

Stichera of the Forefeast

Tone 6, Special Melody "Having set all your hope*...",
Optina Hermitage Melody

(6) *Reader:* In the 6th tone, Special Melody "Having set all your hope..."
If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

I-descant
II-chant melody

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

The nev - er set - - - - - ting Sun cometh now to shine forth from

the Vir - - - gin's womb and to en - light - en all _____ the world.

*in some editions: "Having laid aside..."

Let us make haste to greet _____ Him ___ with pure ___ eyes and deeds;

The first system of musical notation features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains a series of chords, with some notes beamed together and a sharp sign (#) appearing under a chord. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes.

and let us now make ready in spirit to re-ceive _____ Him

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a continuation of the chordal texture, with some notes beamed together. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

Who cometh unto His own through a strange _____ birth, ___

The third system of notation maintains the same musical structure. The treble staff has a sharp sign (#) under a chord, and the bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

as He hath been well _____ pleased to be born in Beth - - le-hem,

The final system of notation concludes the phrase. The treble staff features a sharp sign (#) under a chord, and the bass staff provides the final accompaniment.

that, as He is com-pas - sion - ate, — He may re - store — us,

who have estranged ourselves from the life of E - - - - den.

(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.

God the Word, Who is — up - borne upon the shoulders of the


cherubim,



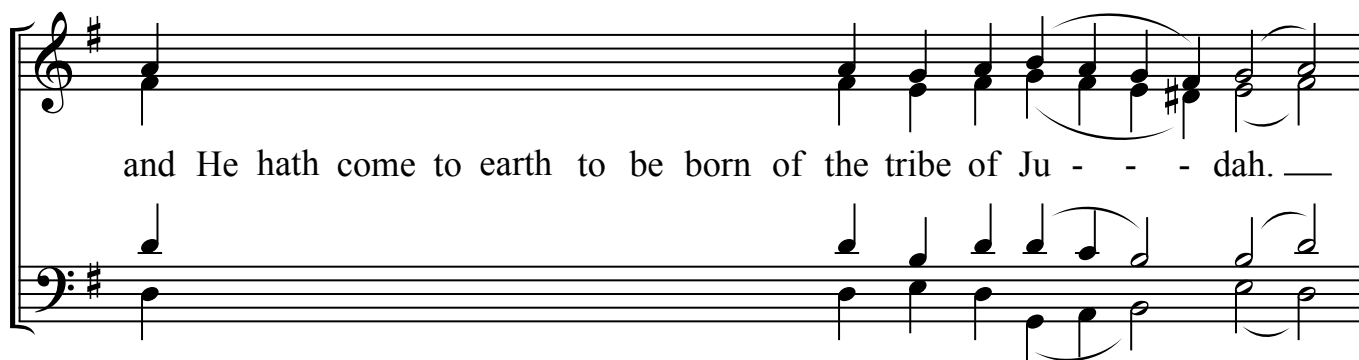
cher - - - u - bim, hav - ing u - ni - ted Himself hypostatical - ly



to ___ the flesh, hath made ___ His a - bode ___ within the womb



of the all im - ma - - - cu - late one and be - come ___ man;



and He hath come to earth to be born of the tribe of Ju - - - dah. ___

The holy cave is beau-ti-ful-ly a-dorned, like a most magnificent palace

for the King of all; and the manger, wherein the Virgin Mary

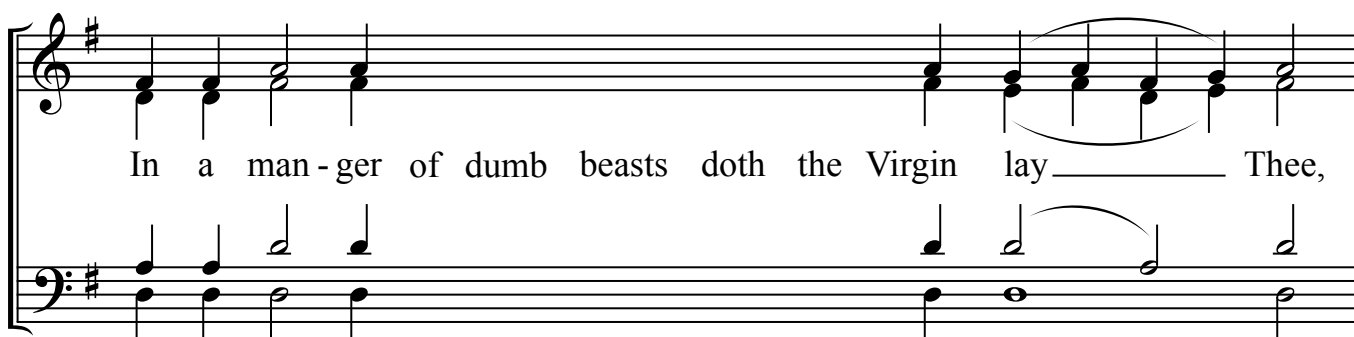
layeth the Infin-ite One as a babe, is like a fi-ery throne,

and serveth for the renewal of cre-a-tion.

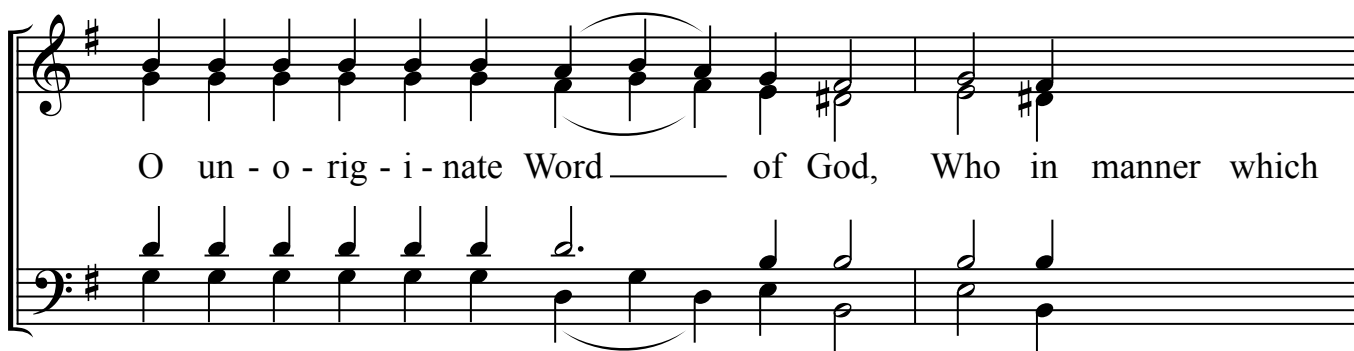
(4) *Reader:* From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch



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



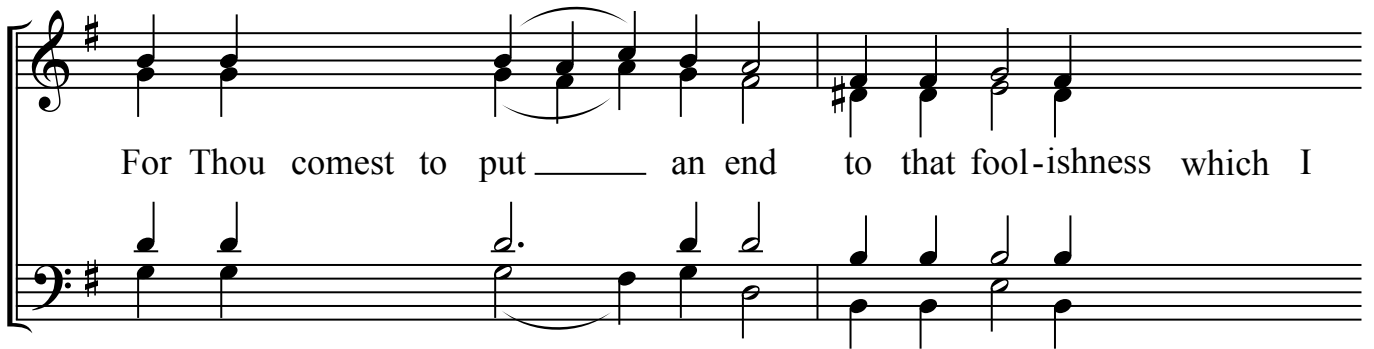
In a man-ger of dumb beasts doth the Virgin lay — Thee,



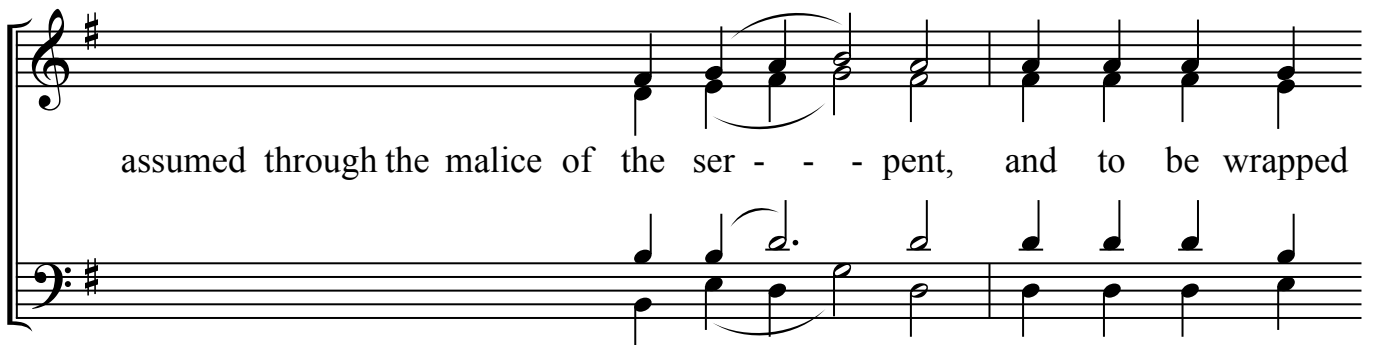
O un - o - rig - i - nate Word — of God, Who in manner which



passeth under - stand - - ing, hast re-ceived a be-gin - - - - ing. —



For Thou comest to put _____ an end to that fool-ishness which I



assumed through the malice of the ser - - - pent, and to be wrapped



in swad - dling clothes, — that Thou mightest rend asunder the rags



and chains of my trans - gres - sions, O Thou Who alone art good

and lov - est man - kind. Where-fore, I glo - ri - fy Thee ___

and I hymn and most joyfully worship Thine ad-vent___ in the flesh,

whereby I have been set___ free.

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 text may be purchased through: sjkp.org
 The text of the sticheron "The never-setting Sun..." is an unpublished revision by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©2007.