

Canon II: Nativity of our Lord

Ode 1

Abbreviated
Greek Chant

S
A

Of old the Mas-ter that works won - ders saved — His — peo - ple,

T
B

The first system of music features a Soprano and Alto part on a treble clef staff and a Tenor and Bass part on a bass clef staff. The music is in a minor key with a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Of old the Mas-ter that works won - ders saved — His — peo - ple,"

Mak-ing the wa - ter - y wave of the sea into dry land; And now — of

The second system continues the musical notation with the lyrics: "Mak-ing the wa - ter - y wave of the sea into dry land; And now — of"

His own — will has He been born from a Maid - en, and so He

The third system continues the musical notation with the lyrics: "His own — will has He been born from a Maid - en, and so He"

establishes a path for us whereby we may mount — to hea - ven.

The fourth system concludes the musical notation with the lyrics: "establishes a path for us whereby we may mount — to hea - ven."

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Ode 3

Gra-cious ly ac-cept, O Ben - e - fac - tor, the prais-es of Thy ser - vants,

and bring down the despiteful and haughty looks — of the en - e - my.

O bless-ed Lord — who see - est all, raise us up far a - bove sin, and

establish Thy singers firm and un-sha - ken up-on the foun-da-tion of the Faith.

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Ode 4

Of old Hab - ak - kuk — the — pro - phet was count - ed wor - thy to be - hold

in - ef - fa - bly the fig - ure and sym - bol of Christ's — birth,

and he for - told in song the re - new - al of man - kind.

For a young babe, — ev - en the Word, has now come forth from the

mountain that is the Vir - gin, unto the renew - al of — the peo - ples.

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Ode 5

From the night of deeds — of dark er - ror we watch vig - il - ant - ly,

and sing to Thee, O Christ, as to our Ben - e - fac - tor.

Come to us and grant us cleans-ing: make the path eas - y for us,

whereby we may ascend and so at - tain — to glo - ry.

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Ode 6

En-closed in the ut-ter-most depths of the sea, Jo-nah en-treat-ed

Thee to come and still the storm. And I, O Christ, pricked by the dart

of the ty-rant, Call up-on Thee, the Slayer of e-vil, be-seech-ing

Thee to come quick-ly and de-liv-er me from my sloth-ful-ness.

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Ode 7

Caught and held fast by love — for the King of all,

the Children despised the impious threats of the ty - rant

in his bound less fur - y; and as the terrible fire withdrew be-fore them,

they said to the Mas - ter, 'Un - to all a - ges bless - ed art Thou.'

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Before the Katavasia of the 8th Ode:

We praise, we bless, we wor - - ship the Lord,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains ten measures of music, primarily consisting of chords. The lyrics 'We praise, we bless, we wor - - ship the Lord,' are written below the staff. The word 'wor' is under the first measure of the final two notes, and 'ship' is under the final two notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, containing ten measures of music, primarily consisting of chords. A slur is placed under the final two notes of the lower staff.

praising and supremely exalting Him unto all — the a - ges.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains six measures of music. The lyrics 'praising and supremely exalting Him unto all — the a - ges.' are written below the staff. The word 'all' is under the first measure of the final two notes, and 'ges.' is under the final two notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, containing six measures of music, primarily consisting of chords. A slur is placed under the final two notes of the lower staff.

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Ode 8

The child-ren of the Old Cov - e - nant who walked in the fire,

yet were not burnt, prefigured the womb of the Maid - en that

re-mained - sealed, when she gave birth in fashion past na-ture. It was the

same - grace of God that brought forth both these wonders to pass in a

mir - a - cle and rous - es the peo - ples - to sing in praise.

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Ode 9

It would be eas - i - er for us, be-cause free from all danger, to keep

si - lence in fear: While it is hard in-deed, O___ Vir - gin,

in love to devise songs harmoniously put to-geth - er. But do thou, —

O___ Mo - ther, give us strength so that we may ful-fill — our good in - tent.

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Refrains of the 2nd Canon:

✦ To - day the Vir - gin bears the Mas - ter — with - in the cave.

✦ To-day the Master is born as a babe of a Vir - gin Moth - er

✦ To-day shep-herds be-hold the Sa - viour wrapped in swaddling clothes

and laid in — a man - ger.

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Refrains (cont.)

✦ To - day the Master who can - not be touched is wrapped as

a babe — in swad - dling rags.

✦ To - day all creation rejoices great - ly and makes glad, for Christ

is born of — a Vir - gin Maid.

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Refrains (cont.)

✙ The powers of heaven de - clare un - to the world

that the Sav - ior, Lord and Mas - ter has been born.

✙ Mag - ni - fy, — O my soul, her that has de - liv - ered us from the curse.

Translation by Mother Mary & Archimandrite Kallistos Ware,
"The Festal Menaion", Faber & Faber