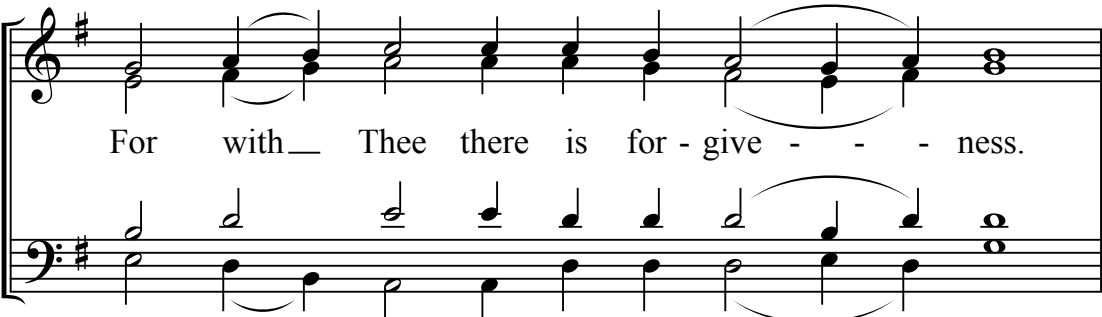


**December 24: The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord**  
**Stichera on "Lord I have cried", Tone 5**  
**Special Melody "Rejoice..."**

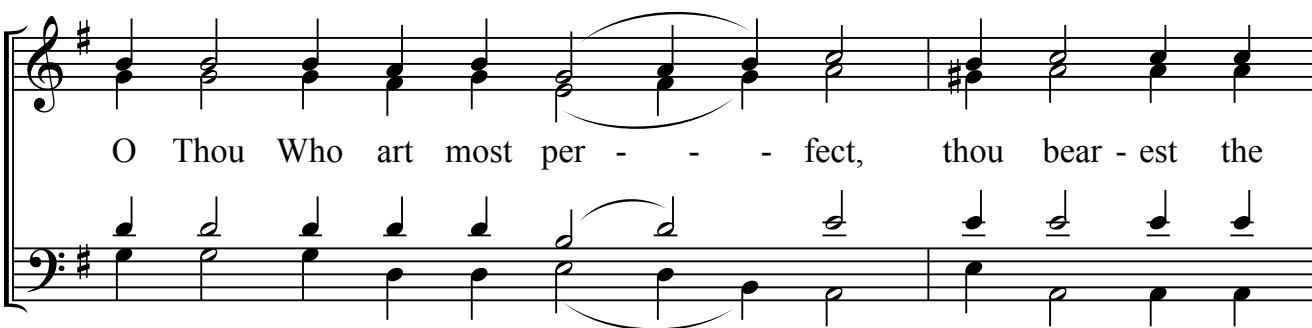
Optina Hermitage

(6) *Reader:* If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord who shall stand?

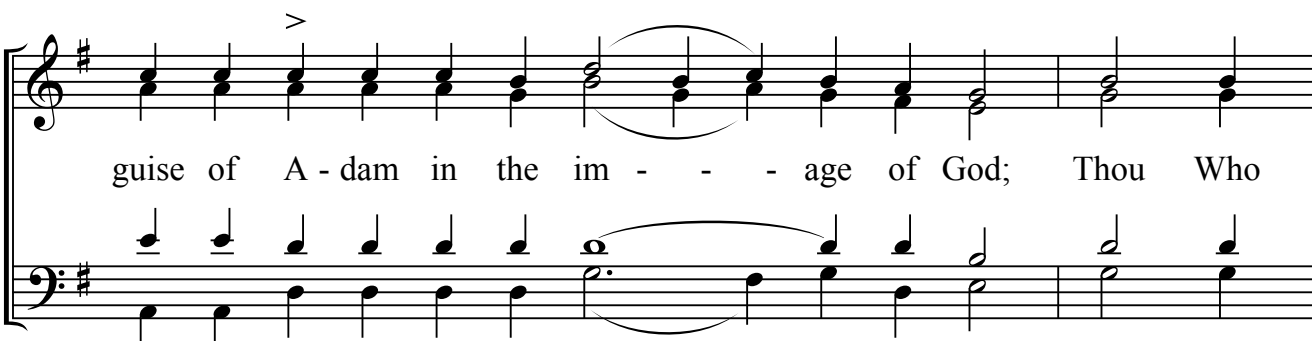
I-desc.  
II-chant  
melody



For with\_ Thee there is for - give - - - ness.



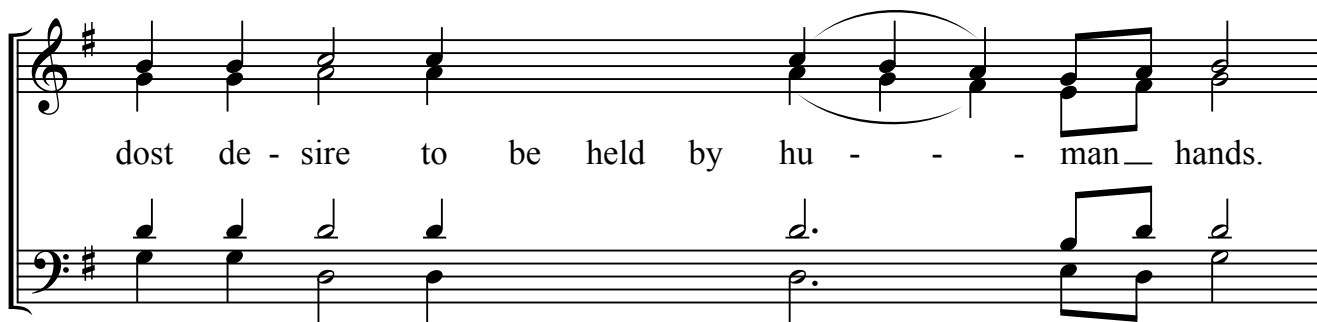
O Thou Who art most per - - - fect, thou bear - est the



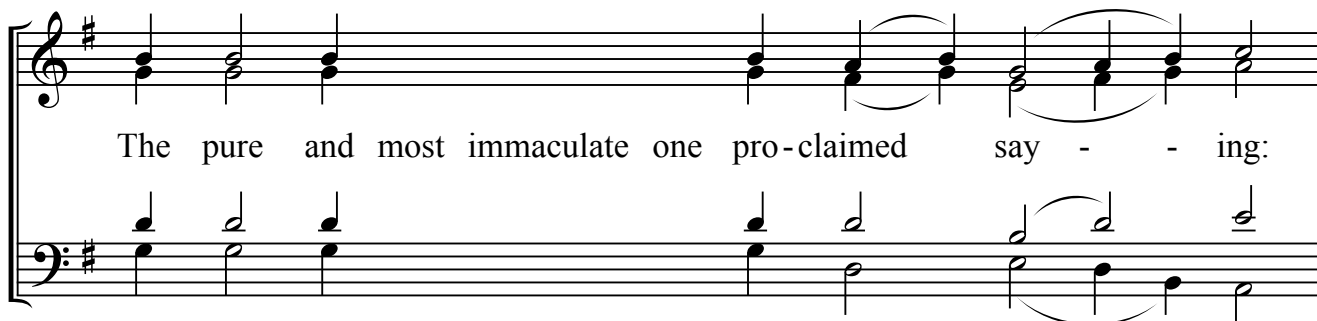
guise of A - dam in the im - - - age of God; Thou Who



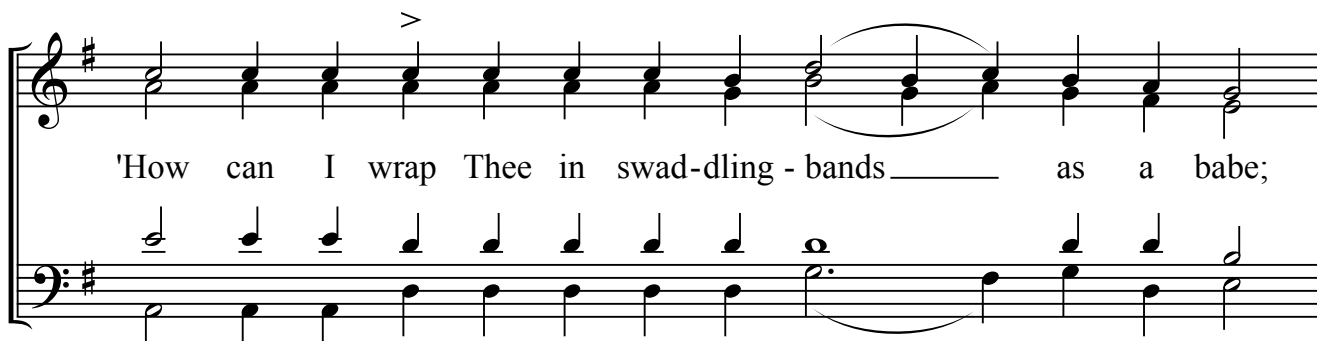
holdest all things in Thy hands by Thy pow - - - - er,



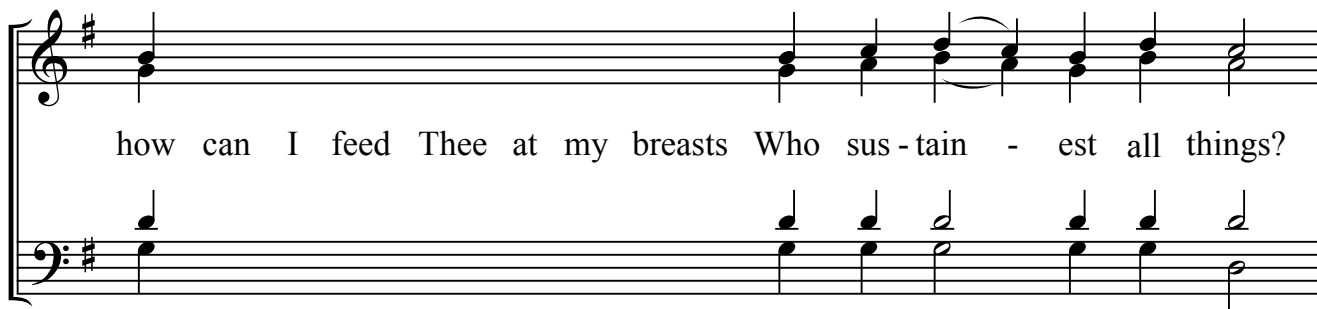
dost de - sire to be held by hu - - - man\_ hands.



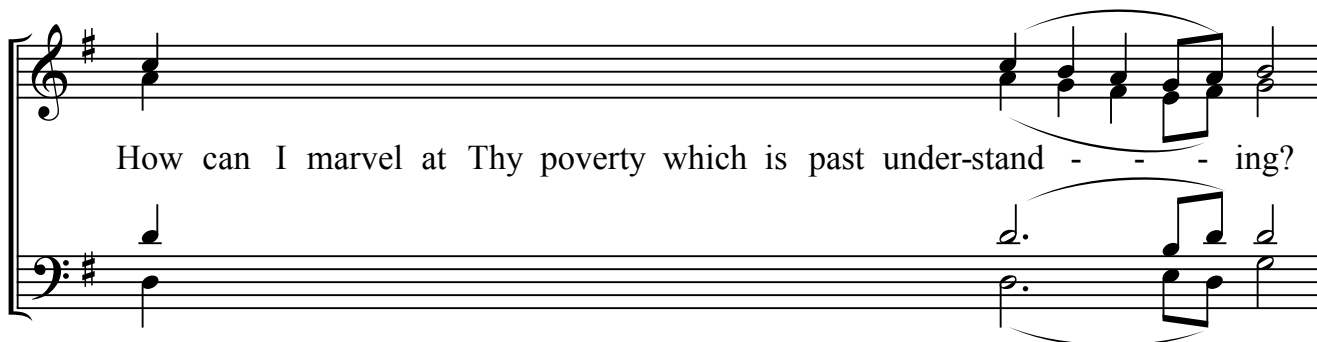
The pure and most immaculate one pro-claimed say - - - ing:



>  
'How can I wrap Thee in swad-dling - bands\_\_\_\_\_ as a babe;



how can I feed Thee at my breasts Who sus - tain - est all things?



How can I marvel at Thy poverty which is past under-stand - - - ing?

How can I call Thee my Son, I who am now Thy

The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a series of chords, primarily triads and dyads, with some notes beamed together. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with mostly quarter and eighth notes.

hand - - - maid? I hymn and bless\_\_\_\_\_ Thee,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff shows a melodic line with some notes tied across bar lines, indicated by horizontal lines above the notes. The lower staff continues the harmonic support with similar rhythmic patterns.

Who be - stow - est great mer - cy up - on\_\_\_\_\_ the world!"

The third system concludes the main text of the hymn. The musical notation follows the same style as the previous systems, with a melodic line in the upper staff and a supporting bass line in the lower staff.

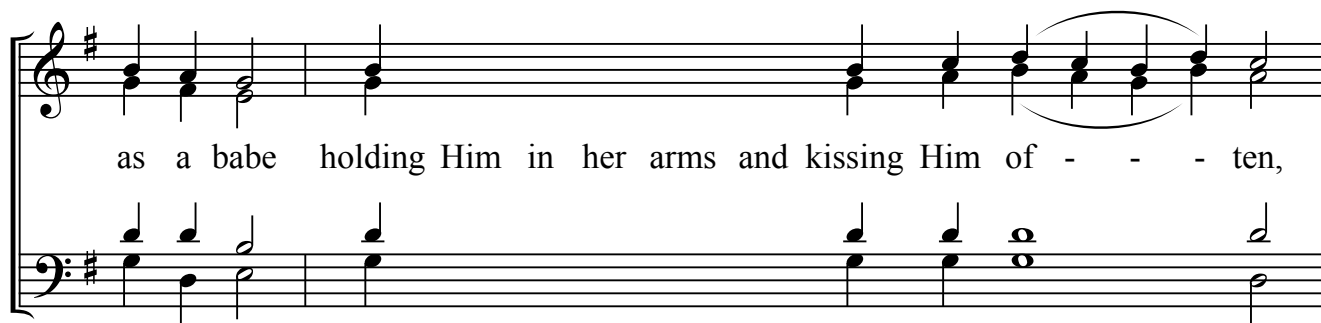
(5) *Reader:* For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee,  
O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

My soul hath\_\_\_\_\_ hoped\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

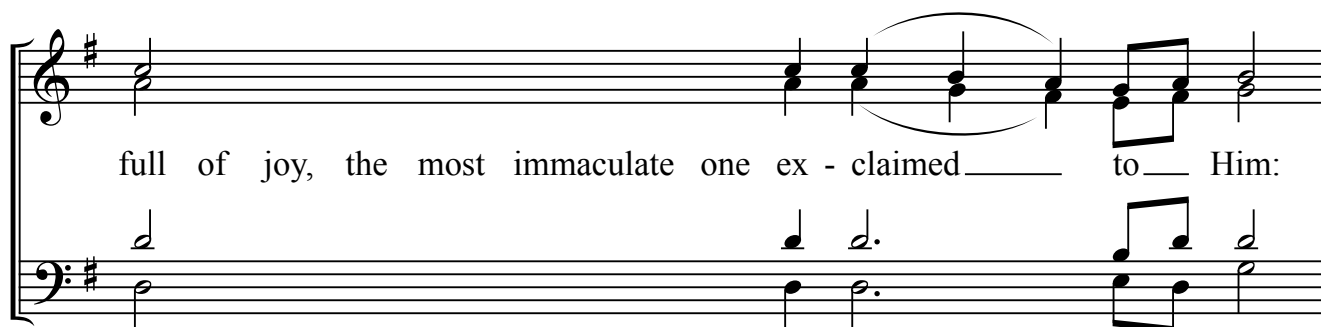
The reader's part is presented in a single system with two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a simple harmonic accompaniment.



Be-hold - ing the pre - e - ter - nal God in - car - nate of her



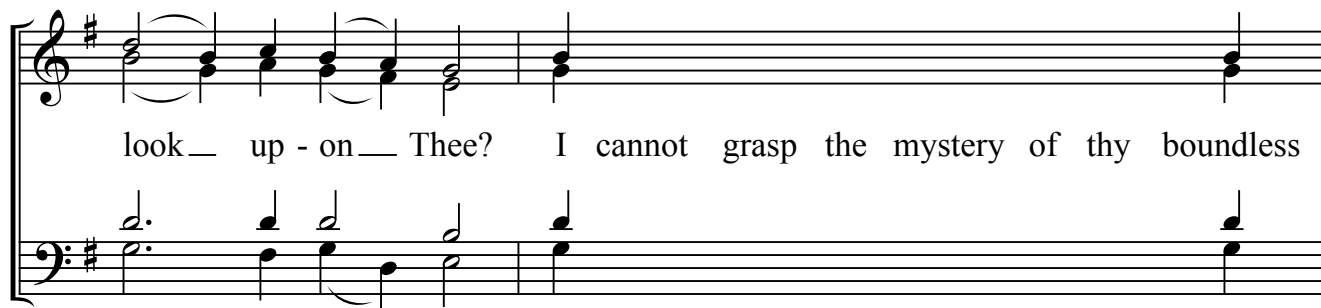
as a babe holding Him in her arms and kissing Him of - - - ten,



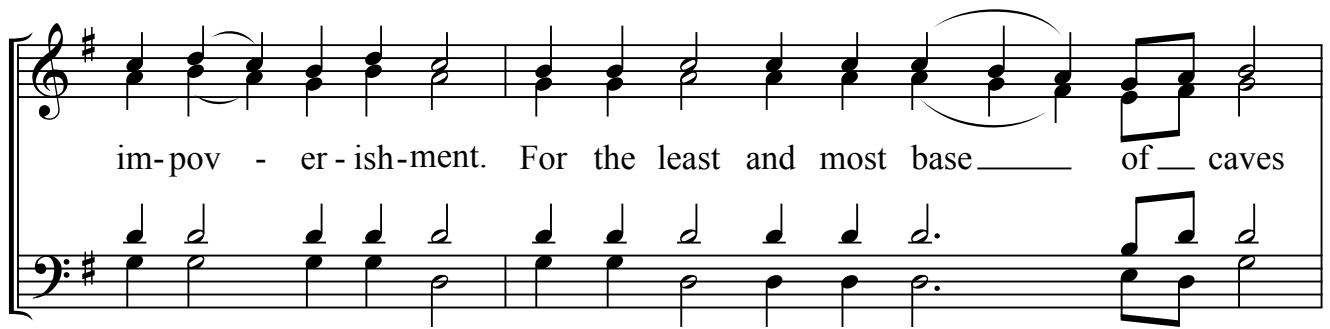
full of joy, the most immaculate one ex - claimed to Him:



'O God Most High, Thou in - vis - i - ble King: How can I



look up - on Thee? I cannot grasp the mystery of thy boundless



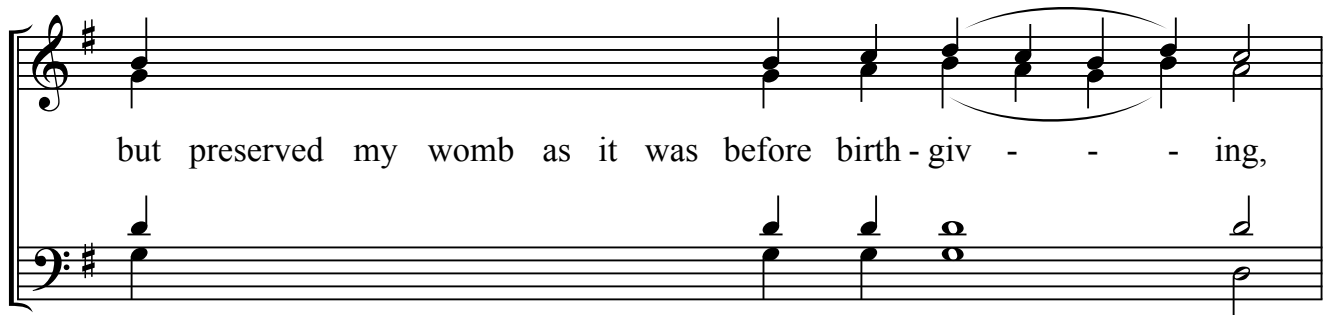
im-pov - er - ish-ment. For the least and most base of caves



con - tain - eth Thee, new - ly born, with - in it - self;



Who didst not vi - o - late my vir - gin - i - ty,



but preserved my womb as it was before birth - giv - ing,



and grant - est great mer - cy.

p.6 (4) *Reader:* From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

Let Is - ra - el hope in the Lord.

The pure one heard the ma - - - gi stand - ing to - geth - er

out - side the cave, and ex - claim - ing in awe,

she spake these things to them as a hand - - - maid:

'Whom seek ye? For I see, that ye have come

from a coun - try far dis - - - - - tant, in that

ye have the appearance and wisdom of the Per - - - - - sians,

Ye have made a strange passage and jour - - - - - ney,

and have come with haste to wor - ship Him, Who hath made

his jour - ney from on high, made His abode strangely within me,

Dec. 24: Eve of Nativity  
Stichera on Lord I have cried,  
p.8

as He know - eth how, and grant-eth great mer - cy to the world!"

The image shows a musical score for a stichera. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The text reads: "as He know - eth how, and grant-eth great mer - cy to the world!". The music is a simple, homophonic setting with a steady rhythm.

English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©2000, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol. IV,  
St. John of Kronstadt Press. The complete service text may be purchased through: [sjkp.org](http://sjkp.org)