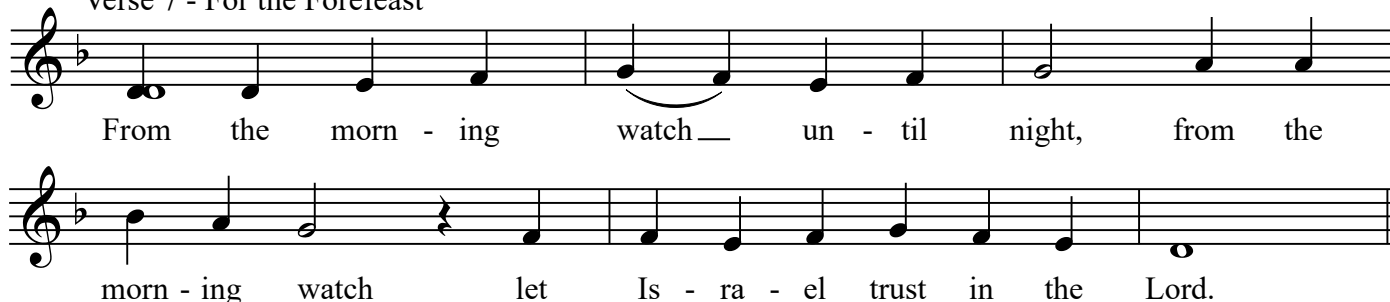



*These stichera are taken from the Aposticha at Vespers on December 24th,
but are also sung as the 2nd set of stichera at "O Lord, I have cried" on
the Sunday before the Nativity, when it falls on the 24th.*

Verse 7 - For the Forefeast

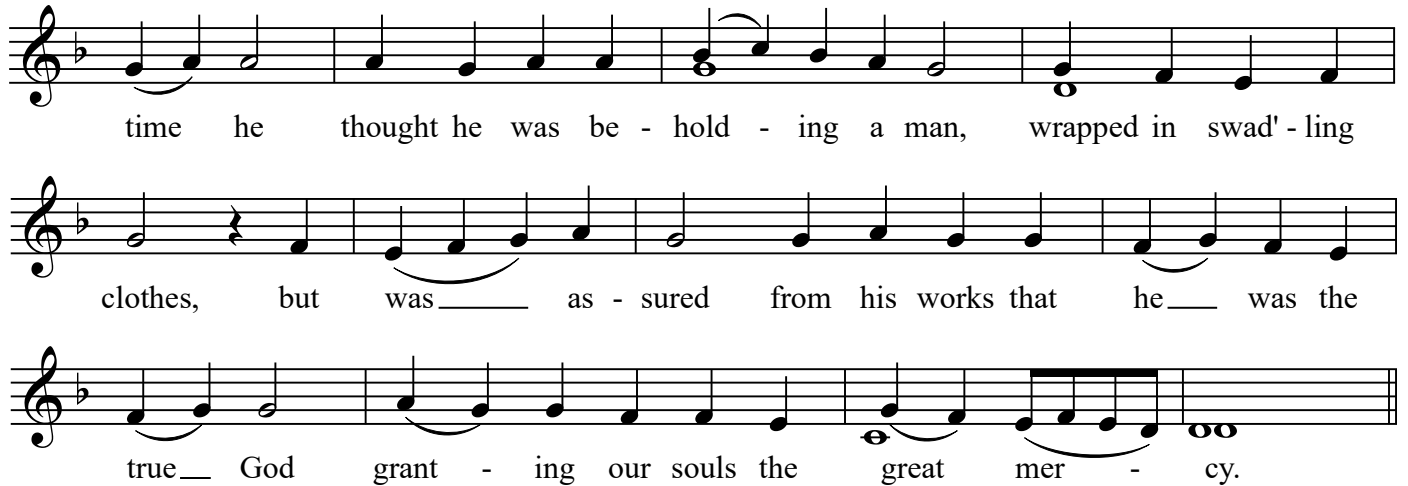


From the morn - ing watch — un - til night, from the
morn - ing watch let Is - ra - el trust in the Lord.

Stichera 7

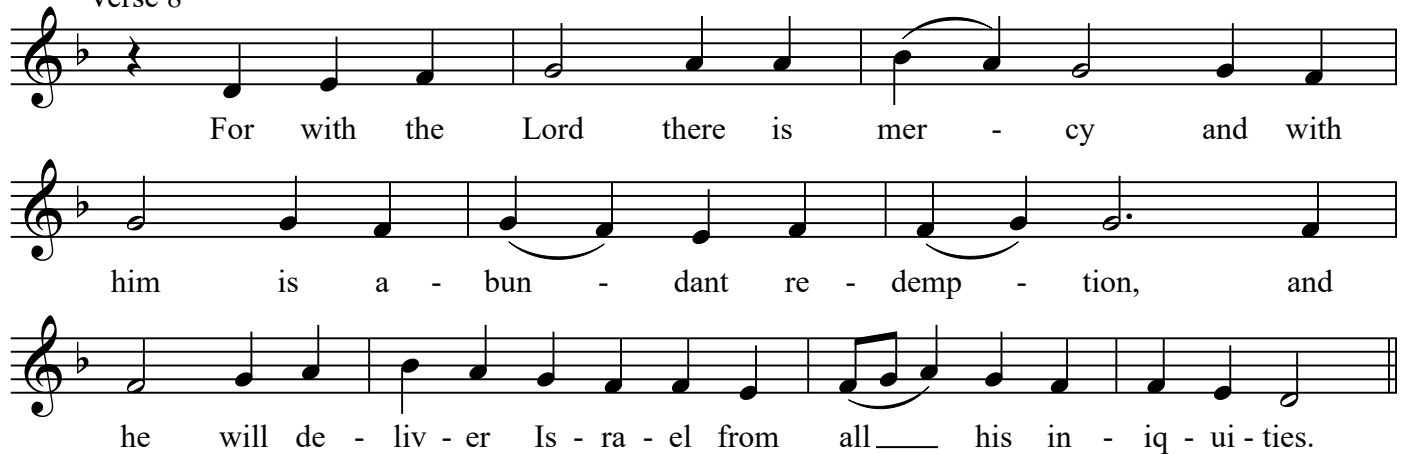


Let us go be-fore, O na - tions, and cel - e - brate the Na - tiv - i - ty of
Christ. And lift - ing our — minds to Beth - le - hem, let us as -
-cend with our con - scien - ces, be - hold - ing with the thoughts of our
hearts, the Vir - gin ap - proach - ing, giv - ing birth in the
cave — to the Lord — of all, our God, whose stu -
-pen - dous won - ders Jo - seph did be - hold, while at the



time he thought he was be - hold - ing a man, wrapped in swad' - ling
clothes, but was _____ as - sured from his works that he _____ was the
true _____ God grant - ing our souls the great mer - cy.

Verse 8



For with the Lord there is mer - cy and with
him is a - bun - dant re - demp - tion, and
he will de - liv - er Is - ra - el from all _____ his in - iq - ui - ties.

Now repeat Stichera 7 on the previous page, and then sing Verse 9 below.

Verse 9



Praise the Lord _____ all ye na - tions; praise him all ye peo - ple.

Stichera 9



Let us go be - fore, O na - tions, and cel - e - brate _____ the Na -
- tiv - i - ty of Christ; and lift - ing our _____ minds to Beth - le - hem,

let us as - cend with our con - scien - ces and be - hold the great
Mys - try that is in the cave; for E - den hath ver - i - ly been
o - pened by the com - ing forth of God from the spot - less Vir - gin,
per - fect in Di - vin - i - ty and per - fect in Hu - man - i - ty.
Where - fore, let us shout forth: Ho - ly God, E - ter - nal Fa -
-ther, Ho - ly Might - y, thē In - car - - - nate Son,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, the Com - fort - ing Spir - it,
O Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, glo - ry to thee.

Verse 10

For his mer - cy is great t'ward us, and the
truth of the Lord en - dur - eth for - ev - er.



Lis - ten, O heav - en, and give__ ear, O earth; for be -
hold, the Son, the Word of the Fa - ther, com - eth to be__
born of a maid - en that hath not known man.
Where-fore, by the pleas - ure of him who gave him__ birth
with-out pas - sion, and by__ thē as - sis - tance of the Ho - ly Spir - it, O
Beth - le - hem, make read - y, and O E - den, o - pen thou thy__
gates; for he who is shall be that which hath not been, and the
Mak - - - er of thē en - tire__ cre - a - tion
shall be - come the grant - or of great__ mer - cy
to the whole__ world.