

The Nativity of our Lord Stichera on the Praises - Tone 4

(4) *Reader:* Praise Him for His mighty acts,

Praise Him according to the mul - ti - tude of His great - ness.

Make glad, O ye righteous; /
greatly rejoice, O ye heavens; /
ye mountains, dance for joy, for Christ is born; /
and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne, /
carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh. /
Shepherds glorify the new-born Child, /
Magi offer the Master gifts. /
Angels sing praises, saying: /
'O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee.'

Dec. 25: Matins Praises

(3) *Reader:* Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes: "Praise — Him — with psal - ter - y and harp." The melody is simple and homophonic, with a final cadence on a whole note chord.

It was the good pleasure of the Father: /
 the Word became flesh, /
 the Virgin bore God made man. /
 A star spreads abroad the tidings /
 the Magi worship, the shepherds stand amazed, //
 and the creation is filled with mighty joy.

(2) *Reader: Praise Him with timbrel and dance,*

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Praise — Him — with strings — and flute." The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and rests. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

O Theotokos Virgin who hast borne the Saviour, /
 thou hast overthrown the ancient curse of Eve. /
 For thou hast become the Mother of Him /
 in whom the Father was well pleased, /
 and hast carried at thy bosom God the incarnate Word. /
 We cannot fathom this mystery: /
 but by faith alone we all glorify it, /
 crying with thee and saying: //

O Lord past all interpretation, glory to Thee.

(1) *Reader: Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation.*

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass, in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Let every breath praise the Lord." The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes. There are fermatas over the words "breath" and "praise".

O come, let us sing the praises of the Mother of the Saviour, /
 who after bearing child still remained Virgin, /
 Rejoice, thou living City of God the King, /
 in which Christ has dwelt, /
 bringing to pass our salvation. /
 With Gabriel we sing thy praises; /
 with the shepherds we glorify thee, crying: //
 O Theotokos, intercede for our salvation with Him who took flesh from thee.

Reader: Glory, in the 6th Tone.

The image shows a musical score for a reader. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on the top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit." The music is in a 6th tone, which is a major mode with a specific melodic contour.

When it was time for Thy coming upon earth, /
 first census of the world was held; /
 and then Thou madest ready /
 to enroll the names of all who believed in Thy birth. /
 For this cause Caesar published such a decree, /
 since Thy timeless and eternal Kingdom was newly made manifest. /
 Therefore, far surpassing earthly tribute money, /
 we offer Thee the wealth of our Orthodox Faith, //
 O God and Saviour of our souls.

Dec. 25: Matins Praises

Reader: Both now, in the 2nd Tone.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of a - ges. A-men.

Today Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. /

Today He who knows no beginning now begins to be, /

and the Word is made flesh. /

The powers of heaven greatly rejoice, /

and the earth with mankind makes glad. /

The Magi offer gifts, /

the shepherd proclaim the marvel, /

and we cry aloud without ceasing: /

Glory to God in the highest, //

and on earth peace, good will among men. ~