

## 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, hymn-like tune with a range of one octave. The lyrics are: "That I may con - fess - - - Thy name." The word "con" is followed by a long dash, and "fess" is followed by two more long dashes, indicating a long note or a pause.

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, hymn-like tune with a range of one octave. The lyrics are: "Un - til Thou shalt re - ward me." The word "Un" is followed by a dash, and "re" is followed by a dash, indicating a long note or a pause.

*(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?

Musical score for the Stichera "For with Thee there is forgiveness." The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "For with Thee there is for - give - ness." The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The text is underlined in the original image.

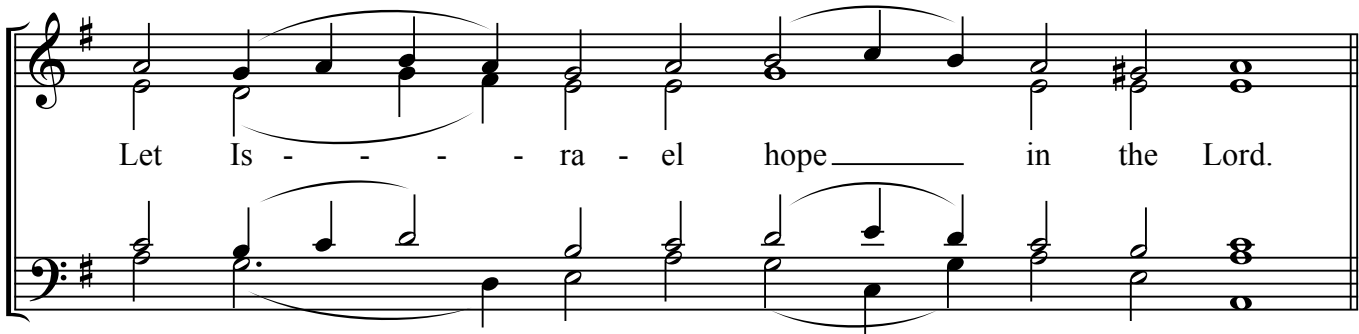
With gladness hath the assembly /  
of the divinely wise children in the furnace shone forth, /  
and it proclaimeth the nativity of Christ on earth; /  
for the Lord, descending like a precious dew, /  
doth preserve unconsumed her who gave Him birth, /  
doth keep her undefiled. and doth enrich her 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,

Musical score for the Stichera "My soul hath hoped in the Lord." The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "My soul hath hoped in the Lord." The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The text is underlined in the original image.

*(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 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.

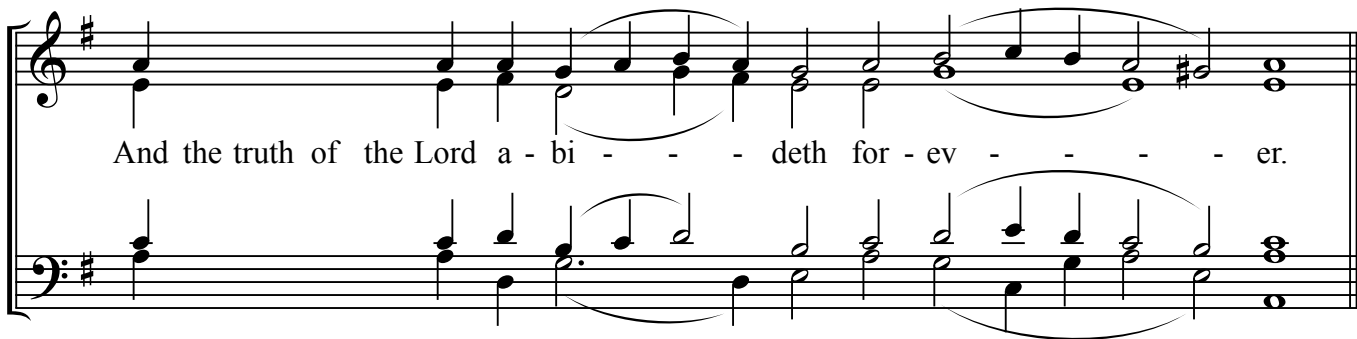
*(Repeat above sticheron)*

(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 (one sharp). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. 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 Orthodox church music, with a focus on the vocal line.

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 musical score 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 with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

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.