He Who in ancient times hid the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea, is hidden in a manger and Herod seeks to slay Him. But let us cry out with the Magi in song: Let us sing unto the Lord, for He has been greatly glorified.
When the creation beheld Thee born in a cave, Who hast hung the whole earth above the waters, it was seized with amazement and cried: 'There is none holy save Thee, O Lord.'
Ode 4

Fore-seeing Thy coming from the Virgin, Habakkuk cried out marveling: O Deliverer, Thou art come from Teman, to call back Adam from his exile.

December 24: Eve of Nativity
Canon of Compline, Page 3
I sai-ah, as he watched by night, beheld the light that knows no evening, the light of thy The-o-pha-ny, O Christ, that came to pass from tender love for us; and he cried aloud: behold a Vir- gin shall con-ceive and shall bear the in-car-nate Word, and all those born on earth shall rejoice ex-ceed-ing-ly.'
Jonah was enclosed but not held fast in the belly of the whale;

for serving as a figure of Thy birth and Thine appearing in the flesh,

he came forth from the monster as from a bridal chamber.

For, born now in the flesh, Thou shalt in the flesh undergo burial

and death, and Thou shalt rise again on the third day.
Wonder past speech! He Who delivered the Holy Children from the flames of the furnace, is laid as a babe in a manger, for our salvation who sing: O God our Deliverer, blessed art Thou.
Ode 8

December 24: Eve of Nativity
Canon of Compline, Page 7

Be ye astonished, O ye heavens, be ye horribly afraid,

and let the foundations of the earth be shaken.

For lo, He Who bears the whole world in the hollow of His hand,

is wrapped in swaddling clothes and received as a guest in a
narrow manager. Him do ye children bless, ye priests praise,

and ye people exalt above all for ever.
Be not amazed, O Mother, beholding Me now as a babe,

Whom the Father begat from the womb before the morning star.

For I have come openly to restore and glorify

with Myself the fallen nature of mortal man, that magnifies

thee in faith and in love.

Adapted from "The Festal Menaion", ©1969, Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos, Reprinted by St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

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