

**February 24: 1st and 2nd Finding of the Head of the Forerunner
Stichera on "Lord I have cried"
Tone 5, Special Melody "Rejoice**"**

Optina Hermitage

S
A

Re-joice, O sa - cred and light - bear - ing head, ven - e - ra - ted

T
B

by the an - - - gels, which of old was sev-ered by _____ a sword

and cut down the shame of impurity with sharp _____ re - proofs,

well-spring of mir - a - cles which giv - eth drink un - to the

*The Greek Menaion specifies the prosomion "Rejoice", though the Slavonic Menaion does not indicate a particular special melody.

faith - - - ful, and which proclaimed the saving advent of the

Sa - vior, and of old perceived the coming of the Spi - - - rit,

which took up His a - bode_ in thee who didst stand between the grace of

the Old and New Cov - - - e-nants. En - treat Christ - - - God

to grant our souls great mer - - - cy!

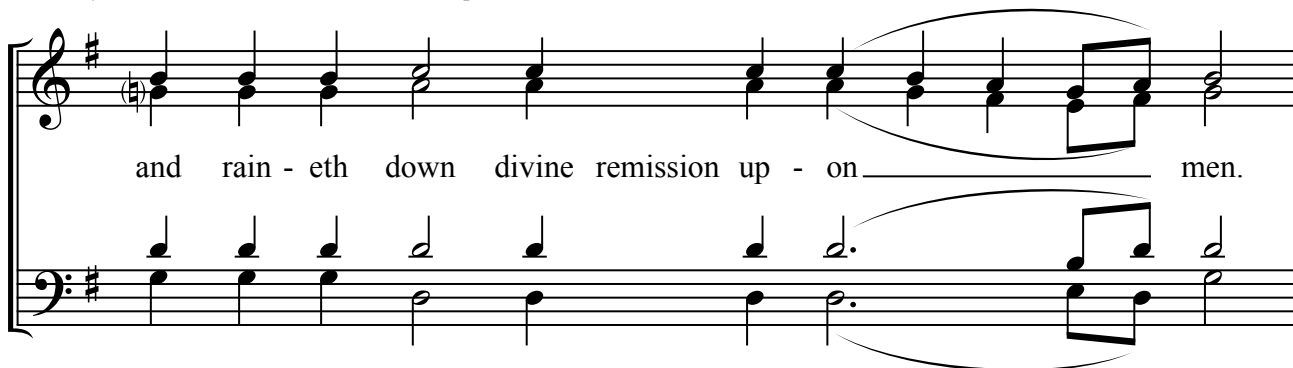
The head of the Fore-run - ner, which once was concealed in an earth - en

ves - - - sel, hath appeared, manifest - ly giv - en up


from the bos-om of the earth and pour-ing forth streams of heal - ing;

for in the wa - ters did he wash the head of Him Who

even now covereth the chambers of the firmament of the wa - - - ters



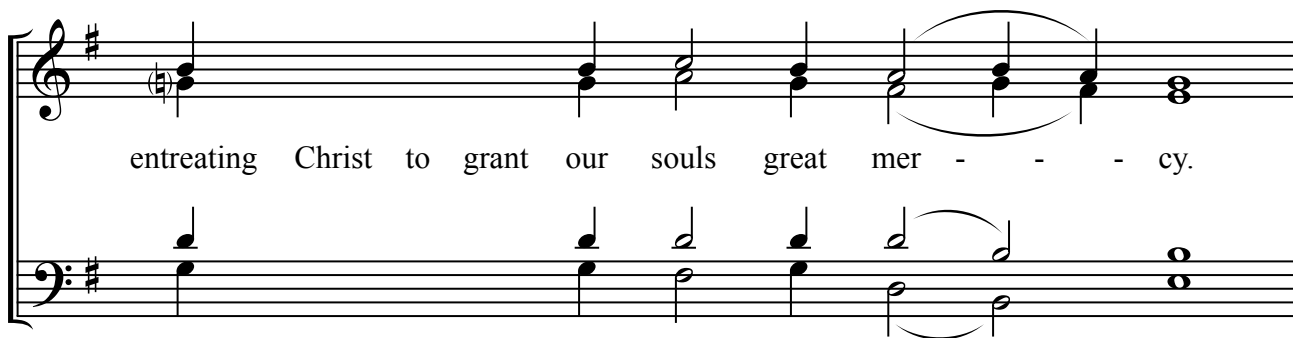
and rain - eth down divine remission up - on men.



Where-fore, let us bless it as tru - ly most glo - - - ri - ous,



and in its discovery let us joyously keep fes - - - ti - val,



entreating Christ to grant our souls great mer - - - cy.

The head which pro-claimed the Lamb of God Who hath

ap - peared in the flesh, which with di - vine com - mands

hath de - clared to all the ways of saving re - pen - tance,

which of old denounced the iniqui - ty of Her - od

and was there - fore sev - ered from its bod - y

and endured conceal-ment for _____ a time, hath shone forth upon us like a

ra - di - ant__ sun, cry - ing out: Re - pent_____ ye,

and in com-punc - tion of soul sub - mit__ now_____ to Christ

who grant - eth the world great mer - - - cy.

English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, "The Menaion of the Orthodox Church", Vol. VI,
St. John of Kronstadt Press, ©1998. The complete service text may be purchased through: sjkp.org