As Shepherds in Their Fields

Richard Toensing


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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, RT, Rev.0, 10/12/05.
When Christ was of the Virgin Born
Vespers of the Nativity of Christ
Second Sticheron on "O Lord, I have cried"
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks
Richard Toensing

Simply, joyously

1. When Christ was of the Virgin born
   the world was fill'd with light;
   The shepherds watch'd in lonely fields illum'd
   pure and bright. The Magi kneel'd, ador'd the Son, the Angels prais'd in song. But Herod's mind was troubled sore, And trembled all night. For Christ is born, Christ is born, Come and glorify Him!  

2. For God in flesh has now appeared,
   the Saviour of our souls;
   And He who made us, and holds the world, has come to save us all. The Magi kneel'd, ador'd the Son, the Angels prais'd in song. But Herod's mind was troubled sore, And trembled all night. For Christ is born, Christ is born, Come and glorify Him!  

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What Shall We Call You

First Royal Hour of the Nativity
Theotokion after the Troparion of the Forefeast
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Simply, not too fast

1. What shall we call you, full of grace? Shall
2. Or shall we name you "Paradise," For
3. "Pure Mother" shall we call you then, Who

"Heaven" be your name? For shining
God's immortal Flow'r? Or shall "The
held the Holy Son? O pray to

forth from You has come The righteous
Virgin be your name? All pure by
Him, the God of all, To save us

Son the same.
God's own pow'r.
every one.

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese RT Rev 0 4/27/05
Richard Toensing
The Rod of Jesse's Root Has Bloomed

Matins of the Nativity of Christ
Canon I, Canticle IV
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Not too fast \( \frac{d}{f} = 50 \)

1. The rod of Jesse's root has bloom'd, Has
2. For from the mount of shadow, dark, You
3. O immaterial, spiritual One, The

bud'ded from a Virgin's womb, For You have come, O
come as from a holy ark, In carinate of a
One - be - got - ten God the Son, All glory to your

Christ our Lord, All prais'd and blest and
Virgin Maid, O Lord of glory
might, O Lord, All glory, Christ, the

all - a - dor'd. All prais'd and blest and all - a - dor'd.
human made, O Lord of glory human made.
all - a - dor'd. All glory, Christ, the all - a - dor'd.

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, RT, Rev. 2, 9/22/05.
The Desert, as a Lily, Bloomed

Matins for the Forefeast of the Nativity
Canticle III, Irmos and Sessional Hymn
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Richard Toensing


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Once Sorrow had Silenced Zion's Harps

Matins of the Nativity of Christ
Canon I, Canticle VIII, Stanzas 3 and 4
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Richard Toensing

Not too slow \( \frac{d}{4}=60 \)

Once sor - row had silenced Zion's harps, Whose chil -

- dren kept them - selves a - part, A - mong the _ strang - ers did _ not

sing, Nor hymns of joy - ful praise - es bring. But shin -

forth in Beth - le - hem, the Lord destroys all Ba - by -

lon. Her er - ror and her mu - sic there. Re - leas - ing Zio - n's

NOT FOR USE IN THE MATINS SERVICE - FOR PARALITURGICAL USE ONLY.
Once Sorrow had Silenced Zion's Harps

Praises there. So let us lift our song of praise. And ev'ry one our voices raise, "Let all creation praise the Lord, Exalting Him forevermore."
O Nations, Let Us Now Prepare

Vespers, Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
Stichera I at "O Lord, I have cried"
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Simply

(All) 1. O nations, let us now prepare, And lay aside all earthly care, To celebrate the birth of Christ With all the worthy, good, and wise 2. Our minds lift up to Bethlehem, And with our consciences ascend, May we within our hearts behold, The Virgin

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, RT. Rev. 0, 9/19/05.
com ing through the cold. 3. For Mary now draws near the cave, To
give birth there to Him who saves; Our God and holy
Lord of all, The mighty Savior of our souls.

4. And
J o seph all these things be-held, But thought a human child he
held, Not knowing what would later come, Through

5. But then, in later
this the Virgin Mary's Son
years a-maz’d Good Joseph, through His works of grace, Knew)

Jesus as the Lord of all, Who grants great mercy to our souls.
O Master, Risen as a Star

Matins of the Nativity of Christ
Canon I, Canticle IV, Stanza 3
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Richard Toensing

Joyfully

1. O Master, risen as a star, From Jacob, ancient patriarch; You filled the watchers of the stars with joy, when coming from afar, Who, searching Ba-laam's prophyrh, and frankincense; All glory to your pow'r, O cies, Discovered You, the hope of peace.

2. They came to You in search of truth, The first of all the Gentile fruits; They came to You in penitence, With gold and frankincense, and earth and heaven, all adored.

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. RT, Rev. 1, 9/22/05.
Lift Up, My Soul

Matins of the Nativity of Christ
Megalynaria
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Meditatively, joyfully

1. Lift up, my soul, and magnify The Lady
2. O soul of mine, now magnify The God we
3. O soul of mine, now magnify The King who
4. O soul of mine, now magnify Our God whose
5. O soul of mine, now magnify The One re-
6. O soul of mine, now magnify The Virgin
7. The Magi and the shepherds came To worship

hon'or'd o-ver all, More glo-ri-ous than
ev-e'r glo-ry, Who from the bles-sed
comes from hea-ven high, And in a low-ly
star was shin-ing high, The Ma-gi led to
vealed as King on high Whose way was point-ed
pure and unde-fil'd Who in a sta-ble
Christ and praise his name, Who in the town of

all the hosts Who serve the Lord on
Vir-gin born, Ap-pears in hu-man flesh and
sta-ble cave, Is born to save the hu-man
Bethlehem, Who bro't their gifts and wor-shipp'd
by a star, To Ma-gi trav'ling from a-
cave on earth Has gi-ven Christ the King his
Bethlehem, Was born to draw us all to

high. form.
race.
Him.
far.
birth.
Him.

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Antiochian Christian Orthodox Archdiocese, RT, Rev. 0, 9/17/05.
Let Clouds Drop Water from on High

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, Matins
Canticle VII, Stanza II
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Meditatively - moderate tempo
(optional solo)

1. Let clouds drop water from on high, And
2. For He the ever-lasting Light, That

all the hosts of heaven cry; For He who
knows no evening, dark, or night, Has come on

clouds his chariot makes, Comes on a cloud as heaven
humble earth to shine, Illuminating with light divine

shakes; For by the Virgin He was borne, En-
vine. The ones who lived in darkness here, In


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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, RT, Rev. 1, 10/13/05.
Let Clouds Drop Water from on High

compass'd in a baby's form.

peril and in hopeless fear.
Isaiah, as He Watched by Night

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ, Compline
Canticle V, Irmos
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks, altered, R.T.

With joyful dignity

1. Isaiah, as he watched by night, Be-hold the

2. Isaiah cried aloud, "Be-hold, A Vir-gin

ev-er-last-ing Light That knows no ev'-ning pover-

came to pass through ten-der love To us from You, O

came from earth with all her famil-y Shall then re-joice ex-

Christ a-bove. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. RT, rev.1, 9/11/05.
In Bethlehem
Matins of the Nativity of Christ
Ikos following the Kontakion after Canticle 6
Adapted, Fr. Jack Sparks

Sweetly, not too fast

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, RT, Rev. 0, 9/30/05.
In Bethlehem

found within the cave, In Him who comes to earth to save.
Adam now shall cease, And David's, too, shall find release.
found within the cave, In Him who comes to earth to save.