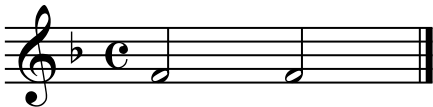


The Advent Paraklesis

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

People: 
A - men.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places and fillest all things; treasury of blessings and giver of life: come and abide in us and cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Gracious Lord.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
Master, pardon our iniquities.
Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both 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 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: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Chanter: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.
O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.
O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.


Psalm 142

Reader: Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: In Thy faithfulness answer me, and in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant: For in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; He hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy works; I muse on the work of Thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto Thee: my soul thirsteth after Thee, as a thirsty land. Hear me speedily, O Lord: my spirit faileth: Hide not Thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto Thee to hide me. Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy name's sake: For Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of Thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: For I am Thy servant. O Lord, give ear to my supplications, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. O Lord, give ear to my supplications, and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.


God is the Lord

Chanter: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!

People:



God__ is the Lord and hath ap - eared__ un - to us. Bless - ed is



He_____ that com - eth in the name__ of_____ the Lord.____

Chanter: All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! (*Refrain*)
I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. (*Refrain*)
The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

Troparion Preparatory to Nativity



Make read - y, O — Beth - le - hem, for Ed-en hath been
op - ened for all. Pre-pare, O — Eph - ra - tha,
for the Tree — of Life hath bloss-omed forth in the cave — from the
vir - - - gin; for her womb — did — ap - pear as a
su - per - sen - su - al par - a - dise, in which — is —
plant - - - ed the Di - vine — Plant; where-of eat - ing we
shall — live, — and not die — as A - - -
dam. Ver - i - ly, Christ — shall be born, rais - ing the like - ness that hath
fall - en of — old.

The Troparion is sung three times.

Psalm 51

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy:
According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out mine iniquity.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me.
Against Thee only, have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight:
That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.
For behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
For behold, Thou hast loved truth:
The unclear and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made clear to me.
Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness:
The bones which Thou hast broken shall rejoice.
Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a 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 steady me with a guiding spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways;
and the impious shall be converted unto Thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation:
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness.
O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.
For hadst Thou desired sacrifice, I would have given it thee:
Thou delightest not in burnt offering.
Sacrifices to God are a contrite spirit:
A contrite and humble heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.
Do good, O Lord, in Thy good will unto Zion:
That the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.
Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offerings:
Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

The chanters chant the Canon in Tone Two.

The Canon: Ode One

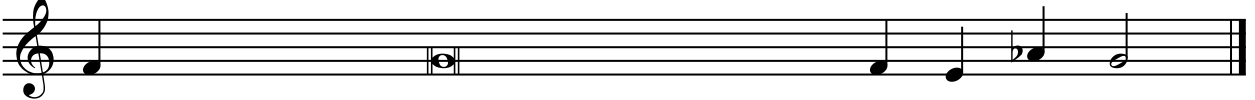
Chanter: A triumphant force once laid low all the armed hosts of Pharaoh in the deep:
even so the glorious Lord, the Word made flesh, has blotted out malignant
sin; for He has been greatly glorified.

People:



Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

Chanter: O King of All, wishing man to be enrolled in the book of life, Thou hast enrolled Thyself according to the law of Caesar. As a stranger hast Thou come unto Thine own, calling back to heaven those who were unhappily estranged from paradise.

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

Chanter: O Bethlehem, receive Christ: for, made flesh, He comes to dwell in thee, opening Eden to me. Make ready, O cave, to behold most strangely contained in thee, Him Who cannot be contained, who now is made poor in the wealth of His tender mercies.

People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Christ comes to be born, granting in His goodness a strange rebirth to those sprung from Adam. Be glad, the whole nature of mortal man, thou that art barren and bearest not: the Master has come to make thee a mother of many children.

A triumphant force once laid low all the armed hosts of Pharoah in the deep: even so the glorious Lord, the Word made flesh, has blotted out malignant sin; for He has been greatly glorified.

The Canon: Ode Three


Chanter: The desert flowered as a lily at Thy coming, O Lord, even the Church of the Gentiles that was barren: and in that same coming is my heart established.

People: 
Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

Chanter: Redeeming me from the bands of evil, O Lord who lovest mankind, Thou comest to be wrapped as a babe in swaddling bands. I venerate Thy divine condescension.

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

Chanter: The Virgin draws nigh to bear Thee, O Lord, who, shining timelessly from the Father, hast now come to be in time, setting us loose from the temporal passions of our souls.

People:  Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: Lord most merciful and full of pity, seeking me who had gone astray in transgression, Thou hast come to dwell in a cave as in Heaven, thereby preparing the Heavenly mansions for me.

The desert flowered as a lily at Thy coming, O Lord, even the Church of the Gentiles that was barren: and in that same coming is my heart established.

The Kathisma

Tone One

Chanter: Rejoice exceedingly, O Zion: make ready, O Bethlehem. The Upholder of All Things, sending a star before Him, has made known His condescension without measure. He before Whom the heavenly powers tremble, our only God, without suffering change, is born in very truth from the Virgin.

The Ektenia of Supplication

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

People:  Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.


Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, our Bishop THOMAS, the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray that as Thou didst deem a lowly cave to be a fit dwelling for the Lord Almighty, so Thou wouldst ever make our souls and bodies temples worthy to contain the uncontainable God.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray Thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldst make us worthy to praise and glorify Thee together with the angels and shepherds.

People: 
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast chosen us from the barren Church of the Gentiles and hast grafted us, a young olive shoot, upon the root and stock of righteous Abraham; and we pray Thee to open our ears that we might heed the Prophet's warning and 'prepare the way of the Lord.'

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all Orthodox Christians of true worship, now gathered to prepare for the feast of Thy holy nativity.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: 
A - - - men.



The Canon: Ode Four


Chanter: Thou hast come forth from a virgin, neither angel nor ambassador, but the Lord Himself made flesh, and to me who am man Thou hast brought salvation. Therefore, I cry unto Thee: 'Glory to Thy power, O Lord.'

People: 
Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

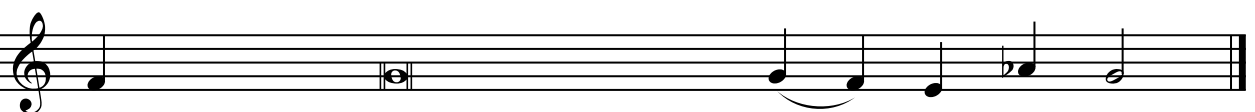
Chanter: Let the creation now cast off all things old, beholding Thee the Creator made a child. For through Thy birth Thou dost shape all things afresh, making them new once more and leading them back again to their first beauty.

People: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee.

Chanter: The magi who had been led on their way by a divine star, stood before Thee, in wonder at Thy marvelous birth; and bearing gifts, they saw the Sun that rose from the virgin cloud.

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

Chanter: Behold, the Virgin comes like a young heifer, bearing in her womb the fatted calf that takes away the sins of the world. Let the creation, as it keeps feast, rejoice exceedingly.

People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: The preaching of the prophets, foretelling the manifestation of Christ, has today received its saving fulfillment: for He has come in the flesh to enlighten those in peril of darkness.

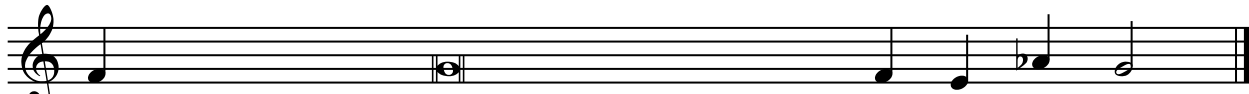
Thou hast come forth from a virgin, neither angel nor ambassador, but the Lord Himself made flesh, and to me who am man Thou hast brought salvation. Therefore, I cry unto Thee: 'Glory to Thy power, O Lord.'

The Canon: Ode Five

Chanter: Thou art become mediator between God and man, O Christ our God; for through Thee, O Master, we have access from the darkness of ignorance to Thy Father, the Author of Light.

People: 
Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

Chanter: Let the people that once sat in darkness see the Light shine forth that knows no evening: Him whom the star once made known to kings from Persia who worshipped fire.

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

Chanter: The great King comes in haste to enter a small cave, that He may make me great who had grown small, and that, as transcendent God, by His poverty without measure He may enrich me who had grown poor.

People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: 'Now is Christ born of Jacob,' so Balaam said: 'And He shall rule over nations, and His kingdom shall be exalted in grace and shall remain perpetually.'

Thou art become mediator between God and man, O Christ our God; for through Thee, O Master, we have access from the darkness of ignorance to Thy Father, the Author of Light.

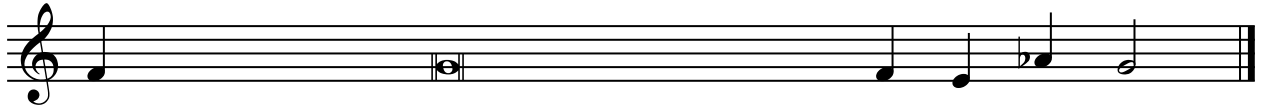
The Canon: Ode Six

Chanter: Compassed about in an abyss of sin, on the unsearchable abyss of Thy tender mercies do I call: bring me out of corruption, O God.

People: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee.

Chanter: Christ in strange wise comes to His own. Let us make ourselves strangers to sin, and let us receive Him who dwells in the souls of the meek.

People:

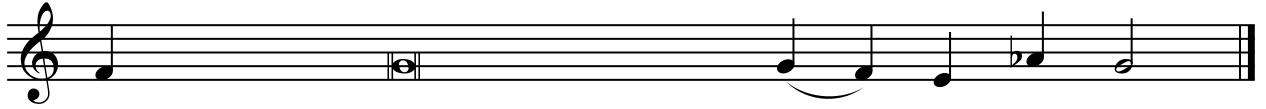


Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Chanter:

Thou, O Bethlehem, art not least among cities: for in thee is born the King and Lord who shall tend as a shepherd the people that is His own.

People:



Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter:

How shall a small cave receive Thee, for whom the world cannot find room, O Thou Whom none can comprehend? O Thou, Who with the Father art without beginning, how shalt Thou appear as a small child?

Compassed about in an abyss of sin, on the unsearchable abyss of Thy tender mercies do I call: bring me out of corruption, O God.

The priest takes up the censer and, while the following kontakion is chanted, censes the four sides of the analogion.

The Kontakion *Preparatory to Nativity*

*Greek Melody
Arr. F. Karam*

The vir - gin com - eth to - day to the

cave to give birth, in - eff - ab - ly to bring

forth the Word E - ter - - - nal;

there - fore, re - jice, O Earth, at the

mess - age; with the an gels and shep herds give glo - ry to

Him Who shall ap pear by His own will, as a young

child, He Who is from e - ter - ni ty, God.

The Ektenia of Fervent Supplication

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: 
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have__ mer - cy. Lord,__ have__ mer - cy.

(After each petition, the people respond as above.)

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP, our Bishop THOMAS, the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray that as Thou didst deem a lowly cave to be a fit dwelling for the Lord Almighty, so Thou wouldst ever make our souls and bodies temples worthy to contain the Uncontainable God.

Again we pray Thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldst make us worthy to praise and glorify Thee together with the angels and shepherds.

We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast chosen us from the barren Church of the Gentiles and hast grafted us, a young olive shoot, upon the root and stock of righteous Abraham; and we pray Thee to open our ears that we might heed the Prophet's warning and 'prepare the way of the Lord.'

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation and pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all Orthodox Christians of true worship, now gathered to prepare for the feast of Thy holy nativity.

For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

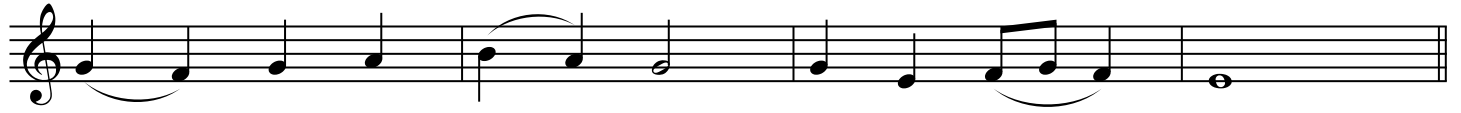
People: 
 A - men.

The Anabathmoi

Byzantine Tone 4
Arr. Basil Kazan



From my youth___ up ma-ny pass - ions have warred a - gainst___ me. But do



Thou___ help and save___ me, O my Sav - - ior.



Ye who hate Zi - - on shall be put___ to con - fu - sion of



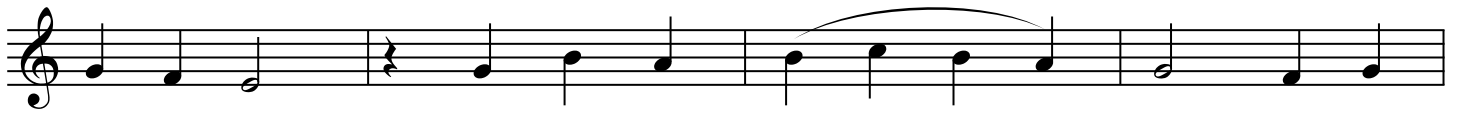
the Lord; like grass___ in the fire shall ye be with - ered up.---



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



Through the Ho - ly Spi - rit is ev - 'ry soul quick-ened and ex - al - ted in



pur - i - ty and made re - splen - - - - dent by the



Tri - une___ un - i - ty in my - stic ho - li - ness.



Both now and ev - er and un - to a - ges of a - ges. A - men.



By the Ho - ly Spi - rit the chan - nels and streams of grace___ o - ver - flow,




sho - wer - ing all cre - a - - tion with in - vig - or - a - ting life.---


The Prokeimenon

Chanter: The Prokeimenon: I shall commemorate Thy name from every generation to generation.

People:




I shall com - mem - o - rate Thy name from ev - 'ry




gen - er - a - - - tion to gen - er - a - - - tion.

Chanter: Hearken, O daughter, and see and incline thine ear, and forget thy people and thy father's house, and the king shall greatly desire thy beauty.

People:



I shall com - mem - o - rate Thy name from ev - 'ry



gen - er - a - - - tion to gen - er - a - - - tion.

Chanter: I shall commemorate Thy name

People:



from ev - 'ry



gen - er - a - - - tion to gen - er - a - - - tion.

The Holy Gospel

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

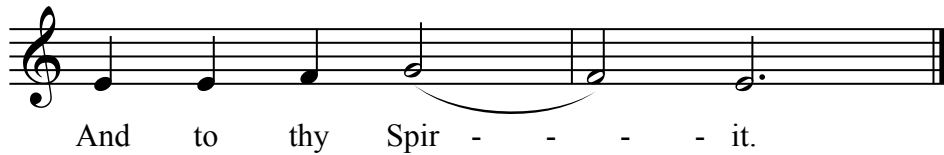
People:



Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

People:



Priest:

The reading from the holy gospel according to Saint Luke.

People:



Priest:

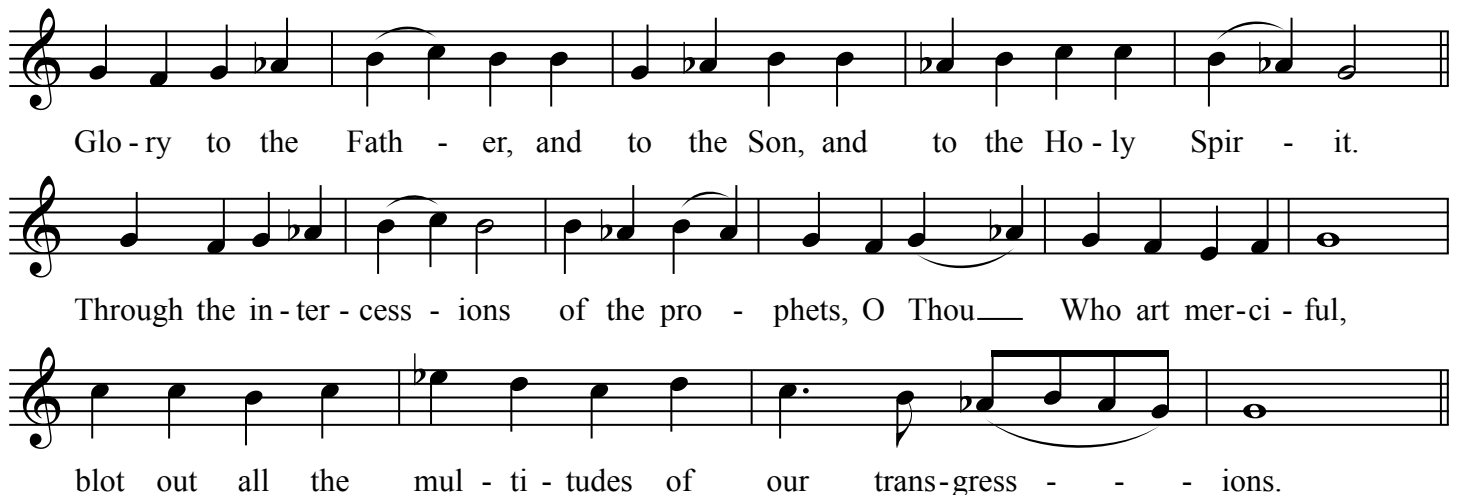
Let us attend.

In those days, Mary arose and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, 'Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, behold, when the voice of thy salutation came into mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a fulfillment of those things which have been spoken to her from the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath looked upon the lowliness of his handmaiden. For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For the Mighty One hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.' And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

People:

Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

*Byzantine Tone 2
Arr. Basil Kazan*





Both now and ev - er, and un - to a - ges of a - ges. A - men.



Through the in-ter - cess-ions of the The - o - to - kos, O Thou — Who art mer-ci - ful,



blot out all the mul - ti - tudes of our trans-gress - - - ions.

Idiomelon

*Byzantine Tone 6
Melody, Basil Kazan
Arr. Zenaida Bench*



Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies



blot out — my trans - gress - - - - - ions.



The say - ings of the pro - phets are now ful - filled, for our God shall



be — born — of the Vir - gin Ma - ry in fash - ion past — words, and



yet — shall re - main — such as He was be - fore His birth. The



ma - gi come to - geth - er bear - ing gifts, the shep - herds a - bide —



in — the — fields, — and we — al - so sing: 'O —



Lord, born — of a vir - gin, glo - ry — to Thee.'

The Intercession

Priest:

O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John and all the holy prophets; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers, and Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy and glorious great martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streaming, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General and Menas the Wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Haralampos and Eleftherios; of the holy, glorious great martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, who shone in the ascetic life: Anthony the Great, Euthymios, Paisios, Sabbas the Sanctified, Theodosius the head of monasteries, Onouphrios, Athanasios and Peter of Athos; our holy mothers, Mary of Egypt, Macrina, Pelagia, and Thais; of the holy, glorious and wonder-working healers, Cosmas and Damian, Cyros and John, Panteleimon and Hermolaos; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of *(name[s] of the saint[s] of the day)* whose memory we celebrate, and of all Thy saints, we beseech Thee, O only most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy on us.

People:



Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

(The above is repeated three times, and then:)



Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.——

Priest:

Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People:



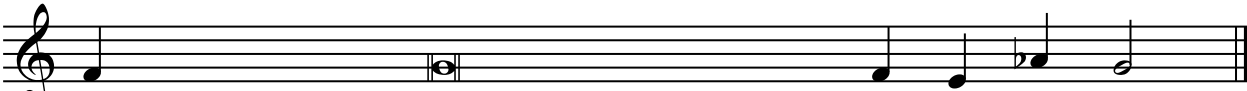
A - men.

The Canon: Ode Seven

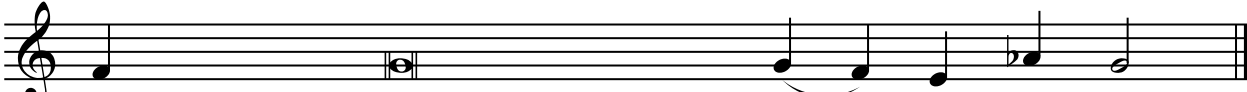
Chanter: The profane command of a lawless tyrant fanned the flame exceeding high; but Christ cast the dew of the Spirit over the children who feared God: blessed is He and exalted above all.

People: 
Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

Chanter: Let clouds drop water from on high; He who in glory makes the clouds His chariot, comes borne upon a cloud, that is the Virgin. The Light that knows no evening, He comes to shine on those who before were in darkness and in peril.

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

Chanter: O army of divine angels, make ready to sing the praises of the ineffable condescension of the Lord. O ye magi, come with all speed; O shepherds, make haste. Christ is come, the predestined expectation of the nations and their deliverance.

People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: 'What is this great and strange wonder? How do I uphold Thee who upholdest all the world by Thy word? O my Son Who art without beginning, Thy birth is beyond all speech!' So spake the All-Pure, fearfully holding Christ in her arms.

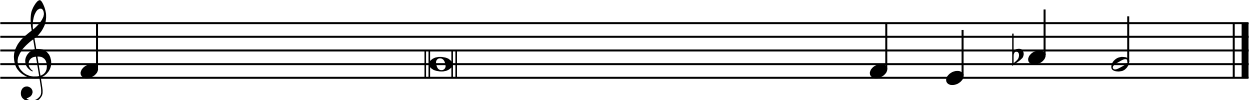
The profane command of a lawless tyrant fanned the flame exceeding high; but Christ cast the dew of the Spirit over the children who feared God: blessed is He and exalted above all.

The Canon: Ode Eight

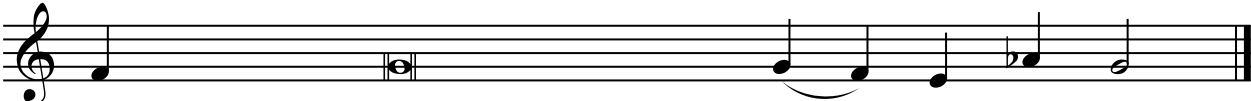
Chanter: In Babylon of old, by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in contrary ways: burning the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.'

People: 
Glo - ry to Thee, our God. Glo - ry to Thee.

Chanter: The blameless Lady was amazed at the height of the mystery, in truth past speech, that covered the heavens with knowledge, and she said: 'The heavenly throne is consumed in flames as it holds Thee; how is it, then, that I carry Thee, my Son?'

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

Chanter: 'Thou dost bear the likeness of Thy Father, O my Son. How then hast Thou become poor and taken upon Thyself the likeness of a servant? How shall I lay Thee in a manger of beasts without reason, Who dost deliver all men from unreason? I sing the praises of Thy compassion.'

People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: Be joyful all the earth: behold, Christ draws nigh to be born in Bethlehem. Be glad, O sea; dance for joy, thou congregation of prophets, seeing the fulfillment of your words; rejoice, O all ye righteous.

In Babylon of old, by the command of God, the fiery furnace worked in contrary ways: burning the Chaldeans, it refreshed the faithful as they sang: 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.'

The Canon: Ode Nine

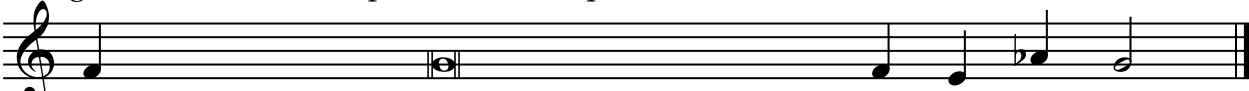
Chanter: The Son of the Father without beginning has appeared to us, God the Lord made flesh of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness, and to gather the dispersed. Therefore the far-famed Theotokos do we magnify.

People: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee.

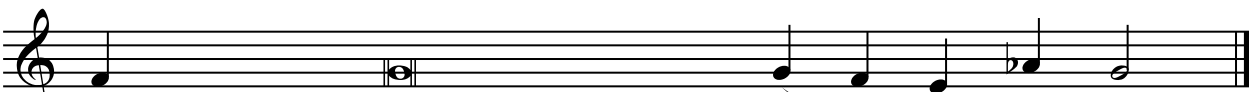
Chanter: Let the kings of the whole earth sing rejoicing, and let the companies of the nations be in exceeding joy. Mountains and hills and hollows, rivers and seas, and the whole creation, magnify the Lord who now is born.

People: Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee.

Chanter: As far as it was right, Thou wast seen by the prophets. Made man in the last times, Thou hast appeared to all in Bethlehem, city of Judah, and a star showed Thee to the star-gazers, O Thou Who passest all interpretation.

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

Chanter: Behold, the Most Holy Word comes unto His own in a holy body that is not His. By a strange birth He makes His own the world that was estranged. To Him let us sing in praise, Who became poor for us.

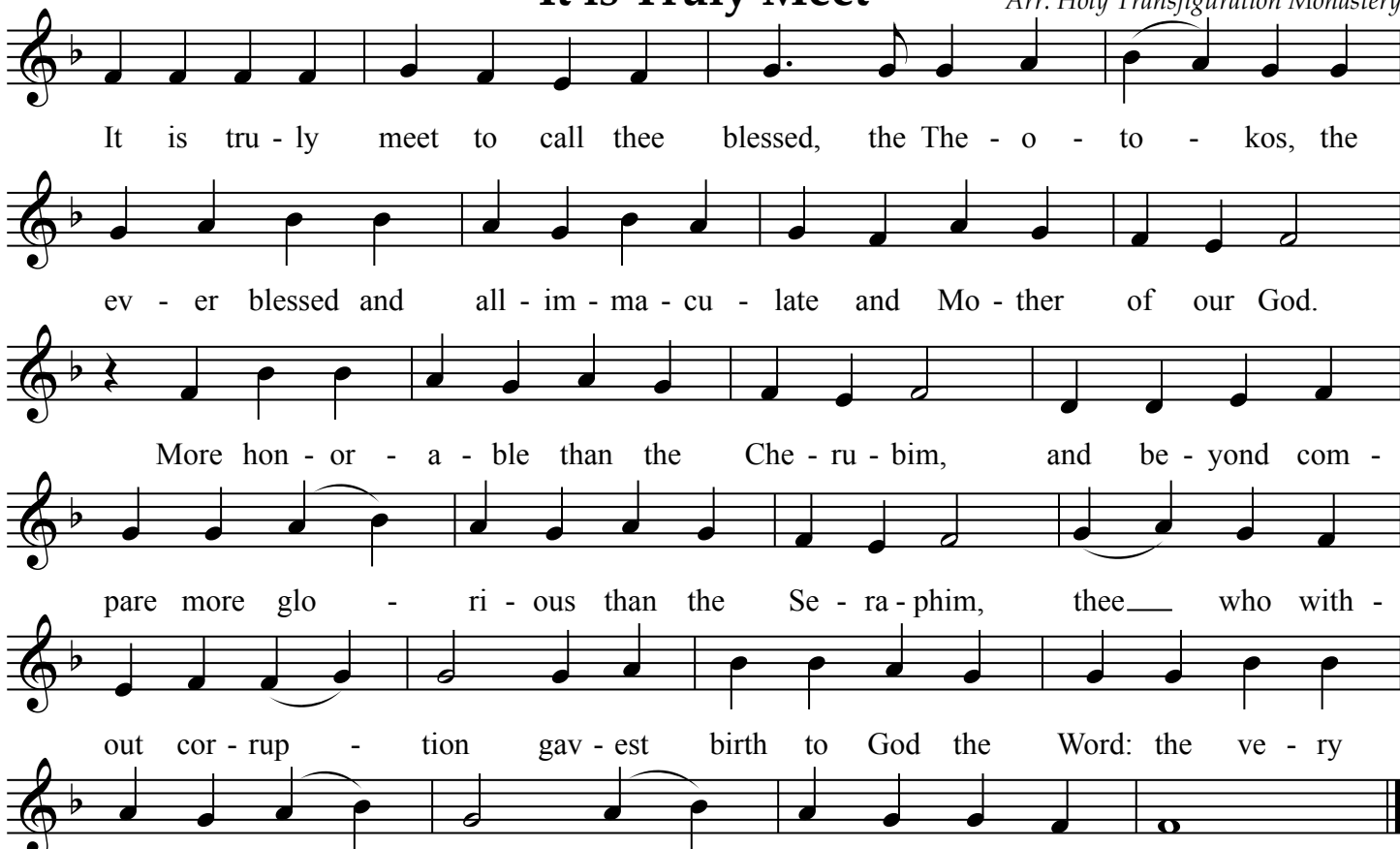
People: 
Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Chanter: 'O sweetest Child, how shall I feed Thee Who givest food to all? How shall I hold Thee Who holdest all things in Thy power? How shall I wrap Thee in swaddling clothes, Who dost wrap the whole earth in clouds? So cried the all-pure Lady whom in faith we magnify.

The Son of the Father without beginning has appeared to us, God the Lord made flesh of the Virgin, to give light to those in darkness, and to gather the dispersed. Therefore the far-famed Theotokos do we magnify.

It is Truly Meet

*Byzantine Tone 8, Traditional Melody
Arr. Holy Transfiguration Monastery*



It is tru - ly meet to call thee blessed, the The - o - to - kos, the
ev - er blessed and all - im - ma - cu - late and Mo - ther of our God.
More hon - or - a - ble than the Che - ru - bim, and be - yond com -
pare more glo - ri - ous than the Se - ra - phim, thee who with -
out cor - rup - tion gav - est birth to God the Word: the ve - ry
The - o - to - kos, thee do we mag - ni - fy.

The Megalynaria

Byzantine Tone 8

Traditional Melody

Arr. Holy Transfiguration Monastery



1. High - er than the heav - ens ab - ove art thou,
 2. *From the great a - bun - dance of all my sins,*
 3. O La - dy and Moth - er of Christ our God,
 4. *Now we chant with ea - ger - ness un - to thee*
 5. Let us purge our bod - ies and souls of sin,
 6. *Thou, O low - ly man - ger, pre - pare thy - self.*
 7. 'Glo - ry be to God who is born to - day
 8. *Thou art the my - stic - al par - a - dise,*
 9. O all ye ar - ray of an - gel - ic hosts,



1. and thou art much pur - er than the rad - i - ance of the sun;
 2. *ill am I in bo - dy, ail - ing al - so am I in soul.*
 3. re - ceive supp - li - ca - tion from us sin - ners who beg of thee
 4. *with this hymn most joy - ful, The - o - to - kos, all - laud - ed one;*
 5. that with a pure con - science we may wel - come in Beth - le - hem
 6. *Hast - en, O ye shep - herds, for the birth of Christ is at hand.*
 7. of the Vir - gin Moth - er in the ci - ty of Beth - le - hem!
 8. *O The - o - to - kos, in which bless - omed Christ;*
 9. O ye ho - ly Bap - tist, and ye ho - ly Ap - ost - les,



1. for thou hast re - deemed us out of the curse that held us.
 2. *Thee have I as ref - uge; do thou, there - fore, help me,*
 3. that thou make en - treat - y un - to the One born from thee;
 4. *togeth - er with the Bap - tist and all the saints to - geth - er,*
 5. Christ the King of Glo - ry, who com - eth to be born of
 6. *Hur - ry on, ye ma - gi, and gath - er, all ye an - gels,*
 7. Thus cry men and an - gels with voi - ces joined in chor - us
 8. *through him the life - bearing wood of the Cross was plant - ed up - on earth.*
 9. all the saints to - geth - er, as well as God's Birth - giv - er,



1. O mist - ress of cre - a - tion, with hymns we hon - or thee.
 2. *O hope of all the hope - less, for thou art full of grace.*
 3. O Mist - ress of cre - a - tion, pray thou to God for us.
 4. *be - seech, O The - o - to - kos, that we find clem - en - cy.*
 5. the Vir - gin, pure and sin - less. Come, let us wor - ship him!
 6. *and shout, 'To Thee be glo - ry Who for our sakes art born!'*
 7. in wor - ship of the Sa - vior's ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty.
 8. *As we bow down be - fore it, we mag - ni - fy thee.*
 9. pray make ye in - ter - cess - ion for our de - liv - er - ance.

The Trisagion Prayers

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.
Lord, cleanse us from our sins.
Master, pardon our iniquities.
Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
Both 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 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: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: 
A - men.



Troparion Preparatory to Nativity



Make read - y, O Beth - le - hem, for Ed - en hath
been op - ened for all. Pre- pare, O Eph - ra - tha,
for the Tree of Life hath bloss - omed forth in the cave
from the vir - gin; for her womb did ap - pear
as a su - per - sen - su - al par - a - dise, in which
is plant - ed the Di - vine Plant; where - of eat - ing
we shall live, and not die as A - dam.
Ver - i - ly, Christ shall be born, rais - ing the like - ness that
hath fall - en of old.

The Troparion is sung three times.

The Final Ektenia

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee: hearken and have mercy.

People:



Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan PHILIP and His Grace Bishop THOMAS, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation, and pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God (*Name[s]*), and all Orthodox Christians of true worship who live and dwell in this community.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray that he may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

Chanter: Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

Priest: Again we pray that the Lord our God will hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: 
A - men.

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

Chanter: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy mother; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John and all the holy Prophets; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of *(Name[s] of the Saint[s] of the day)* whose memory we celebrate; and of all the Saints: have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

The priest makes three prostrations before the analogion, venerates the icon, and moves to stand next to the analogion. As the faithful come forward to venerate the icon, receive the blessing of the priest and kiss his right hand, an appropriate seasonal hymn is chanted.

After all present have received a blessing from the Priest, the Priest says:

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

People: Amen.