

Matins Propers

Sunday of the Forefathers

between December 11th & December 17th
in the Second Tone with the Fifth Resurrection Gospel

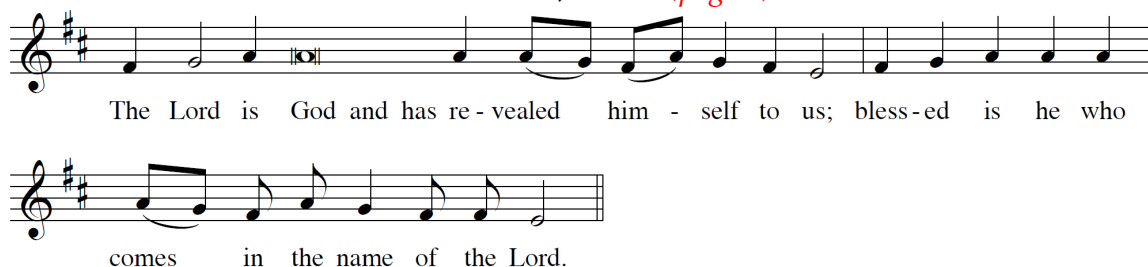
Hexapsalmos

*The reader chants only **Psalm 102** on page 5 followed by "Glory..." on page 6.*

Matins then continues with the Litany of Peace on page 7.

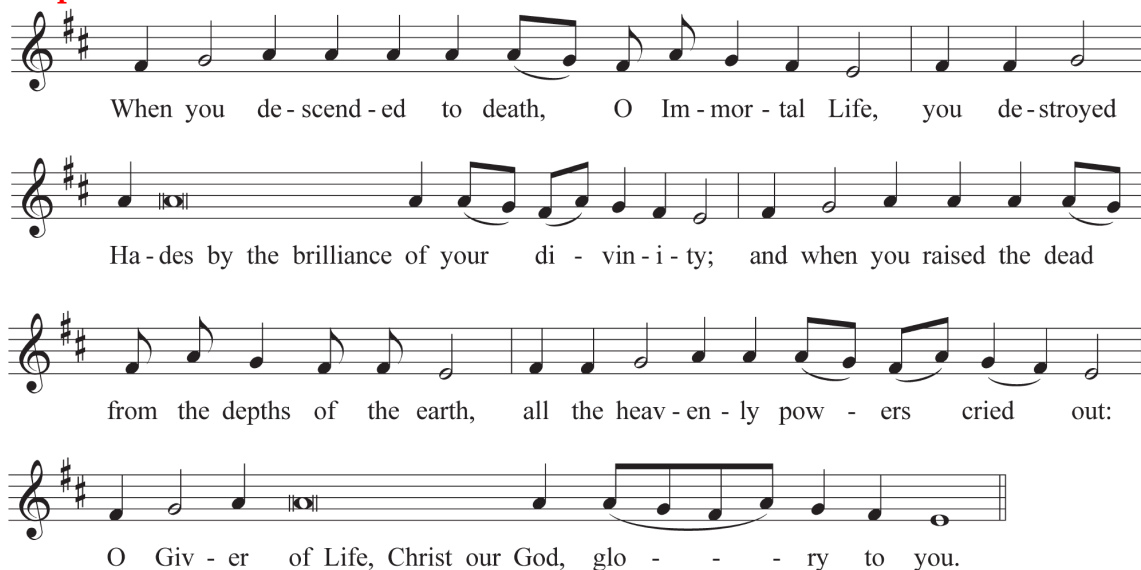
The Lord is God (page 9)

Tone 2



Troparia (page 9)

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 2



The repetition of this Troparion is omitted.

Cantor (*Tone 2*):

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it," and the second staff contains the melody for "now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men." The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Troparion of the Saint is omitted.

Troparion of the Forefathers – Tone 2

By faith, you, O Christ, jus - ti - fied the fore - fa - thers. Through them
you betrothed yourself to a Church from all na - tions. The saints re - joice
in glo - ry be - cause a glorious offspring has blos - somed from their seed:
the Moth - er who bore you with - out seed. Through their pray'rs, O Christ our
God, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is a continuous line across the staves.

Kathismata (*page 10*)

People: Lord, have mercy (*three times*)
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Reader: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

from the 3rd Kathisma:

Psalm 17:31-50

Who is God but the Lord? Who is a rock but our God? the God who girds me with strength and makes my way blameless. My feet you make swift as the deer's; you have set me upon the high places. You have trained my hands for battle and my hands to bend the heavy bow. You gave me your saving shield; you upheld me, trained me with care. You gave me freedom for my steps; my feet have never slipped. I pursued and overtook my foes, never turning back till they were slain. I smote them so they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. You girded me with strength for battle; you made my enemies fall beneath me; you made my foes take flight; those who hated me I destroyed. They cried, but there was no one to save them; they cried to the Lord, but in vain. I crushed them fine as dust before the wind; trod them down like dirt in the streets. You saved me from the feuds of the people and put me at the head of the nations. People unknown to me served me: when they heard of me, they obeyed me. Foreign nations came to me cringing; foreign nations faded away. They came trembling out of their strongholds. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praise be the God who saves me, the God who grants me vindication and subdues people under me. You saved me from my furious foes. You set me above my assailants. You saved me from violent men, so I shall praise you, Lord, among the nations: I shall sing a psalm to your name. He has given great victories to his king and has shown his love for David, his anointed, and his descendants forever.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

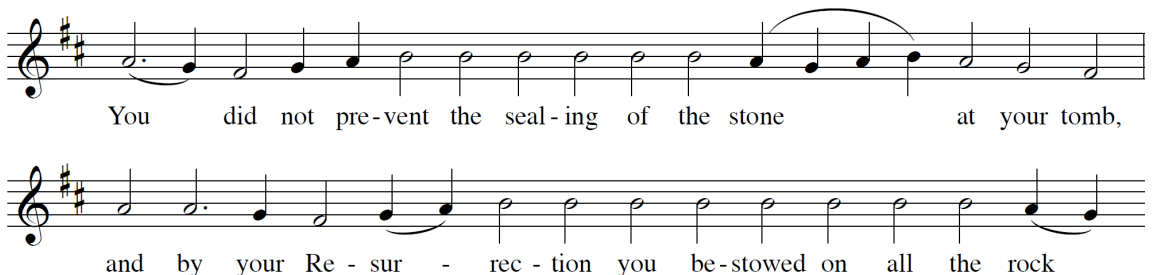
People: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

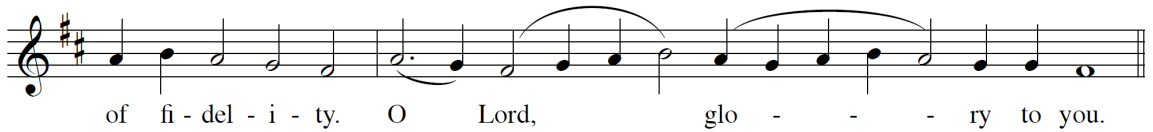
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (*three times*)

Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 10.

Sessional Hymn (*page 11*)

The 1st Hymn of the 2nd set of Sessional Hymns (Tone 2 Podoben: Blahoobraznyj Josif):



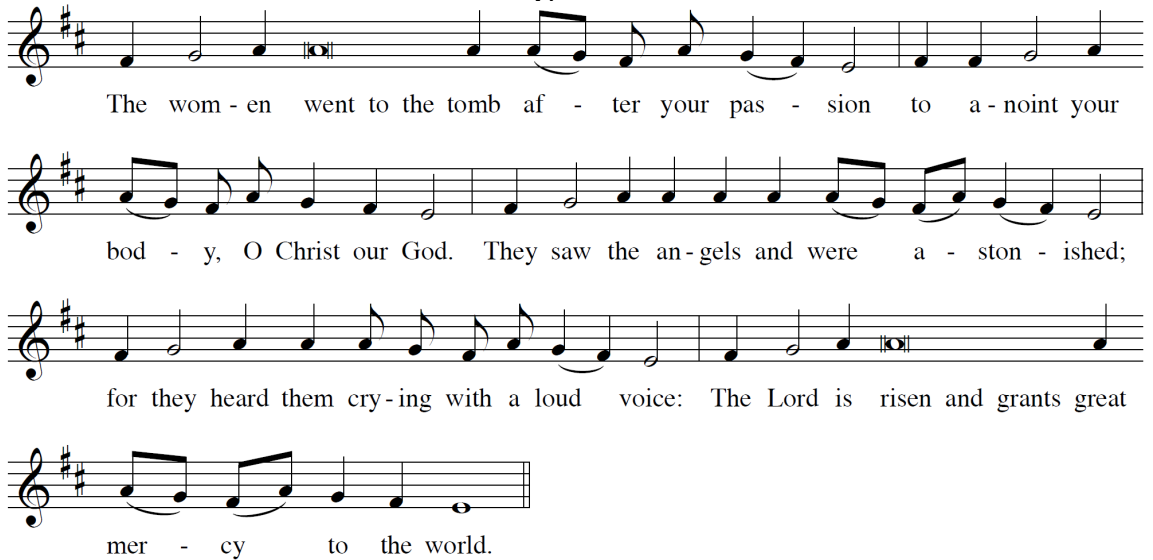


Matins continues with the Polyeleos on page 12.

"Hosts of Angels..." is omitted & then Matins continues with the Small Litany on p. 21.

Ἡρακὼς (page 21)

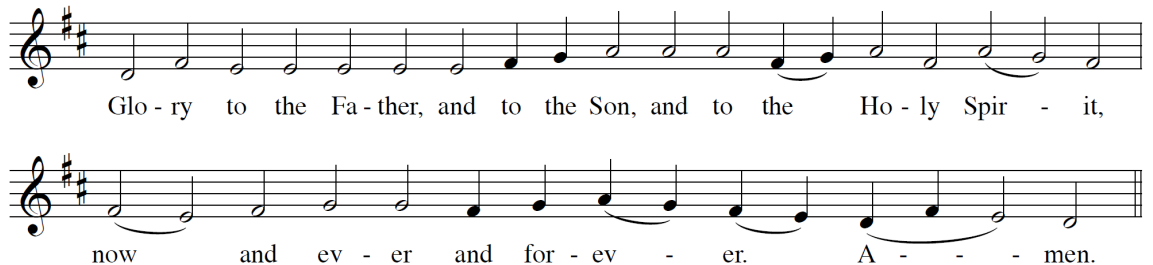
Tone 2



Sessional Hymn of the Forefathers – Tone 8

With hymns let us all praise Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, * the meek David, Joshua, and the twelve patriarchs, * together with the three youths that quenched the fiery flame with the power of the Spirit. * And let us cry out to them: * Rejoice, you who bravely denounced the deception of the mad king! * Pray to Christ, that He grant remission of offenses to those who celebrate your holy memory with love.

Cantor (*Tone 8*):



Theotokion

Like the widow who gave two mites as an offering, I offer you the praise of thanksgiving, which is your due, O Mistress, for all your gifts; for you are shown to be a shelter and aid, ever rescuing me from temptations and tribulations. Wherefore, delivered from that which causes me grief, as from the midst of a furnace, I cry out to you with all my heart: O Theotokos, help me by entreating Christ God to grant me remission of transgressions, for I, your servant, have you as my hope.

Stepenna (page 21)

The Stepenna (Gradual Hymns) are omitted &

Matins continues with the Prokeimenon ("Let us be attentive...") on page 22.

Prokeimenon (page 22)

Psalm 7:6,7

Lord, rise up in your anger, rise against the fu-ry of my foes. My God, a-wake!

You will give judg - ment. Let the com-pa - ny of na-tions

gath - er round you.

Deacon: Lord God, I take refuge in you.

From my pursuers save me and rescue me.

Matins continues with the

Preparation for the Gospel

("Let us pray...") on p. 22.

Let everything that lives... (page 22)

Tone 2

Let ev - ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise

to the Lord, give praise to the Lord.

The Preparation for the Gospel continues with “That we may be deemed...” on page 23.

The Fifth Resurrection Gospel is read (Luke 24: 12-35).

The Hymn of the Resurrection is sung (p. 24) and then Psalm 50 (p. 26).

The usual stichera at Psalm 50 (p. 28) are sung.

The Canon (page 32)

*The faithful **come forward** to venerate the Gospel Book on the tetrapod*

Ode 1 & the Canon of the Resurrection are omitted.

The Canon of the Three Holy Children continues with Ode 3.

ODE 3

Canon to the Three Children

Tone 8

Irmos: **You** are the confirmation of them that have recourse to **You, O Lord; You** are the Light of the benighted, and my spirit sings to **You**.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

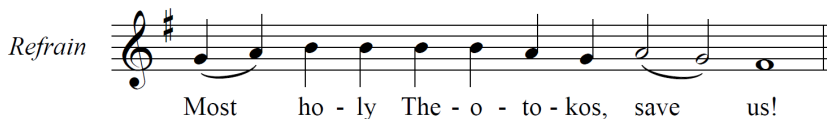
Having acquired divinely imparted understanding, the children of David kept the laws of their fathers in divinely wise fashion, O Master.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

The fire did not consume the most pure bodies of the pious youths, for they had been watered with a spiritually nourishing fast.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

Wondrously bedewed in the midst of the furnace, the three children chanted the universal and oft chanted hymn of praise.



Theotokion: **O** Master, You show us a birthgiving from a Virgin's body and You save the bodies of the virginal youths in the furnace.

Canon to the Forefathers

The Irmos of the Canon of the Forefathers, which will be repeated as Katavasia, is omitted.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

The zeal of Seth for his Creator is hymned throughout the world, for in his blameless life and spiritual love he truly pleased Him, and now he cries out in the land of the living: Holy are You, O Lord!

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

The wondrous Enos trusted in the Spirit and with divine wisdom began to call upon the God and Master of all with mouth, tongue and heart, and having lived on earth in a God-pleasing manner, he received glory.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

Let us bless Enoch with sacred utterances, for, having been well pleasing unto the Lord, he was translated in glory, being shown to be greater than death, as it has been written, since he had been a most earnest servant of God.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it; now and ev - er
and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion: Now the expectation of the nations comes forth from the Virgin, and Bethlehem radiantly opens the shut gates of Eden, receiving the incarnate Word, Who, in the flesh, is laid in a manger.

Katavasia:

Let us sing to the Son begotten of the Father without change be-fore all
a - ges. Let us cry a - loud to Christ our God, in - car-nate
with-out seed from the Virgin in these lat-ter days: you have ex-alt-ed our horn;
Ho - ly are you, O Lord.

Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 33, followed by the Sessional Hymn.

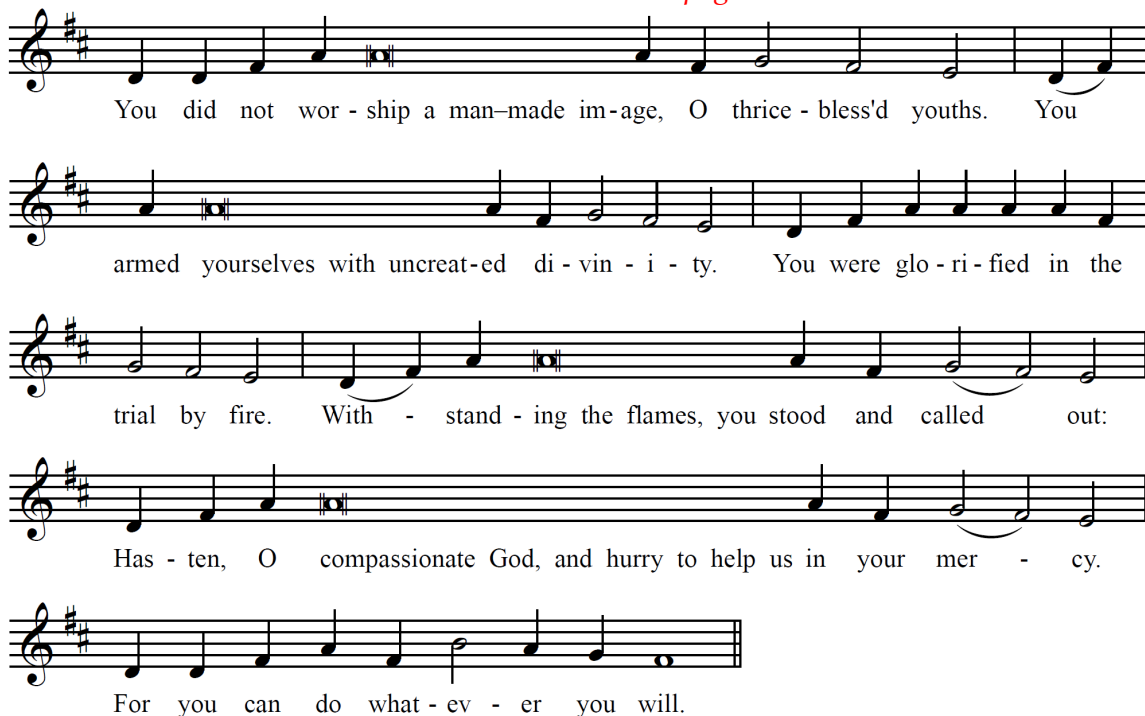
Sessional Hymn of the Three Holy Children (*Tone 2*)

The fire was transformed into dew for the children, and the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women was changed into joy; and an angel ministered in both wonders, transforming the furnace into a place of rest for the former, and announcing the Resurrection on the third day to the latter. O Lord, Author of our life, glory to You!

Odes 4-6 are omitted and Matins continues with the Kontakion & Ikos of the Forefathers.

Kontakion & Ikos (*page 34*)

Tone 6



You did not wor - ship a man-made im-age, O thrice - bless'd youths. You
armed yourselves with uncreat-ed di - vin - i - ty. You were glo - ri - fied in the
trial by fire. With - stand - ing the flames, you stood and called out:
Has - ten, O compassionate God, and hurry to help us in your mer - cy.
For you can do what - ev - er you will.

Ikos: Stretch forth your hand whereby of old the warring Egyptians and the embattled Hebrews were tested. Do not forsake us, so that death, which thirsts after us, will not swallow us up; and spare our souls, as you once spared your three children in Babylon, who glorified you unceasingly and were cast for your sake into a furnace, from whence they cried out to you: Hurry and make haste to our aid, O Compassionate One, in that you are merciful; for you can do what you will!

ODE 7

Canon to the Three Youths

Irmos: The pious children did not worship the golden image in Babylon; but, bedewed in the midst of the fiery furnace, they chanted a hymn, saying: Blessed are You, O supremely exalted God of our fathers!

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

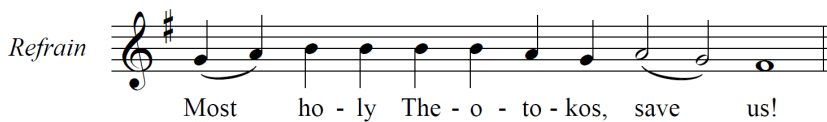
A pious voice sounded forth unto the Almighty from the midst of the fire, for the divine Azariah, forming a choir, chanted a hymn, saying: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

The harp of the youths theologizes concerning the Almighty, the God of all, and unto Him that appeared to them openly in the furnace they chanted a hymn, saying: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

The king, seeing the three children who had been cast into the furnace, beheld, as it were, the form of a Fourth, and he called Him the Son of God and cried out to all: Blessed is the God of our fathers!



Theotokion: Possessed of a mind illumined with divine radiance, O divinely blessed Daniel, you clearly foresaw the Offspring of the Virgin formed by divine images; and you cried out: Blessed are You, O God of our fathers!

Canon to the Forefathers

The Irmos of the Canon of the Forefathers, which will be repeated as Katavasia, is omitted.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

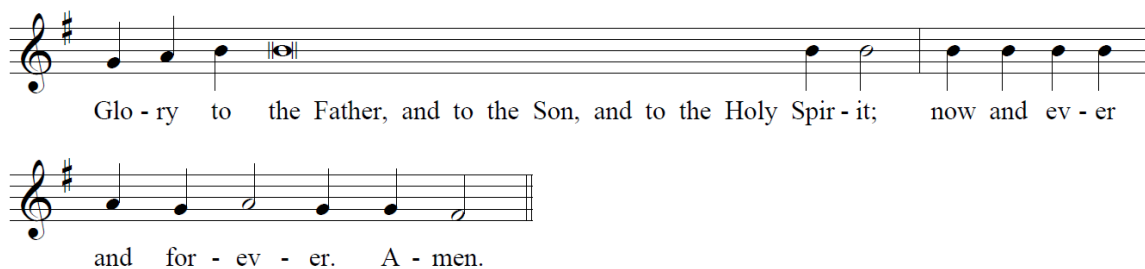
Let Ananiah, Azariah and Misael, who quenched the fiery furnace, be hymned, together with Daniel, who stopped the mouths of the lions, for together they chanted unto Christ: O God of our fathers, blessed are You!

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

Having lawfully suffered amid temptations and unmitigated tribulations, Job was called the favorite of God, most faithful, meek, guileless, righteous, perfect, blameless, crying aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed are You!

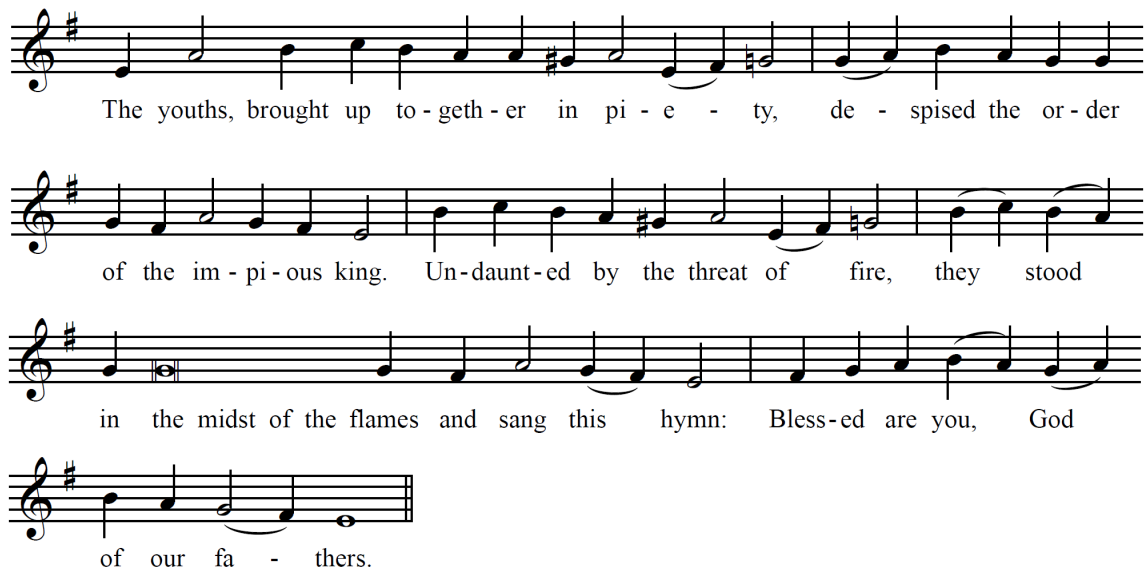
Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

With faith let us honor Moses, Aaron and Hur, praising Joshua and the most sacred Levi, Gideon and Samuel, and let us cry out: O God of our fathers, blessed are You!



Theotokion: Behold! as the prophet has foretold, she that knew not wedlock has conceived in her womb and manifestly comes to Bethlehem to give birth unto God. To Him let us chant: O God of our fathers, blessed are You!

Katavasia:



Ode 8 is omitted, the people stand & Matins continues with "Let us greatly extol..." & the Cantic of the Theotokos on p. 34.

ODE IX

Canon to the Three Youths

Irmos: Saved by you, O pure Virgin, we truly confess you to be the Theotokos, magnifying you with the bodiless choirs.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

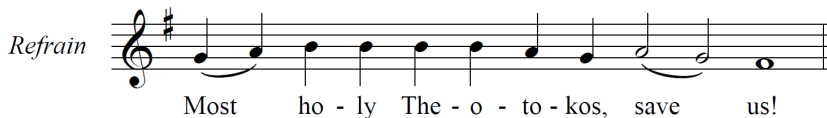
You have attained your desired end, O most blessed youths, and you stand in the mansions of heaven before Him that is the greatest of all desires.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

Rejoicing, you have received a sheaf as the reward of the good husbandry of your tears, having brought forth the grain of incorruption.

Refrain: Holy Three Children, pray to God for us!

Radiance has now shone upon you as is proper, and gladness of heart has blossomed forth, for you abide where grief has fled away.



Theotokion: O Virgin, you halted the spread of death, having given birth unto the Lord, the Bestower of life, Who imparts life unto them that magnify you with faith.

Canon to the Forefathers

The Irmos of the Canon of the Forefathers, which will be repeated as Katavasia, is omitted.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

By Your might, O Lord, You made powers of old: Your daughters Hannah, Judith, Deborah, Huldah, Jael and Esther, Sarah, Miriam the sister of Moses, Rachel, Rebecca and Ruth the exceedingly wise.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

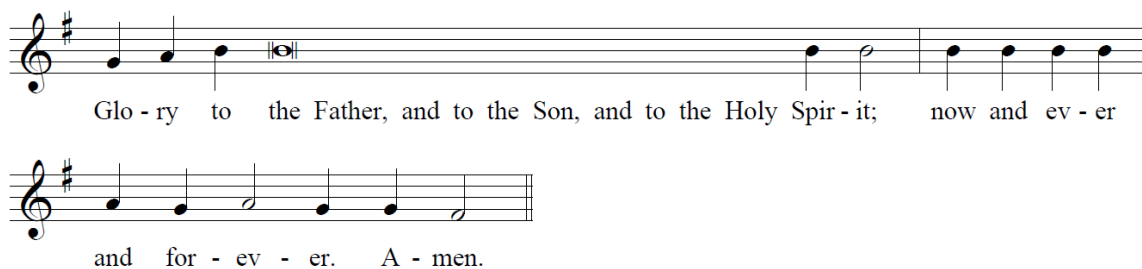
In a sacred manner let us honor the holy children that quenched the furnace, and with them, Daniel the prophet and all that were clearly righteous, who shone forth well before the Law, and under the Law were pleasing to the Lord.

Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

The most wise and divine prophets, being descendants of Abraham, proclaimed through the Spirit the Word of God, born of Abraham and Judah. By their prayers, O Jesus, have compassion on us all.

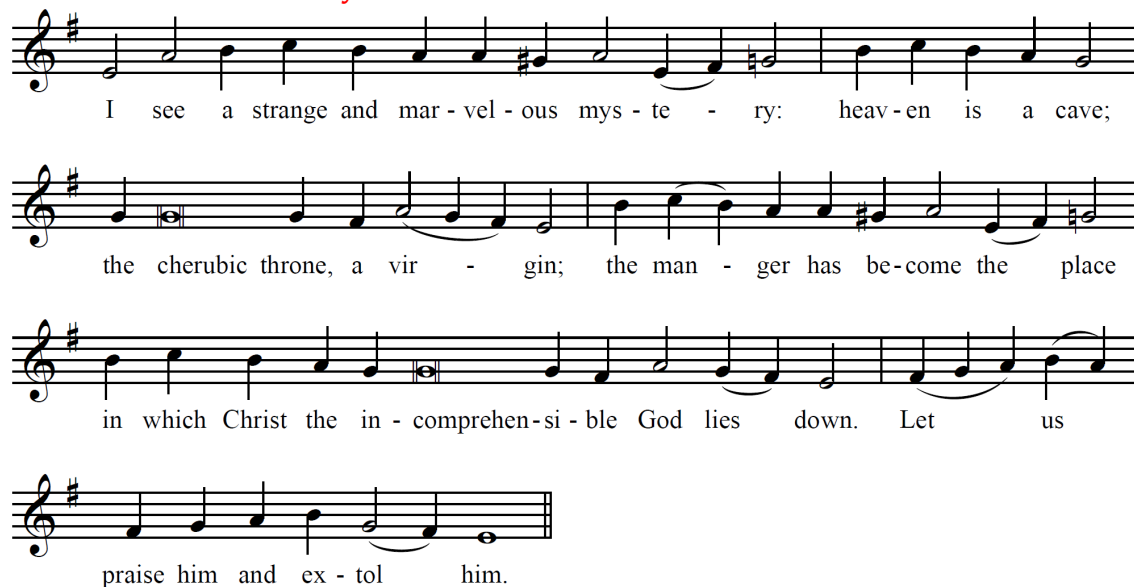
Refrain: Holy forefathers, pray to God for us!

All creation is sanctified by your memory and, keeping festival, calls out, crying aloud as befits a servant: Ever offer entreaty unto the Lord, O blessed ones, that they that praise you may receive eternal blessings!



Theotokion: **T**he Word of the Father, Who has robed Himself in me, comes forth from the Virgin and is born in the cave in unconfused manner. Dance you, O creation, magnifying, with thankful voices His all-holy condescension which He has shown forth in His lovingkindness.

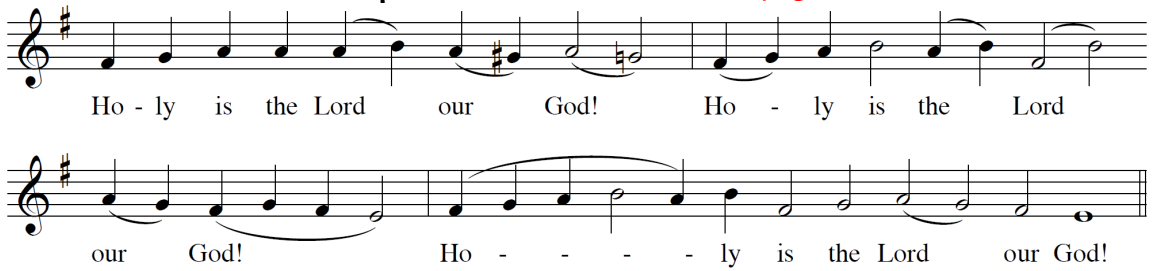
Katavasia 9 of the Nativity of the Lord



Matins continues with the Small Litany on page 36.

Holy is the Lord our God (page 37)

Tone 2



Hymns of Light (page 37)

Christ our Way and our Life, after his resurrection from the dead, accompanied Luke and Cleopas, who had recognized him at Emmaus in the breaking of the bread. Their hearts and souls were inflamed as he spoke to them on the way, explaining to them all the Scriptures that pertained to him. Let us, therefore, shout with them, saying: Truly the Lord has risen and has appeared to Peter.

Glory...

Let us praise Adam, Abel, Seth and Enos, Enoch and Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, Job and Aaron, Eleazar and Joshua, Barak, Sampson and Jephthah, David and Solomon.

Now and ever ...

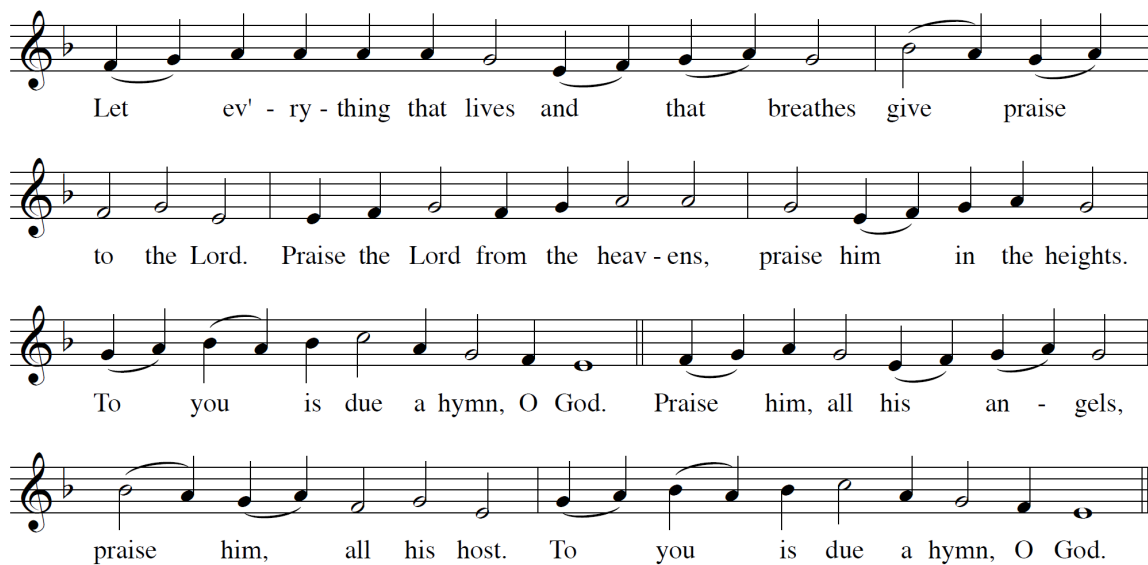
Theotokion:

The great Sun, the Creator, Who shall come forth from the Virgin who knew not man, makes haste to Bethlehem to enlighten all that are descended from Adam. Wherefore, the most radiant memory of the forefathers proclaims the wonder.

Matins continues with the Psalms of Praise.

Psalms of Praise (page 38)

Tone 2



Let ev' - ry - thing that lives and that breathes give praise
to the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heav - ens, praise him in the heights.
To you is due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his an - gels,
praise him, all his host. To you is due a hymn, O God.

The Psalms of Praise continue with "Praise him, sun and moon..." on page 38.

Stichera (page 40)

The following versicles are used instead of the usual last two resurrectional versicles.

The 2nd & 3rd of the 3 stichera for the Forefathers (all the rest are omitted):

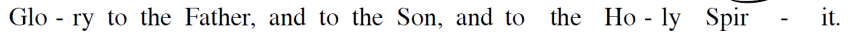
Cantor (Tone 2): Blessed are you and praiseworthy, O Lord,
the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

The children quenched * the power of the fire, * dancing in the midst of the furnace,
* and hymning God * the Almighty.

Cantor (Tone 2): For you are just in all that you have done for us.

Daniel the prophet was locked in the den * while the lions prowled about, * but he
did not become a victim of their raging appetite.

(Tone 7):



Matins continues with “Now and ever...” & the Theotokion for normal Sundays on p. 41.