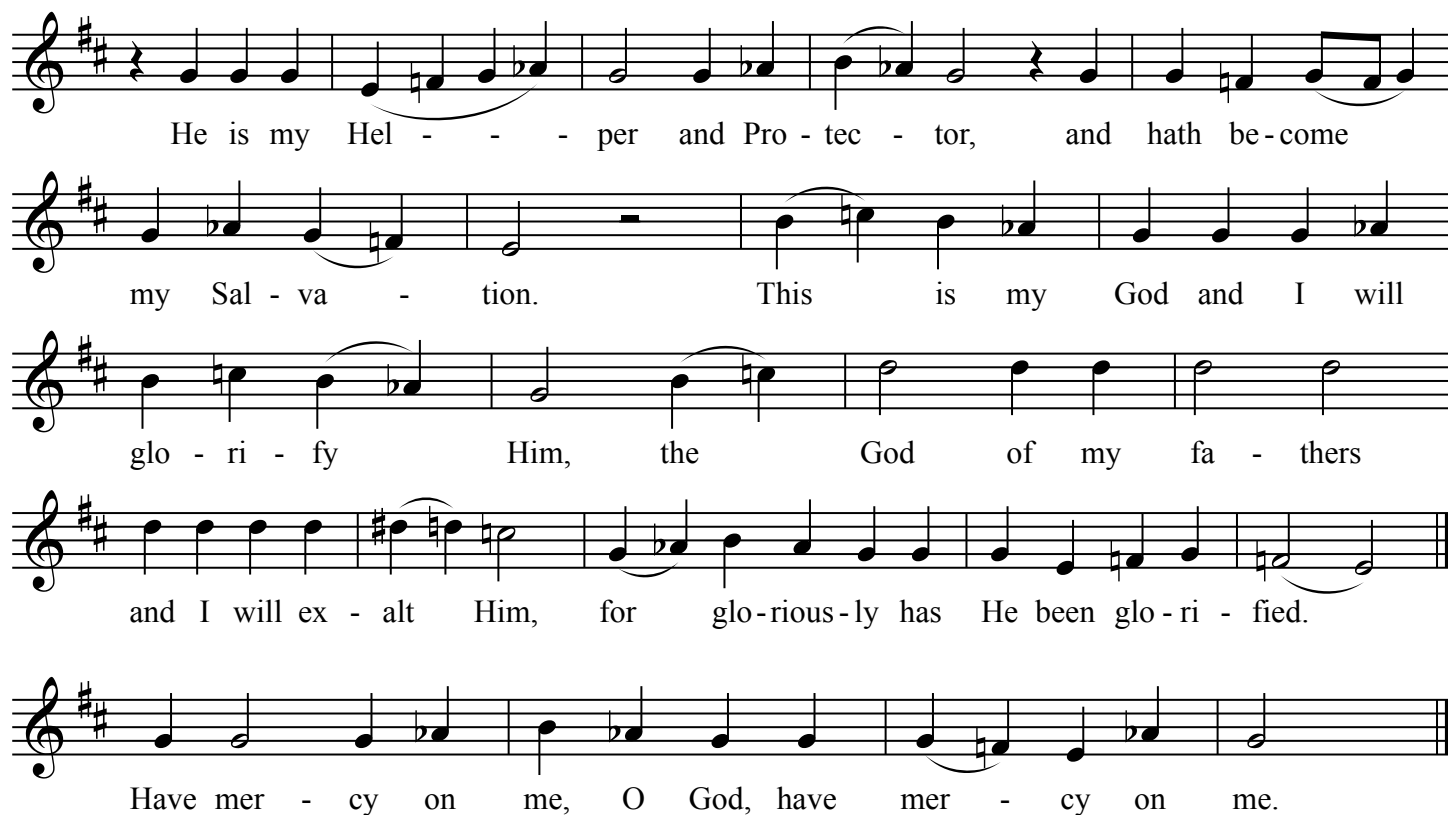


Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wednesday in the First Week

Melodies by Bishop Basil Essey, 1999

Canticle One



He is my Hel - - - per and Pro - tec - tor, and hath be - come
my Sal - va - tion. This is my God and I will
glo - ri - fy Him, the God of my fa - thers
and I will ex - alt Him, for glo - rious - ly has He been glo - ri - fied.
Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

From my youth, O Savior, I have rejected Thy commandments. Ruled by the passions, I have passed my whole life in heedlessness and sloth. Therefore I cry to Thee, O Savior, even now at the end: Save me.

I lie as an outcast before Thy gate, O Savior. In my old age cast me not down empty into hell; but, before the end comes, in Thy love grant me remission of sins.

As the Prodigal, O Savior, I have wasted all my substance in riotous living, and I am barren of the virtues of holiness. In my hunger I cry: O compassionate Father, come quickly out to meet me and take pity on me.

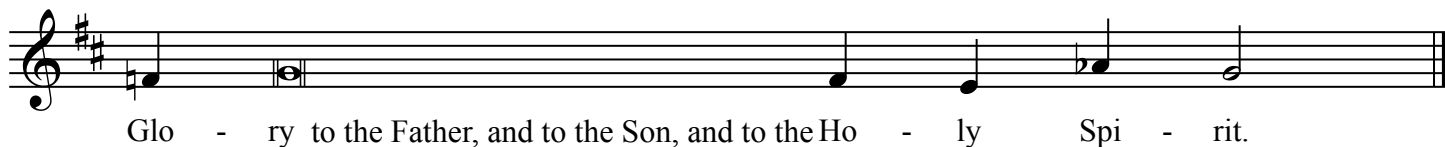
I am the man who fell among thieves, even my own thoughts; they have covered all my body with wounds, and I lie beaten and bruised. But come to me, O Christ my Savior, and heal me.

The Priest saw me first, but passed by on the other side; the Levite looked on me in my distress but despised my nakedness. O Jesus, sprung from Mary, do Thou come to me and take pity on me.



Ho - ly Mo - ther Ma - ry, pray to God for us.

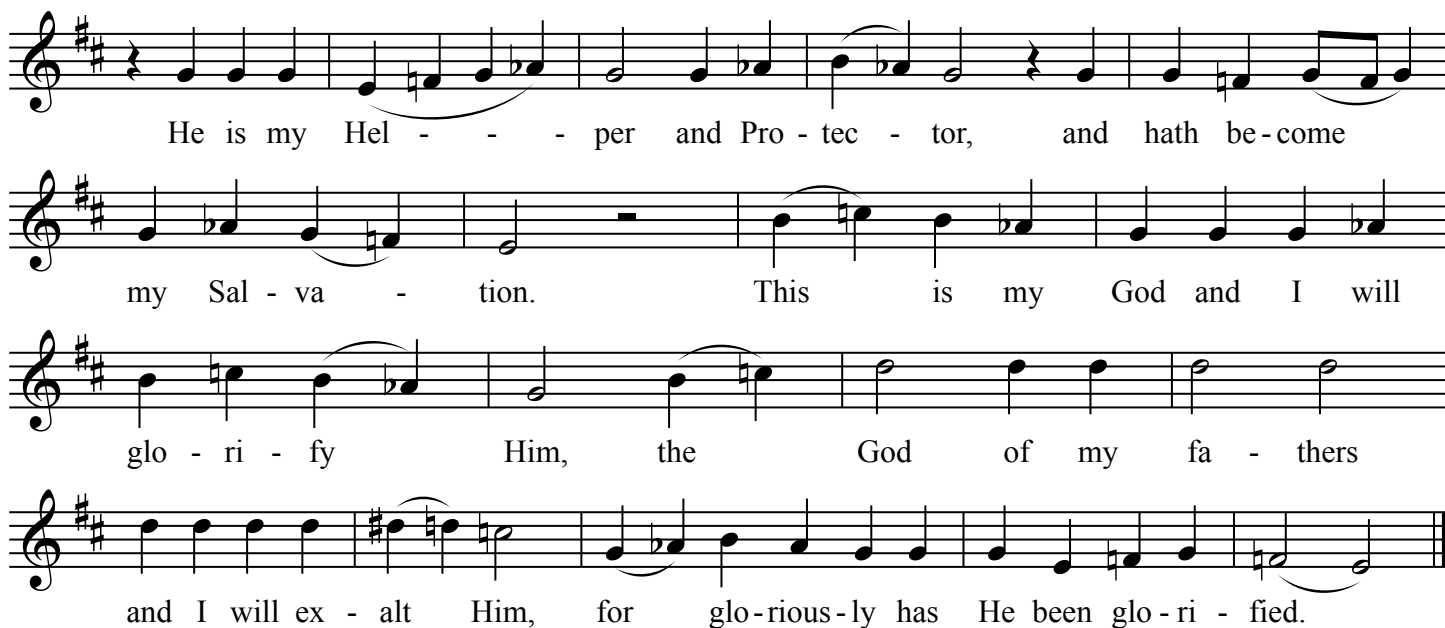
Grant me the light of grace, from God's providence on high, that I may flee from the darkness of the passions and sing fervently the joyful tale of thy life, O Mary.



Trinity beyond being, worshipped in Unity, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.



O Theotokos, the hope and protection of those who sing thy praises, take from me the heavy yoke of sin and, pure Lady, accept me in repentance.



Canticle Two



Like David, I have fallen into lust and I am covered with filth; but wash me clean, O Savior, by my tears.

I have no tears, no repentance, no compunction; but as God do Thou Thyself, O Savior, bestow them on me.

I have lost the beauty and glory with which I was first created; and now I lie naked and ashamed.

Lord, Lord, at the Last Day shut not Thy door against me; but open it to me, for I repent before Thee.

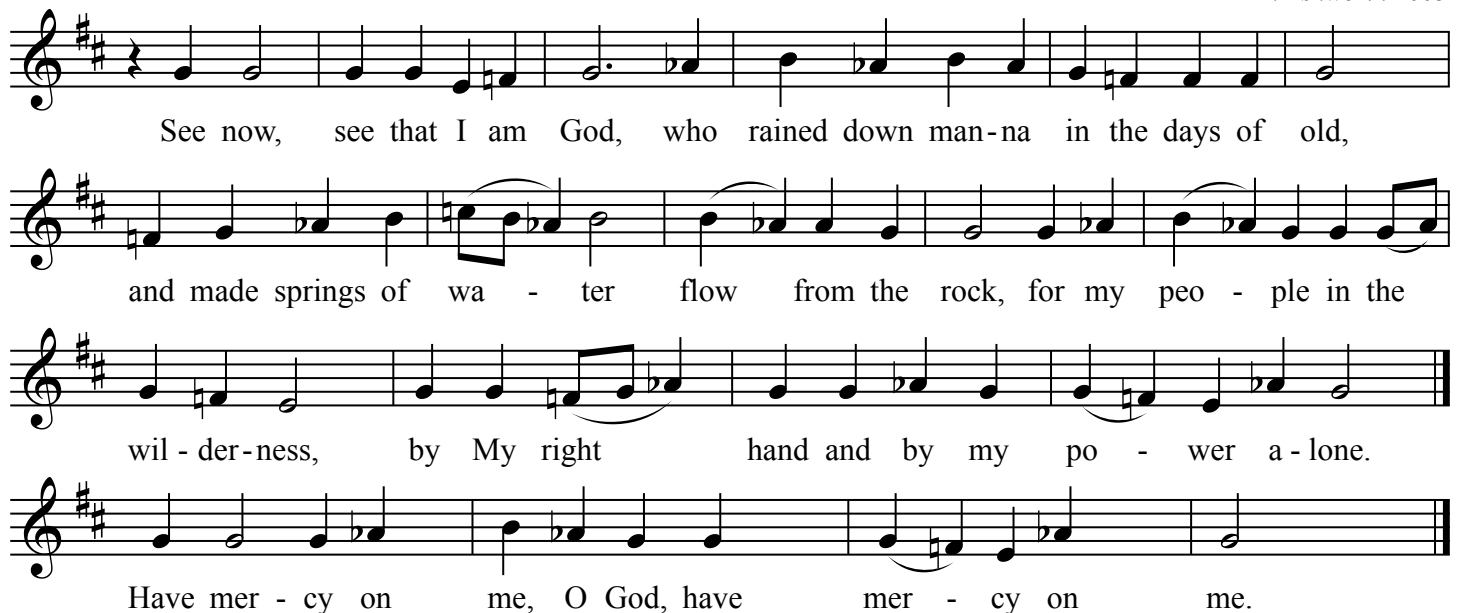
Give ear to the groaning of my soul, and accept the tears that fall from mine eyes; O Lord, save me.

O Lover of mankind, who desirest that all men shall be saved, in Thy goodness call me back and accept me in repentance.



O Theotokos undefiled, Virgin alone worthy of all praise, intercede fervently for our salvation.

D. Ashworth 2003

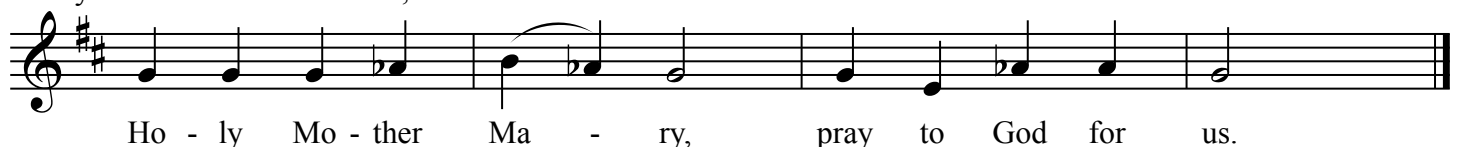


'See now, see that I am God': give ear, my soul, to the Lord as He cries to thee; forsake thy former sin, and fear Him as thy Judge and God.

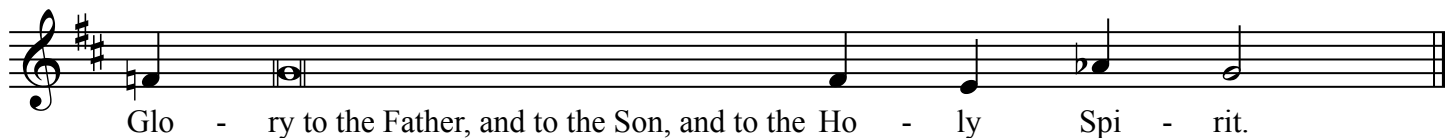
To whom shall I liken thee, O soul of many sins? Alas! To Cain and to Lamech. For thou hast stoned thy body to death with thine evil deeds, and killed thy mind with thy disordered longings.

Call to mind, my soul, all who lived before the Law. Thou hast not been like Seth, or followed Enos or Enoch, who was translated to heaven, or Noah; but thou art found destitute, without a share in the life of the righteous.

Thou alone, O my soul, hast opened the windows of the wrath of thy God, and thou hast flooded, as the earth, all thy flesh and deeds and life; and thou hast remained outside the Ark of salvation.



With all eagerness and love hast thou run to Christ, turning from thy former path of sin, finding thy food in the trackless wilderness, and fulfilling in purity the commandments of God.

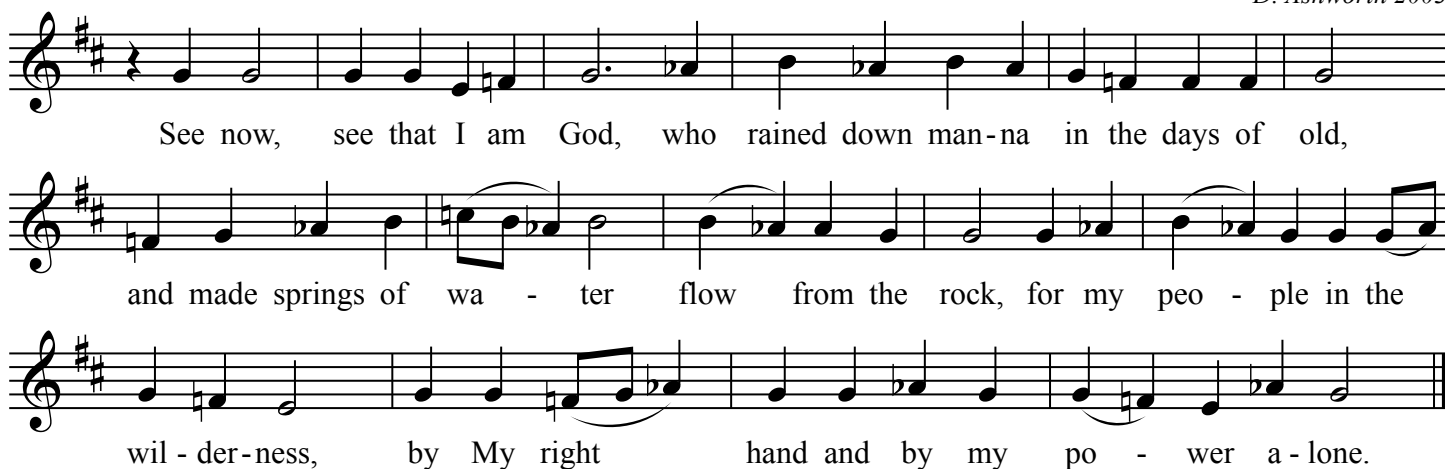


O Trinity uncreated and without beginning, O undivided Unity: accept me in repentance and save me, a sinner. I am Thy creation, reject me not; but spare me and deliver me from the fire of condemnation.

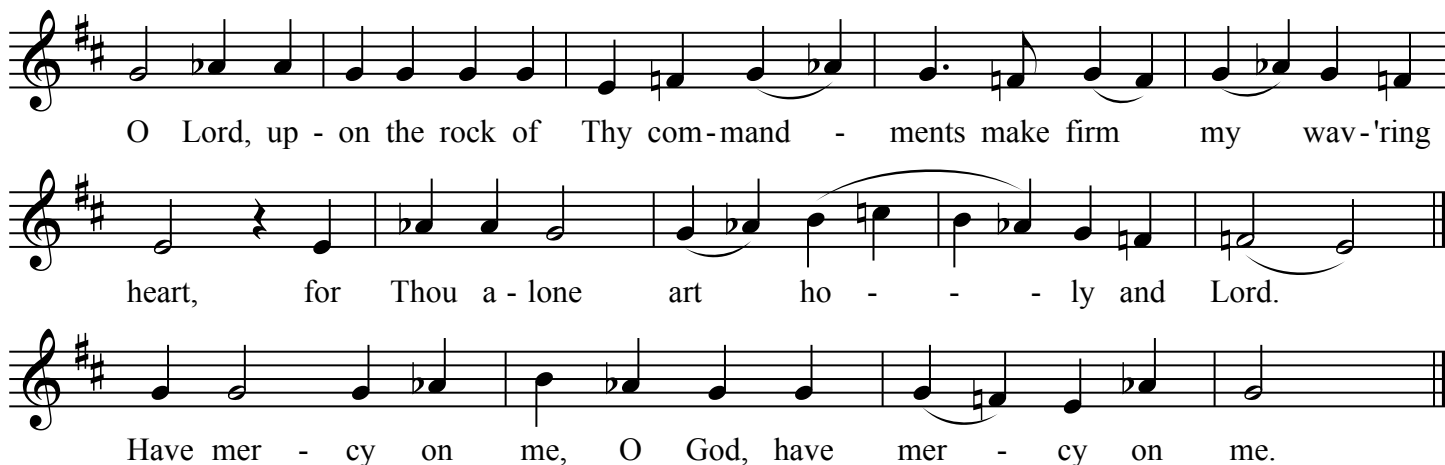


Most pure Lady, Mother of God, the hope of those who run to thee and the haven of the storm-tossed: pray to the merciful God, thy Creator and thy Son, that He may grant His mercy even to me.

D. Ashworth 2003



Canticle Three



O wretched soul, thou hast not inherited the blessing of Shem, nor hast thou received, like Japhet, a spacious domain in the land of forgiveness.

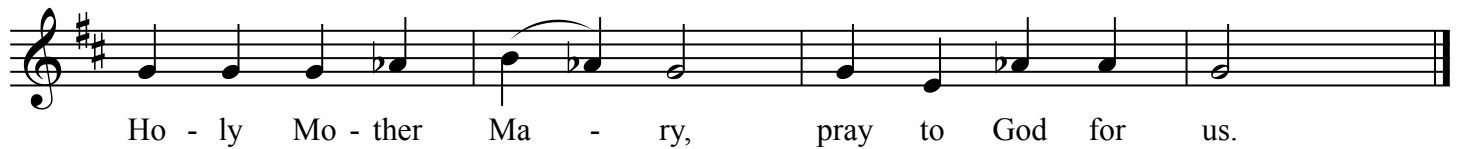
O my soul, depart from sin, from the land of Haran, and come to the land that Abraham inherited, which flows with incorruption and eternal life.

Thou hast heard, my soul, how Abraham in days of old left the land of his fathers and became a wanderer: follow him in his choice.

At the oak of Mamre the Patriarch gave hospitality to the angels, and in his old age he inherited the reward of the promise.

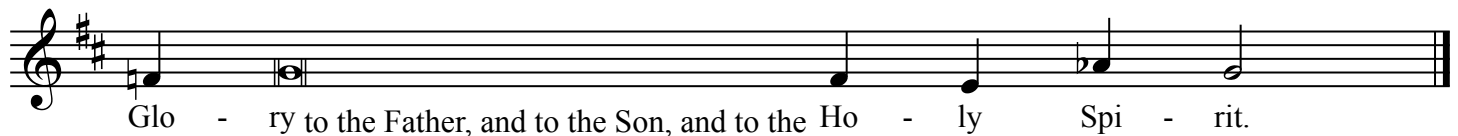
Thou knowest, O my miserable soul, how Isaac was offered mystically as a new and unwonted sacrifice to the Lord: follow him in his choice.

Thou hast heard - O my soul be watchful! - how Ishmael was driven out as the child of a bondwoman. Take heed, lest the same thing happen to thee because of thy lust.



I am held fast, O Mother, by the tempest and billows of sin: but do thou keep me safe and lead me to the haven of divine repentance.

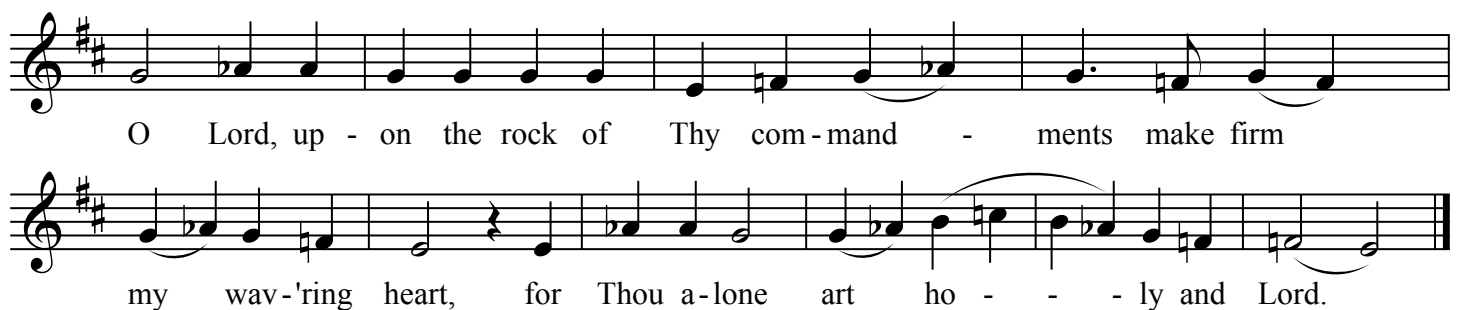
O holy Mary, offer thy prayer of supplication to the compassionate Theotokos, and through thine intercessions open unto me the door that leads to God.



O simple Unity praised in Trinity of Persons, uncreated Nature without beginning, save us who in faith worship Thy power.

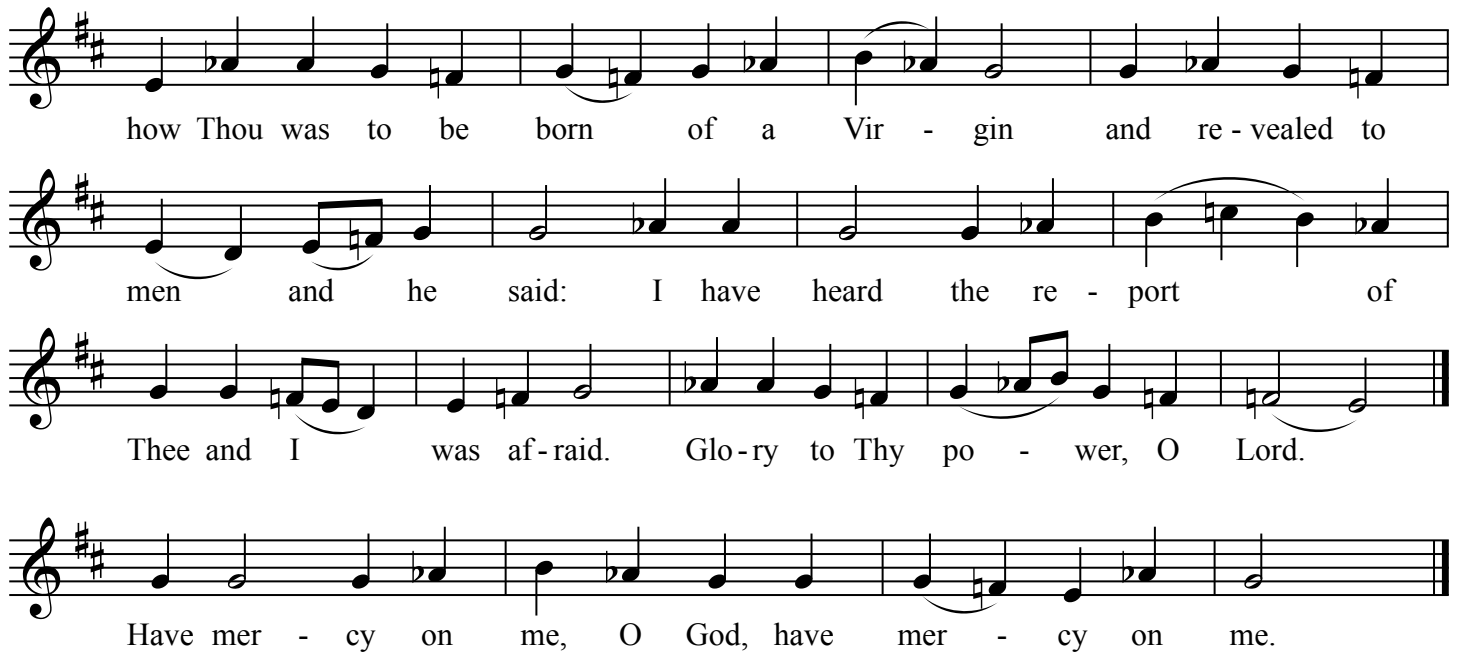


O Mother of God, without knowing man thou hast given birth within time to the Son, who was begotten outside time from the Father; and -- strange wonder! -- thou givest suck while still remaining Virgin.



Canticle Four





I have defiled my body, I have stained my spirit, and I am all covered with wounds: but as physician, Christ, heal both body and spirit for me through repentance. Wash, purify, and cleanse me, O my Savior, and make me whiter than snow.

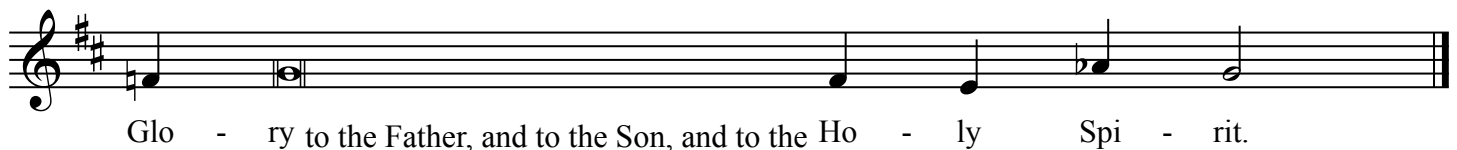
Thy Body and Thy Blood, O Word, Thou hast offered at Thy Crucifixion for the sake of all: Thy Body to refashion me, Thy Blood to wash me clean; and Thou hast given up Thy spirit, O Christ, to bring me to Thy Father.

O Compassionate Lord, Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth, that we might be saved. Thou wast crucified of Thine own will upon the Tree; and Eden, closed till then, was opened. Things above and things below, the creation and all the peoples have been saved and worship Thee.

May the Blood from Thy side be to me a cleansing fount, and may the Water that flows with it be a drink of forgiveness. May I be purified by both, O Word, anointed and refreshed, having as chrism and drink Thy words of life.

As a chalice, O my Savior, the Church has been granted Thy life-giving side, from which there flows down to us a twofold stream of forgiveness and knowledge, representing the two Covenants, the Old and the New.

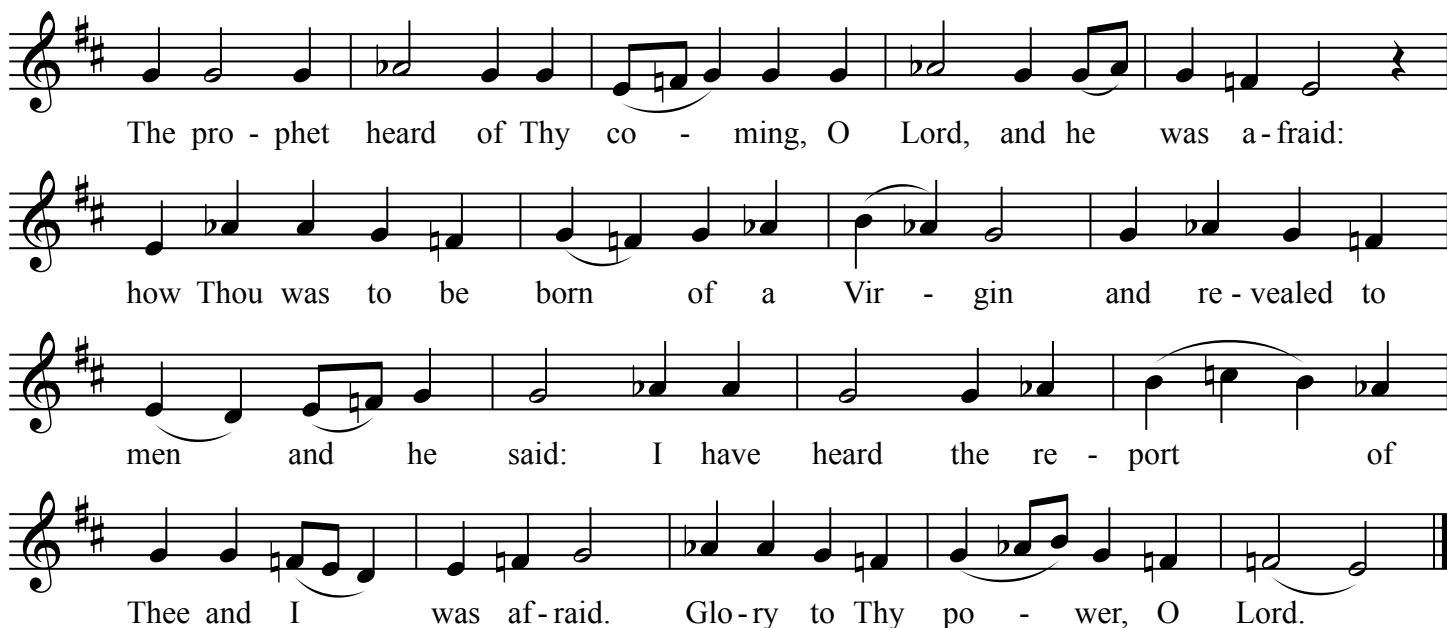
I am deprived of the bridal chamber, of the wedding and the supper; for want of oil my lamp has gone out; while I slept the door was closed; the supper has been eaten; I am bound hand and foot, and cast out.



Undivided in Essence, unconfused in Persons, I confess Thee as God: Triune Deity, one in kingship and throne; and to Thee I raise the great thrice-holy hymn that is sung on high.

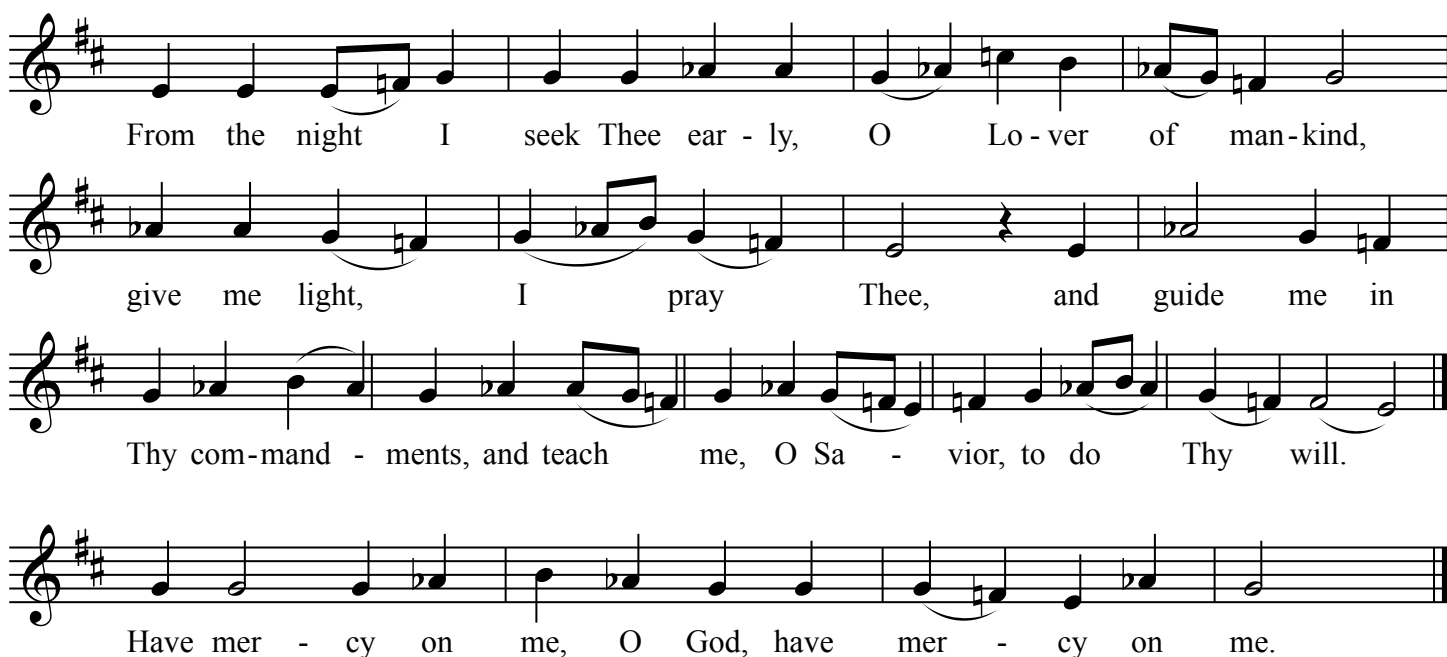


Thou givest birth and art a virgin, and in both thou remainest by nature inviolate. He who is born makes new the laws of nature, and the womb brings forth without travail. When God so wills, the natural order is overcome; for He does whatever He wishes.



The pro - phet heard of Thy co - ming, O Lord, and he was a - fraid:
how Thou was to be born of a Vir - gin and re - vealed to
men and he said: I have heard the re - port of
Thee and I was af - raid. Glo - ry to Thy po - wer, O Lord.

Canticum Five



From the night I seek Thee ear - ly, O Lo - ver of man - kind,
give me light, I pray Thee, and guide me in
Thy com - mand - ments, and teach me, O Sa - vior, to do Thy will.
Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

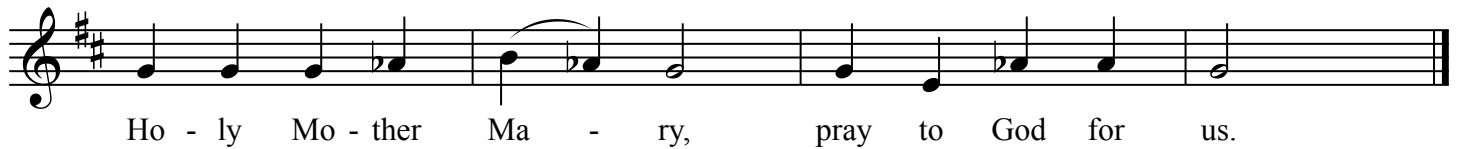
In my soul and body, O Lord, I have become like Jannes and Jambres, the magicians of cruel Pharaoh; my will is heavy and my mind is drowned beneath the waters. But do Thou come to my aid.

Woe is me! I have defiled my mind with filth. But I pray to Thee, O Master: wash me clean in the waters of my tears, and make the garment of my flesh white as snow.

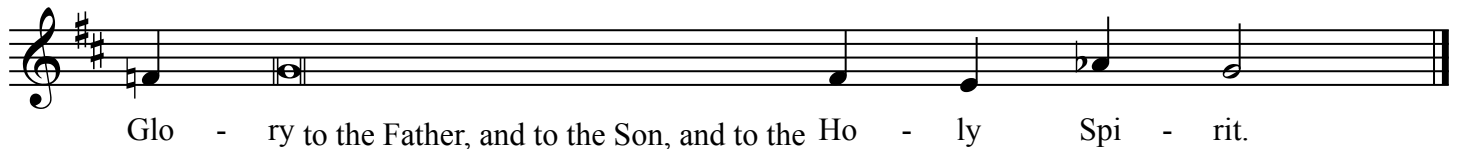
When I examine my actions, O Savior, I see that I have gone beyond all men in sin; for I knew and understood what I did; I was not sinning in ignorance.

Spare, O spare the work of Thine hands, O Lord. I have sinned, forgive me: for Thou alone art pure by nature, and none save Thee is free from defilement.

Thou who art God, O Savior, wast for my sake fashioned as I am. Thou hast performed miracles, healing lepers, giving strength to the paralyzed, stopping the issue of blood when the woman touched the hem of Thy garment.



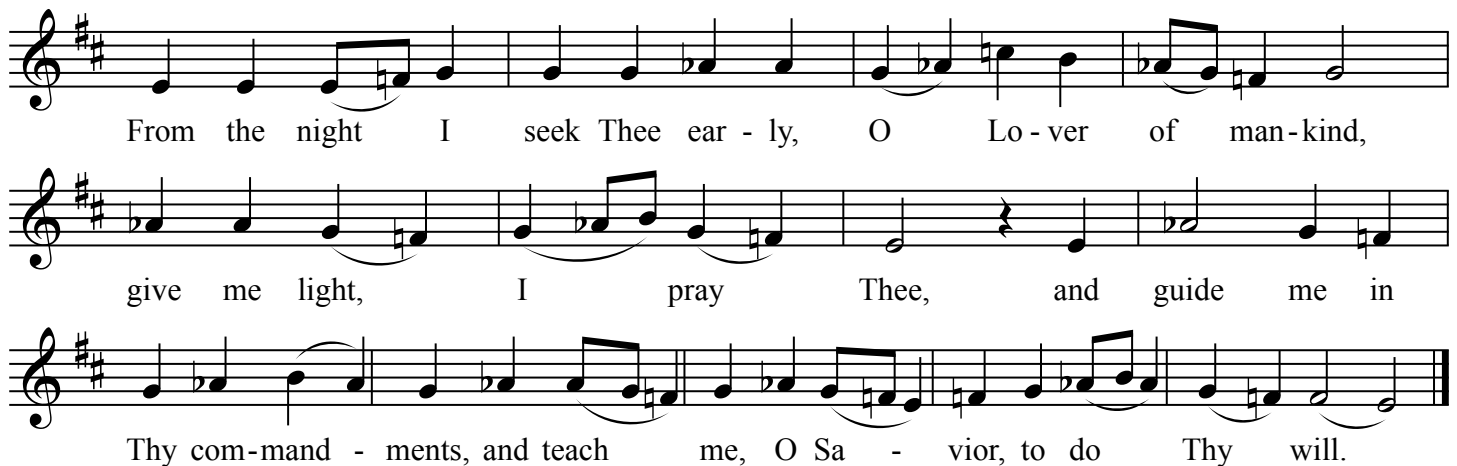
Crossing the stream of the Jordan, thou hast found peace, escaping from the deadening pleasures of the flesh. Deliver us also from them, holy Mary, by thine intercessions.



We glorify Thee, O Trinity, the one God. Holy, holy, holy, art Thou: Father, Son, and Spirit, simple Essence and Unity, worshipped forever.

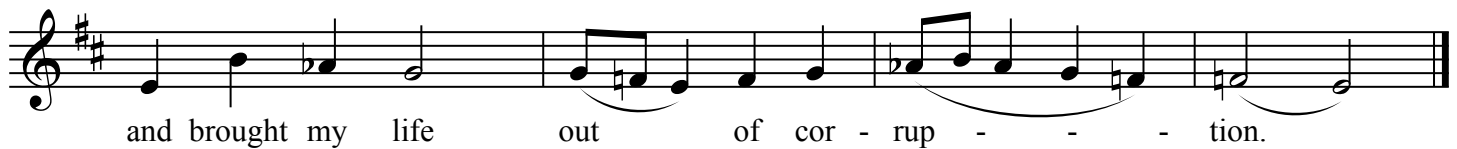


O Virgin inviolate and Mother who has not known man, from thee has God, the Creator of the ages, taken human flesh, uniting to Himself the nature of men.



Canticle Six



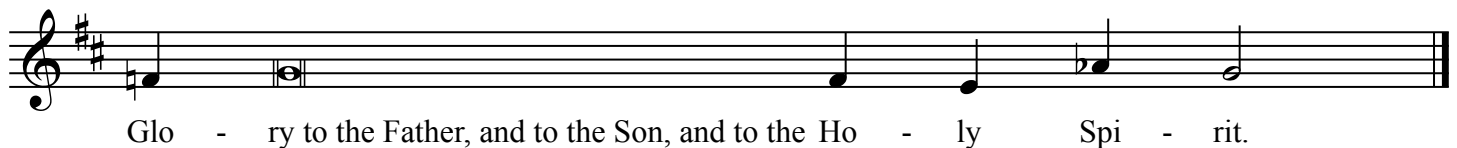


Rise up and make war upon the passions of the flesh, as Joshua against Amalek, ever gaining the victory over the Gibeonites, thy deceitful thoughts.

O my soul, pass through the flowing waters of time like the Ark of old, and take possession of the land of promise: for God commands thee.

As Thou hast saved Peter when he cried out, 'Save me', come quickly, O Savior, before it is too late, and save me from the beast. Stretch out Thine hand and lead me up from the deep of sin.

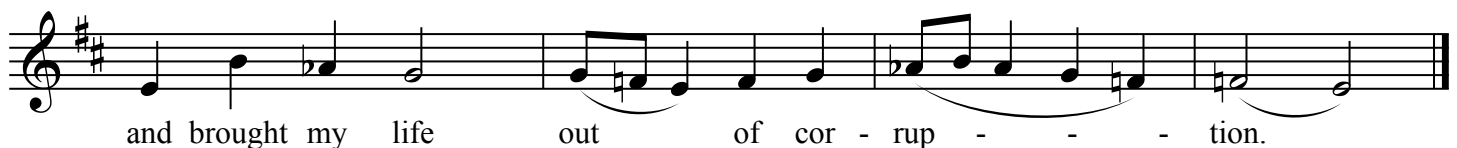
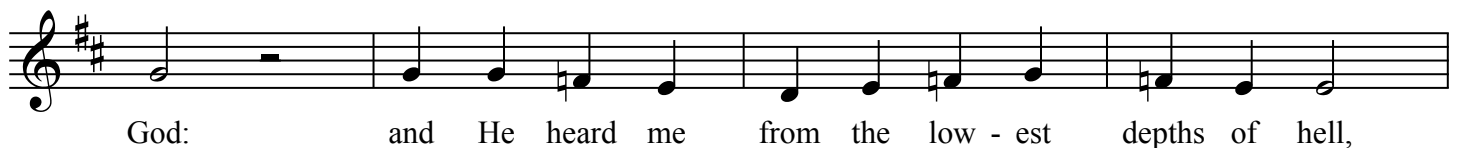
I know Thee as a calm haven, O Lord, Lord Christ: come quickly, before it is too late, and deliver me from the lowest depths of sin and despair.



'I am the Trinity, simple and undivided, yet divided in Persons, and I am the Unity by Nature one', says the Father and the Son and the divine Spirit.

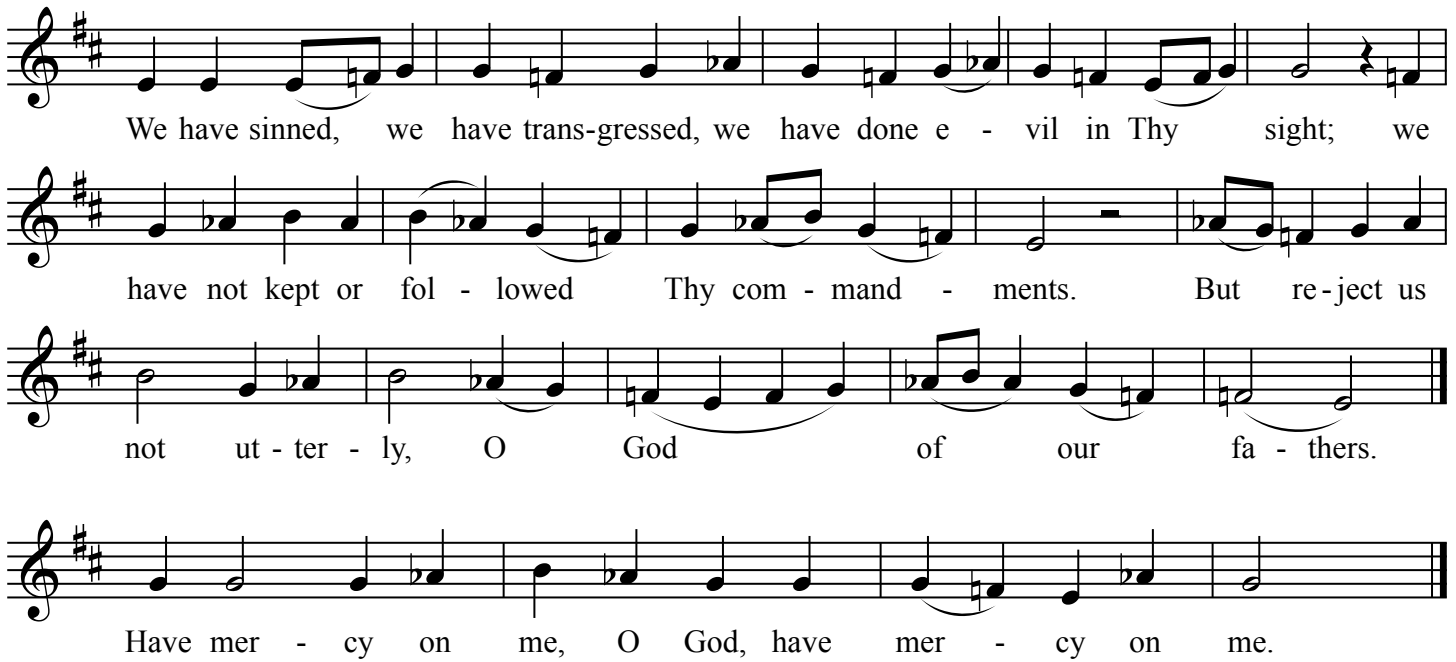


Thy womb bore God for us, fashioned in our shape. O Theotokos, pray to Him as the Creator of all, that we may be justified through thine intercessions.



Kontakion

Canticle Seven



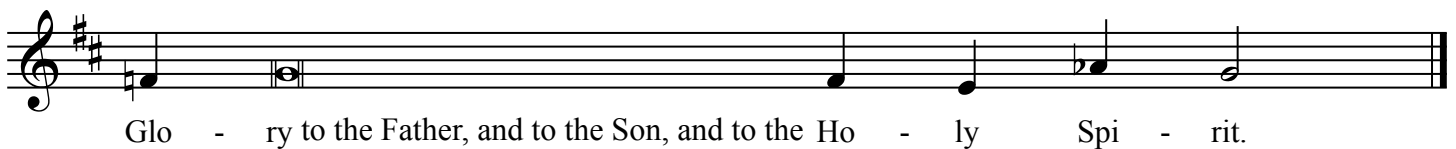
We have sinned, we have trans-gressed, we have done e - vil in Thy sight; we
have not kept or fol - lowed Thy com - mand - ments. But re-ject us
not ut - ter - ly, O God of our fa - thers.
Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

By deliberate choice, my soul, thou hast incurred the guilt of Manasseh, setting up the passions as idols and multiplying abominations. But with fervent heart emulate his repentance and acquire compunction.

Alas, my soul! Thou hast rivaled Ahab in guilt. Thou hast become a dwelling-place of fleshly defilements and a shameful vessel of the passions. But groan from the depths of thy heart, and confess thy sins to God.

Heaven is closed to thee, my soul, and a famine from God has seized thee: for thou hast been disobedient, as Ahab was to the words of Elijah the Tishbite. But imitate the widow of Zarephath, and feed the Prophet's soul.

Elijah once destroyed with fire twice fifty of Jezebel's servants, and he slew the prophets of shame, as a rebuke to Ahab. But flee from the example of both of them, my soul, and be strong.



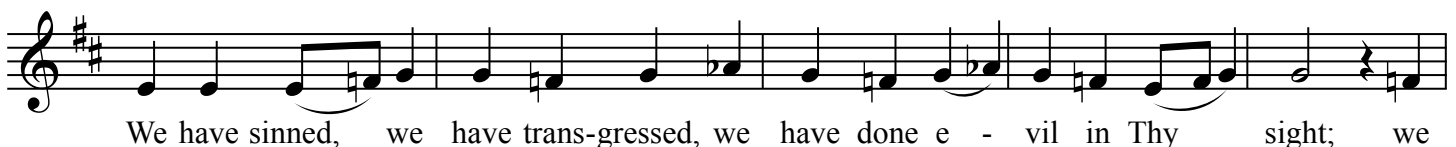
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

O simple and undivided Trinity, O holy and consubstantial Unity: Thou art praised as Light and Lights, one Holy and three Holies. Sing, O my soul, and glorify Life and Lives, the God of all.

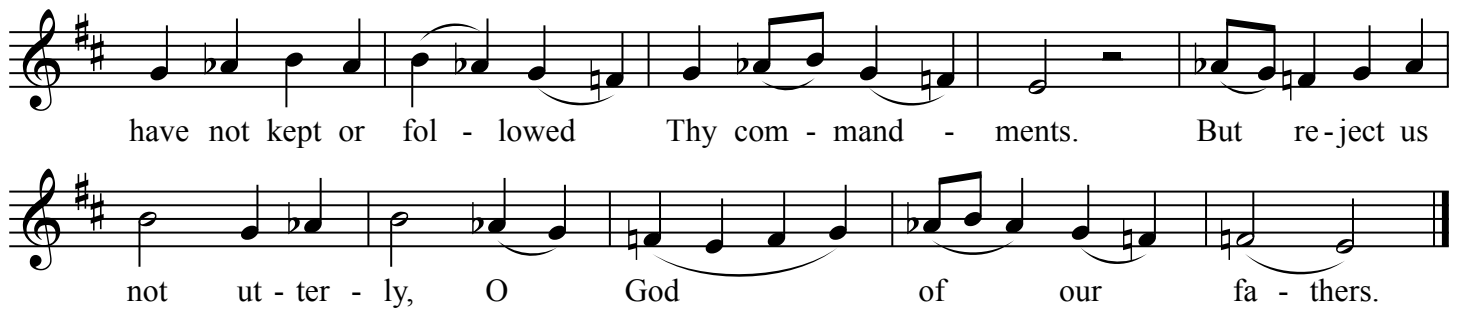


Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - - ges. A - men.

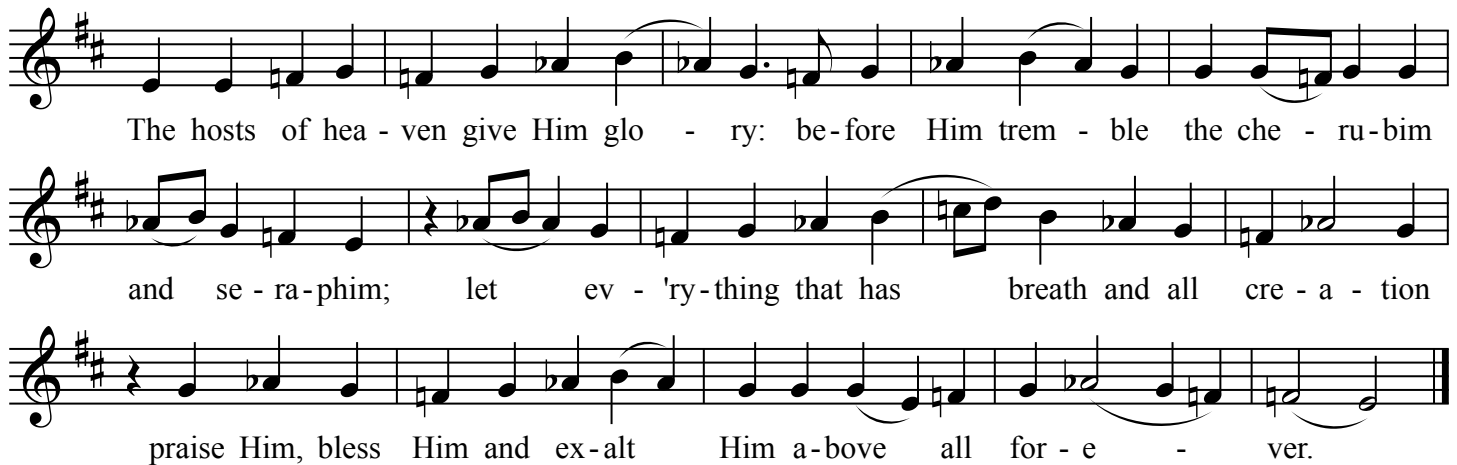
We praise thee, we bless thee, we venerate thee, O Mother of God: for thou hast given birth to One of the undivided Trinity, thy Son and God, and thou hast opened the heavenly places to us on earth.



We have sinned, we have trans-gressed, we have done e - vil in Thy sight; we



Canticle Eight

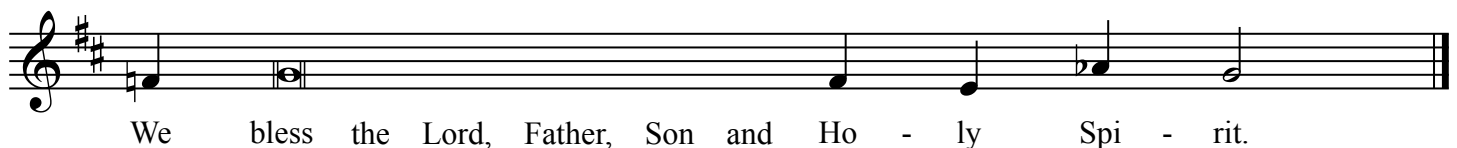


O righteous Judge and Savior, have mercy on me and deliver me from the fire that threatens me and from the punishment that I deserve to suffer at the Judgment. Before the end comes, grant me remission through virtue and repentance.

Like the Thief I cry to Thee, "Remember me"; like Peter I weep bitterly; like the Publican I call out, "Forgive me, Savior"; like the Harlot I shed tears. Accept my lamentation, as once Thou hast accepted the entreaties of the woman of Canaan.

O Savior, heal the putrefaction of my humbled soul, for Thou art the one Physician; apply plaster and pour in oil and wine - works of repentance and compunction with tears.

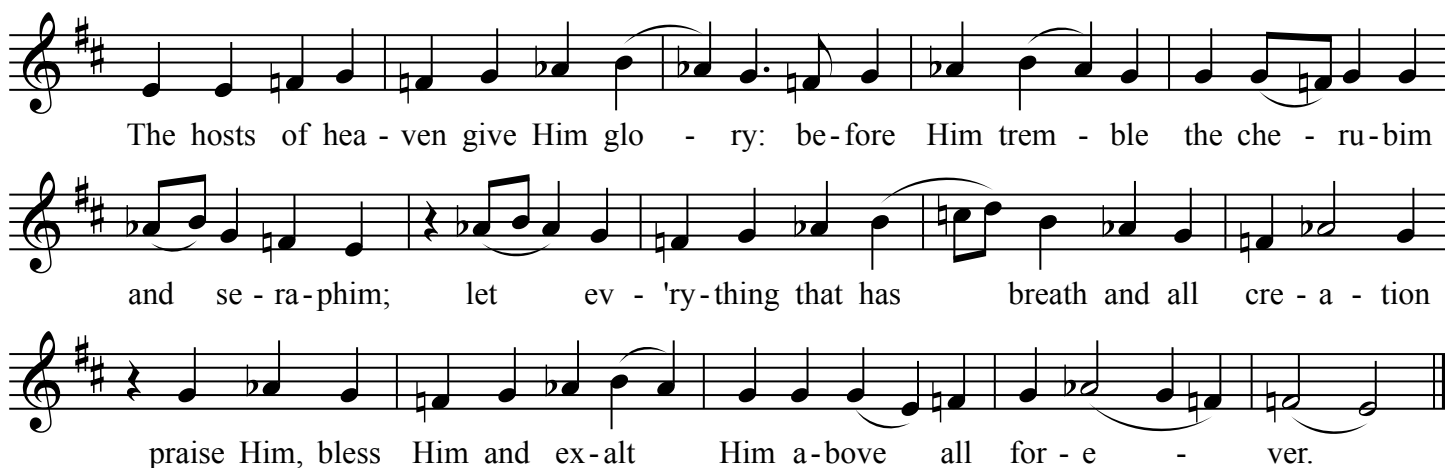
Like the woman of Canaan I cry to Thee, 'Have mercy on me, Son of David.' Like the woman with an issue of blood, I touch the hem of Thy garment. I weep as Martha and Mary wept for Lazarus.



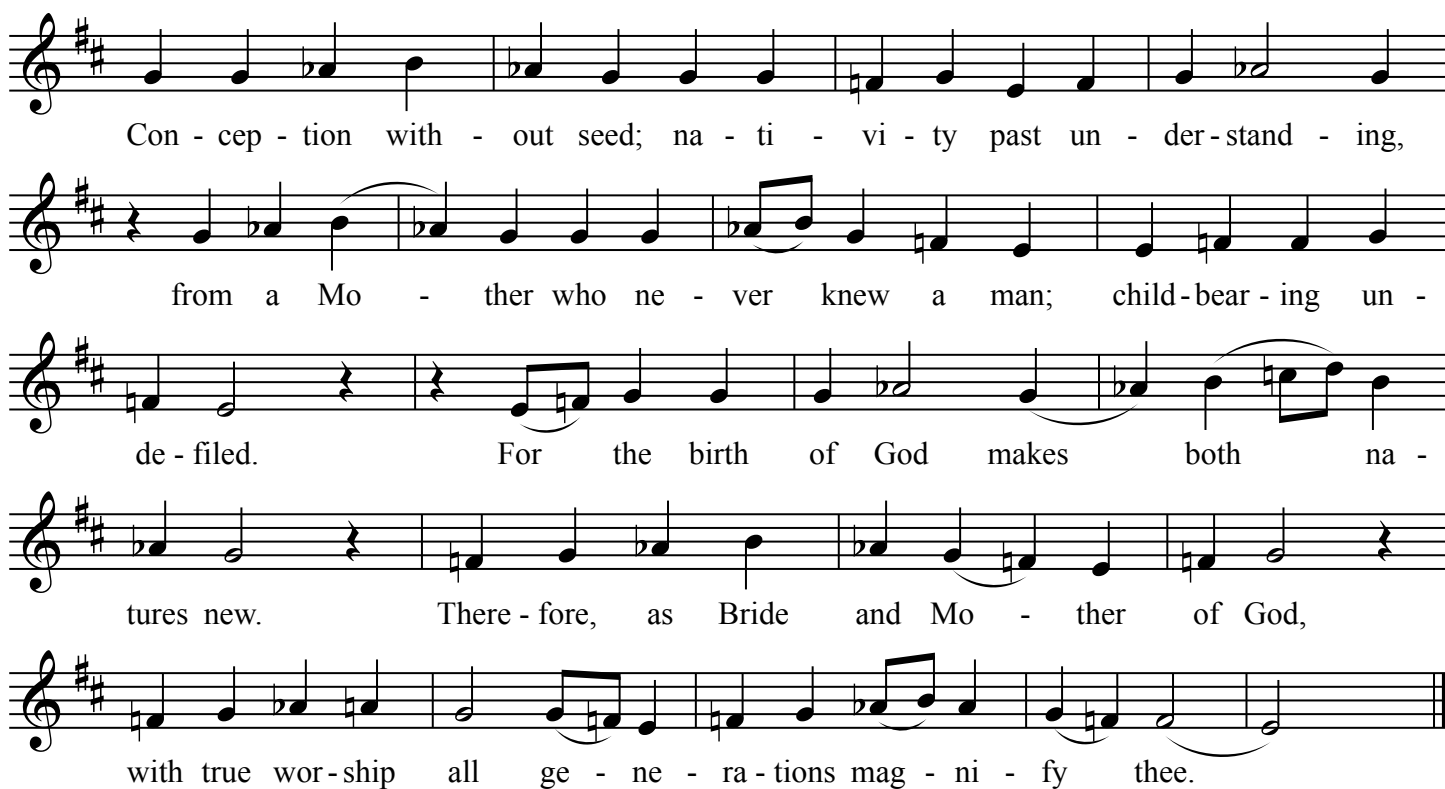
Father without beginning, coeternal Son, and loving Comforter, the Spirit of righteousness; Begetter of the Word of God, Word of the eternal Father, Spirit living and creative: O Trinity in Unity, have mercy on me.



As from purple silk, O undefiled Virgin, the spiritual robe of Emmanuel, His flesh, was woven in thy womb. Therefore we honor thee as Theotokos in very truth.



Canticle Nine





Healing sickness, Christ the Word preached the good tidings to the poor. He cured the crippled, ate with publicans, and conversed with sinners. With the touch of His hand, He brought back the departed soul of Jairus' daughter.

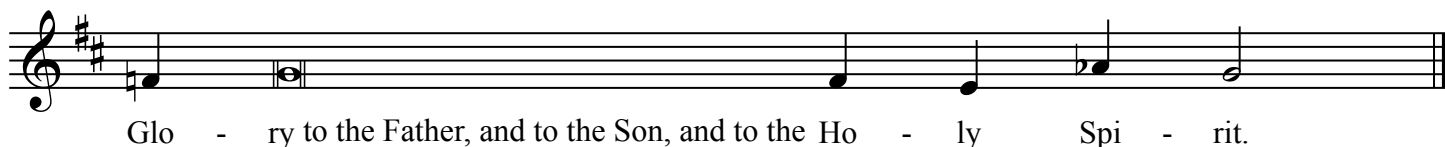
The Publican was saved and the Harlot turned to chastity, but the Pharisee with his boasting was condemned. For the first cried "Be merciful", and the second, "have mercy on me"; but the third said, boasting, 'I thank Thee, O God', and other words of madness.

Zacchaeus was a publican, yet he was saved; but Simon the Pharisee went astray, while the Harlot received remission and release from Him who has the power to forgive sins. Make haste, O my soul, to follow her example.

O wretched soul, thou hast not acted like the Harlot, who took the alabaster box of precious ointment, and anointed with tears and wiped with her hair the feet of the Lord. And He tore in pieces the record of her previous sins.

Thou knowest, O my soul, how the cities were cursed to which Christ preached the Gospel. Fear their example, lest thou suffer the same punishment. For the Master likened them to Sodom and condemned them to hell.

Be not overcome by despair, my soul; for thou hast heard of the faith of the woman of Canaan, and how through it her daughter was healed by the word of God. Cry out from the depth of thy heart, 'Save me also, Son of David', as she once cried to Christ.



Let us glorify the Father, let us exalt the Son, and with faith let us worship the Spirit of God, undivided Trinity and Unity in essence. Let us adore Light and Lights, Life and Lives, giving light and life to the ends of the earth.



Watch over Thy city, all-pure Mother of God. For by thee she reigns in faith, by thee she is made strong; by thee she is victorious, putting to flight every temptation, despoiling the enemy and ruling her subjects.



Venerable Andrew, father thrice-blessed, shepherd of Crete, cease not to offer prayer for us who sing thy praises; that we may be delivered from all danger and distress, from corruption and sin, who honor thy memory with faith.

Con - cep - tion with - out seed; na - ti - vi - ty past un - der - stand - ing,
from a Mo - ther who ne - ver knew a man; child - bear - ing un -
de - filed. For the birth of God makes both na -
tures new. There - fore, as Bride and Mo - ther of God, with true wor - ship
all ge - ne - ra - tions mag - ni - fy thee.