Stichera on the Praises

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

December 18th - 24th

Adapted by Rassem El Massih

1) Zion, thou sacred city of God,
   lift up thy voice, proclaim to all the divinely blest
   memorial of the Fathers, while singing Abraham's praise,
   and with Isaac, honor Jacob great of fame.

   For lo, now we magnify Judah, Levi, the Patriarchs,
   and the great Moses, wondrous Aaron, and we acclaim
   David, Samuel, and with them Jesus of Navi.

   As we strike up divine prefestal praises of Christ our God,

(Note: Jesus of Navi is Joshua of Nun. Elisseus is Elisha.)
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with hymns composed by divine grace, we also ask that we all may find the bountiful goodness of the Savior, Who bestoweth great mercy on the world.

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

2) Come, O Elias, thou, who of old drovest on high in a divine fiery chariot, di-vine-ly wise El-isse-us, and Hez-e-ki-as the King, (di-vine-ly wise E-li-sha)

with Josi-as: do ye all exult for joy.

O hallowed and God-inspired twelve-fold band of the Prophets' choir,

dance ye together on the Savior's Nativity;

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sing a loud with songs, all ye righteous, and form a choir.

O ye all-blessed Children who were granted the Spirit's dew
to quench the flame of the furnace, make intercession in our behalf, and boldly entreat Christ that He graciously bestow His Great Mercy on our souls.

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

3) Lo, now she hath appeared on the earth

who from all ages had been preached in the Prophets' words,

the pure Virgin Theotokos, whom the revered and most wise

Parents and righteous companies proclaim.
With them, woman's majesty also danceth for joy today:

Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Hannah all form a choir

with wise Mariam, Moses' sister most glorious.

And with the righteous women, all the ends of the world rejoice,

and all creation together doth render

homage, because our God is come to be born now

in the flesh, and to bestow His Great Mercy on the world.