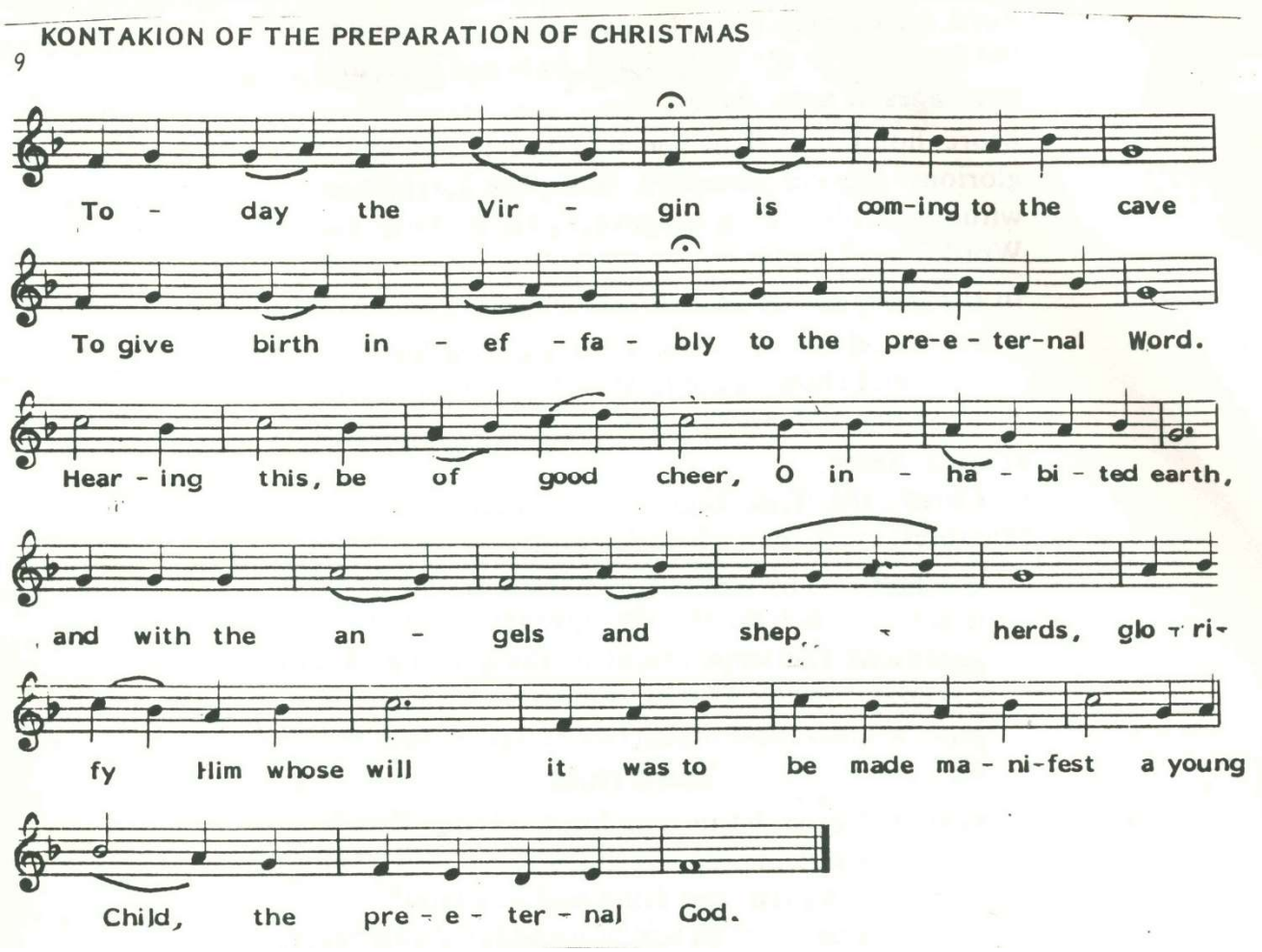
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.



READER: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Thou who in every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, most-merciful, and compassionate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy *(3x)*… Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee!
In the Name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

PRIEST: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

READER: Amen. O God the Master, Father Almighty, O Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, one Godhead, one Power, have mercy upon me, a sinner, and according to Thy divine judgments save me, Thine unworthy servant, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sixth Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 71

O God, give Thy judgement to the king, and Thy righteousness to the son of the king, That he may judge Thy people with righteousness, and Thy poor with judgement. Let the mountains receive peace for the people, and let the hills receive righteousness. He shall judge the beggars among the people, and shall save the sons of the poor, and shall humble the false accuser. And He shall continue as long as the sun, and before the moon from generation to generation. He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like rain-drops that fall upon the earth. In His days shall righteousness dawn forth an abundance of peace, until the moon be taken away. And He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the rivers even unto the ends of the inhabited earth. Before Him shall the Ethiopians fall down, and His enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall bring gifts, kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring presents. And all the kings of the earth shall worship Him, all the nations shall serve Him, For He hath delivered the beggar from the oppressor, and the poor man for whom there was no helper. He shall spare the poor man and the pauper, and the souls of the poor shall He

save. From usury and from injustices shall He redeem their souls, and precious shall be His Name before them. And He shall live, and there shall be given unto Him of the gold of Arabia, and they shall make prayer concerning Him always; all the day long shall they bless Him. He shall be a support in the earth on the summits of the mountains; exalted more than Lebanon shall be His fruit, and they of the city shall flourish like the grass of the earth. His Name shall be blesséd unto the ages, before the sun doth His name continue. And in Him shall be blessed all the tribes of the earth, all the nations shall call Him blesséd. Blesséd is the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders. And blesséd is the Name of His glory for ever, and unto the ages of ages. And all the earth shall be filled with His glory. So be it. So be it.

Psalm 131

Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured; how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, "I will not enter my house or get into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." Lo, we heard of it in Eph'ratha, we found it in the fields of Ja'ar. "Let us go to His dwelling place; let us worship at His footstool!" Arise, O Lord, and go to Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy might. Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Thy Saints shout for joy. For Thy servant David's sake do not turn away the face of Thine anointed one. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep My covenant and My testimonies which I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit upon your throne." For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation: "This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her Saints will shout for joy. There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for Mine Anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon himself his crown will shed its luster."

He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High shall abide in the shelter of the God of Heaven. He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper and my refuge. He is my God, and I will hope in Him. For He shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunters and from every troubling word. With His shoulders will He overshadow thee, and under His wings shalt thou have hope. With a shield will His truth encompass thee; thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the thing that walketh in darkness, nor for the mishap and demon of noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but unto thee shall it not come nigh. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and thou shalt see the reward of sinners. For Thou, O Lord, art my hope. Thou madest the Most High thy refuge; No evils shall come nigh thee, and no scourge shall draw nigh unto thy dwelling. For He shall give His Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. On their hands shall they bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Upon the asp and basilisk shalt thou tread, and thou shalt trample upon the lion and dragon. For he hath set his hope on Me, and I will deliver him; I will shelter him because he hath known My Name. He shall cry unto Me, and I will hearken unto him. I am with him in affliction, and I will rescue him and glorify him. With length of days will I satisfy him, and I will show him My salvation.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. (3)

Lord, have mercy. (3)

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

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Mary was of David's seed,
So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the Birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
The cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen.///
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old!

When Christmas Day falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22nd or 23rd, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden has been opened to all.
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha,
For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Fruit Divine;
If we eat of It we shall live forever and not die like Adam.///
Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
We have no boldness because of the multitude of our sins, but entreat Him Who was born of thee, O Virgin Theotokos, for the prayer of a mother has great power to win the favor of the Master! Do not despise the supplications of sinners, O All-Pure One, for merciful and strong to save is He Who willed to suffer for us!

Tone 1 ("Lord I Call")

Come, O God-inspired faithful,
Arise and behold the descent of God from on High!
He manifests Himself to us in Bethlehem!
Let us cleanse our minds, and offer Him a life of virtue instead of myrrh!
Let us prepare with faith to celebrate His Nativity,
Storing up spiritual treasure and crying:
Glory in the Highest to God in Trinity!
His good pleasure is now revealed to men:///
As the Lover of man He sets Adam free from the ancestral curse!

READER: God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain!

Tone 4 ("Lord I Call")

Listen, O Heaven! Give ear, O earth!
Let the foundations of the earth be shaken!
Let trembling seize the regions beneath the earth,
For our God and Creator has clothed Himself in created flesh;
He fashioned all creation, yet reveals Himself in the womb of her that He formed!
O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How incomprehensible are His judgments;///
And how unsearchable His ways!

READER: O Lord, I have heard what thou hast done, and am filled with awe!
(REPEAT) Listen, O Heaven…

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

Tone 5 ("Lord I Call")

Tone 5 ("Lord I Call")

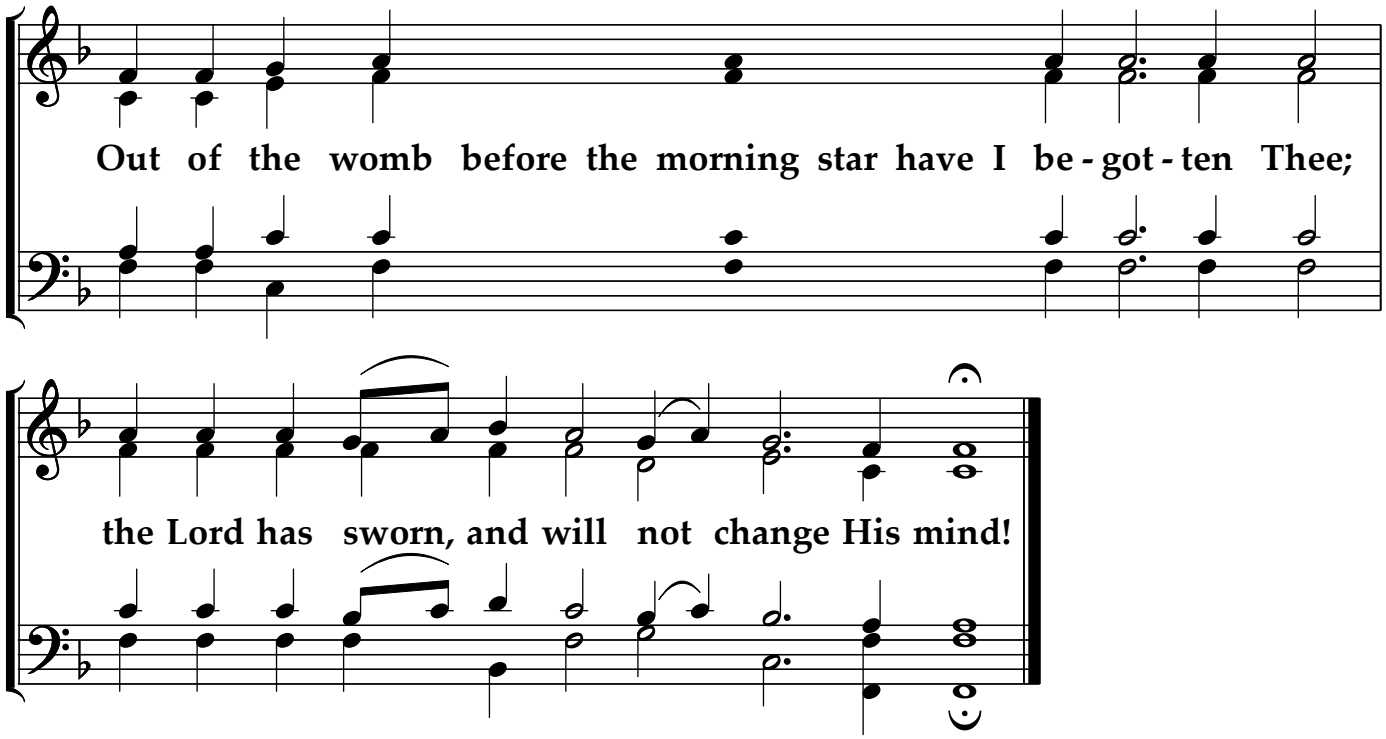
Come, O Christ-bearing people!
Let us behold the wonders that will amaze every mind.
As we worship in faith, let us sing praises.
Today a maiden great with child goes up to Bethlehem.
There she will give birth to the Lord.
Choirs of Angels go before her.
Joseph, her husband, cried out when he saw these things,
"What is this strange mystery in thee, O virgin?
How wilt thou bear a child,///
O calf who never bore the yoke of man?"

READER: Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
(REPEAT) Come, O Christ-bearing people…

(and immediately the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy follows)

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone:
Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. /
The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind!



VERSE: The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. *(Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 8-10)*

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: In those days, the Lord spoke again unto Ahaz, king of Judah, saying: Ask a sign of the Lord your God: let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the heavens. But Ahaz answered: I will not ask; I will not tempt the Lord. And Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel, which means God is with us. He shall eat milk and honey even before He knows to refuse evil and to choose good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted." And the Lord said to me: "Take a large tablet and write on it in letters for everyone to see: 'The spoil speeds; the plunder hastens.'" And I got reliable witnesses: Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Zeberechiah, to testify for me. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, "Call his name 'the spoil speeds; the plunder Hastens,' for before the child knows how to cry 'my father or my mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria." Understand this, O nations, and submit yourselves. Hear this, you very ends of the earth; submit yourselves, you mighty ones. Even if your strength returns, you shall be overthrown once more. Take counsel together if you wish, but it will come to nothing. Make your plans if you wish, but they will never stand, even among yourselves, for God is with us.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: In the beginning, "Thou, Lord, hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thine hands; they shall perish, but Thou shalt remain; and they shall all grow old like a garment; like a cloak shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail..." But to which of the Angles has He ever said: "Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall inherit salvation?...

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away…

For if the word spoken by Angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by them that heard Him…

PRIEST: **GOSPEL** (St. Matthew [2:1-12])

(after the Gospel concludes):

PEOPLE: **Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.**

READER: Let Thy tender mercies, O Lord, speedily go before us, for we have become exceedingly poor. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name: O Lord, deliver us and purge away our sins, for Thy Name's sake!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(3x)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

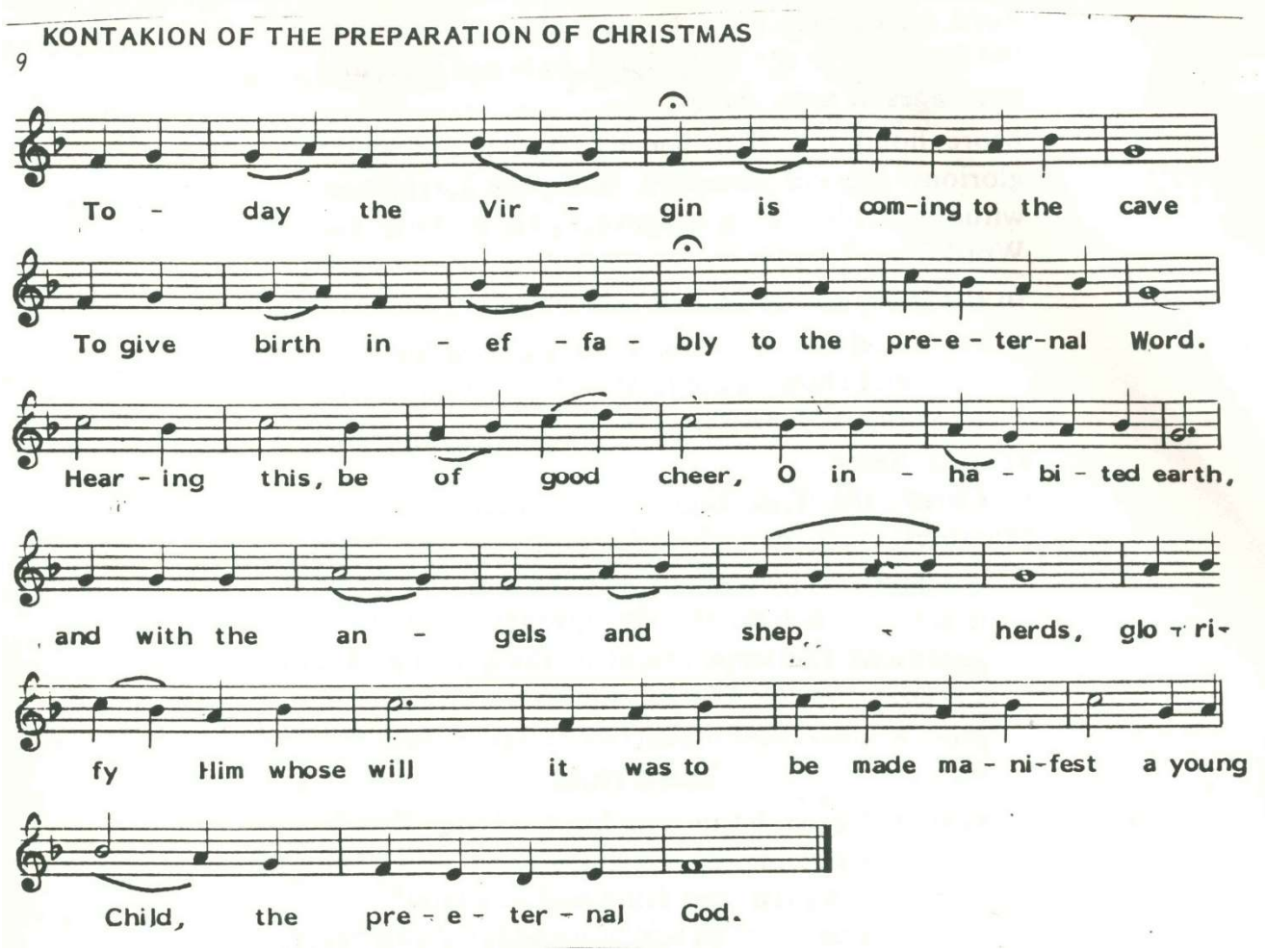
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.



READER: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Thou who in every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, most-merciful, and compassionate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all men to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies,

correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy *(3x)*… Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee!

In the Name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

PRIEST: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

READER: Amen.

O God, the Lord of Hosts, and Author of all creation, Who in Thine ineffable tender mercy hast sent down Thine Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our kind, and through His Holy Cross hast torn up the handwriting of our sins and thereby triumphed over the princes and dominions of darkness; do Thou, O Master, Who lovest mankind, accept these prayers of thanksgiving and supplication even from us sinners, and deliver us from every deadly and dark transgression and from all the visible and invisible enemies that seek to do us harm. Nail our flesh with the fear of Thee, and let not our hearts incline to evil words or thoughts, but wound our souls with Thy love, that ever gazing upon Thee, guided by Thy light and beholding Thee, the Eternal Light that no man can approach, we may send up unceasing praises and thanks unto Thee, the Father without beginning, together with Thine Only-Begotten Son and Thy Most-Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Ninth Hour

Ninth Hour

READER: Come, let us worship God our King!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

Psalm 109

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet. A sceptre of power shall the Lord send unto Thee out of Sion; rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints. Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not change His mind: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchisedek. The Lord at Thy right hand hath broken kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill them with dead bodies, He shall crush the heads of many upon the earth. He shall drink of the brook in the way; therefore shall He lift up His head.

Psalm 110

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, in the council of the upright and in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. He made a remembrance of His wondrous deeds; merciful and compassionate is the Lord; He hath given food to them that fear Him. He will be mindful forever of His covenant; the power of His works hath He declared unto His people, that He may give them the inheritance of the nations; the works of His hands are truth and judgement. Faithful are all His commandments, confirmed unto ages of ages, made in truth and uprightness. He hath sent redemption unto His people, He hath enjoined His covenant forever; holy and terrible is His Name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and all they that

foster this have a good understanding. His praise abideth unto ages of ages.

Psalm 85

Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hearken unto me, for poor and needy am I. Preserve my soul, for I am holy; save Thy servant, O my God, that hopeth in Thee. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for unto Thee will I cry all the day long; make glad the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. For Thou, O Lord, art good and gentle, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend unto the voice of my supplication. In the day of mine affliction have I cried unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me. There is none like unto Thee among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like unto Thy works. All the nations whom Thou hast made shall come and shall worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name. For Thou art great and workest wonders; Thou alone art God. Guide me, O Lord, in Thy way, and I will walk in Thy truth; let my heart rejoice that I may fear Thy Name. I will confess Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy Name for ever. For great is Thy mercy upon me, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hades. O God, transgressors have risen up against me, and the assembly of the mighty hath sought after my soul, and they have not set Thee before them. But Thou, O Lord my God, art compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy, and true. Look upon me and have mercy upon me; give Thy strength unto Thy servant, and save the son of Thy handmaiden. Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

And again:

Work in me a sign unto good, and let them that hate me behold and be put to shame; for Thou, O Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. (3)
Lord, have mercy. (3)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Mary was of David's seed,
So she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the Birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
The cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen!///
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old!

READER: **Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

O Loving Lord, who for our sakes wast born of a virgin and hast endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Thy hands, but show Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One! Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave Thee birth, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior!

When Christmas Day falls on Sunday or Monday, so that the Royal Hours are served on December 22nd or 23rd, the Troparion at all the hours is as follows:

Troparion *(Tone 4)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem,
For Eden has been opened to all.
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha,
For the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave.
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Fruit Divine;
If we eat of It we shall live forever and not die like Adam.///
Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Tone 7 ("Lord I Call")

Herod was filled with alarm
When he saw the righteous Wisemen.
Overcome by fury,
He determined precisely when the Child was born.
Mothers were robbed of their infants:
Their tender lives were reaped as a bitter harvest.
Milk stopped flowing and breasts dried up.
Great was the suffering!
Therefore assemble in holy fear, O faithful,///
To worship the birth of Christ!

READER!

READER: God shall come from Teman, and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain!

Tone 2 ("Lord I Call")

When Joseph went up to Bethlehem,
His heart was filled with sadness.
But thou didst cry out to him, O Virgin:
Why art thou so troubled?
Why art thou in misery seeing me with Child?
Dost thou not understand at all?
I bear a fearful mystery!
Cast thy fears away, and learn a strange wonder:
God in His mercy descends from Heaven to earth!
Within my womb He has taken flesh!
When He is pleased to be born, thou wilt see Him!
Thou wilt rejoice, and worship Him, thy Creator!
The Angels ceaselessly praise Him in song,///
Glorifying Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit!

READER: O Lord, I have heard what thou hast done, and am filled with awe.
(REPEAT) When Joseph went up to Bethlehem…

READER: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 ("Lord I Call")

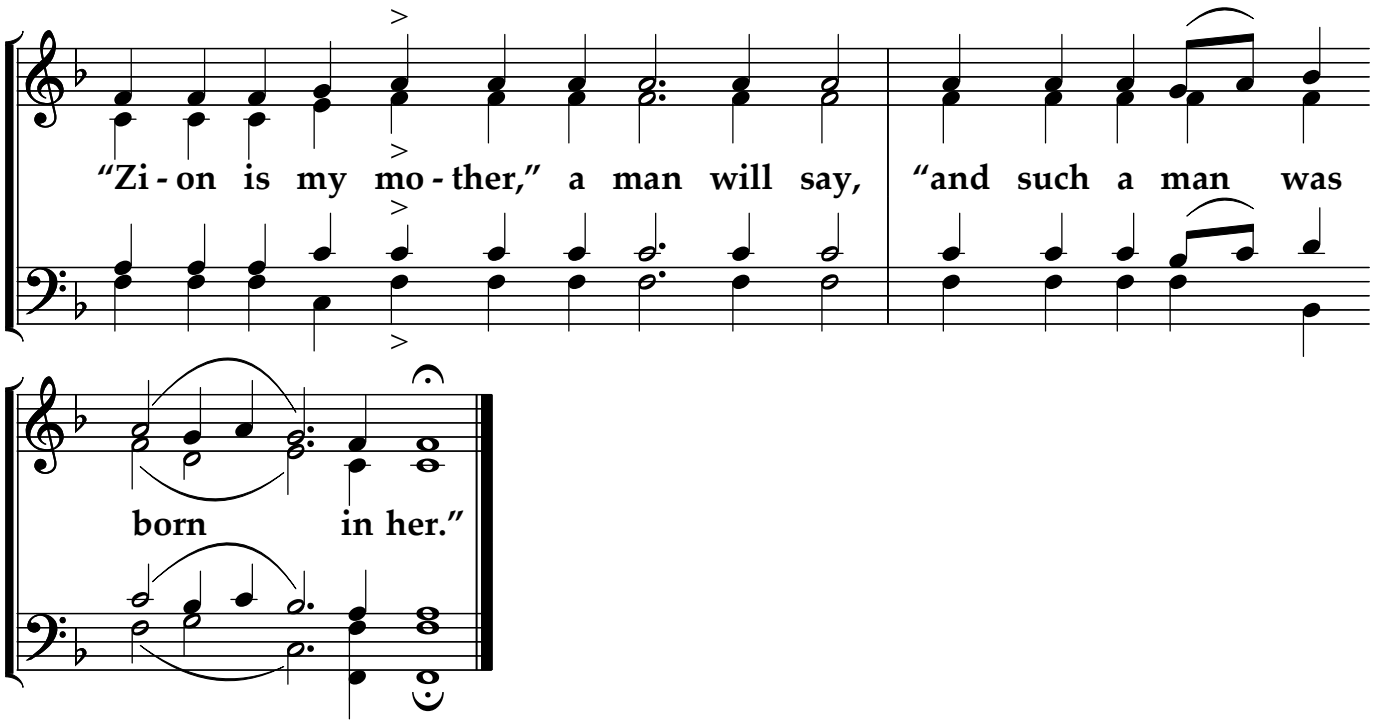
Today He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin!
Today He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin!
Today He who holds the whole creation in His hand is born of a virgin!
He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-clothes as a mortal man!
God, who in the beginning fashioned the Heavens, lies in a manger!
He Who rained manna on His people in the wilderness,
Is fed on milk from His Mother's breast!
The Bridegroom of the Church summons the Wise Men;
The Son of the Virgin accepts their gifts!
We worship Thy Birth, O Christ!
We worship Thy Birth, O Christ!
We worship Thy Birth, O Christ! ///
Show us also Thy Holy Theophany!

(and immediately the Prokeimenon of the Prophecy follows)

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon of the Prophecy in the Fourth Tone:

"Zion is my mother," a man will say, / "and such a man was born in her."



VERSE: His foundations are on the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the prophecy of Isaiah. *(Isaiah 9:6-7)*

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Ruler, Prince of Peace, the Father of the World to Come. I will bring peace to the princes and peace and health to Him. Great shall be His empire, and of His peace there shall be no end: He shall sit upon the throne of David and shall establish His Kingdom with righteousness, and shall strengthen it with justice, henceforth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Hebrews 2:11-18)

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Brethren, both He that sanctifies and they who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the congregation will I sing praise unto Thee." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Behold, I and the children which God hath given Me." Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed, He took not upon Himself the nature of Angels, but He took upon Himself the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to those who are tempted.

PRIEST: **GOSPEL** (St. Matthew [2:13-23])

(after the Gospel concludes):

PEOPLE: **Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.**

READER: For Thy holy Name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Thy covenant; do not take away Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy one!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(3x)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord: cleanse us from our sins. O Master: pardon our transgressions. O Holy One: visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

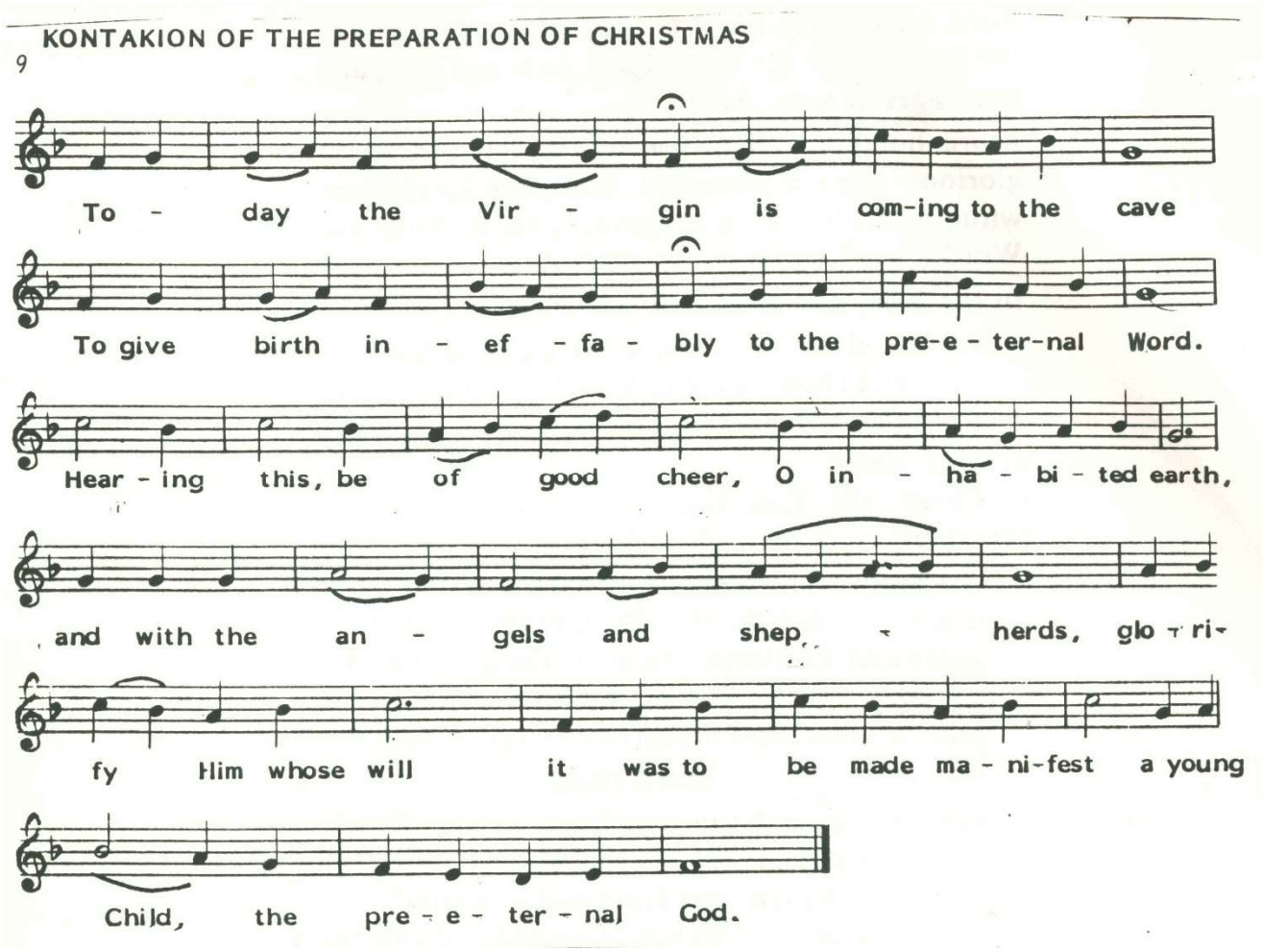
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

PRIEST: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

CHOIR: Amen.



READER: Lord, have mercy. (40)

Thou who in every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth, art worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who art long-suffering, most-merciful, and compassionate; who lovest the just and showest mercy upon the sinner; who callest all men to

salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Thy holy Angels, that guided and guarded by their host, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy *(3x)*… Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee!
In the Name of the Lord, give the blessing Father.

PRIEST: God be bountiful unto us, and bless us and show us the light of His countenance, and be merciful unto us.

READER: Amen.

O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who art long-suffering towards our sins and hast brought us even unto this present hour, in which, hanging upon the Life-Giving Cross, Thou hast opened unto the good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Thy humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look at the height of Heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Thy righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we pray Thee of Thy boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Thy mercy, and save us for Thy holy Name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for Thee, our Master and Protector; and that so, following Thine ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest, in the place where all the joyful dwell. For

Thou, O Christ our God, art indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love Thee, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is without beginning, and Thy Most-Holy, Good, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(according to the rubrics, following the Prayer of the Ninth Hour, The Typica is now read)

The Typica

(The Beatitudes are read quickly, without singing.)

Reader 1: In Thy Kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.

Reader 2: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Reader 2: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Reader 2: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Reader 1: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Reader 2: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Reader 1: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reader 2: Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Reader 1: Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven.

Reader 2: The Heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory!

Reader 1: Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.

Reader 2: The Heavenly choir sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory!

Reader 1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader 2: **The choir of Angels and Archangels with all the Hosts of Heaven sings Thy praises, crying: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory!**

The Creed

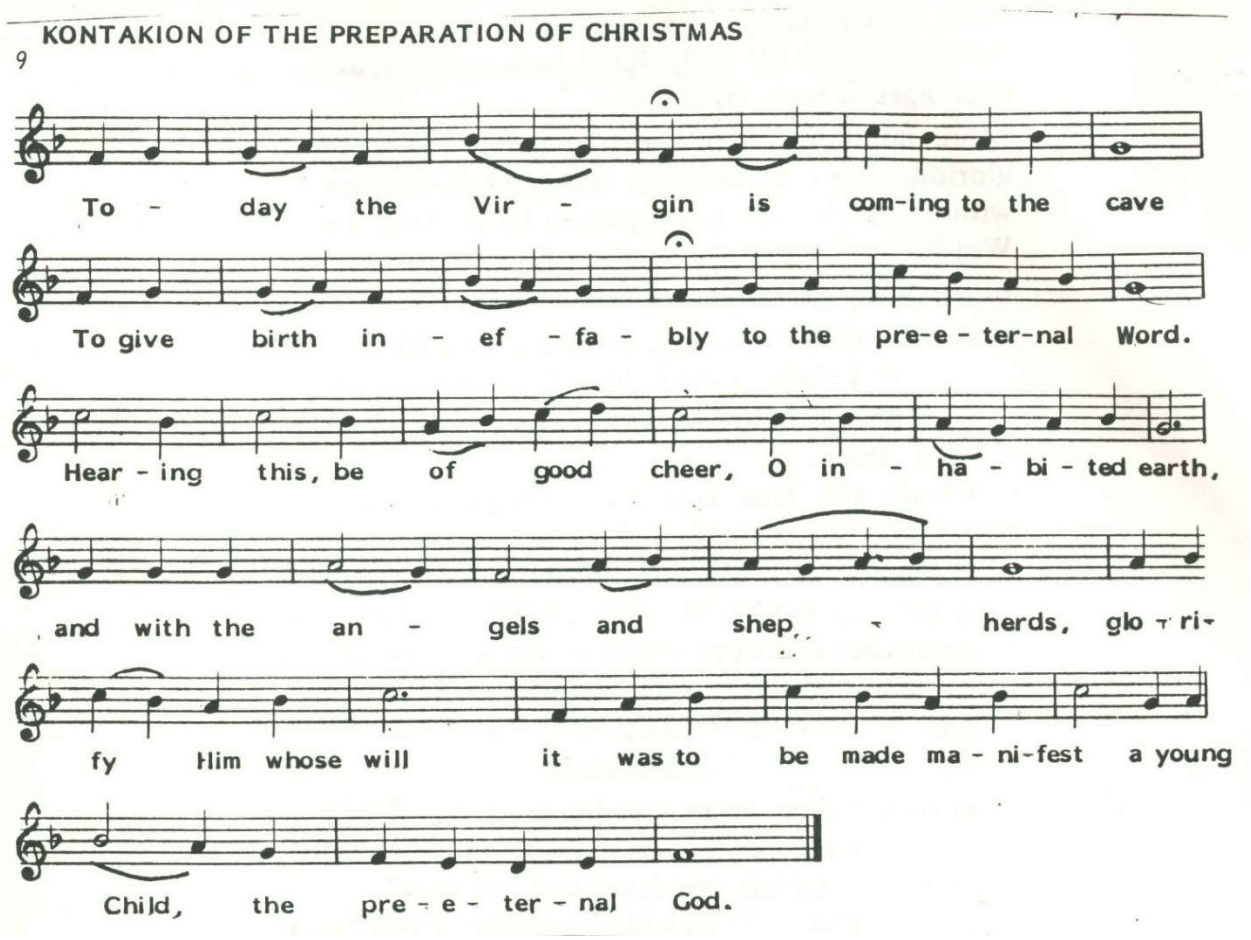
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made - of one essence with the Father - by Whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Reader: Loose, remit, and pardon, O God, our sins both voluntary and involuntary, in thought, word, or deed, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by day or by night, of the mind or of the intention: forgive them all, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hollowed 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: **Amen.**



Following the Kontakion:

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(40)*

O Most-Holy Trinity, Might one in Essence, Kingdom undivided, the Cause of all good, have mercy even on me, a sinner. Confirm and instruct my heart and take away from me every defilement. Enlighten my mind that I may ever glorify, praise, and adore Thee, saying: One is Holy, one is the Lord. Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CHOIR!

Choir: **Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore.** *(3x)*

Priest: Wisdom!

Choir: **It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos, Ever-Blessed and Most-Pure, and the Mother of our God!**

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Choir: **More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word! True Theotokos, we magnify thee!**

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

Choir: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy.** ***(3x)*** **Father, bless!**

Priest: May He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most-Pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and lovest mankind.

Choir: **Amen.**