

June 24: The Nativity of the St. John the Baptist

After the Introductory Psalm (103, we sing "Blessed is the man...".
On "Lord I have cried", 8 stichera in Tone 4—

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

Tone 4 - Kievan

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

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled "II-chant melody" and the bottom staff is labeled "I-descant". Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a style typical of Byzantine chant, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The lyrics "O Lord, hear my voice." are written below the notes. The descant staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern.

When John was born, he loosed the muteness of Zechariah, /
for it was not fitting for the father to be silent /
when the voice of the Word arrived. /
But since, when the priest had not believed in the beginning, /
his tongue was bound, /
so, when John appeared, he set his father free. /
To him was announced and born the voice of the Word, //
the Forerunner of the Light, who prayeth for our souls.

(7) Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled "II-chant melody" and the bottom staff is labeled "I-descant". Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a style typical of Byzantine chant, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The lyrics "To the voice of my supplication." are written below the notes. The descant staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a similar rhythmic pattern.

Repeat: "When John was born..."

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

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

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 (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "For with Thee there is for - give - - - - - ness." The word "forgiveness" is split across the staves with hyphens. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with a long melisma on the word "forgiveness".

Today the voice of the Word /
looseth the voice of his father, /
which was restrained because of his unbelief; /
and he showeth forth fruitfulness to the Church, /
loosing the bonds of his mother's barrenness. /
The lamp of the Light cometh forth; /
the splendor of the Sun of righteousness /
announceth his coming, //
for the edification of all and the salvation 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.

When the Word of God willed to be born of the Virgin, /
His angel, the highest of the prophets /
and greatest born of women, /
issued forth from elderly loins; /
for it was meet the he be the all-glorious beginning of things divine:
an offspring produced past the age of fertility, /
a conception accomplished without seed. //
O Thou Who workest miracles for our salvation, glory be to Thee!

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

(4) Reader: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

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 (one sharp). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: "Let Is - ra - el hope in the Lord." The word "Let" is followed by a long horizontal line, and "hope" is also followed by a long horizontal line, indicating a long note or a specific melisma. The music is written in a style typical of traditional church music.

Today the great Forerunner, /
the greatest of all the prophets, hath appeared, /
issuing forth from the barren womb of Elizabeth, /
and there is none like unto him, /
nor hath any other such arisen; /
for the all-luminous Light followed the lamp of the Forerunner, /
the Word followed the voice, /
the Bridegroom followed the bridal attendant, /
who maketh ready an excellent people for the Lord, j/
cleansing them beforehand with water in the Spirit. /
He is the offspring of Zechariah, /
the goodly scion of the wilderness, /
the preacher of repentance, /
the cleanser of sins, /
who announceth the resurrection of the dead to those in hades, //
and prayeth for our souls.

(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 - iq - - - ui - ties.

Thou wast shown to be a prophet and Forerunner /
 from thy mother's womb, O John, Baptist of Christ, /
 leaping up and rejoicing within her /
 when thou didst behold the Queen, /
 bearing the Timeless One /
 Who was begotten of the Father without mother, /
 coming to her handmaid and to thee, /
 who shone forth from a barren woman and an elderly man //
 according to God's promise.

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

(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 (one sharp). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: "Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples." The word "peoples" is split across several measures with hyphens. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some measures containing rests. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

O all-glorious wonder! /
He who did not believe the word of the angel /
who said that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son, /
saying: "How can such a one give birth? /
For I am stricken with age, and her womb is withered up. " /
and he was condemned to muteness for his unbelief, /
today he beholdeth the promise fulfilled. /
His silence is broken, and he entereth into gladness, crying out: /
"Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of Israel, /
for Thou hast visited and wrought deliverance for Thy peoples, //
granting the world great mercy!"

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

June 24 (weekday)
Nativity of the Forerunner
Page 7

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

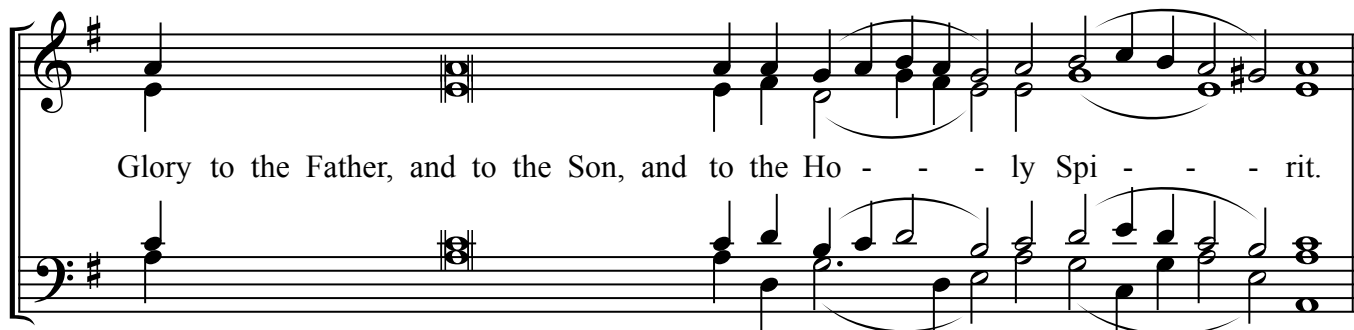
And the truth of the Lord a - bi - deth for ev - - - - er.

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, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The text is: "And the truth of the Lord a - bi - deth for ev - - - - er." The word "ev" is followed by four dashes, indicating a long note or a pause. The music is in a simple, homophonic style, typical of traditional church music.

O all-praised John apostle to the whole world, /
gladsome message of Gabriel, /
offspring of the barren woman, /
godly scion of the wilderness /
and true friend of Christ the Bridegroom: //
Entreat Him, that He have mercy upon our souls.

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

Reader: Glory, in the 6th Tone.

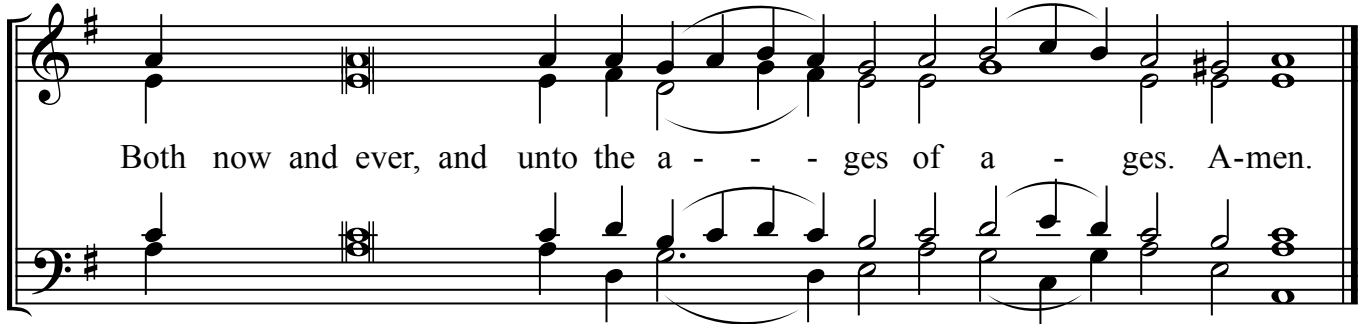


Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - - - ly Spi - - - rit.

Today the lamp of the Light, /
like a radiant star, /
goeth before the coming of the Word of God. /
Today the tongue of Zechariah is loosed, /
which the angel had commanded to keep silent. /
For it was thus fitting for the father to hold his tongue in silence /
for him who issued forth from the barren womb /
and with great boldness //
proclaimeth the deliverance of all the world.

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"

June 24 (weekday)
Nativity of the Forerunner
Page 9



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

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 written below the treble staff. The text reads: "Both now and ever, and unto the a - - - ges of a - ges. A-men." The word "ages" is written with a long dash between the 'a' and 'g'.

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace, /
and the Virgin conceived the Lord of glory. /
Both mothers kissed each other, and the babe leapt up, /
for within her womb the servant praised the Master. /
And the mother of the forerunner marvelled and cried out: /
"Whence is this to me that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? //
May He Who hath great mercy save a despairing people!"

English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©1999, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol. X,
St. John of Kronstadt Press. The complete text may be purchased through: sjkp.org