

December 24: Sunday before Nativity Stichera on "Lord I have cried...", Tone 6

(10) *Reader:* Bring my soul out of prison

That I may con - fess - - - Thy name.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody is a simple, melodic line with a few grace notes. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Unto the ends of the earth /
hath the memory of the forefathers been manifest /
as truly filled with light and shining with rays of grace; /
for Christ, the radiant Sun, /
shining from afar on high, /
doth lead forth an assembly of stars which shineth with Him, /
and in the midst of Bethlehem /
a nativity is shown to be that of God and man. /
Therefore, piously clapping our hands, /
with faith let us all join chorus before the feast//
to utter praise unto His nativity.

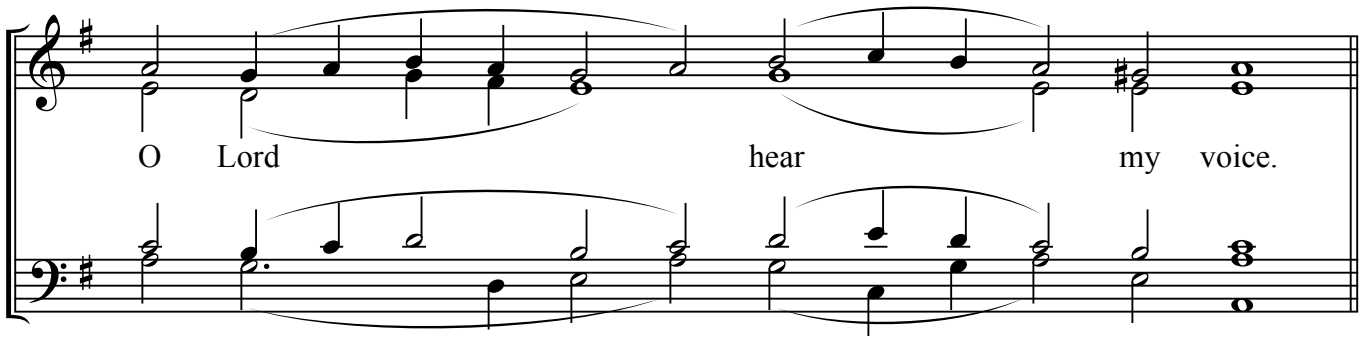
(9) *Reader:* The righteous shall wait patiently for me

Un - til Thou shalt re - ward me.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody is a simple, melodic line with a few grace notes. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

(Repeat above sticheron)

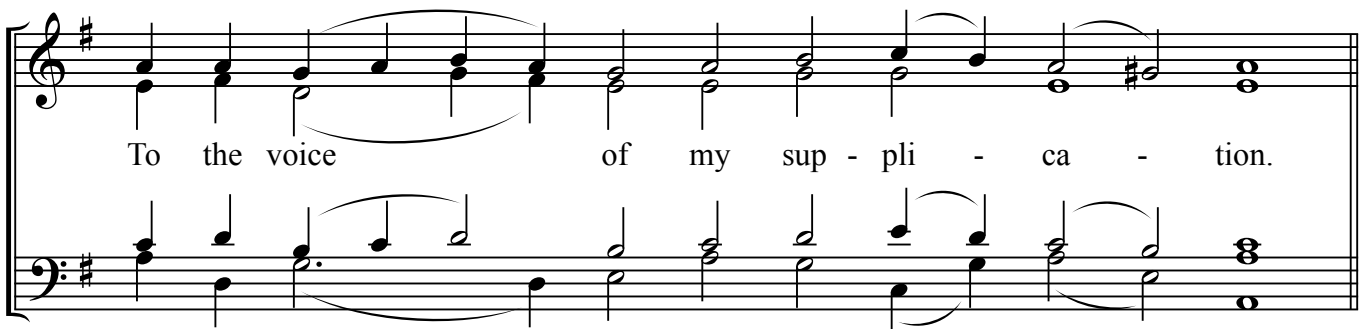
(8) Reader: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord;



O Lord hear my voice.

Rejoicing today, Adam is adorned /
with the glory of divine communion, /
as the foundation and confirmation of the wise forefathers; /
and with him Abel doth leap for joy and Enoch is glad, /
and Seth danceth together with Noah; /
the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the patriarchs, /
and from on high Melchizedek doth behold a birth /
wherein a father had no part. /
Wherefore, celebrating the divine memory of the forefathers of Christ, //
we beseech Him that our souls be saved.

(7) Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive



To the voice of my supplication.

(Repeat above sticheron)

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

For with Thee there is for - give - ness.

The musical score is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is primarily on the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

With gladness hath the assembly /
of the divinely wise children in the furnace shone forth, /
and it proclaimeth the nativity of Christ on earth; /
for the Lord, descending like a precious dew, /
doth preserve unconsumed her who gave Him birth, /
doth keep her undefiled. and doth enrich her with divine gifts. /
Wherefore, the God-pleasing Daniel rejoiceth in gladness, /
for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone-uncut from the mountain, //
and with boldness doth now pray in behalf 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.

The musical score is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is primarily on the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

(Repeat above sticheron)

(4) *Reader:* In the same tone, From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

Let Is - - - ra - el hope in the Lord.

The image shows a musical score for a Stichera. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Let Is - - - ra - el hope in the Lord." The word "Is" is followed by three dashes, and "ra" is followed by one dash. The melody is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

The never setting Sun /
cometh now to shine forth from the Virgins's womb /
and to enlighten all the world. /
Let us make haste to greet Him /
with pure eyes and deeds; /
and let us make ready in spirit to receive Him /
Who cometh unto His own through a strange birth, /
as He hath been well pleased be born in Bethlehem, /
that as He is compassionate, //
He may restore us who have estranged ourselves from the life of Eden.

(3) *Reader:* For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - i - - qui-ties.

The image shows a musical score for a Stichera. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - i - - qui-ties." The word "in" is followed by a dash, and "i" is followed by two dashes. The melody is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

(Repeat above sticheron)

(2) *Reader:* O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

The image shows a musical score for a Stichera. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in the key of D major (indicated by a sharp sign on the F line). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: "Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples." The word "peo" is followed by four dashes, indicating a long note or a pause. The music is written in a style typical of traditional church music.

God the Word, Who is upborne upon the shoulders of the cherubim /
having united Himself hypostatically to the flesh, /
hath made His abode within the womb of the all-immaculate one /
and become a man; /
and He hath come to earth to be born of the tribe of Judah. /
The holy cave is beautifully adorned, /
like a most magficent palace for the King of all; /
and the manger, wherein the Virgin Mary /
layeth the Infinite One as babe, /
is like a fiery throne //
and serveth for the renewal of creation.

(1) *Reader:* For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us,

And the truth of the Lord a - bi - - - deth for - ev - - - er.

The image shows a musical score for a Stichera. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "And the truth of the Lord a - bi - - - deth for - ev - - - er."

In a manger of dumb beasts doth the Virgin lay thee, /
O unoriginate Word of God, /
Who in manner which passeth understanding, hast received a beginning. /
For Thou comest to put an end /
to that foolishness which I assumed through the malice of the serpent, /
and to be wrapped in swaddling-clothes, /
that Thou mightest rend asunder /
the rags and chains of my transgressions, /
O Thou who alone art good and lovest mankind. /
Wherefore, I glorify Thee /
and I hymn and most joyfully worship Thine advent in the flesh, //
whereby I have been set free.