

December 24: Sunday before Nativity
Stichera on "Lord I have cried" (of the Forefeast)
Tone 6, Special Melody "Having set all your hope*...",
Optina Hermitage Melody

(4) *Reader:* In the same melody,
 From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch

I-descant
 II-chant
 melody

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

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.

Let us make haste to greet — Him — with pure — eyes and deeds;

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

and let us now make ready in spirit to re-ceive_____ Him Who cometh unto His

own through a strange_____ birth,_____ as He hath been well_____ pleased

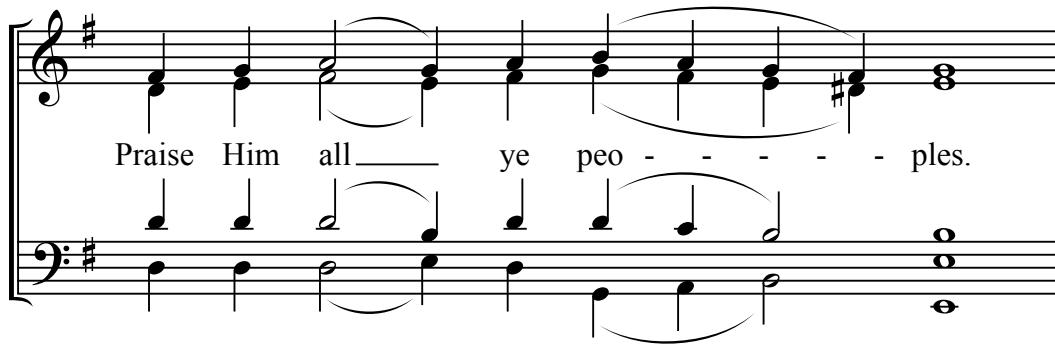
to be born in Beth - - - le-hem, that, as He is com-pas - sion - ate,_____

He may re - store_ us, who have estranged ourselves from the life of E - - den.

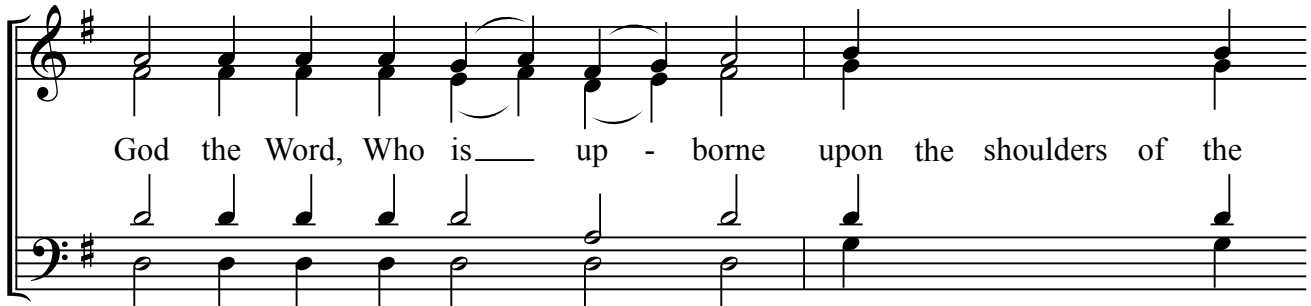
(3) *Reader:* For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

And He shall redeem Israel out of all his in - i - - - - qui - ties.

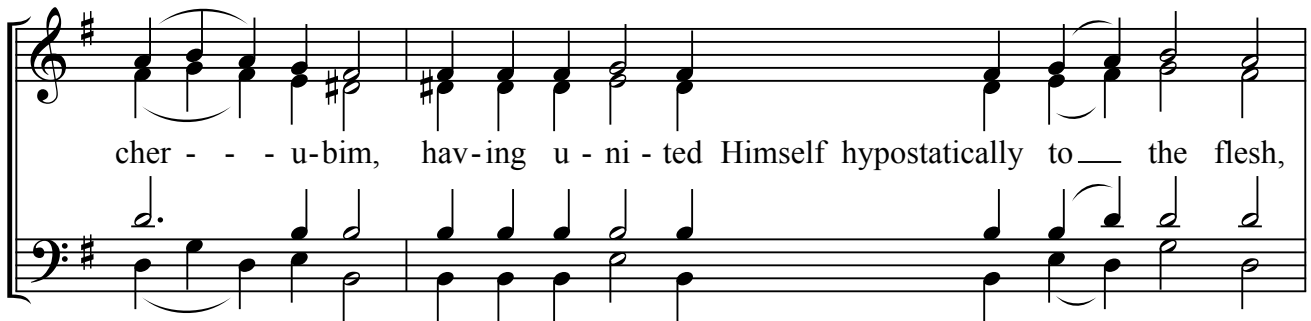
repeat 1st sticheron: "The never setting Sun..."

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


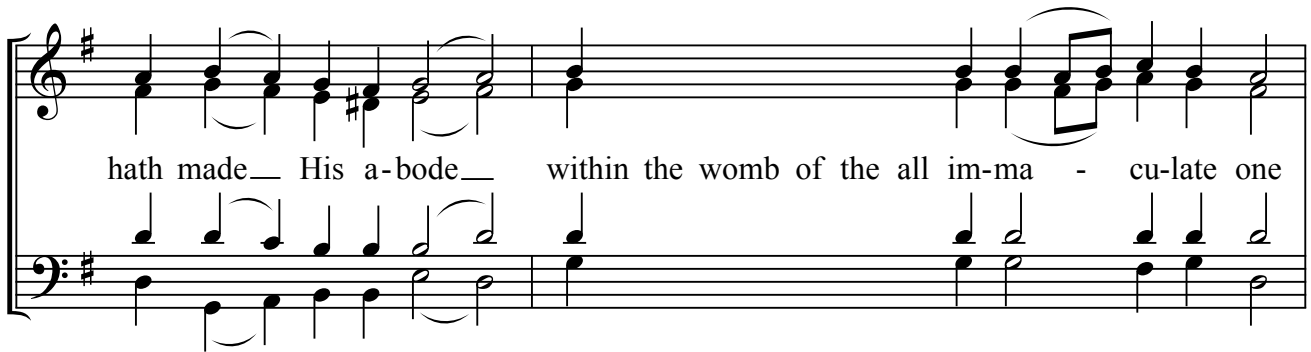
Praise Him all ye peo - - - - - ples.



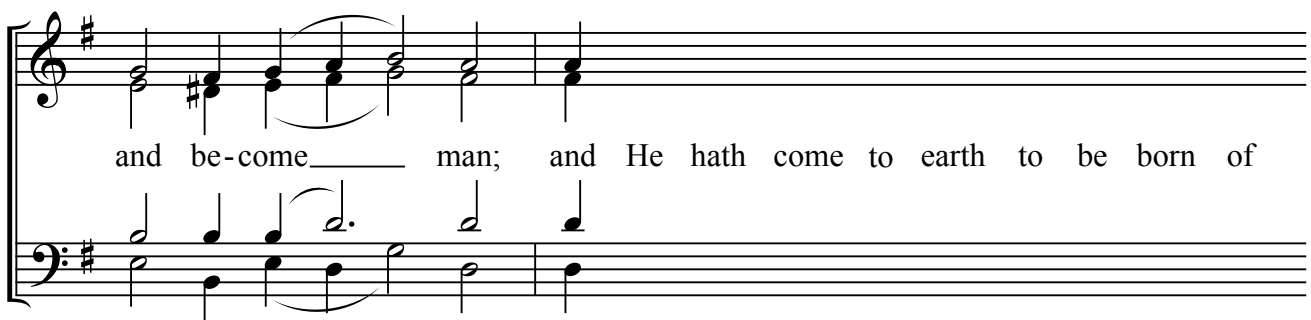
God the Word, Who is up - borne upon the shoulders of the



cher - - - u-bim, hav-ing u - ni - ted Himself hypostatically 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

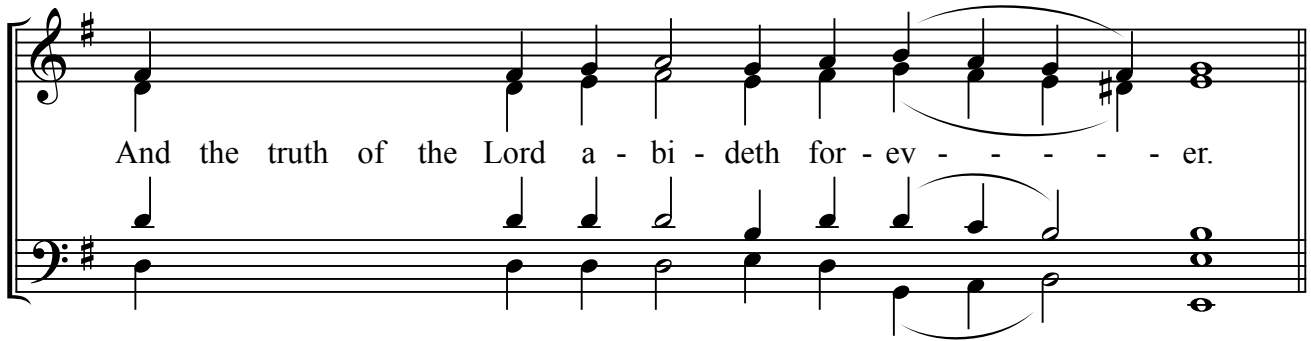
the tribe of Ju - - - dah. The holy cave is beau-ti - ful - ly a-dorned,

like a most magnificent palace for the King of all; and the manger,

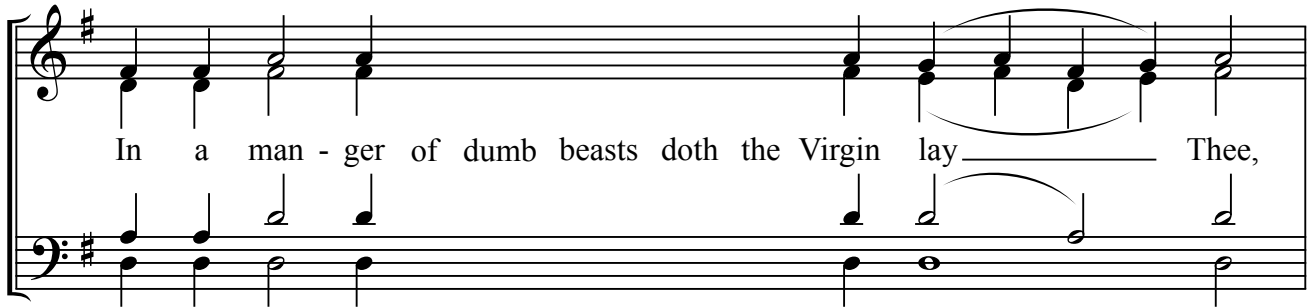
wherein the Virgin Mary layeth the Infin - ite One as a babe,

is like a fi-ery throne, and serveth for the renewal of cre-a - - - - tion.

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



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



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



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



stand - - - ing, hast re - ceived a be - gin - - - - ing. For



Thou comest to put an end to that fool - ishness which I assumed through

the malice...

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.