

December 22nd

The Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Tone 6/Plagal Second Mode
Special Melody: *Having laid up all their hope*



1) Now that nev - er - set - ting Sun doth speed His jour - ney, to



rise up from the ho - ly Vir - gin's womb,



and to shed en - light - en - ment o - ver all the world.



Come, with eyes un - de - filed and with deeds un - blem - ished,



let us has - - - ten to en - coun - ter Him;



let us pre - pare our - selves that we may in spir - it re - ceive Him now



Who com - eth forth un - to His own,



as it pleased Him well, through a birth most strange,

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G E G
see - ing us es - tranged from the life in E - den;

for now He is born in Beth - le - hem, to re - turn us all,

F E
since He is com - pas - sion - ate.

G
2) God the Word, Who on the backs of the dread Cher - u - bim

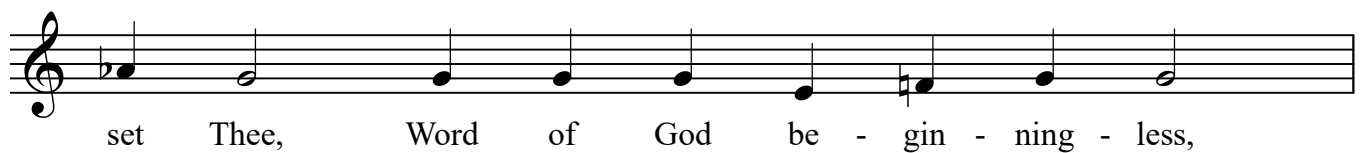
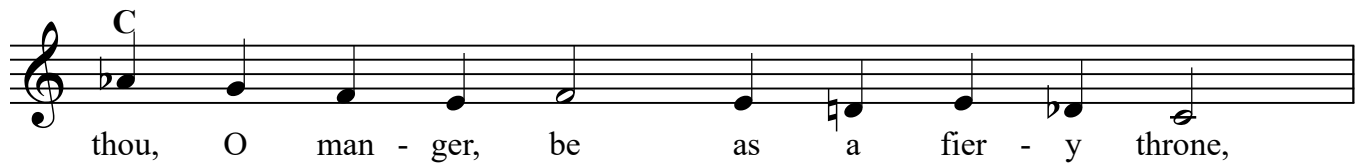
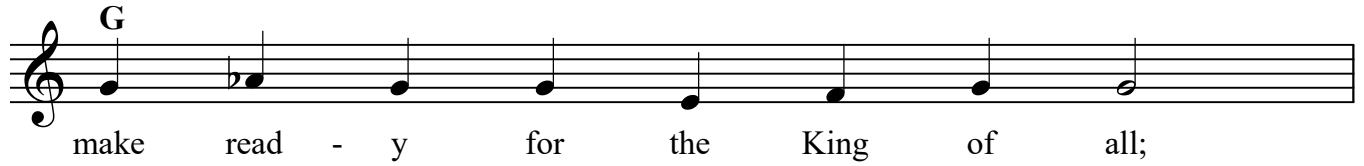
rid - eth, hath dwelt in a blame - less womb

E
and in His Hy - pos - ta - sis hath been joined to flesh;

G
mor - tal is He be - come, and, be - hold, He com - - - eth

F
to the land of Ju - dah to be born.

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E
Who hast yet be - gun in time, pass - ing mind and thought.

G
For Thou dost come to end my brute want of rea - - - son,

F
which be - fell me through the ser - pent's guile;

G E
and Thou art swad-dled round, that Thou might-est rend up the bands of sin

G
with which I have been wrapped a - bout,

C
O Thou Friend of man, Who a - lone art good.

G E G
Hence, I glo - ri - fy Thee, I wor - ship and I

joy - ful - ly ex - tol Thy com - ing un - to us in the flesh,

F E
where - by I have been made free.