

December 24, Sunday before Nativity
Stichera on "Lord I have cried" (of the Fathers)
Tone 6, Special Melody "Having set all your hope*...",
Optina Hermitage Melody

(10) *Reader:* In the 6th Tone, Special Melody "Having set all your hope..."
 Bring my soul out of prison,

I-descant
 II-chant
 melody

That I may con - - fess Thy name.

Un - to the ends of the earth hath the memory of the forefathers been

man - i - fest as tru - ly filled with light and shining with rays of grace;

for Christ the ra - di - ant Sun, shin - ing from a - far on high, doth lead forth

an assembly...

*melody name also translated "Having laid aside..."

an assembly of stars which shin - eth with Him, and in the midst of Beth -

le - hem a nativity is shown to be that of God— and man. There-fore

pi-ous-ly clap - ping our hands, with faith let us all join chor - - - us—

to ut - ter praise be - fore the feast un - to His na - tiv - - - i - ty.

(9) *Reader:* The righteous shall wait patiently for me

Un - til Thou shalt re - ward me.

Repeat sticheron: "Unto the ends of the earth..."

(8) Reader: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice.

Re-joic - ing today, Adam is a-dorned with the glory of divine

com-mun - - - ion, as the foun-da-tion and con-fir-ma - - - tion

of the wise fore - fa - thers; and with him Abel doth leap for joy

and E - noch is glad, and Seth danceth together with No - - - ah;

the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the pa - - tri - - archs, _

and from on high Melchizedek doth be - hold_____ a birth where-in a fa-ther

had_ no part. Wherefore celebrating the divine mem - or - y_____

of the fore-fa-thers of Christ, we beseech Him that our souls_____ be saved.

(7) *Reader:* Let Thine ears be attentive

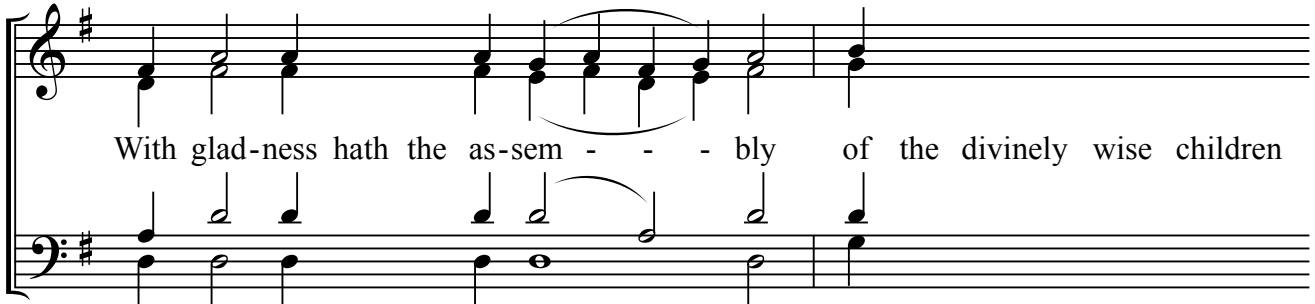
To the voice of my sup - pli - ca - - - - - tion.

Repeat: "Rejoicing today, Adam is adorned..."

(6) Reader: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who whall stand?




For with Thee there is for - give - - - - - ness.



With glad-ness hath the as - sem - - - - bly of the divinely wise children



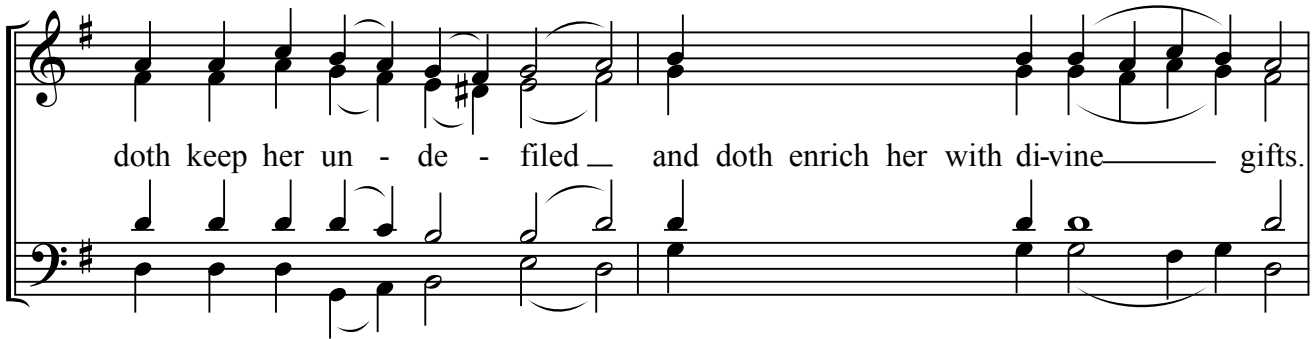
in the furnace shown - - - - - forth, and it pro - claim - - - - eth



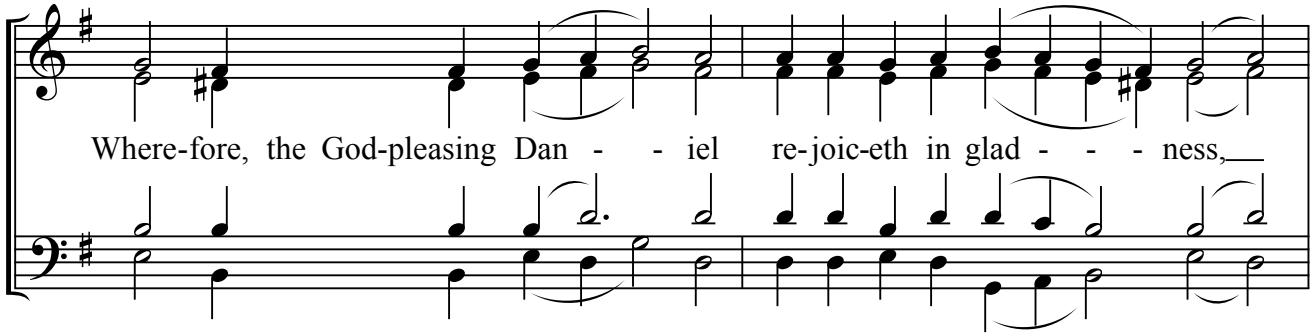
the nativity of Christ - - - - - on earth; - - - - - for the Lord, descending like a



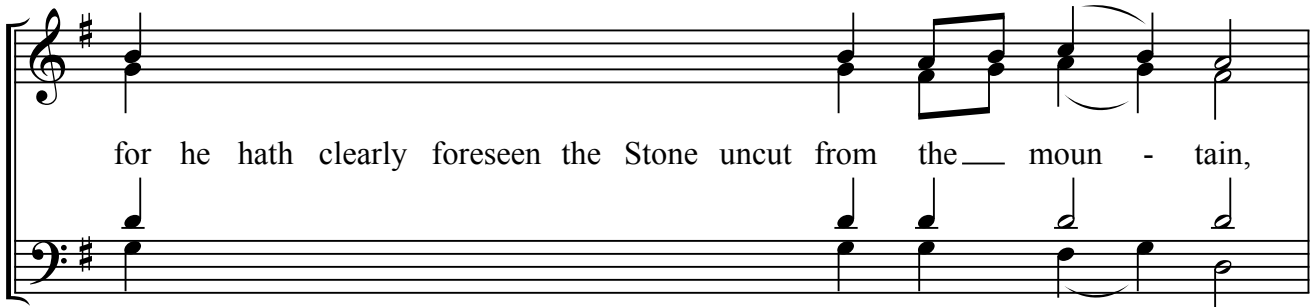
pre - cious dew, doth pre - serve un - consumed her who gave - - - - - Him birth,



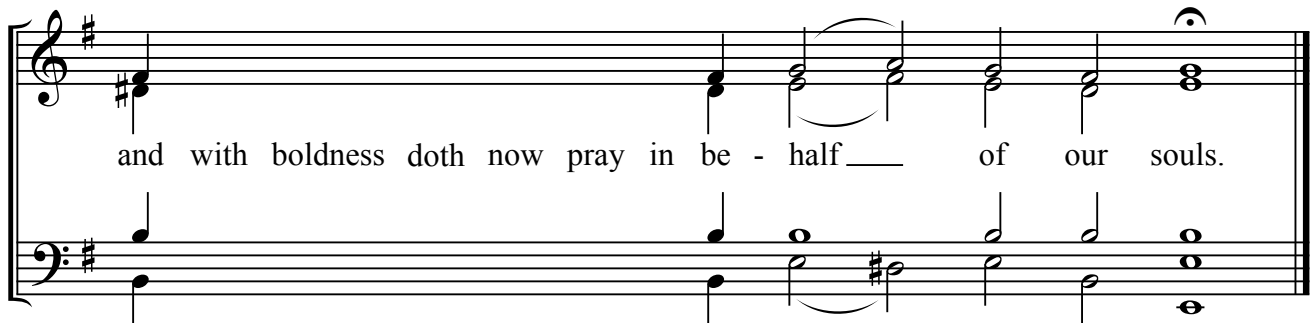
doth keep her un - de - filed_ and doth enrich her with di-vine—— gifts.



Where-fore, the God-pleasing Dan - - iel re-joic-eth in glad - - - ness, _

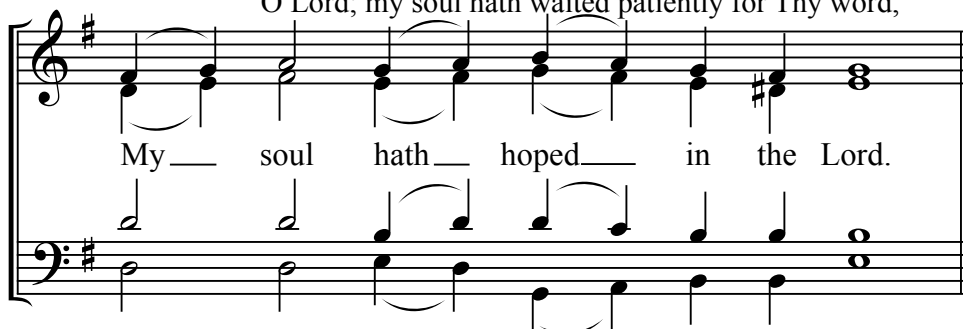


for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the_ moun - tain,



and with boldness doth now pray in be - half_ of our souls.

(5) *Reader:* For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee,
O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,



My_ soul hath_ hoped_ in the Lord.

Repeat: "With gladness hath the assembly..."

English text adapted from the translation of Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©1996, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol. IV St. John of Kronstadt Press The complete service text may be purchased through: sjkp.org

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