

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

**D**

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.

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

**D** 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.

**D** 3) Lo, now she hath ap - peared on th earth

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

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

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

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