

## The Nativity of our Lord Stichera on the Praises - Tone 4

(4) *Reader:* Praise Him for His mighty acts,

Praise Him according to the mul - ti - tude of His great - ness.

Make glad, O ye righteous; /  
greatly rejoice, O ye heavens; /  
ye mountains, dance for joy, for Christ is born; /  
and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne, /  
carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh. /  
Shepherds glorify the new-born Child, /  
Magi offer the Master gifts. /  
Angels sing praises, saying: /  
'O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee.'

## Dec. 25: Matins Praises

(3) *Reader:* Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Praise Him with psalter and harp." The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are fermatas over the notes for "Him" and "harp".

It was the good pleasure of the Father: /  
 the Word became flesh, /  
 the Virgin bore God made man. /  
 A star spreads abroad the tidings /  
 the Magi worship, the shepherds stand amazed, //  
 and the creation is filled with mighty joy.

(2) *Reader: Praise Him with timbrel and dance,*

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Praise — Him — with strings — and flute." The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are rests under the words "Praise", "Him", "with", and "and".

O Theotokos Virgin who hast borne the Saviour, /  
 thou hast overthrown the ancient curse of Eve. /  
 For thou hast become the Mother of Him /  
 in whom the Father was well pleased, /  
 and hast carried at thy bosom God the incarnate Word. /  
 We cannot fathom this mystery: /  
 but by faith alone we all glorify it, /  
 crying with thee and saying: //

O Lord past all interpretation, glory to Thee.

(1) *Reader: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation.*

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass, 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: "Let every breath praise the Lord." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

O come, let us sing the praises of the Mother of the Saviour, /  
 who after bearing child still remained Virgin, /  
 Rejoice, thou living City of God the King, /  
 in which Christ has dwelt, /  
 bringing to pass our salvation. /  
 With Gabriel we sing thy praises; /  
 with the shepherds we glorify thee, crying: //

O Theotokos, intercede for our salvation with Him who took flesh from thee.

*Reader: Glory, in the 6th Tone.*

The image shows a musical score for a reader. 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 on the treble staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit." The music is in a 6th tone setting, characterized by its specific melodic contour and phrasing.

When it was time for Thy coming upon earth, /  
 first census of the world was held; /  
 and then Thou madest ready /  
 to enroll the names of all who believed in Thy birth. /  
 For this cause Caesar published such a decree, /  
 since Thy timeless and eternal Kingdom was newly made manifest. /  
 Therefore, far surpassing earthly tribute money, /  
 we offer Thee the wealth of our Orthodox Faith, //  
 O God and Saviour of our souls.

## Dec. 25: Matins Praises

*Reader: Both now, in the 2nd Tone.*

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

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. /

Today He who knows no beginning now begins to be, /

and the Word is made flesh. /

The powers of heaven greatly rejoice, /

and the earth with mankind makes glad. /

The Magi offer gifts, /

the shepherd proclaim the marvel, /

and we cry aloud without ceasing: /

Glory to God in the highest, //

and on earth peace, good will among men. ~