The Mustard Seed

Eastern Catholic Church

Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, MD
4880 Elmer Derr Rd, Chapel, Frederick, MD 21703

December 24, 2022

The Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

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Eastern Catholic Church

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4880 Elmer Derr Rd, Chapel, Frederick, MD 21703

Glory to Jesus Christ! **Glory Forever!**

Website: http://mustardseed.church/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mustardseedecc/
Email Us: presbytermax@mustardseed.church

the Rev. Presbyter Maxim (Davi) Hayes, Pastor

Liturgical Schedule

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sat. Dec 24	7:00 PM EST	Vespers with Divine Liturgy - In-Person & Streaming

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Sun. Jan 8	2:00 PM EST	Divine Liturgy - In-Person & Streaming

Get Involved

The Mustard Seed ECC is a new mission and we have many opportunities to get involved! While a new mission has lots to do, our focus is building community and connections.

If you are interested in serving we are also planning and getting ready to host liturgies and services. This requires people who can (or will) sing, help with set up and tear down, organize, serve youth and children's ministry, help with liturgies, serve the altar and more.

As a new mission we also have a lot of administrative things to keep up with and develop. We want to start with a strong footing.

If you are looking to serve, connect, are interested in leadership or feel a calling to a vocation please contact us. Our leadership will have a brief 'boot camp' to help them be prepared and equipped for ministry. The Mustard Seed ECC is committed to equipping and supporting all who serve the parish.

The Sacraments – Our Life in Christ

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation. Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist. We follow the command of the Lord to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Chrismation (Confirmation) and Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) are imparted at the same time immediately following baptism.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Infants – scheduled at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays during the year except certain fast periods.

Mysteries (Sacraments) of Initiation of Adults – follows a period of catechumenate. This is a period of spiritual formation. Please see Presb. Maxim.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Crowning in Marriage – Couples wishing to marry must inform the pastor at least 6 months before the date of the wedding. They will meet with the priest for multiple premarital counseling sessions in preparation.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Ordination – We are pleased to offer resources to assist in the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and to assist those currently discerning a call to serve as a priest or consecrated person. Our goal is to provide you with the information, support and encouragement you need to take that next step in responding to the call of Christ.

Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance – The Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance is regularly available before every Divine Liturgy 1:30 PM to 2 PM. In addition, confessions are heard during the Nativity Fast (Including Advent) and the Great Fast (Lent) at other scheduled times. Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-endangering medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of confession at church or home where there is more privacy.

Anointing of the Sick – Parishioners who are seriously ill and those with life-threatening medical conditions as well as those who are to undergo surgery should avail themselves of the Sacrament of Penance and Anointing of the Sick. If surgery is scheduled, please consider confession and anointing at the church or at your home rather than the hospital since there is more privacy for confession and less chance for interruption. If you are unable to come to church or are at the hospital, family members should contact Presb. Maxim so they can anoint at the hospital.

Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick – Holy Communion is brought to our parishioners who are ill at the hospital or at home on Sundays and at other times by arrangement. Please contact Presb. Maxim by Friday prior to the Sunday communion visitation.

Funeral Services – The Office of Christian Burial is offered in ways to accommodate the needs of the family. Please contact Presb. Maxim to make arrangements.

Vespers with Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

PSALM 103

Response: **Bless the Lord, O my soul!**
Lord my God, how great you are.

Clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your conveyance,
you walk on the wings of the wind.

You make your angels spirits,
and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.

You make the grass grow for the cattle,
and the plants to serve man's needs.

That he may bring forth bread from the earth,
And wine to cheer man's heart.

Oil, to make their face shine,
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.

You make the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows the time of its setting.

How many are your works, O Lord!
in wisdom you have made them all.

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! (Three times)

The faithful may **SIT** as the LITANY OF PEACE begins:

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For our most reverend Metropolitan (*N.*), for our God-loving Protopresbyter (*N.*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For the vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed, that all transgressions against them be met with justice, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, ✠ the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to ✠ Christ our God.

Response: **To you, O Lord.**

Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All and loving Lord. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God.

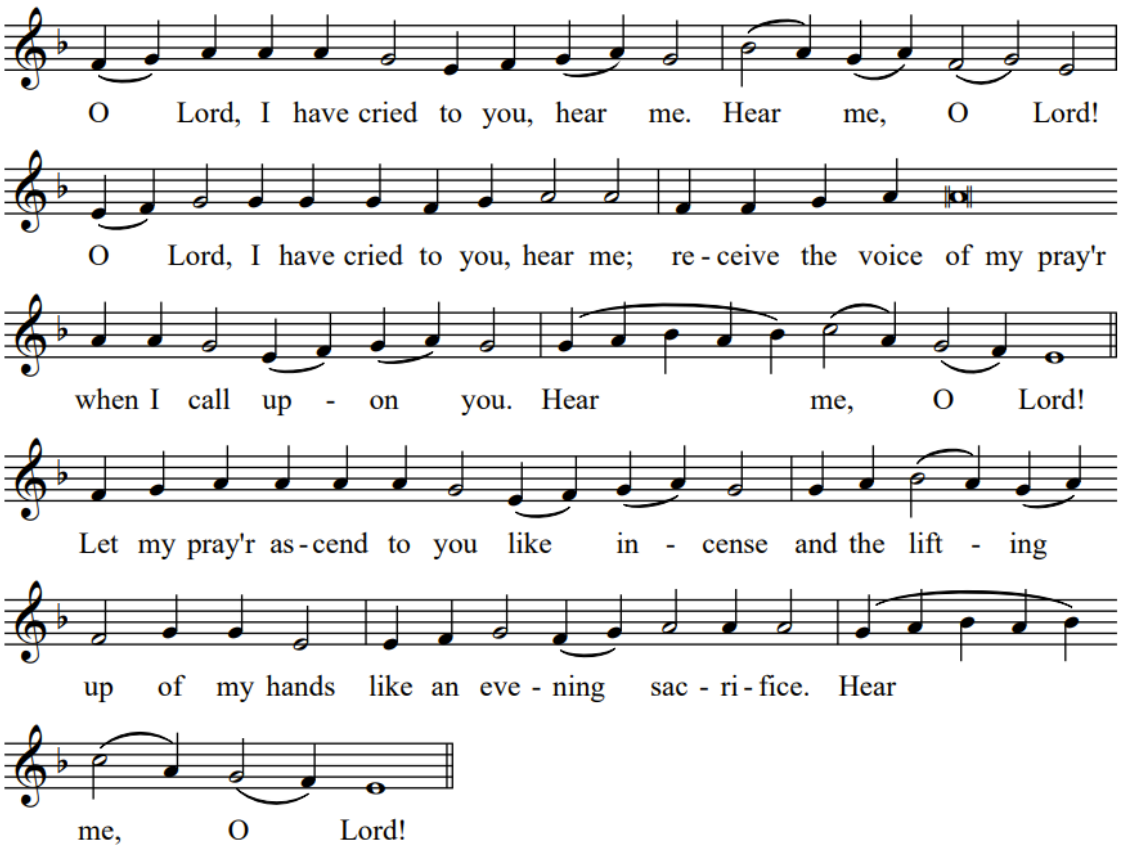
For to you, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

THE LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

The faithful **STAND** for the great incensation of the church. They may sit when the great incensation is complete. The opening verses of Psalm 140 with refrain are sung according to the tone of the first sticheron:

Psalm 140: - *Tone 2 samohlasen*



O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of ***my*** lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I ***com***mit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it ***is*** kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against ***their*** malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words ***were*** kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of ***the*** grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare ***my*** soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who ***do*** evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way ***un***harmed.

Psalm 141 With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat ***the*** Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints ***with***in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to ***en***trap me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes ***my*** part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for ***my*** soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of ***the*** living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of ***dis***tress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger ***than*** I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise ***your*** name.

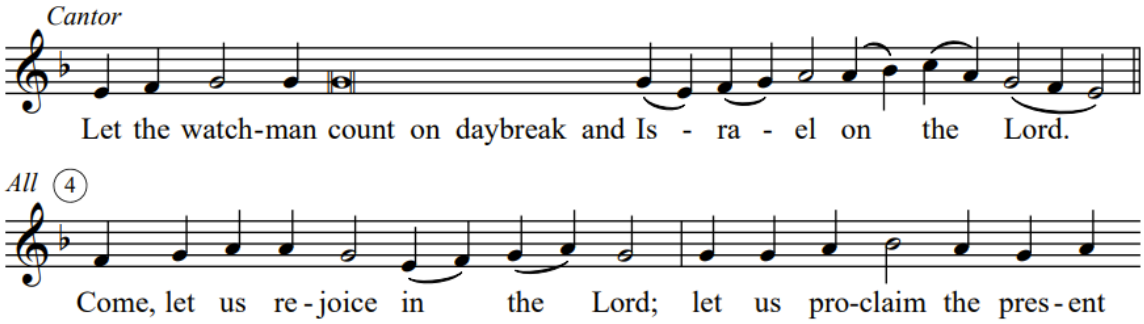
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness ***to*** me.

Psalm 129: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear ***my*** voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of ***my*** pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we ***re***vere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman ***for*** daybreak.

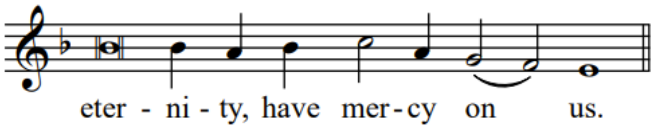


mys-te - ry by which the partition has been broken and the flam-ing sword
with-held. Now the Cher - ubim shall let us all come to the Tree of Life.
As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Par - a - dise from which
I had been banished by dis - o - be - dience. Be - hold! The Im - age of the
Father and his un - change - a - ble e - ter - ni - ty has tak - en the form of
a ser - vant. With - out suf - fer - ing he has come forth to us from an all -
pure Vir - gin, and yet he has re-mained un - - - changed.
He is true God as he was be - fore, and he has tak - en
on himself what he had not been, be-com-ing man out of his love

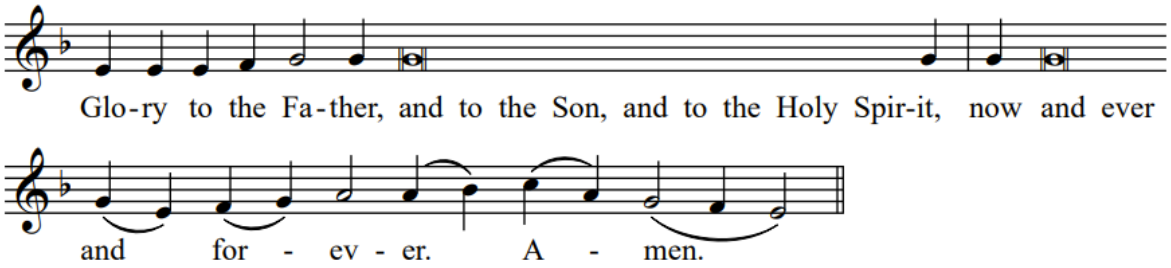
for all. There - fore, let us raise our voices in hymns sing - ing:
O God, born of the Vir - gin, have mer - cy on us.
Cantor
Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion, Is - ra - el
in - deed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.
3
Be - cause the Lord Je - sus was born of the ho - ly Vir - gin,
all cre - a - tion is en - light - ened. Be - hold! The shep - herds keep watch
and the ma-gi are a - dor - ing; the an - gels are sing - ing hymns of
praise and Her - od is trem - bling; for the Sav - ior of our souls has
re - vealed him - self in the flesh.

Cantor
Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac-claim him all you peo - ples!
2
O Christ our God, your king-dom is e - ter - nal, and your reign
is from gen - eration to gen - er - a - tion. You be - came in - carnate of
the Ho - ly Spir - it and be - came man from the ev-er - vir - gin Mar - y.
Your com - ing, O Christ, has shed a great light up - on us.
You are the Light of Light and the ra-diance of the Fa - ther.
You have il - lum - ined the whole cre - a - tion. There-fore, ev - 'ry - thing
that breathes sings a hymn of praise to you. You are the im - age of the
Fa-ther's glo - ry. You are the e - ternal God, existing be-fore all

a - ges, who shone forth from the Vir - gin. O Lord our God,
have mer - cy on us.
Cantor
Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.
1
O Christ, what shall we of - fer you for your com - ing on
earth in our human-i - ty for our sake? Ev - 'ry crea - ture that has its
its being from you gives thanks to you: the an - gels offer hymns of praise,
the heav-ens give a star; the Ma - gi pre - sent their gifts and the shep-herds,
their won - der; the earth pro - vides a cave and the des - ert a man - ger.
As for us, we offer a Vir - gin Moth - er. O God who are from all

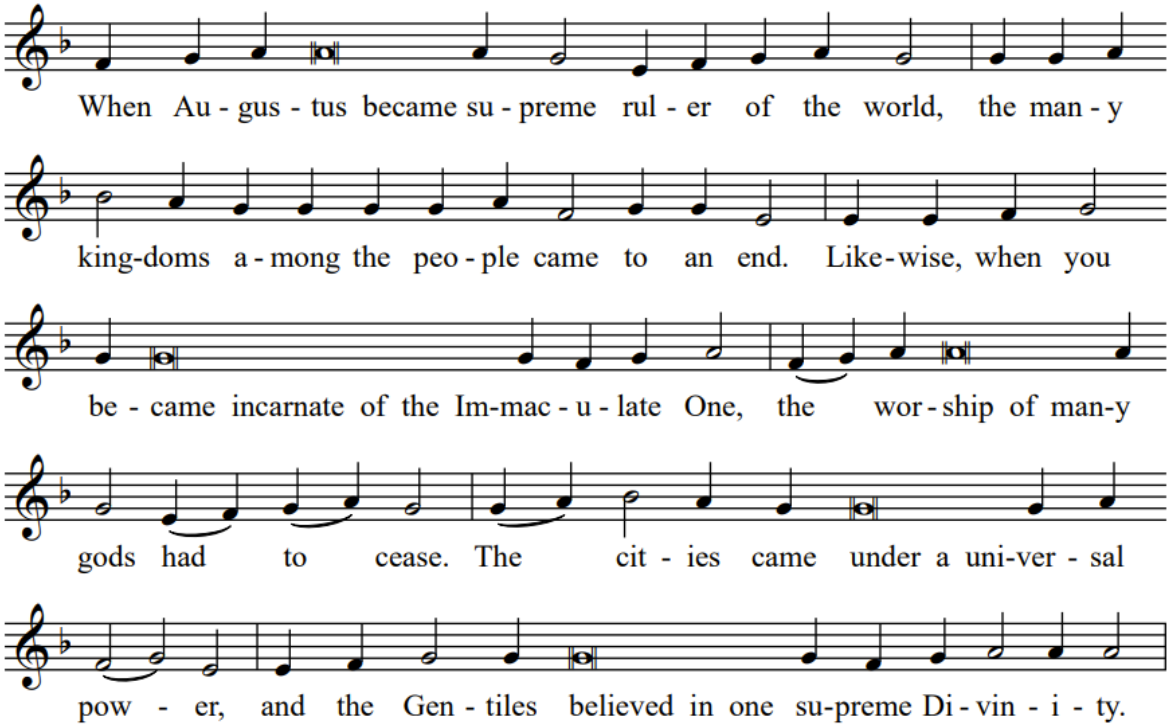


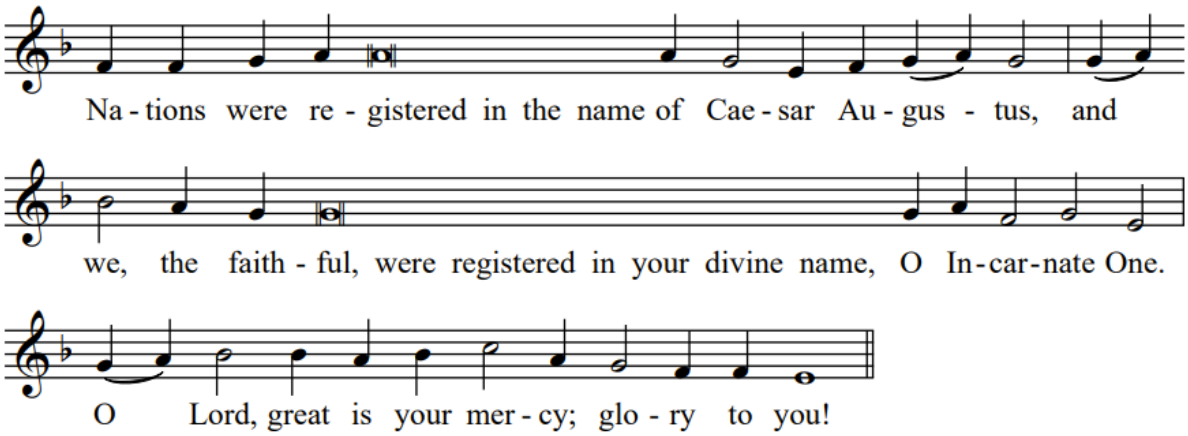
*The faithful **STAND** when the holy doors are opened and the cantor sings:*



While the sticheron at "Glory ..." is sung, the Little Entrance with the holy gospel book and censer is made through the northern door and the holy doors.

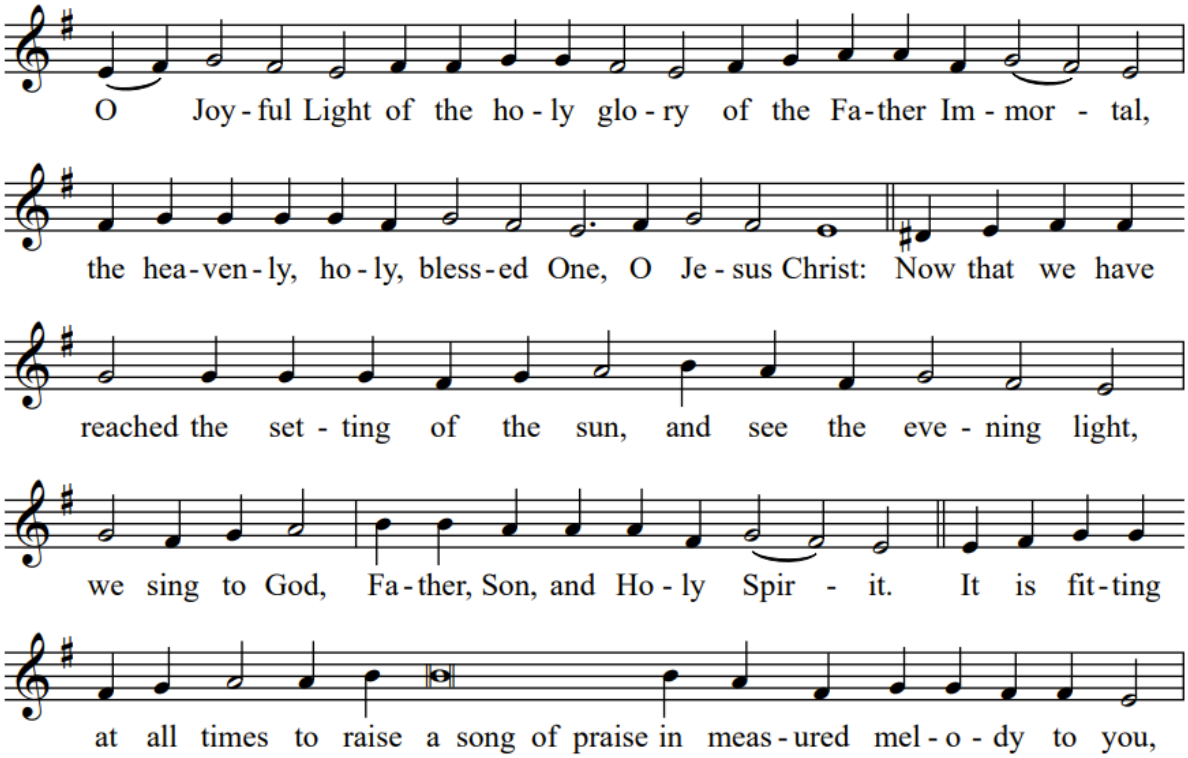
Doxastikon - *Tone 2 samohlasen*

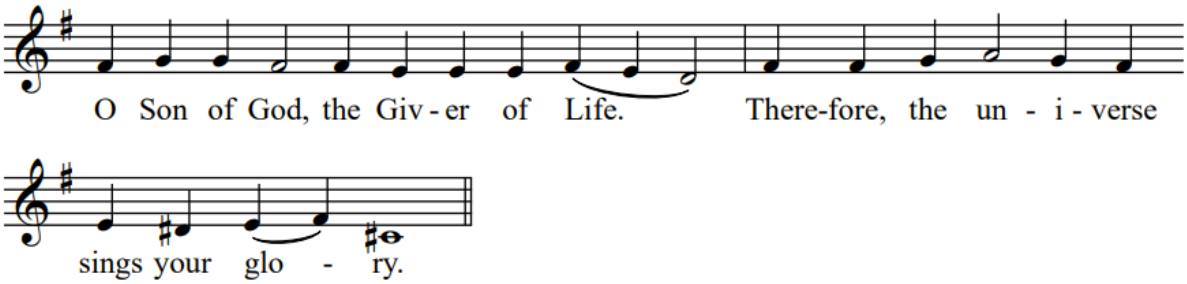




Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "***O Joyful Light"** *is sung. The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.*





THE READINGS

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - *Tone 1* (Psalm 2:7-8)*:*

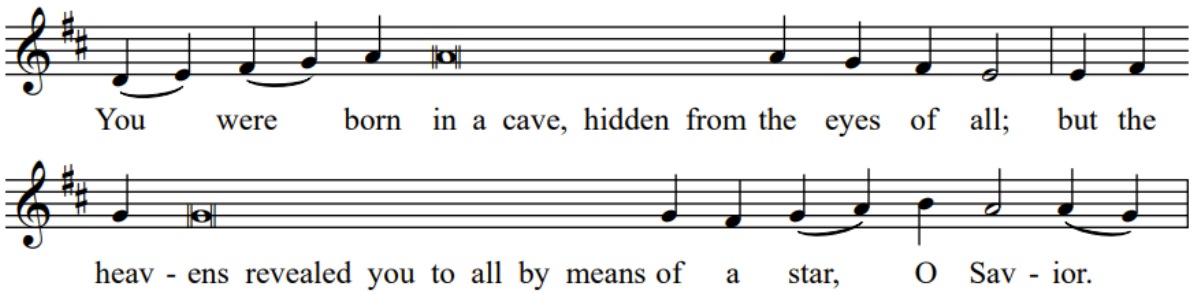
Verse: Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations, put the ends of the earth in your possession.

Readings 1-3 *(For the sake of brevity, one reading may be chosen.)*

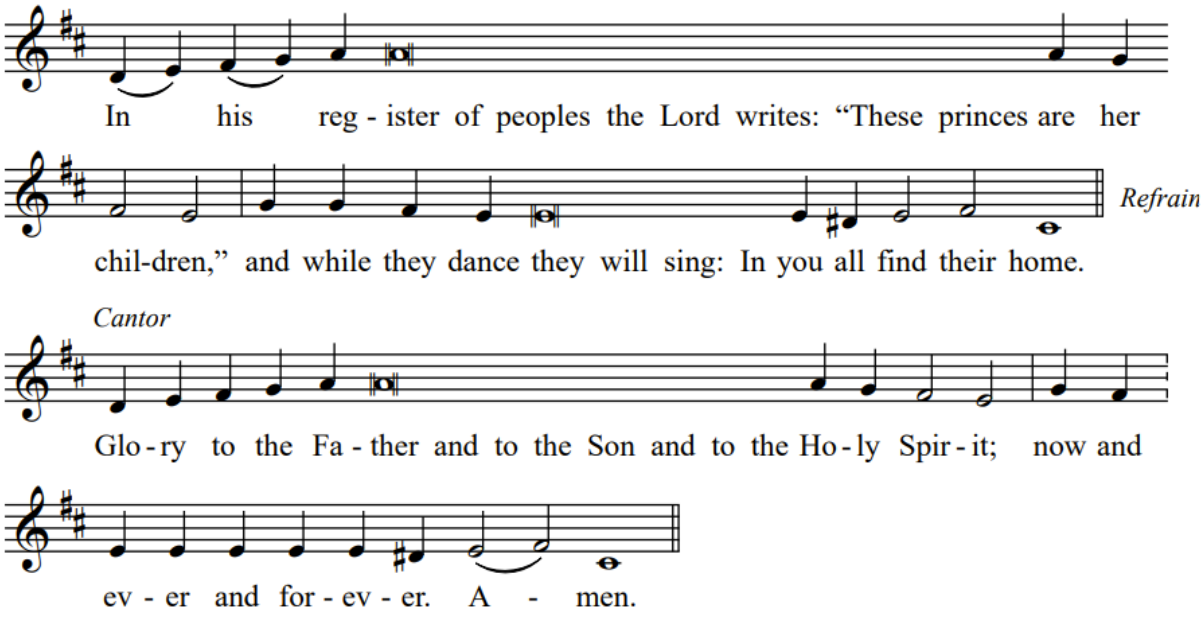
Genesis 1:1-13
Numbers 24: 2-3, 5-9, 17-18
Micah 4: 6-7, 5: 2-4

First Responsorial Troparion

All *Tone 6 troparion melody*



Refrain
It brought the Ma - gi to you; they wor-shipped you in the fer - vor of
their faith. Have mer - cy up - on all of us.
Cantor
On the ho - ly moun - tain is his city cher-ished by the Lord. The Lord
pre - fers the gates of Zion to all Ja - cob's dwel - ings. Of you are told
glo - rious things, O Cit - y of God. E - gypt and Bab - ylon I will count among
Refrain
those who know me.
Cantor
For - eign - ers, Tyre, and Ethiopia these will be her chil - dren and Zi - on
shall be called "Mother" for a man was born there. It is he, the
Refrain
Lord Most High, who found - ed her.

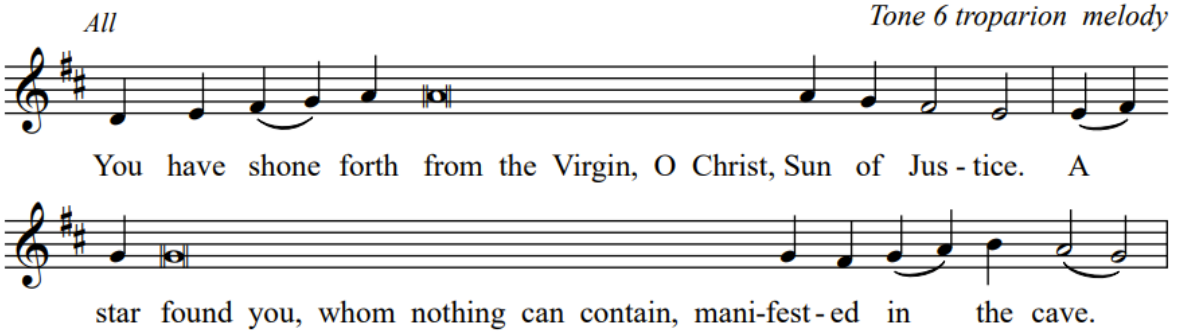


And the faithful sing the entire troparion: You were born in a cave, hidden from the eyes of all; * but the heavens revealed you to all by means of a star, O Savior. * It brought the Magi to you; * they worshipped you in the fervor of their faith. * Have mercy upon all of us.

Readings 4-6: *(For the sake of brevity, one reading may be chosen.)*

Isaiah 11:1-10
Baruch 3: 35 through 4: 4
Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45

Second Responsorial Troparion



Refrain
It led the Ma-gi to a-dore you. With them we wor-ship you;
O Giv-er of Life, glo-ry to you!
Cantor
The Lord reigns, he is clothed in ma-jes-ty; robed is the Lord
and girt a-bout with strength.
Refrain
Cantor
The world you made firm, not to be moved Your throne has stood firm from
of old. From all e-ter-ni-ty, O Lord, you are.
Refrain
Cantor
The wa-ters have lift-ed up their voice, O Lord, the wa-ters have lift-ed
up their voice; the wa-ters have lift-ed up their thun-der.
Refrain

TT

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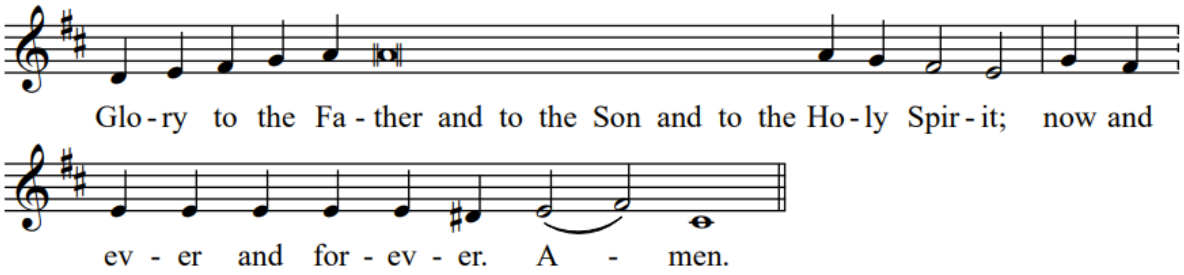
Cantor



And the faithful sing the entire troparion: You have shone forth from the Virgin, O Christ, Sun of Justice. * A star found you, whom nothing could contain, manifested in the cave. * It led the Magi to adore you. * With them we worship you; * O Giver of Life, glory to you!

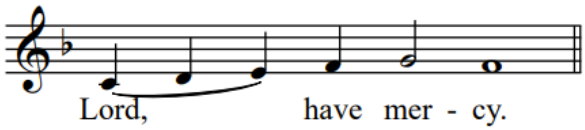
Readings 7-8 *(For the sake of brevity, the first reading may be omitted.)*

Isaiah 9: 6-7
Isaiah 7:10-16; 8: 1-4, 9-10 *(This reading should always be taken.)*

Small Litany

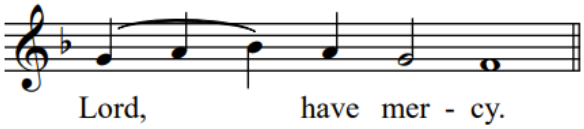
Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response:



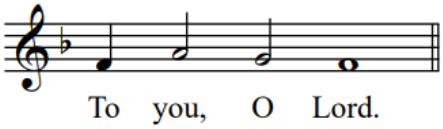
Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response:



Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response:



The Divine Liturgy is now celebrated.

Heaven and Earth

Nebo i zeml'a

NATIVITY

The faithful **STAND** for the THRICE-HOLY (TRISAGION) HYMN.

✠ **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,**
Have mercy on us. (Three times)

Glory to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever. Amen.
Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

✠ **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,**
Have mercy on us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Priest: Let us be attentive!

✠ Peace be to all.

Wisdom! Be attentive!

Priest: Wisdom!

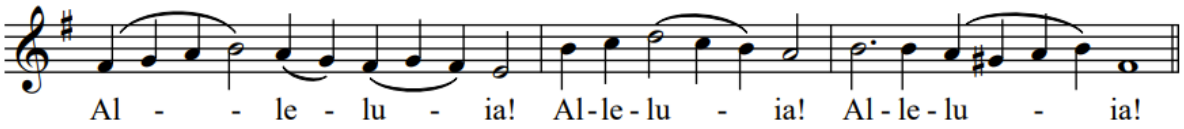
The Priest or Lector announces the title of the Apostolic Reading.

Priest: Let us be attentive!

The faithful **SIT** while the Priest or Lector chants the Apostolic Reading.

The faithful **STAND** as the ALLELUIA is sung.

Alleluia - *Tone 5* (Psalm 109:1-3):



Verse: The Lord said to my Lord:
Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

Verse: The Lord will yield from Zion your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

Verse: From the womb, before the morning star, I have begotten you.
The Lord has sworn and he will not repent.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel Peace be to all.

Response: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. (*N.*).

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.**

Priest: Let us be attentive!

The Priest proclaims the holy Gospel.

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.**

They may **SIT** during the LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION which follows:

Priest: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: O Lord almighty, God of our Forebearers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

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

Response: **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The faithful sing:

Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim,
And sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity,
now set aside all earthly cares,
Set aside all earthly cares.

Priest: May the Lord God remember in His kingdom,
Our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan *N.*,
And our God-loving Protopresbyter *N.*,
The entire priestly, diaconal, and monastic order,
Our civil authorities and all in the service of our country,
The noble and ever-memorable founders and benefactors
Of this holy church,

And all you Christians of the true faith,
Always now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

That we may receive, receive the King of All,
Invisibly escorted by angelic Hosts.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Priest: For the precious gifts placed before us, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God
by Your grace.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: That this whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful,
And without sin,
Let us beseech the Lord.

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Priest: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses,
Let us beseech the Lord.

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Priest: For what is good and beneficial to our souls
And for peace in the whole world,
Let us beseech the Lord.

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Priest: That we may spend the rest of our life
In peace and repentance,
Let us beseech the Lord.

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Priest: For a Christian, painless, unashamed,
Peaceful end of our life,
And for a good account
Before the fearsome judgment-seat of Christ,
Let us beseech the Lord.

Response: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Priest: Remembering our most holy, most pure,
Most blessed and glorious Lady,
The Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary,
With all the Saints,
Let us commit ourselves and one another,
And our whole life, to Christ our God.

Response: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: Grant this through the mercies of your only-begotten Son with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all.

Response: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: Let us love one another,
So that with one mind we may confess:

Response: **The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,**
The Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

Priest: [The doors! The doors!] In wisdom let us be attentive!

I believe in one God,
The Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
Of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God, the only-begotten,
Born of the Father before all ages.
Light from light, true God from true God,
Begotten, not made, one in essence with the Father;
Through whom all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
He came down from heaven
And was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
And became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,
And suffered and was buried.
He rose on the third day according to the scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he is coming again in glory
To judge the living and the dead,
And his kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life,
Who proceeds from the Father.
Together with the Father and the Son
He is worshiped and glorified;
He spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.
I expect the resurrection of the dead;
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANAPHORA

Priest: Let us stand aright; let us stand in awe; let us be attentive to offer the holy Anaphora in peace.

Response: **Mercy, peace, a sacrifice of praise.**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit
✠ Be with all of you.

Response: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us lift up our hearts.

Response: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Response: **It is proper and just.**

Priest: It is proper and just to sing hymns to You,
To bless You, to praise You, to give thanks to You,
To worship You in every place of Your kingdom;
For You are God ineffable, inconceivable, invisible,
Incomprehensible, ever existing yet ever the same;
You, and Your only-begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit;
You brought us forth from nonexistence into being,
And raised us up when we had fallen,
And left nothing undone until You brought us to heaven
And bestowed upon us Your future kingdom.

For all this we give thanks to You,
And to Your only-begotten Son,
And to Your Holy Spirit,
For all that we know and that we do not know,
The manifest and the hidden benefits bestowed upon us.

We thank You also for this liturgy,
Which You have willed to accept from our hands,
Even though there stand before You thousands of archangels,
Tens of thousands of angels,
Cherubim and Seraphim,
Six-winged, many-eyed, soaring aloft on their wings,
Singing, shouting, crying aloud, and saying the triumphal hymn:

The proper liturgical posture is to **STAND**.

Response: **Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts,**
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: With these blessed Powers,
O loving and kind Master,
We too cry out and say:
Holy are You and all-holy,
You, and Your only-begotten Son,
And your Holy Spirit;
Holy are You and all-holy and splendorous is Your glory,
Who so loved Your world
That You gave Your only-begotten Son,
That whoever believes in Him should not perish,

But should have life everlasting;
Who, having come
And having fulfilled the whole divine plan concerning us,
On the night He was betrayed,
Or rather,
When He surrendered Himself for the life of the world,
He took bread
Into His holy and all pure and immaculate hands,
He gave thanks
And blessed, sanctified, and broke it,
He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying:

Take, eat, this is My Body which is broken for you
For the remission of sins.

Response: **Amen.**

Priest: Likewise He took the chalice after supper,
Saying:

Drink of this, all of you, this is My Blood of the New Covenant,
Which is shed for you and for many,
For the remission of sins.

Response: **Amen.**

Priest: Remembering, therefore, this saving command,
And all that was done on our behalf:
The Cross, the Tomb, the Resurrection on the third day,
The Ascension into heaven, the Sitting at the Right Hand,
The Second and Glorious Coming Again.

Offering You, Your own, from Your own,
Always and everywhere.

Response: **We praise You, we bless You, we thank You, thank You, O Lord,
And we pray to You, our God.**

THE EPIKLESIS

Priest: Moreover we offer to You
This spiritual and unbloody sacrifice,
And we implore, pray, and entreat You,
Send down Your Holy Spirit upon us
And upon these Gifts lying here before us.

Priest: And make this bread the precious Body of Your Christ.

Priest: And that which is in this chalice,
The precious Blood of Your Christ.

Priest: Changing them by Your Holy Spirit.

Priest: That to those who partake of them,
They may be for the purification of soul,
For the remission of sins,
For communion of Your Holy Spirit,
For the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
For trust in You,
But not for judgment or condemnation.

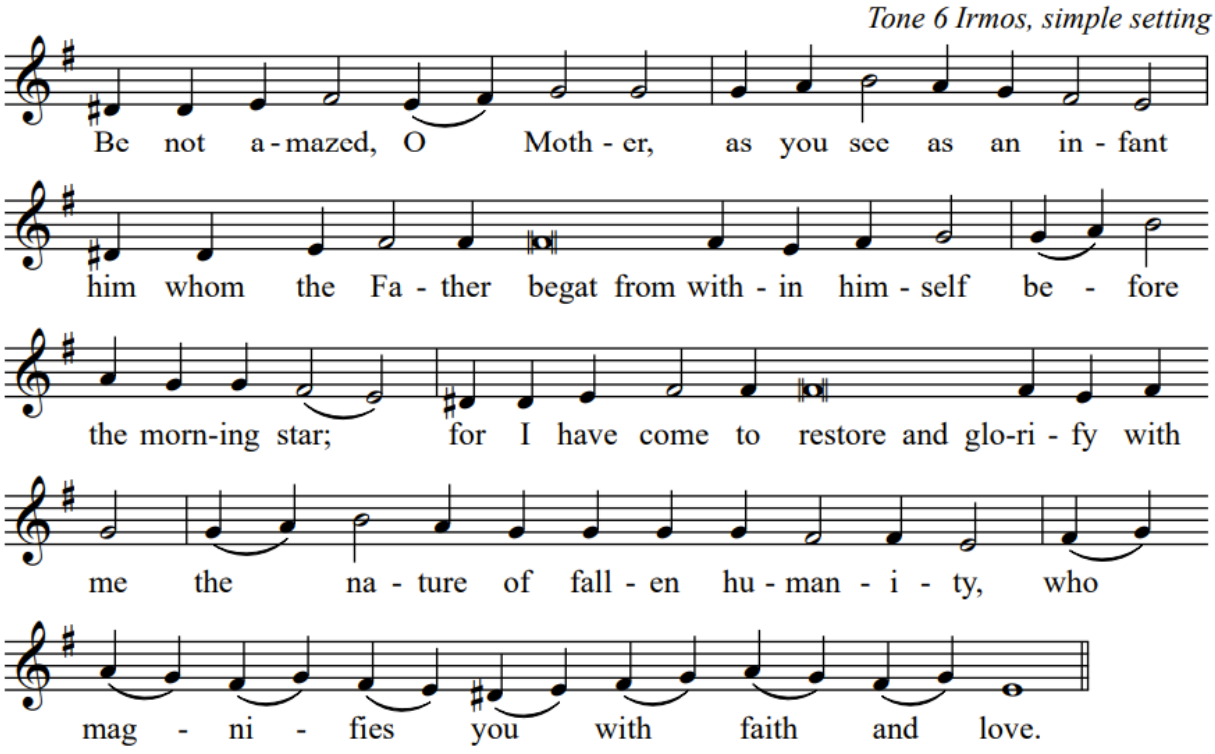
Moreover, we offer to You this spiritual sacrifice
For those who have departed in the faith:
The Forebearers, Parents, Exalted Ones, Prophets,
Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists,
Martyrs, Confessors, Ascetics,
For every just spirit brought to perfection in faith.

Especially for our most holy, most pure, most blessed
And glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary.

Response:

At the discretion of the celebrant, the irmos of the ninth ode of the canon of Compline may be sung in place of "In You, O Woman Full of Grace."

Tone 6 Irmos, simple setting



Or in place of the 'It is truly proper,' the Irmos of the feast is sung with its verse.

Priest: Among the first, O Lord,
Remember our most reverend Archbishop and Metropolitan *N.*,
And our God-loving Protopresbyter *N.*,
Preserve them for Your holy churches,

In peace, safety, honor, and health for many years
As they faithfully impart the word of your truth.

Response: **And remember all your people.**

Priest: And grant that we, with one voice and one heart,
May glorify and praise
Your most honored and magnificent name,
✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Priest: May the mercies of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ ✠ be with all of you.

Response: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Now that we have commemorated all the saints,
Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: For the precious gifts offered and consecrated,
That our God who loves us all
May receive them on his holy, heavenly and mystical altar
As an aroma of spiritual fragrance,
And send down upon us in return
His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit,
Let us pray.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: And make us worthy, O Master,
That we may with confidence
And without condemnation
Dare call you "Father," God of heaven and say:

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 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.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all.

Response: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: We give You thanks, O King invisible,
Who by Your immeasurable power have fashioned all things,
And in the abundance of Your mercy
Have brought all things from nonexistence into being.

O Master, look down from heaven,
Upon those who bow their heads to You,
For they do not bow to flesh and blood
But to You, the awesome God.

Therefore, O Master,
Make straight the path that lies before us,
According to the need of each:
Sail with those who sail,
Travel with those who travel,
And cure those who are sick,
O Physician of our souls and bodies.

Through the grace, the mercies, and the loving-kindness
Of your only-begotten Son with whom you are blessed,
Together with your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit,
Now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Priest: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Holy gifts to holy people!

Response: **One is holy, One is Lord, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus Christ,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The proper liturgical posture is to **STAND**.

O Lord, I believe and profess that you are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the first.

Accept me today as a partaker of your mystical supper, O Son of God, for I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I profess to you:

✠ Remember me, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.
✠ Remember me, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.
✠ Remember me, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.

May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord, be not for my judgment or condemnation but for the healing of soul and body.

O Lord, I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious body and your life-giving blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

✠ O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
✠ O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
✠ O Lord, forgive me for I have sinned without number.

Priest: Approach with fear of God and with faith.

Response: **Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord;**
The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us.

The Priest uncovers the holy chalice, holds the veil and lention (linen cloth) with their left hand, and gives communion with the spoon to each, saying:

Priest: The servant of God *N.*,
Receives the precious, most holy and most pure
Body and Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ
For the remission of (his/her/their) sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

The faithful may **REMAIN STANDING** while others are receiving holy communion. When Holy Communion has been distributed, the Priest says:

Priest: Behold this has touched your lips
It shall take away your iniquities
And shall cleanse your sins.

Priest: Save Your people, O God, and bless Your inheritance.

Response: **We have seen the true light;**
We have received the heavenly Spirit;
We have found the true faith;
And we worship the undivided Trinity,
For the Trinity has saved us.

Priest: ✠ Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

May our mouth be filled with Your praise, O Lord,
So that we may sing of your glory, sing of your glory.
For you have deemed us worthy to partake
Of Your holy, divine, immortal, pure and life-creating mysteries.
Keep us in your holiness so that all the day long
We may live according to your truth.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: Arise! Now that we have received the divine, holy, most pure, immortal, heavenly, life-creating, and awesome mysteries of Christ, let us worthily thank the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God by Your grace.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Asking that the whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to ✠ Christ our God.

Response: **To You, O Lord.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Priest: We give thanks to You, O Master, Lover of Humankind
Benefactor of our souls,
That this day You have made us worthy
Of Your Heavenly and immortal Mysteries.

Make straight our path,
Confirm us in our fear of You,
Guard our live,
Make firm our steps,
Through the prayers and intercession
Of the glorious Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary,
And of all Your Saints.

For You are our sanctification, and we give glory to You,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

Priest: ✠ Let us go forth in peace.

Response: **In the Name of the Lord.**

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER BEHIND THE AMBO

Priest: O Lord, blessing those who bless You,
And sanctifying those who trust in You,
Save Your people and bless Your inheritance,
Preserve the fullness of Your Church,
Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house;
Glorify them in return by Your divine power,
And do not forsake us who hope in You.

Grant us peace to Your world,
To Your Churches, to the priests,
To our civil authorities,
And to all Your People.

For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
Coming down from You, the Father of lights;
And we send up glory, thanksgiving, and worship to You,
✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

✠ Blessed be the Name of the Lord, now and forever, now and forever, now and forever.

Priest: ✠ The blessing of the Lord be upon you,
Through His grace and loving-kindness,
Always now and ever and forever.

Response: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ our 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.

Priest: May Christ our true God (if it is Sunday: risen from the dead)
Have mercy on us and save us,
Through the prayers of his most pure Mother;
And of the holy, glorious, and illustrious Apostles;
Of our Holy Father John Chrysostom,
Archbishop of Constantinople,

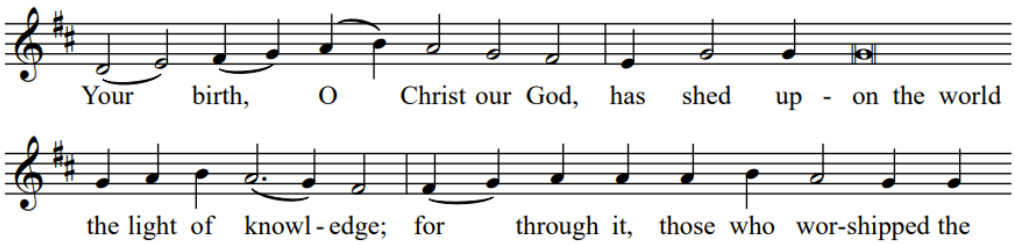
And through the prayers of all the saints;
For Christ is good and loves us all.

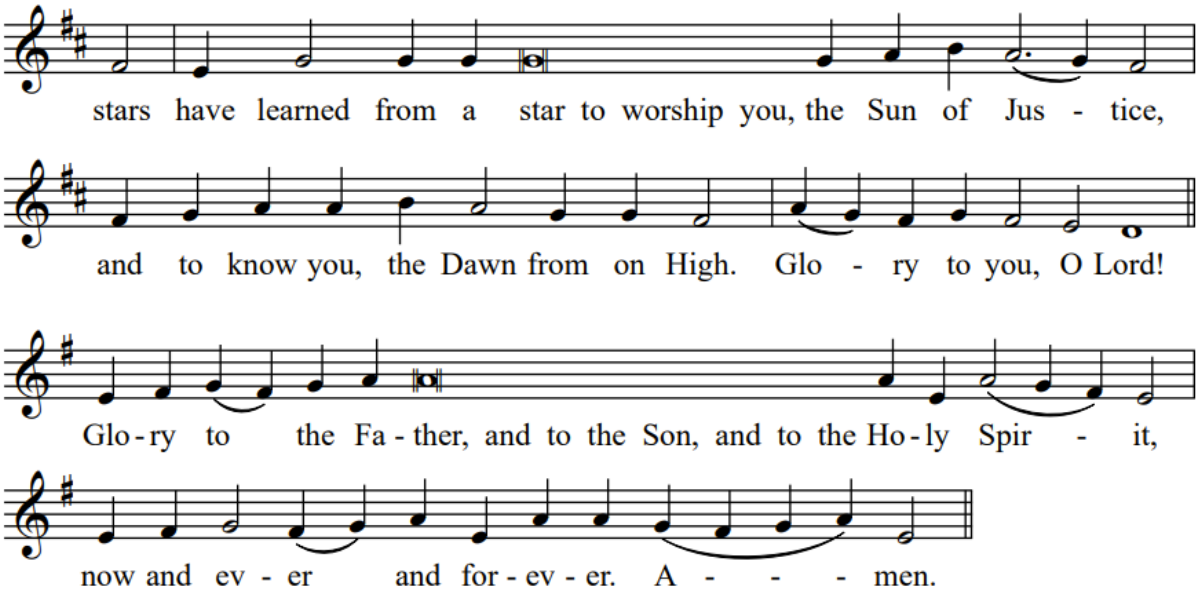
Response: **Amen.**

Immediately after the liturgy, the church is darkened, and a candle is lit and set on a stand in the middle of the church.

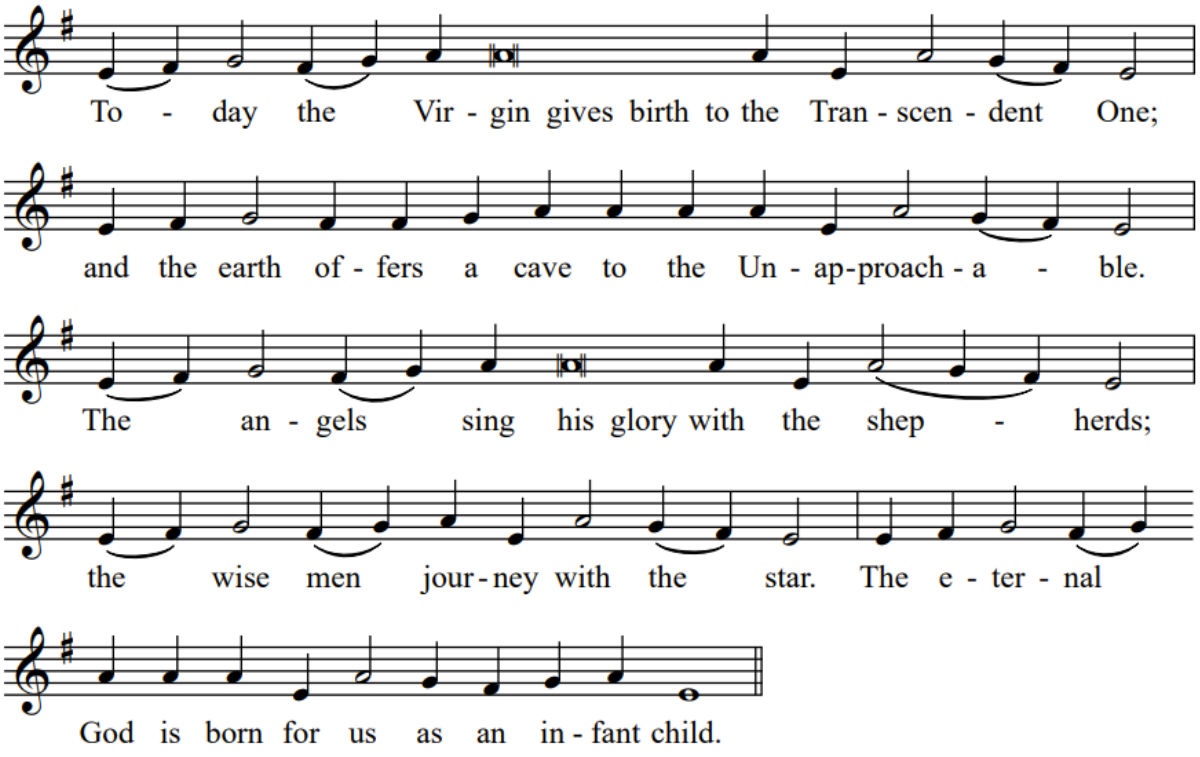
Standing beside it, the cantor sings the troparion and kontakion of the feast:

Troparion of the Nativity - *Tone 4:*





Kontakion of the Nativity - *Tone 3*



Away in a Manger

Share 140

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
(And Heaven and nature sing)
And Heaven and nature sing
(And Heaven and nature sing)
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
(And Heaven and nature sing)
And Heaven and nature sing
(And Heaven and nature sing)
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing