#### VESPERS AND THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

The reader stands in the middle of the chapel.

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, O God, Glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life; come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God!

#### Psalm 103 (104)

Reader:

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment; Who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent.

Who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, Who ridest on the wings of the wind. Who makest Thy angels spirits and Thy ministers a fiery flame.

Thou didst set the earth on its foundations so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight! The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them.

Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, fodder for the animals that serve man.

That he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats, the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons. The sun knows its time for setting.

Thou makest darkness and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! The earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great.

There go the ships and the Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee to give them their food in due season.

When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created and Thou renewest the face of the ground! May the glory of the Lord endure forever! May the Lord rejoice in His works!

Who lookest on the earth and it trembles! Who touchest the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have being!

May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord! Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God! (3x)

# IMMEDIATELY THE GREAT LITANY →

# The Great Litany



#### **VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST BASIL**

"Lord I Call..." Tone 2

Lord, I call upon Thee, <u>hear</u> me! Hear <u>me</u>, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, <u>hear</u> me! Receive the <u>voice</u> of my <u>prayer</u>, when I <u>call</u> upon <u>Thee!</u> Hear <u>me</u>, O Lord!

Let my <u>prayer</u> arise in Thy sight as <u>in</u>cense, and <u>let</u> the lifting <u>up</u> of my hands be an evening <u>sacrifice!</u> Hear <u>me</u>, O Lord!

#### Tone 2

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Come let us greatly rejoice in the lord As we sing of this present mystery The wall which divided god from man has been destroyed The flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate The cherubim withdraw from the tree of life And I, who had been cast out through my disobedience Now feast on the delights of paradise For today the father's perfect image Marked with the stamp of eternity Has taken the form of a servant Without undergoing change he is born from an unwedded mother He was true god and remaind the same But through his love for mankind He has become what he never was: true man Come, O faithful, let us cry to him// O God, born of a virgin, have mercy on us!

v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(repeat "Come let us greatly rejoice...)

v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

When the Lord Jesus was born of a virgin
The whole universe was filled with light
The shepherds watched in the fields
The wise \_nen worshipped and the angels sang
But herod was troubled
For God had appeared in the flesh//
He is the savior of our souls

v. (5) For Thy name's sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

....Repeat "When the Lord Jesus was born....

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Thy kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God
Thy rule is from age to age
Made Flesh by the Holy Spirit
Made man of the ever virgin Mary
Thou has filled all creation with Joy
The light of thy coming has shown on us
Every living creature praises thee
The image of the father's glory
Light of light, the radiance of the father
The same yesterday, today and forever
Thou hast shown forth from a virgin//
O God, have mercy on us

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

...Repeat Thy kingdom endures forever, O Chirst our God...

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

What shall we offer Thee, O Christ?
Who, for our sakes, has appeared on earth as man Every creature made by the offers thee thanks
The angels, a hymn; the heavens, a star;
The wise men, gifs; the shepherds, winder;
The earth, its cave; the wilderness a manger
And we offer thee a virgin mother
O pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.

Repeat ... What shall we offer Thee, O Christ

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### Tone 2 (Special Kievan Melody if Desired)

When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth
The many kingdoms of men came to an end
And when thou was made man of the most pure virgin
The many gods of idolatry were destroyed
The cities of the world passed under one single rule
And the nations came to believe in one sovereign god head
The people were enrolled by the decree of Caesar
And we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the godhead
When thou, o lord, was made man//
Great is thy mercy, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

# Gladsome Light

Prokeimenon - (See Evening Prokeimenon Sheet Following Gladsome Light)

#### **OT READINGS:**

- 1) Genesis (1:1-13)
- 2) Numbers (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)
- 3) Micah (4:6-7; 5:2-4)

### 1st Reading

### The Reading from Genesis (1:1-13)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seeds of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

#### **2nd Reading**

#### The Reading from Numbers (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)

Balaam looked up and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. Then the spirit of God came upon him, and he uttered his oracle, saying:

"The oracle of Balaam, son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is clear, how fair are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, 0 Israel! Like palm groves that stretch far away, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall have abundant water, his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. God who brings him out of Egypt, is like the horns of a wild ox for him; he shall devour the nations that are his foes and break their bones. He shall strike with his arrows. He crouched, he lay down like a lion, and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, and cursed is everyone who curses you."

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near - a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, at d the territory of all the Shethites. Edom will become a possession, Seir a possession of its enemies, while Israel does valiantly.

### 3rd Reading

# The Reading from Micah (4:6-7; 5:2-4)

In that day, says the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those who I have afflicted. The lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion now and forevermore.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

#### **Choir:**

Tone 6 (for the Feast)
In the secrecy of a cave Thou was born
But heaven spoke openly through a star
Revealing Thee to all, O savior
The Star led wise men to worship Thee //
As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us\*

\*Psalm 86 (87 Heb.) is read and the refrain: "As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us" is sung after each verse.

#### Psalm 86, New Jordanville Translation

Her foundations are upon the holy hills;

As on them.....

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob; As on them...

Very Glorious things are spoken of Thee, O City of God; As on them...

I will speak of Rahab and Babylon with them that know me; behold, the Philistines also, and Tyre; with the Ethiopians, such were there. *As on them...* 

Mother Zion, shall a man say, and the man was born in her, and the Most High Himself hath founded her.

As on them...

The Lord shall tell in writing of the peoples and princes that were in her; *As on them...* 

How joyful are all they whose habitiation is in thee! As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

- 4) Isaiah (11:1-10)
- 5) Jeremiah (Baruch, 3:36 4:4)
- 6) Daniel (2:31-36, 44-45)

### 4th Reading

#### Reading from Isaiah (11: 1-10)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the preath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

#### 5th Reading

# Reading is taken from the Book of Jeremiah (Baruch 3:36-4:4)

He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, 0 Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

#### 6th Reading

# Reading from the Prophet Daniel (2:31-36, 44-45)

"You were looking, O king, and lo! there was a great statue. This statue was huge, its brilliance extraordinary; it was standing before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, were all broken in pieces and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

"This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has informed the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy."

After the 6th Reading, Royal Doors open and Choir immediately Sings:

To: e 6

From a virgin thou didst rise, O Christ
Our Spiritual Son of Righteousness
Though nothing can contain thee
A star revealed thee as contained in a cave
Thou has lead the wise men to worship thee
With them we magnify Thee //
O Giver of life, Glory to Thee!\*

Psalm 92 (93 Heb) is read and the refrain "O Giver of life, Glory to Thee" is sung after each verse

#### Psalm 92, New Jordanville Translation

The Lord is King, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed in strength, and hath girded Himself, for he hath made the whole world so sure, that it shall never be moved;

O Civer of Life, Glory to Thee

From the beginning is Thy throne prepared; Thou art from everlasting;

O Giver of Life, Glory to Thee

The rivers are risen, O Lord, the rivers have lift up their voices;

O Giver of Life, Glory to Thee

The rivers shall stir up their havoc, from the voices of many waters;

O Giver of Life, Glory to Thee

Wonderful are the heights of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high;

O Giver of Life, Glory to Thee

Thy testimonies are very sure; holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days

O Giver of Life, Glory to Thee

- 7) Isaiah (9:6-7)
- 8) Isaiah (7:10-16, 8:1-4, 9-10)

## 7th Reading

# Reading from Isaiah (9:6-7)

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and fore remore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

# 8th Reading

#### Reading from Isaiah (7:10-16, 8:1-4, 9-10)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 'He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

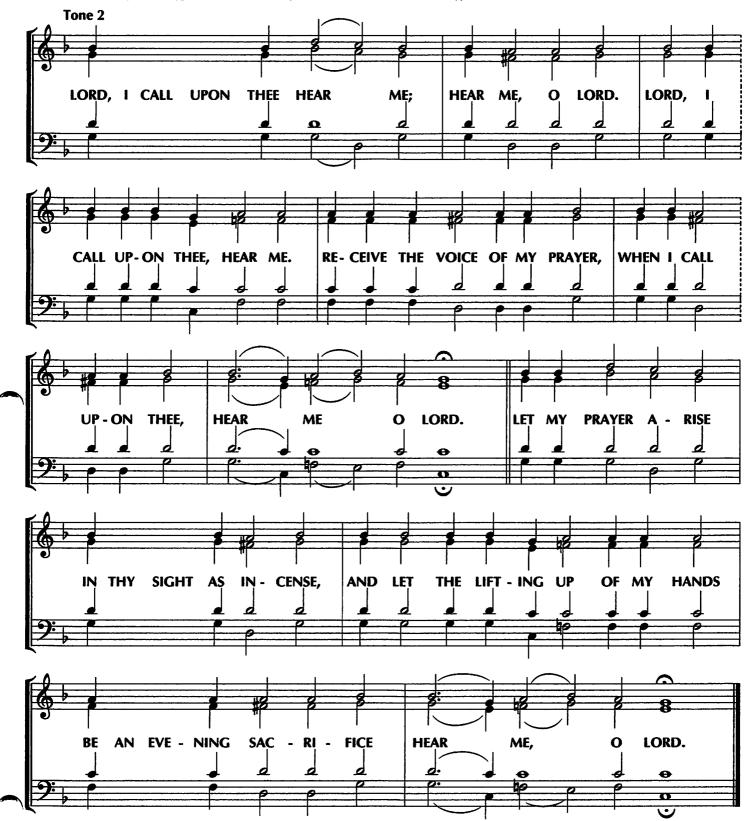
Then the Lord said to me, Take a large tablet and write on 1t m common characters, "Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz," and have it attested for me by reliable witnesses, the priests Uriah and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to call "My father" or "My mother," the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria.

Band together, you peoples, and be dismayed; listen, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed! Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

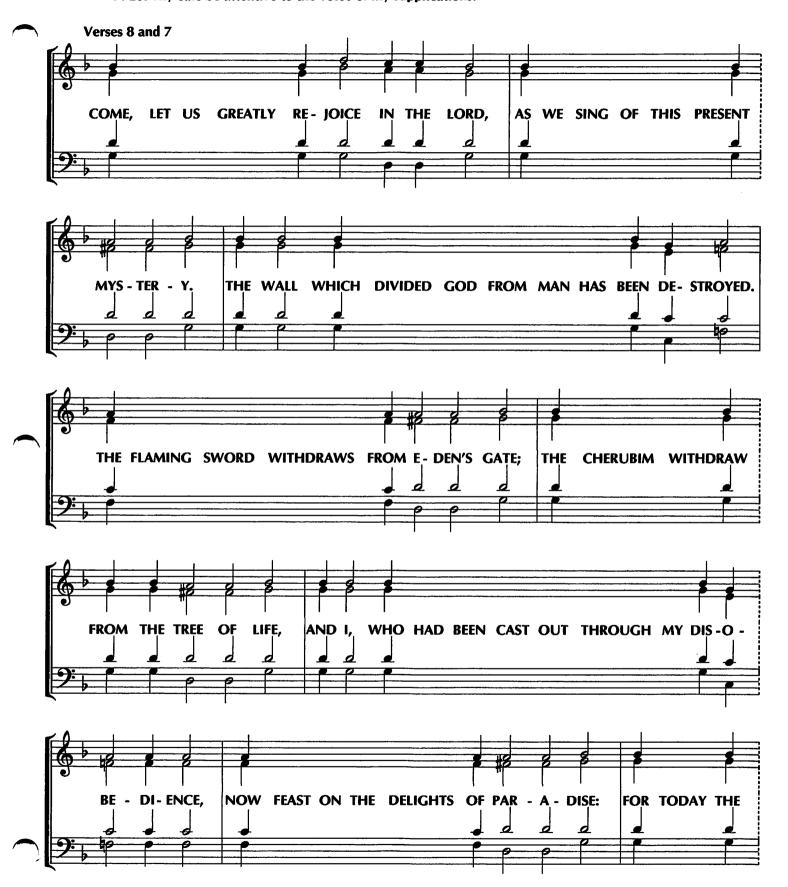
GO TO P. 20, LITANY....

# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Vespers

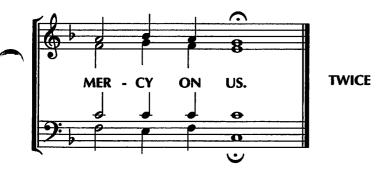
When December 25th falls on a Sunday or Monday, Vespers on the eve is served seperately. If this be a Saturday evening, the 1st Kathisma, "Blessed is the Man" is sung.



- 8. Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. O Lord, hear my voice.
- 7. Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.





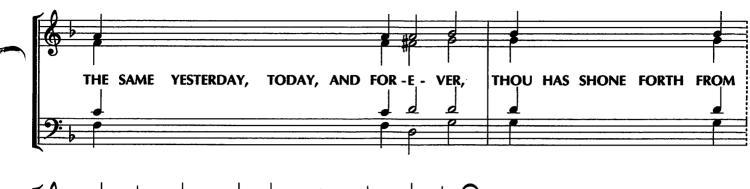


- 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.
- 5. For Thy names's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My sould has waited for Thy word, my soul has hoped on the Lord.



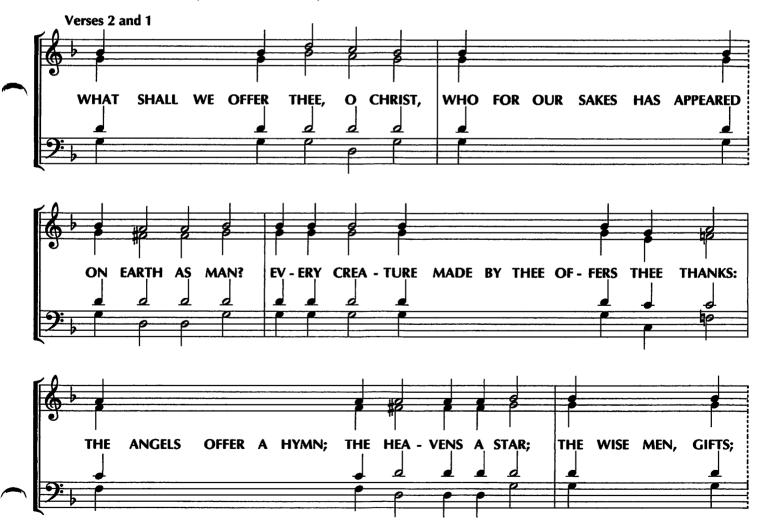
- 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord.
- 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

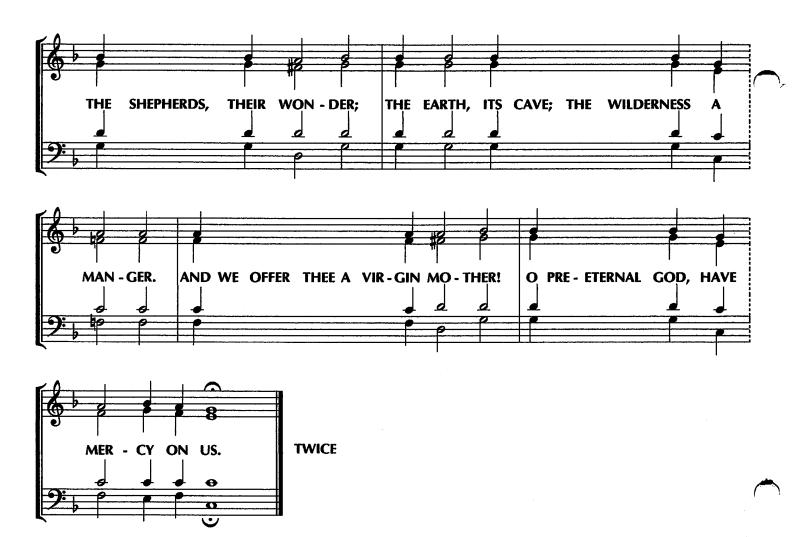




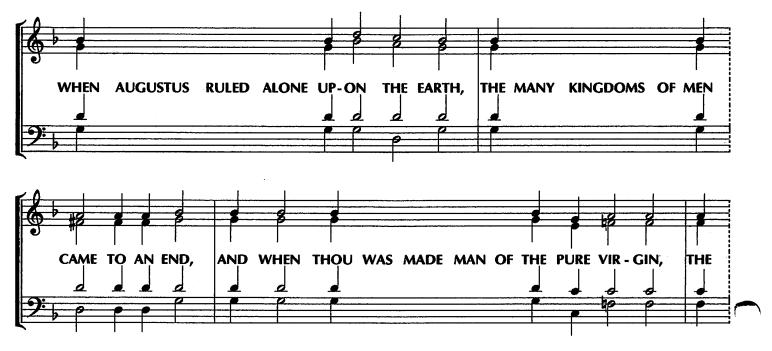


- 2. Praise the Lord, all nations. Praise Him, all peoples.
- 1. For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.





Glory, now and ever in the same tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.







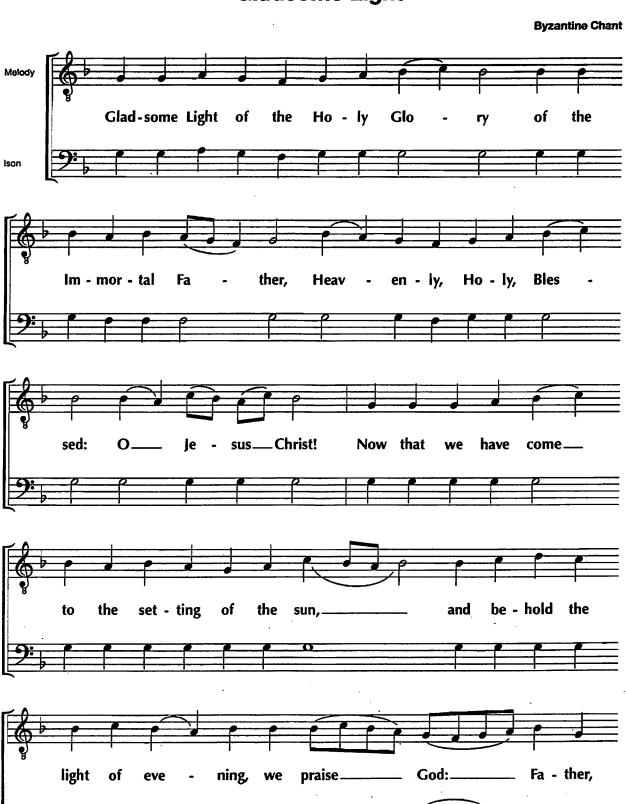
#### O GLADSOME LIGHT

#### PROKIMENON OF THE DAY.

# IF IT BE A FRIDAY, THEN THE GREAT PROKIMENON: "WHO IS SO GREAT A GOD AS OUR GOD"

**READINGS** 

# **Gladsome Light**





#### The Evening Prokeimenon

Deacon: Let us attend! Wisdom! The evening Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_\_\_tone!

Priest or Deacon with Choir

#### Sunday evening - Tone 8:

Behold now, bless the Lord / all you servants of the Lord. You, who stand by night in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

#### Monday evening - Tone 4:

The Lord hears me / when I call to Him.
When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me.

#### Tuesday evening - Tone 1:

Thy mercy, O Lord / shall follow me all the days of my life.
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures.

#### Wednesday evening - Tone 5:

Save me, O God, by Thy Name / and judge me by Thy strength. Hear me prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth.

#### Thursday evening - Tone 6:

My help comes from the Lord / Who made heaven and earth. I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come.

#### Friday evening - The Great Prokeimenon

Who is so great a God as our God? / Thou art the God who doest wonders.

Vs. 1 Thou hast made known Thy power among the peoples.

Vs.2 And I said, now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High

Vs.3 I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Thy wonders.

#### IMMEDIATELY BEGIN THE READINGS →

# The Great Prokeimenon



#### READINGS FOR NATIVITY VESPERS

# 1st Reading The Reading from Genesis (1:1-13)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seeds of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

# 2nd Reading The Reading from Numbers (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)

Balaam looked up and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. Then the spirit of God came upon him, and he uttered his oracle, saying:

"The oracle of Balaam, son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is clear, how fair are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! Like palm groves that stretch far away, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall have abundant water, his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. God who brings him out of Egypt, is like the horns of a wild ox for him; he shall devour the nations that are his foes and break their bones. He shall strike with his arrows. He crouched, he lay down like a lion, and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, and cursed is everyone who curses you."

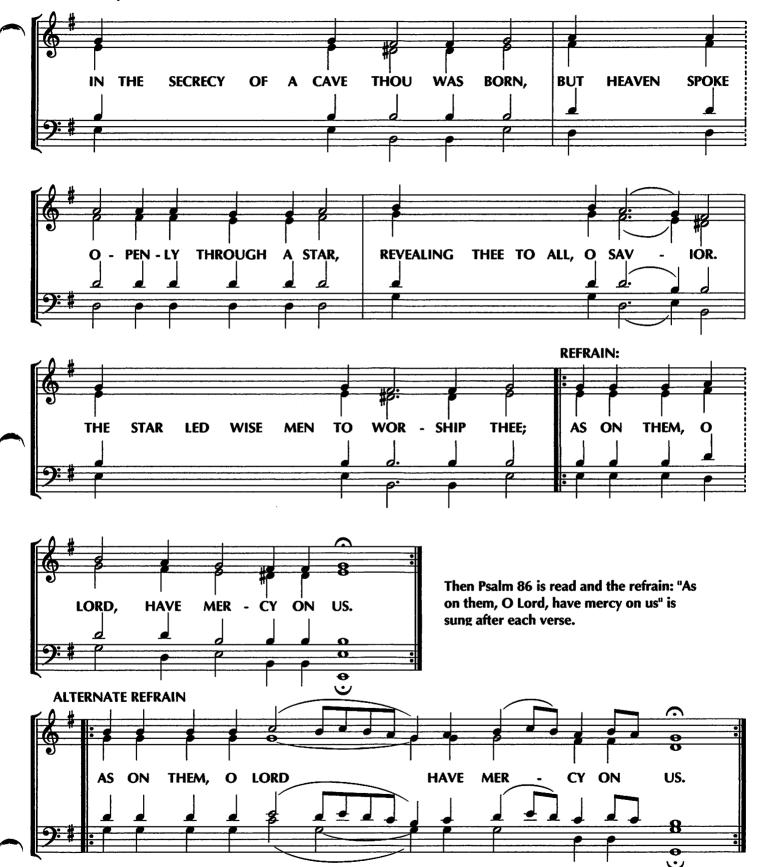
I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near – a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites. Edom will become a possession, Seir a possession of its enemies, while Israel does valiantly.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading <u>The Reading from Micah</u> (4:6-7; 5:2-4)

In that day, says the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those who I have afflicted. The lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion now and forevermore.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

After the 3rd reading, the Royal Doors are opened and the choirs sings the following troparion in the 6th tone:



Then, after the final verse the FULL Troparion is repeated and the readings continue.

#### Psalm 86

VERSE: His foundations are on the holy mountains. The Lord loves the

gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

REFRAIN: The star led the wise men to worship Thee;

As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

VERSE: Glorious things are said of you, O city of God. I will mention

Rahab and Babylon to those who know me.

REFRAIN: The star led the wise men to worship Thee;

As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

VERSE: Behold, Philistines and the people of Tyre and Ethiopia, these were

born there.

REFRAIN: The star led the wise men to worship Thee;

As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

VERSE: A man will say, "Zion is my mother," and "Such a man was born

in her," and The Most High Himself has founded her."

REFRAIN: The star led the wise men to worship Thee;

As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

VERSE: The Lord will record in His register of the peoples the princes who

were born in her. How joyful are all those whose home is in you!

REFRAIN: The star led the wise men to worship Thee;

As on them, O Lord, have mercy on us!

VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and

ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### SECOND SET OF NATIVITY VESPERAL READINGS

# 4<sup>th</sup> Reading <u>Reading from Isaiah</u> (11:1-10)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Reading <u>Reading is taken from the Book of Jeremiah</u> (Baruch 3:36-4:4)

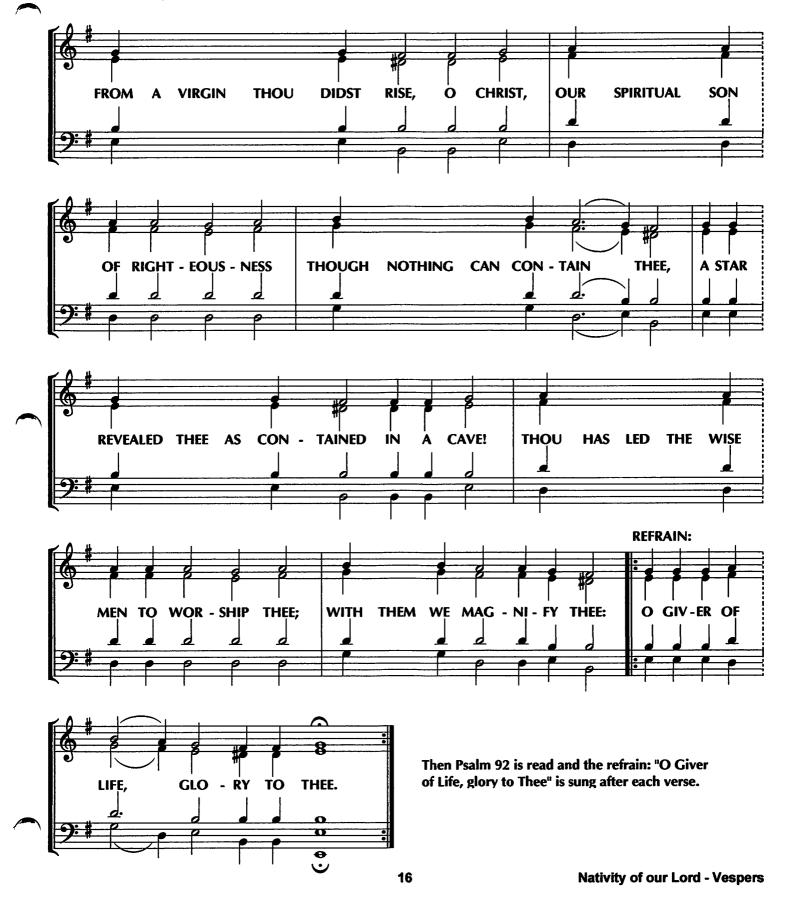
He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

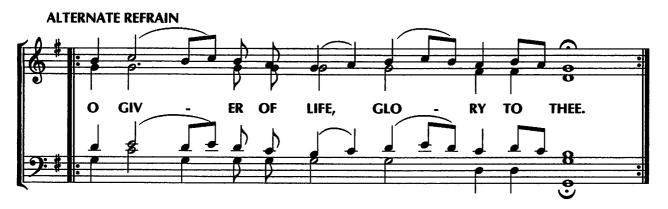
# 6<sup>th</sup> Reading <u>Reading from the Prophet Daniel</u> (2:31-36, 44-45)

"You were looking, O king, and lo! there was a great statue. This statue was huge, its brilliance extraordinary; it was standing before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, were all broken in pieces and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

"This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has informed the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy."

After the 6th reading, the Royal Doors are opened and the choirs sings the following troparion in the 6th tone:





Then, after the final verse the FULL Troparion is repeated and the readings continue.

#### Psalm 92

VERSE: The Lord reigns; He is robed in beauty! The Lord has clothed

Himself with power, and has girded Himself with strength.

REFRAIN: Thou has led the wise men to worship Thee;

With them we magnify Thee:

O Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

VERSE: He has set the earth so firmly in place that it cannot be moved. Thy

throne is prepared from of old; Thou art from everlasting.

REFRAIN: Thou hast led the wise men to worship Thee;

With them we magnify Thee:

O Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

VERSE: The rivers lift up, O Lord, the rivers lift up their voices; the rivers

lift up their waves at the sound of many waters.

REFRAIN: Thou has led the wise men to worship Thee;

With them we magnify Thee:

O Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

VERSE: Wonderful are the waves of the sea; wonderful is the Lord on high.

Thy testimonies are very sure.

REFRAIN: Thou has led the wise men to worship Thee;

With them we magnify Thee:

O Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

VERSE: Holiness is due Thy house, O Lord, forever.

REFRAIN: Thou has led the wise men to worship Thee;

With them we magnify Thee:

O Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and

ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### THIRD SET OF VESPERAL NATIVITY READINGS

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Reading <u>Reading from Isaiah (</u>9:6-7)

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Reading <u>Reading from Isaiah</u> (7:10-16, 8:1-4, 9-10)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

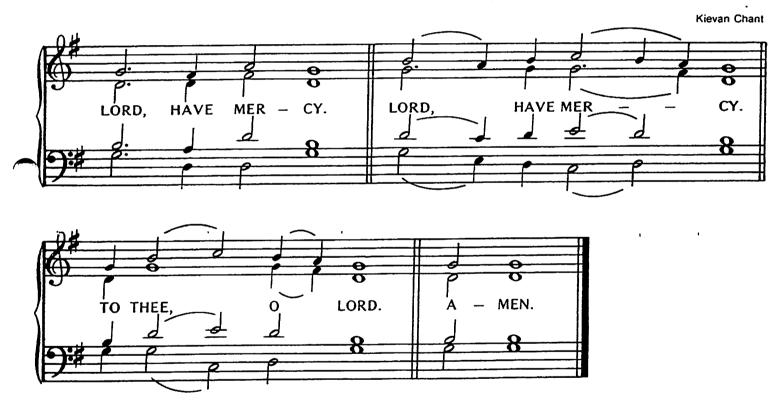
Then the Lord said to me, Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, "Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz," and have it attested for me by reliable witnesses, the priests Uriah and Zechariah son of Jeberechiah. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to call "My father" or "My mother," the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria.

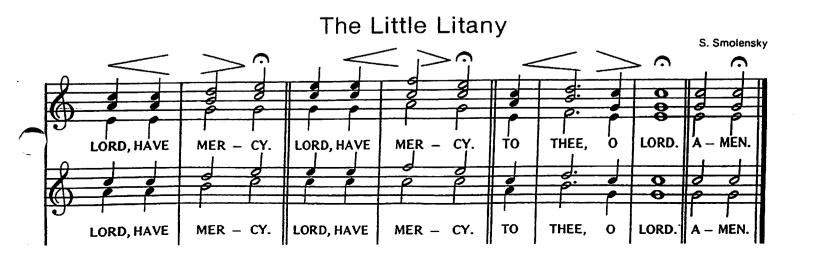
Band together, you peoples, and be dismayed; listen, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed! Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

ejeacon: Again + again... The Little Litany











After the final reading, the Little Litany is taken and the Trisagion is sung. However, if December 25th falls on a Sunday or Monday this is ommitted and immediately we take the following prokimenon:





**EPISTLE: Gal. 3:15-22 GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20** 

And we continue with the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great singing "All creation rejoices in you" and the Communion Hymn "Praise the Lord from the Heavens:.

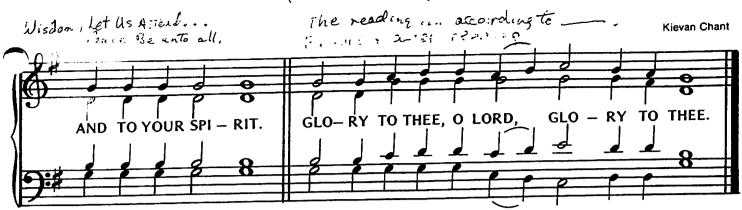
However, if the feast falls on Sunday or Monday when Vespers is served seperate from the Liturgy, after the gospel, the Augmented Litany, Vouchsafe, O Lord, Litany of Supplication (Evening Litany) are taken in order. This is followed by the Festal Dismissal.

After the conclusion of the service, the Troparion and Kontakion of the feast are sung while the icon is placed in the center of the temple.

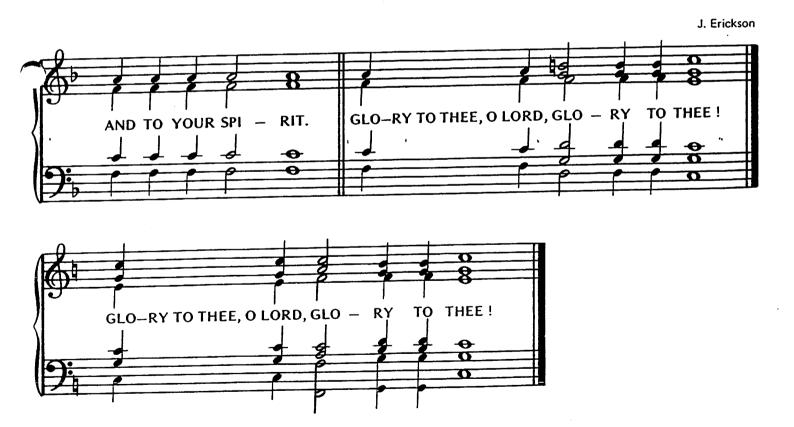
# Alleluia Before the Gospel







# At the Gospel



Jencon: Let us say.....

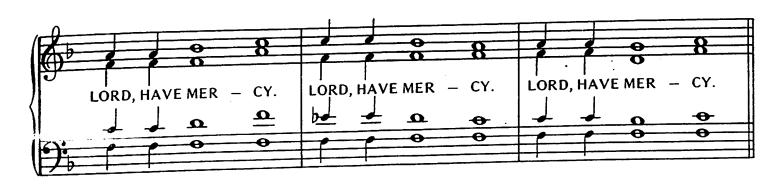


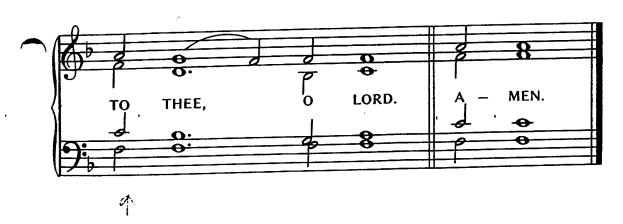




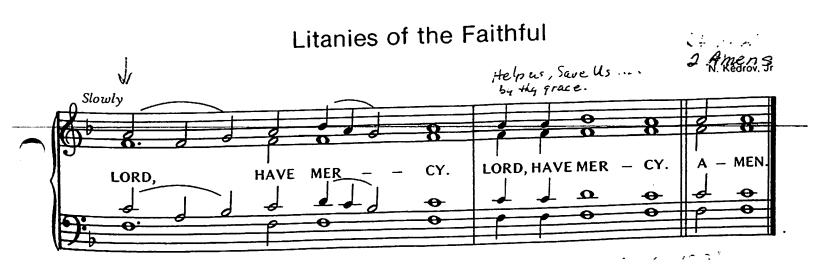
N. Kedrov, Jr







199



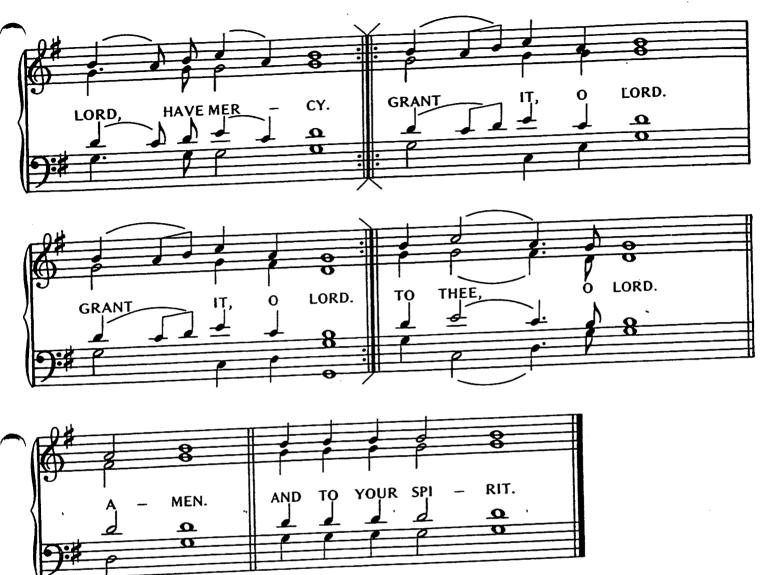






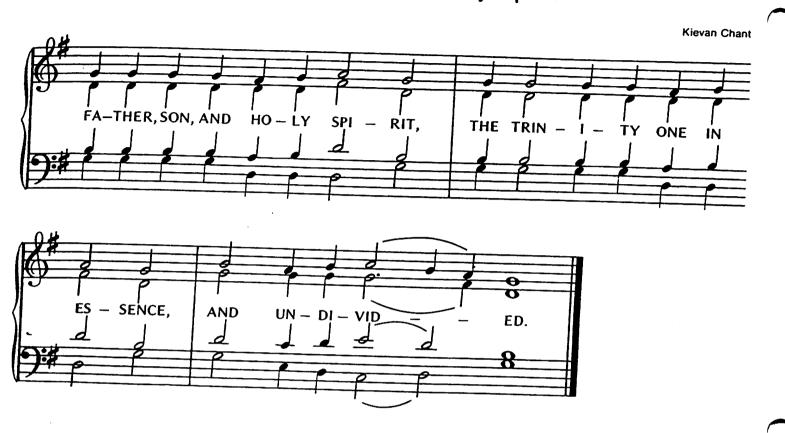
# eacon: Let us complete ou The Litany of Supplication pregerents the Lord.

B. Ledkovsky



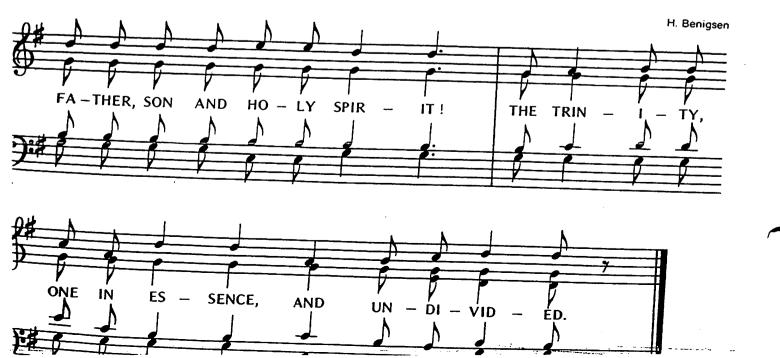
2:37 1

# Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



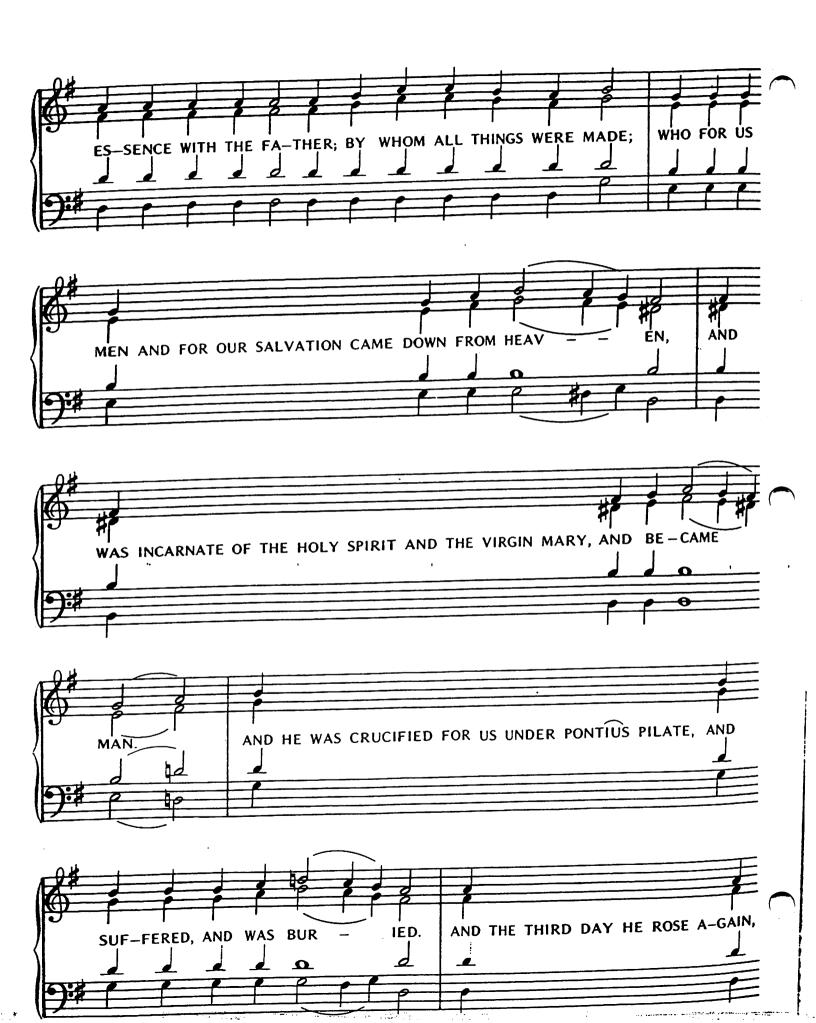
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# Father, Son, and Holy S.

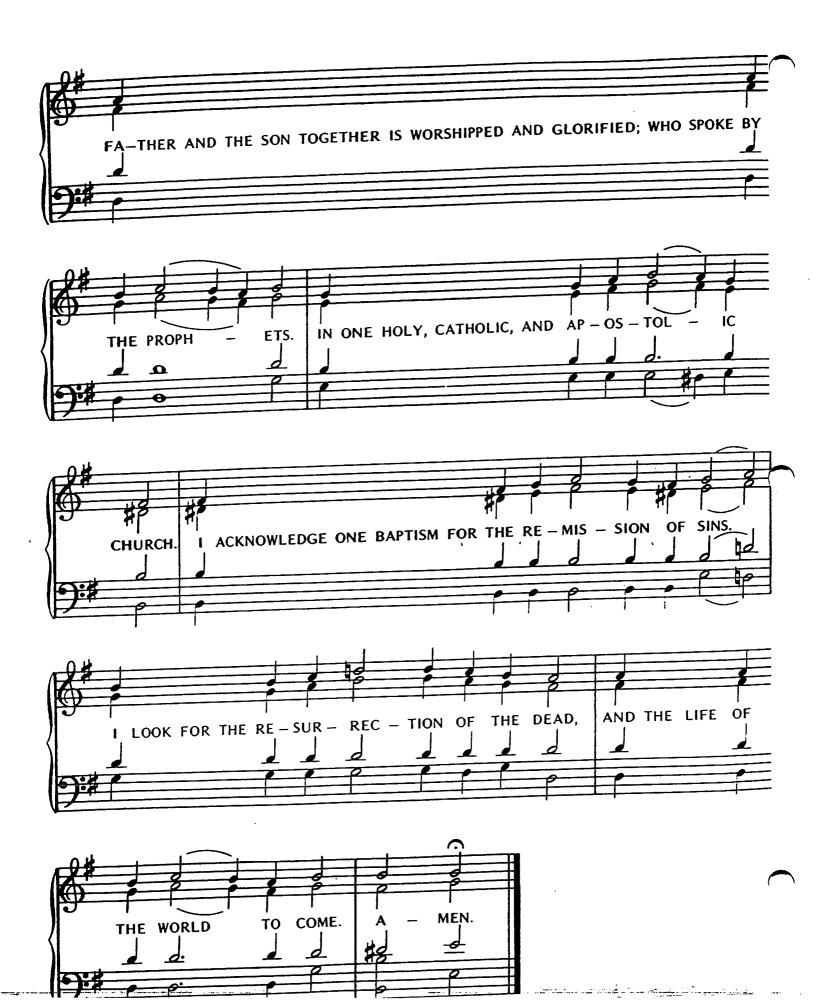


### The Creed

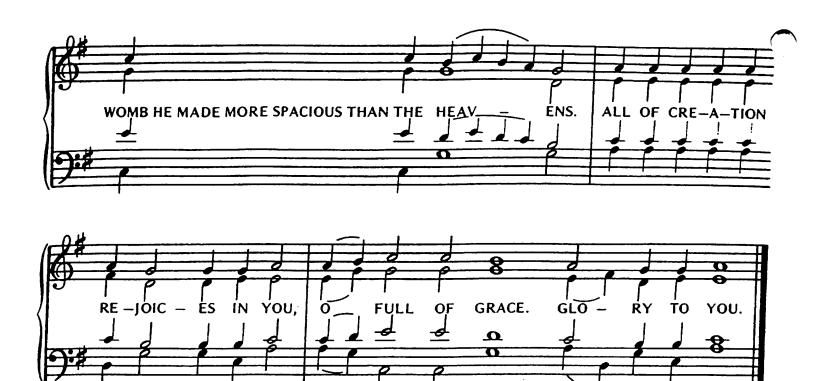








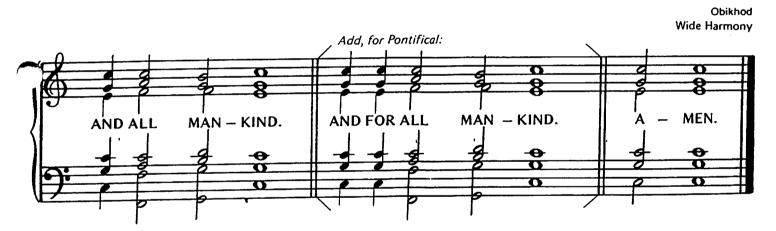




### And All Mankind //



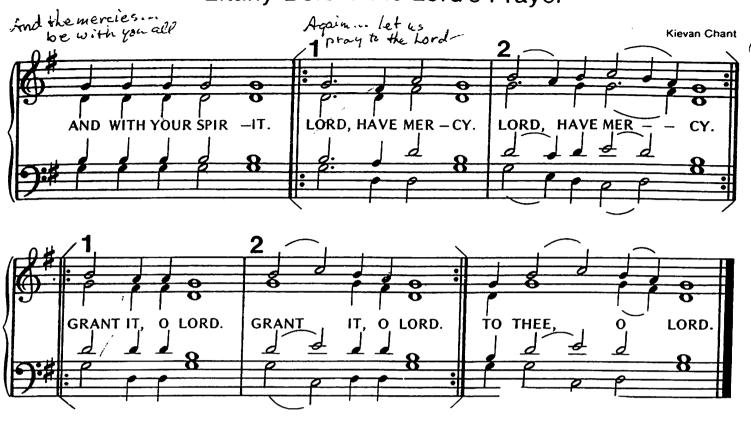
### And All Mankind



303 ₩

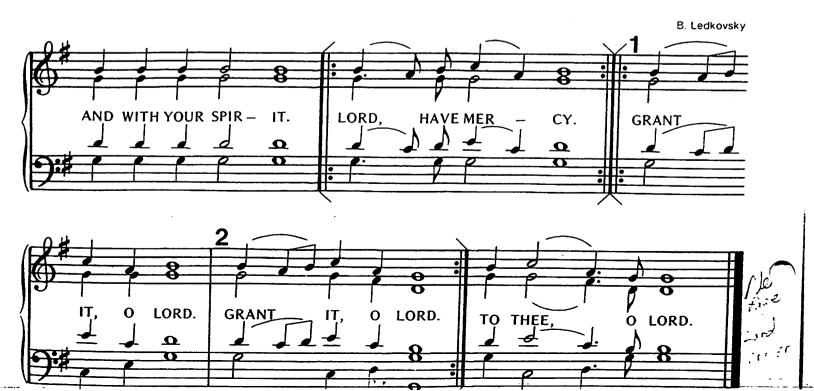
303

Litany Before the Lord's Prayer



Priest. And the mercies ... be with 40- all.

# Litany Before the Lord's Prayer X

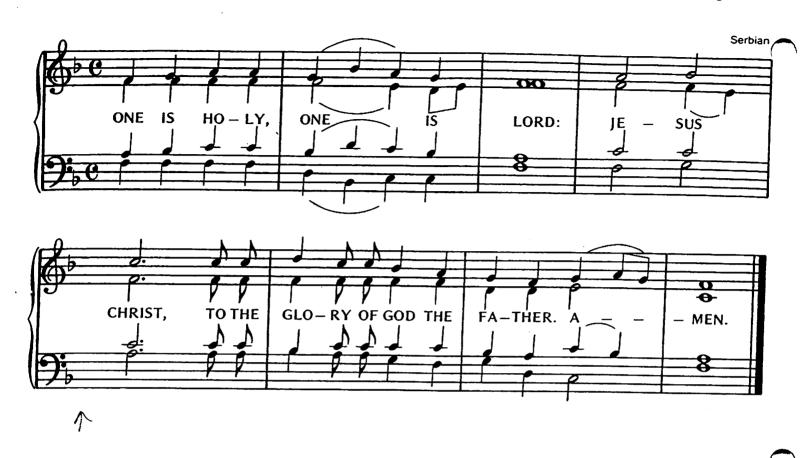


Priest: And youch sare ... and to say.

the heavenly Father, and to say.

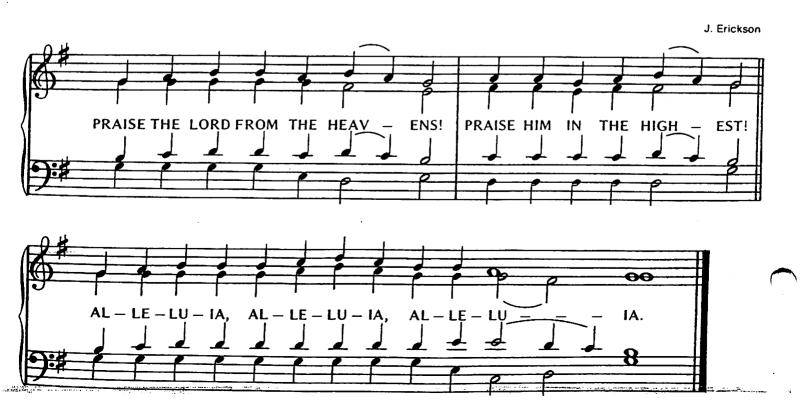
The Lord's Prayer





3160

### The Communion Hymn



The Communion Hymn



HREELEN.

342

Peacon: With fear of Sod, with faith and love, draw near

Kievan Chant



# Blessed is He



# Receive the Body of Christ

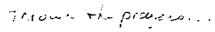


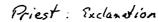
riest: We thom existed more the word, a work, and will the earth thy gory.

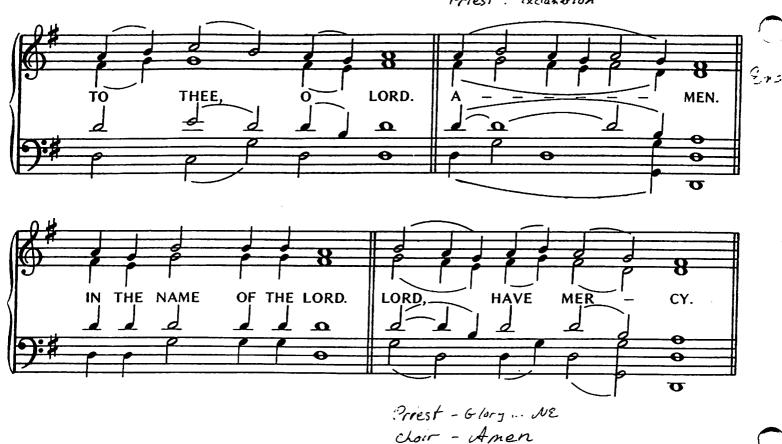
# Liturgy Ending











### Liturgy Ending

