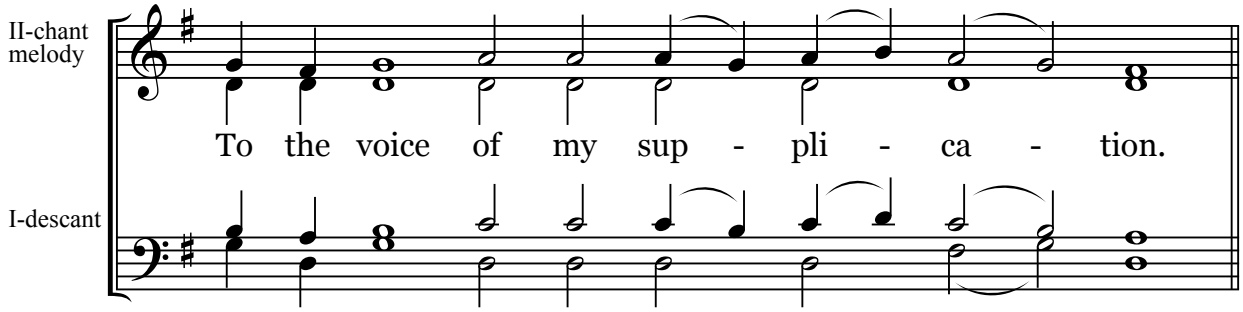
Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Council
Vespers

*After the Beginning Psalm (103) and the Great Litany, we chant the 1st Kathisma "*Blessed is the Man*".*

On "Lord I have cried...", 10 stichera: 3 of the Resurrection (from the Octoechos) in Tone 6; 3 of the Ascension, in Tone 4; and 4 of the Fathers in Tone 6—

Stichera of the Ascension

(7) *Reader:* In the 4th Tone— Let Thine ears be attentive



The Lord ascended into heaven, /

that He might send the Comforter to the world. /

The heavens prepared His throne; /

the clouds His ascent. /

The angels marvelled, beholding a Man more exalted than they. /

The Father awaiteth the Co-eternal One Whom He had in His bosom; /

and the Holy Spirit commandeth all His angels: /

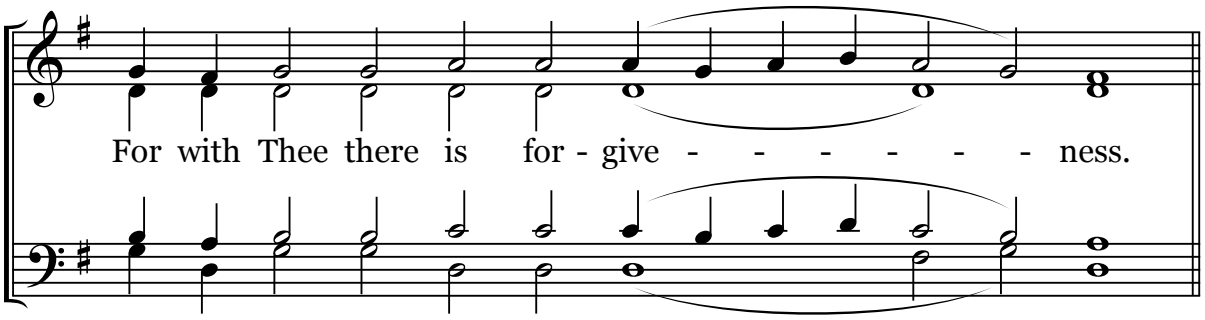
Lift up, your gates, O ye princes! /

All the nations clap their hands, //

for Christ hath gone up to where He was before.

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

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



The cherubim marvelled /

at Thine ascension, O Lord, /

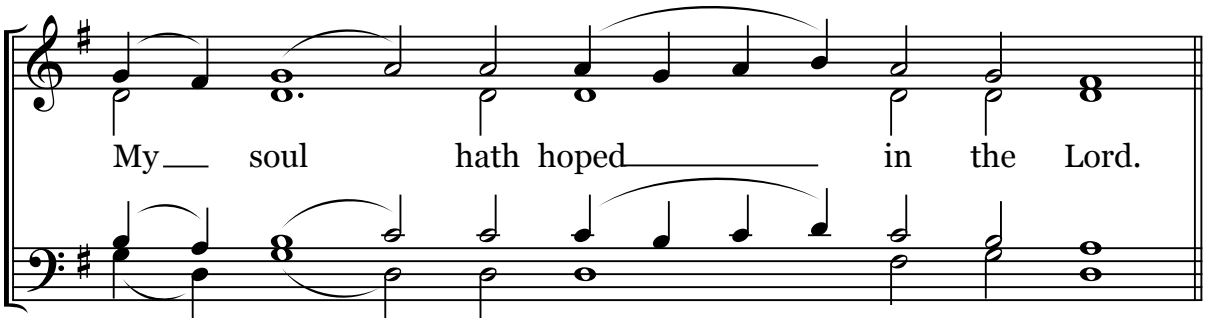
beholding Thee, O God Who sittest upon them, /

ascending upon clouds; /

and we glorify Thee for Thy mercy is good. //

Glory be to Thee!

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



Beholding Thine ascension upon the holy mountains, O Christ, /

Thou Effulgence of the glory of the Father, /

we hymn the radiant form of Thy countenance, /

we worship Thy sufferings, /

and we honor the resurrection, /

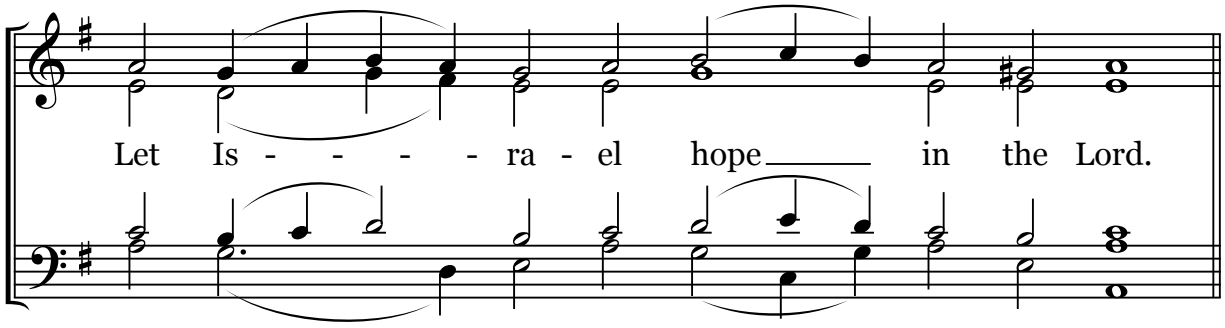
glorifying the glorious ascension. /

Have mercy upon us!

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

Stichera of the Fathers

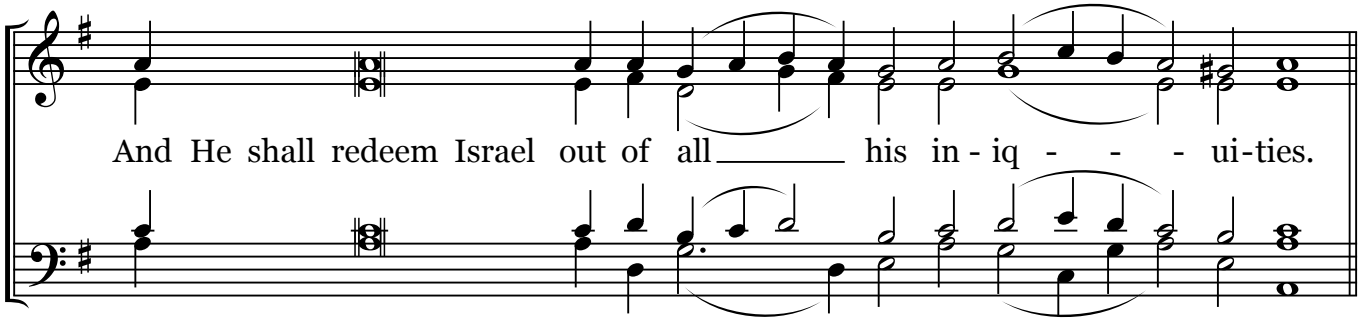
(4) ***Reader:*** **In the 6th Tone— From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch**



Before the ages Thou wast begotten
of the womb of the Father without mother /
before the morning star; /
yet Arius calleth Thee a creature, /
refusing to glorify Thee as God, /
with audacity mindlessly confusing Thee, the Creator, with a creature, /
laying up for himself fuel for the everlasting fire. /
But the Council in Nicea /
proclaimed Thee to be the Son of God, //
Who art equally enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

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



Who hath rent Thy garment, O Savior? /

It was Arius, Thou hast said, /

who separated the Trinity's authority of equal honor into divisions. /

He hath denied Thee to be One of the Trinity. /

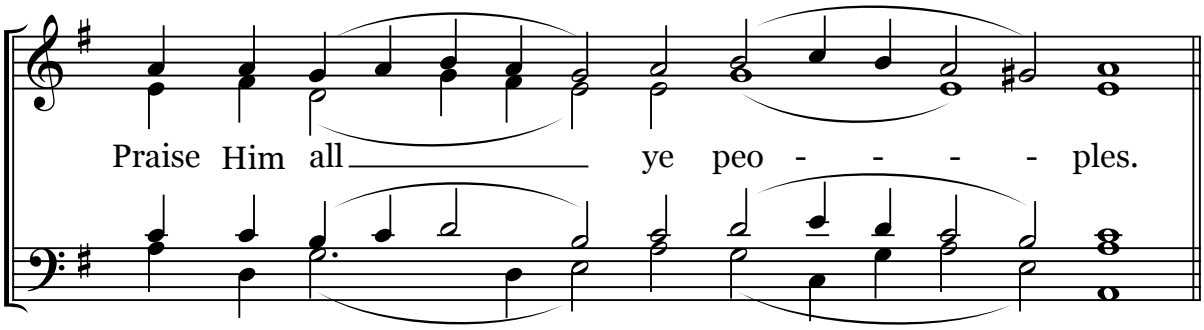
He hath taught Nestorius not to say "Theotokos." /

But the Council in Nicea proclaimed Thee to be the Son of God, //

Who art equally enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

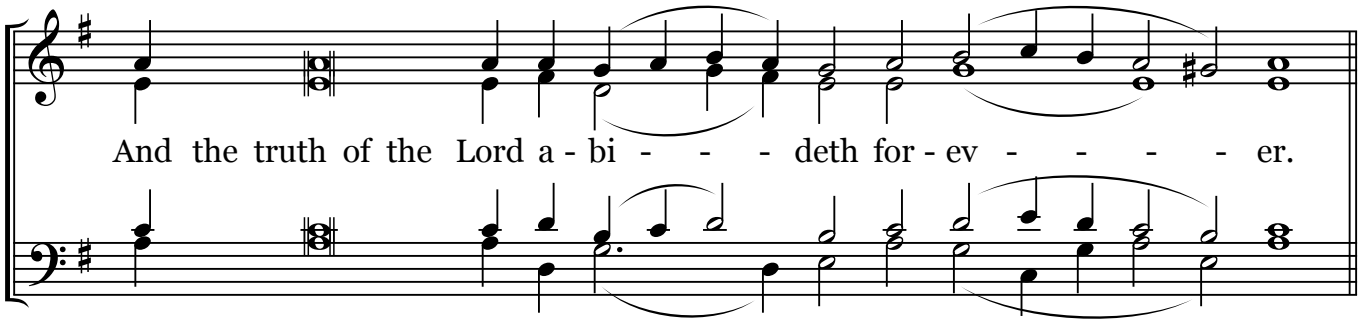
(2) ***Reader:*** **O praise the Lord, all ye nations;**



Arius, who hated to see the Light, /
falleth into the pit of sin, /
and his bowels are rent asunder by the hook of God /
so that they violently rendered up his being and soul, /
for he was another Judas in character and image. /
But the Council in Nicea proclaimed Thee to be the Son of God, /
Who art equally enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

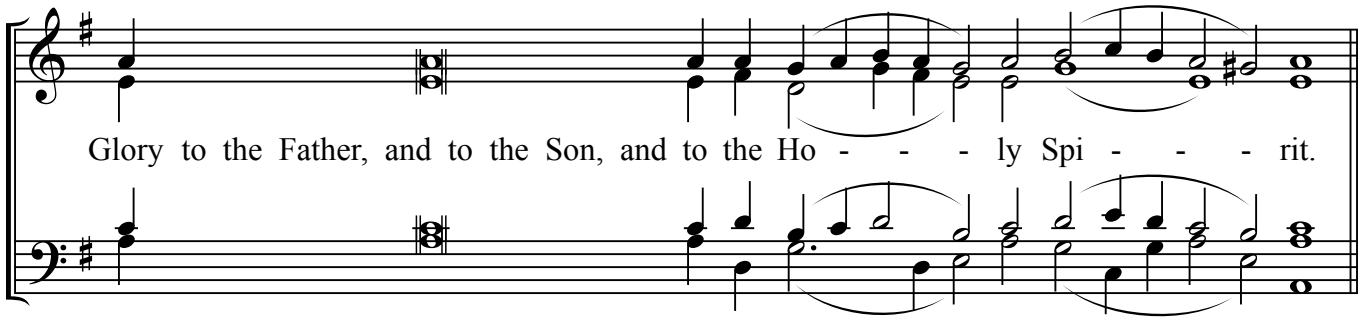
(1) ***Reader:*** **For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us,**



The mindless Arius divided the single dominion /
of the all-holy Trinity /
into three iniquitious and unconjoined Beings; /
wherefore, the God-bearing fathers who assembled with diligence, /
aflame with zeal like Elijah the Tishbite, as the Spirit commanded /
cut down with the sword of the Spirit, //
the blasphemer who taught shameful things.

"Lord I have cried" ***(continued)***

Reader: **Glory, in the same tone.**



Let us praise the God-bearing fathers, /
the mystical clarions of the Spirit, /
which sound forth in the midst of the Church /
the melodious hymn of theology /
unto the one Trinity, the immutable Essence and Godhead. /
It is they, the champions of the Orthodox, who cast down Arius, //
and ever pray to the Lord that our souls find mercy.

Both now, ... the Dogmatic Theotokion in the same tone.

English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©2005, "The Pentecostarion of the Orthodox Church",
St. John of Kronstadt Press. The complete service text may be purchased through: sjkp.org