

December 24: Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
Canon of the Forefeast (as sung at Compline)
Znamenny Chant, Tone 6

Ode 1

Klimov-Lebedev

S
A

He Who in an - cient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves

T
B

of the sea, is hid - den in a man - ger and Her-od seeks to

slay Him. But let us cry out with the Ma - gi in song:

Let us sing unto the Lord, for He has been greatly glo - ri - fied.

Ode 3

When the creation beheld Thee born in a cave, Who hast hung

the whole earth a-bove the wa - ters, it was seized with

a-maz - ment and cried: 'There is none ho-ly save Thee, O Lord.

Ode 4

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Fore-seeing Thy coming from the Vir - gin, Hab - a - kuk cried out

mar - vel-ling: O De - liv - erer, Thou art come from Te - - man,

to call back A - dam from his ex - - ile.

Ode 5

I sai-ah, as he watched by night, beheld the light that knows no

eve - ning, the_ light of thy The - o - pha - ny, O Christ,

that came to pass from ten-der love_ for us; and he_ cried a-loud:

be-hold a Vir-gin shall_ con-ceive and shall bear the in-car - nate Word,

and all those born on earth shall rejoice ex-ceed - - - ing - ly.'

Ode 6

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Jonah was enclosed but not held fast in the belly of the whale;

for serving as a figure of Thy birth and Thine appearing in the flesh,

he came forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber.

For, born now in the flesh, Thou shalt in the flesh undergo burial

and death, and Thou shalt rise again on the third day.

Ode 7

Won - der_ past speech! He Who delivered the Holy Children from the

flames of the fur - nace, is_laid as a babe in a man - ger,

for our sal-va-tion who sing: O God our De-liv-er-er, bless - ed art Thou.

Ode 8

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Be ye astonished, O ye hea - vens, be ye hor - ri - bly a - fraid,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics are: "Be ye astonished, O ye hea - vens, be ye hor - ri - bly a - fraid,". The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. A fermata is placed over the word "heavens".

and_ let the foundations of the earth be sha - - - ken.

The second system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "and_ let the foundations of the earth be sha - - - ken." The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the word "ken".

For lo, He Who bears the whole world in the hol - low of His hand,

The third system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "For lo, He Who bears the whole world in the hol - low of His hand,". The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the word "hand".

is_ wrapped in swad - ling clothes and received as a guest in a

The fourth system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: "is_ wrapped in swad - ling clothes and received as a guest in a". The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the word "swad".

Ode 8 (continued)

nar-row man - ger. Him do ye chil-dren bless, ye priests praise,

and ye peo - ple exalt above all for ev - - - er.

Ode 9

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Be not a-mazed, O Mo - ther, be-hold-ing Me now as a babe,

Whom the Fa - ther begat from the womb before the morn - ing star.

For I have come o - pen-ly to re - store and glo - ri - fy

with Myself the fallen nature of mor - tal man, that mag-ni - fies

thee in faith and in love.

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