

**December 18-19, Sunday of the Fathers**  
**Stichera on "Lord I have cried",**  
**Tone 6, Special Melody "Having set all your hope\*...",**  
**Optina Hermitage Melody**

(4) *Reader:* In the 6th Tone, Special Melody "Having set all your hope\*..."  
 From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

I-descant  
 II-chant melody

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

Un - to the ends — of the earth hath the memory of the forefathers been

man - i - fest as tru - ly filled with light and shining with rays — of grace;

for Christ the ra - di - ant Sun, shin - ing from a - far on high,

\*melody name also translated "Having laid aside..."

doth lead forth an assembly of stars which shin - eth with Him, and in the midst of

Beth - le - hem a nativity is shown to be that of God and man.

There-fore pi - ous - ly clap - ping our hands, with faith let us all join

chor - - - us to ut - ter praise be - fore the feast

un - to His na - tiv - - - i - ty.

(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 1st sticheron*

(2) *Reader:* O praise the Lord all ye nations:

Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples.

Re - joic - ing today, Adam is a - dorned with the glory of divine

com - mun - - - ion, as the foun - da - tion and con - fir - ma - - - tion

of the wise fore - fa - thers;— and with him Abel doth leap for joy

and E - noch is glad, and Seth danceth together with No - - - ah;

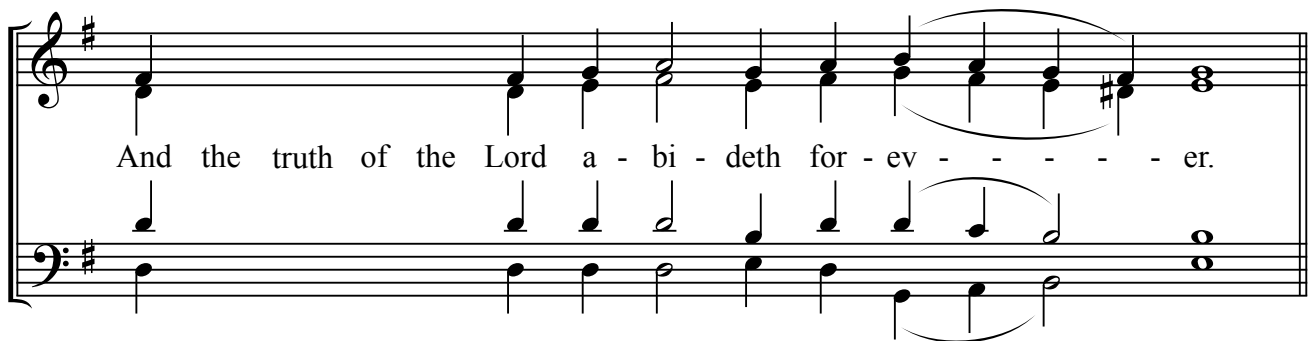
the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the pa - tri - - archs, —

and from on high Melchizedek doth be - hold — a birth where-in a fa-ther

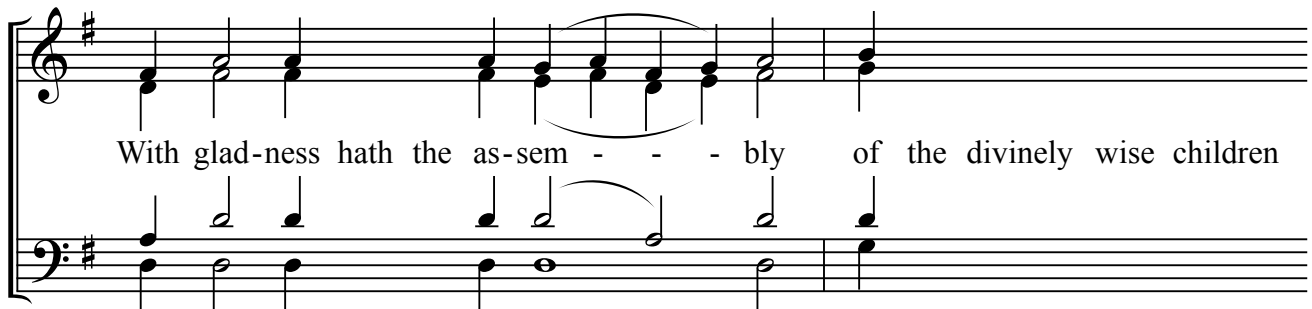
had — no part. Wherefore celebrating the divine mem - or - y —

>  
of the fore-fa-ters of Christ, we beseech Him that our souls — be saved.

(1) *Reader:* For He hath made his mercy to prevail over us,



And the truth of the Lord a - bi - deth for - ev - - - - er.



With glad-ness hath the as-sem - - - bly of the divinely wise children



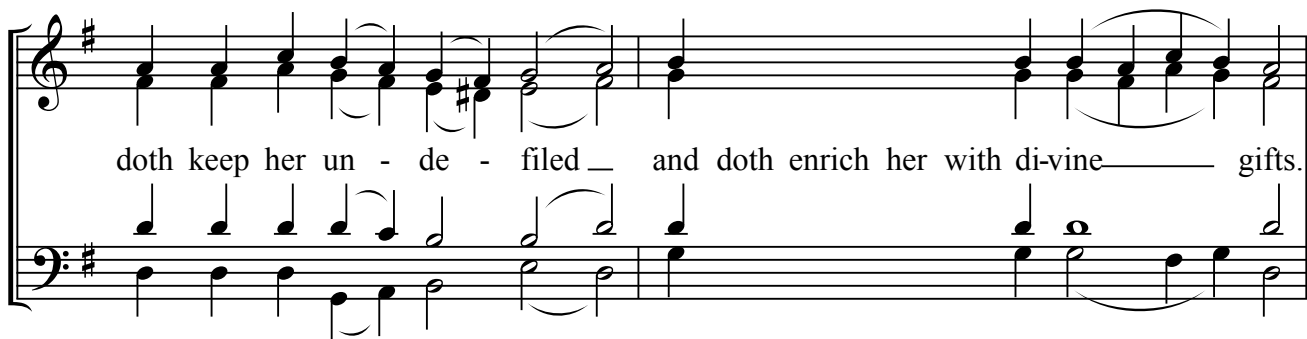
in the furnace shown - - - forth, and it pro - claim - - - eth



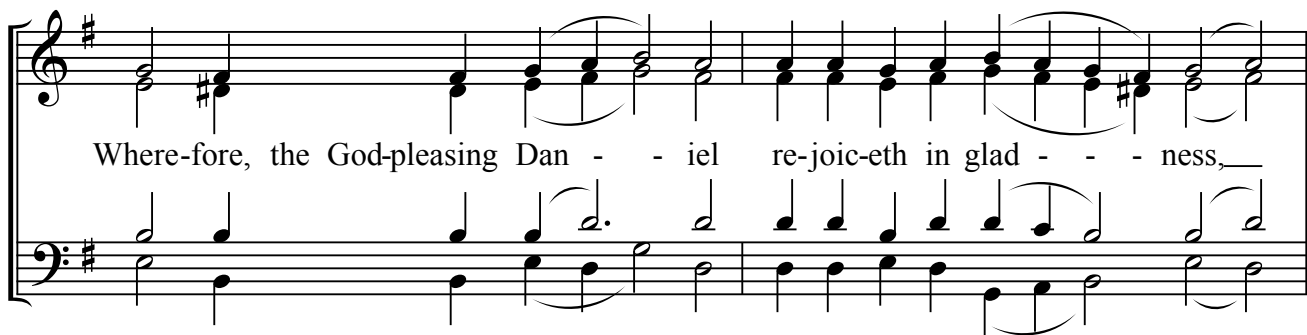
the nativity of Christ - - - on earth; - - - for the Lord, descending like a



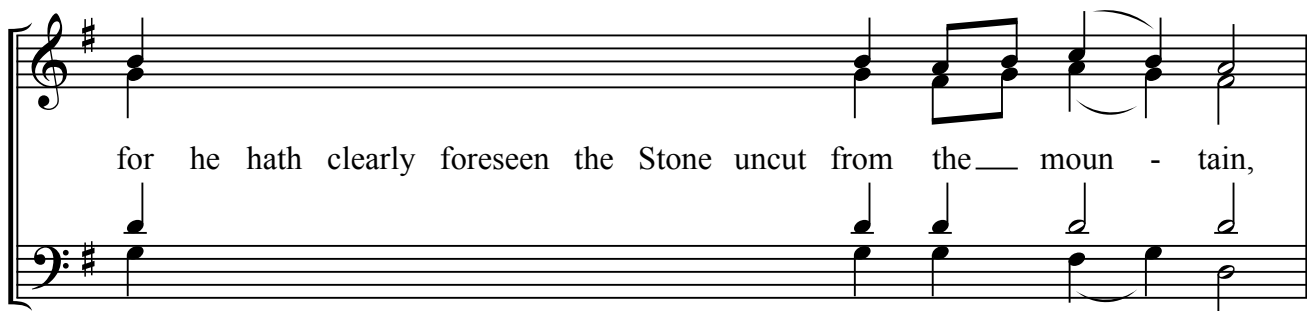
pre - cious dew, doth pre-serve un-consumed her who gave - - - Him birth,



doth keep her un - de - filed\_ and doth enrich her with di-vine—— gifts.



Where-fore, the God-pleasing Dan - - iel re-joic-eth in glad - - - ness, \_



for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the\_ moun - tain,



and with boldness doth now pray in be - half\_ of our souls.