

Stichera Aposticha

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ - December 24

Tone 2
Sticheron 1

Valaam Monastery Melody
The Original Melody: "O House of Ephratha"

(♩ = 144)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

O House of Eph - ra - tha, the

ho - ly cit - y, the glory of the holy

proph - ets, beau - ti - fy the house

in which the Di - vine One is born.

NOTE: May be sung phrase by phrase following a canonarch, who lines out the text.

v. *God shall come from Teman and the Holy One from the dark and shady mountain.* (Habakkuk 3:3)

Sticheron 2

O Bethlehem, land of Ju - dah, pre -

pare the di - vine cav - ern as a dwelling for

God to be born in — the — flesh from a Virgin who

knew not a man — to save the hu - man race!

v. O Lord, I have heard what Thou hast done, and am filled with awe. (Habakkuk 3:2)
You have

Sticheron 3

Come, all you faithful, let us cel - e - brate

the Fore-feast of the Na - tiv - i - ty of Christ,

as we spiritually offer our hymn as the star! Sing with the

Ma - gi and shep - herds: "Salvation comes from the Virgin's

womb, recalling the faith - ful to life!" to life!"

ALTERNATIVE ENDING: