

Stichera of the Forefeast

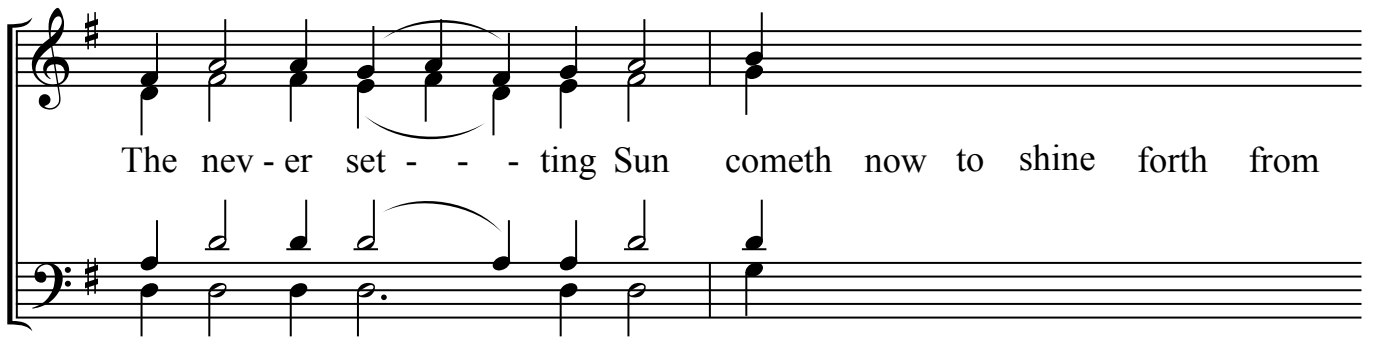
**Tone 6, Special Melody "Having set all your hope*...",
Optina Hermitage Melody**

**(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 musical notation. The treble staff shows chords with some beaming and a sharp sign (#). The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

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

The third system of musical notation follows the same pattern. The treble staff has chords with beaming and a sharp sign (#). The bass staff provides accompaniment.

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

The fourth and final system of musical notation on this page. The treble staff contains chords with beaming and a sharp sign (#). The bass staff concludes the 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,**

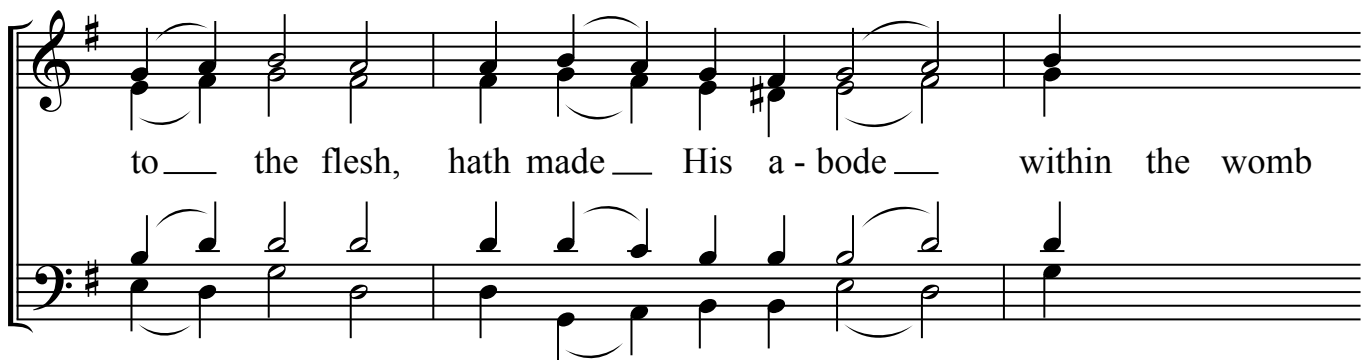
My — soul hath — hoped — in the Lord.

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

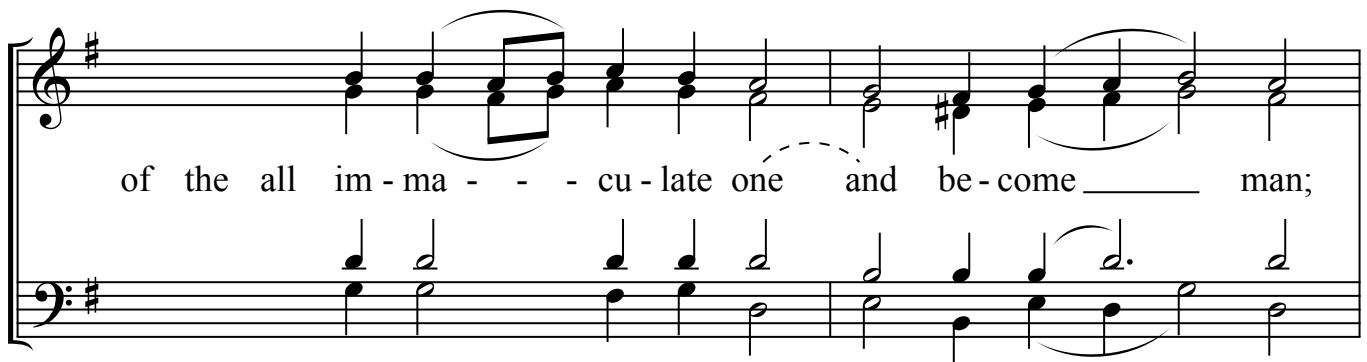
cherubim,



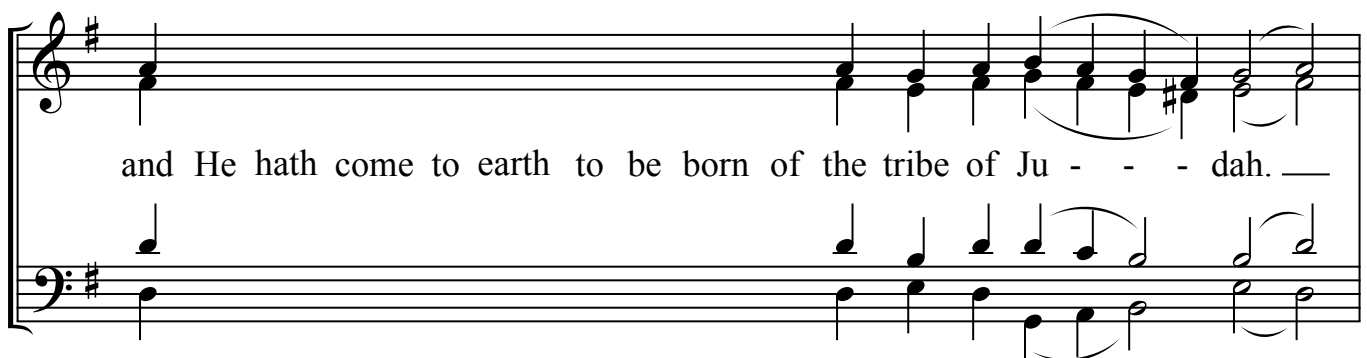
cher - - - u - bim, hav - ing u - ni - ted Himself hypostatical - ly



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.

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains a series of chords, with some notes beamed together. The bass staff contains a series of notes, some beamed together, providing a harmonic accompaniment to the vocal line.

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

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a melodic line with some notes beamed together, and the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment.

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

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a melodic line with some notes beamed together, and the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment.

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

The fourth system of music concludes the phrase. The treble staff shows a melodic line with some notes beamed together, and the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment.

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.