

December 18th - 24th

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Stichera on the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: *Rejoice*

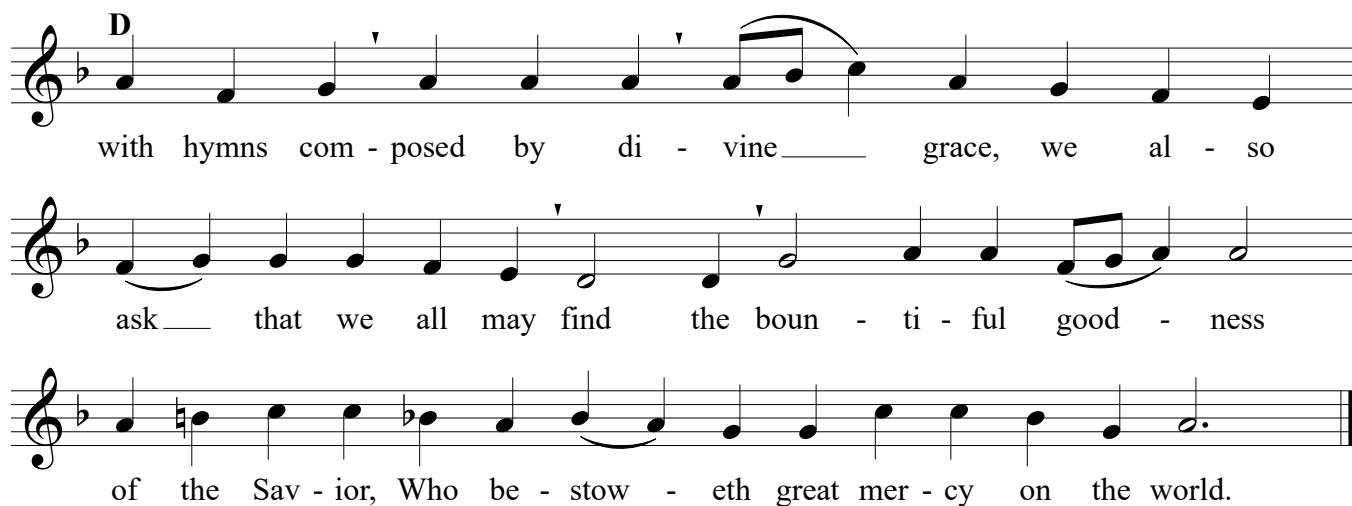
Adapted by Rassem El Massih

1) Zi - on, thou sa - cred cit - y of God,
lift up thy voice, pro - claim to all the di - vine - ly - blest
me - mo - ri - al of the Fa - thers, while sing - ing A - bra - ham's praise,
and with I - saac, hon - or Ja - cob great of fame.
For lo, now we mag - ni - fy Ju - dah, Le - vi, the Pa - tri - archs,
and the great Mos - es, won - drous Aar - on, and we ac - claim
Da - vid, Sam - u - el, and with them Je - sus of Na - vi.
(Josh - u - a of Nun.)
As we strike up di - vine pre - fest - al prais - es of Christ our God,

(Note: *Jesus of Navi* is *Joshua of Nun*. *Elisseus* is *Elisha*.)

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D



with hymns com - posed by di - vine grace, we al - so
ask that we all may find the boun - ti - ful good - ness
of the Sav - ior, Who be - stow - eth great mer - cy on the world.

Verse: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages

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2) Come, O E - li - as, thou, who of old
drov - est on high in a di - vine fier - y char - i - ot,
di - vine - ly - wise E - lis - se - us, and Hez - e - ki - as the King,
(di - vine - ly wise E - li - sha,)
with Jo - si - as: do ye all ex - ult for joy.
O hal - lowed and God - in - spired twelve - fold band of the Proph - ets' choir,
dance ye to - geth - er on the Sav - ior's Na - tiv - i - ty;

sing a - loud with songs, all ye right - eous, and form a choir.

O ye all - bless - ed Chil - dren who were grant - ed the Spir - it's dew

to quench the flame of the fur - nace, make in - ter -

- ces - sion in our be - half, and bold - ly en - treat Christ

that He gra - cious - ly be - stow His Great Mer - cy on our souls.

Verse: For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

3) Lo, now she hath ap - peared on thē earth

who from all ag - es had been preached in the Proph - ets' words,

the pure Vir - gin The - o - to - kos, whom the re - vered and most wise

Pa - tri - archs and right - eous com - pa - nies pro - claim.

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With them, wom-an's maj - es - ty al - so danc - eth for joy to - day:

Sar - ah, Re - bec - ca, Ra - chel, Han - nah all form a choir

with wise Mar - i - am, Mos - es' sis - ter most glo - ri - ous.

And with the right-eous wom - en, all thē ends of the world re - joice,

and all cre - a - tion to - geth - er doth ren - der

hom - age, be - cause our God is come to be born___ now

in the flesh, and to be - stow___ His Great Mer - cy on the world.