

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

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

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 the musical score 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. A slur is placed over the final two measures of the first line, which correspond to the words 'wor - - ship'. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains ten measures of music, primarily consisting of single notes. A slur is placed under the final two measures of the first line.

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

The second system of the musical score 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. A slur is placed over the final two measures of the second line, which correspond to the words 'a - ges'. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains ten measures of music, primarily consisting of single notes. A slur is placed under the final two measures of the second line.

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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