

# Stichera at the Litya

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ - December 24

Optina Hermitage Melody  
Model melody "Rejoice"  
arr. by G. Ealy & V. Morosan

Tone 5  
Sticheron 1

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

"You, my Son, are the all - per - fect God,  
yet You ac - cept the form of Ad - - am.  
In my hands I hold - - - You, yet You  
hold all cre - a - - tion! How shall I wrap You in  
[swadlling clothes?]

\*) In some harmonizations, an F# is sung here. The original chant melody does not have an F#, however. In this arrangement, the use of an F# in the places marked with # is optional.

NOTE: May be sung a half-step or a step higher.

swad - dling — clothes? How shall I nour - ish You, O

Food — of life? How shall I wonder at Your in -

ef - fa - ble pov - er - ty? How shall I name You, since

I am Your ser - vant?" Your Moth - er cried: "I can

on - ly bless — and praise You in song, // for You grant the

[world great mer-cy.]

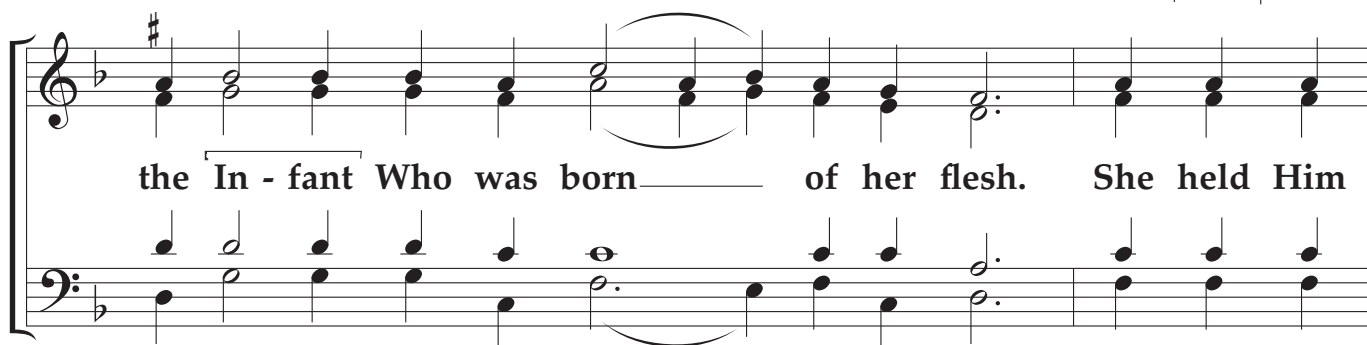


world great mer - cy."

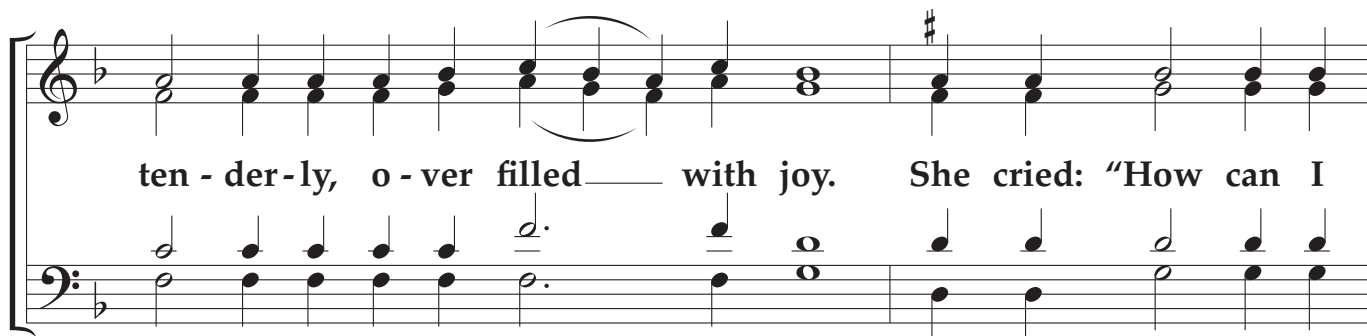
Sticheron 2




The Vir - gin Moth - er beheld the pre - e - ter - nal God,



the In - fant Who was born — of her flesh. She held Him



ten - der - ly, o - ver filled — with joy. She cried: "How can I



see You, yet not under - stand the mys - ter - y?

[Though the cave is small...]

Though the cave is small and low - ly, it is

a - ble to find room for You, O my God.

Born from me, yet preserving my vir - gin - i - ty, //

for You grant the world great mer - cy."

Sticheron 3

The pure Hand - maid spoke in a - maze - ment

[ when she saw ... ]

when she saw the Wise Men come. She asked them:

"Whom are you seeking? I see that you have

come from afar. You resemble Persians in appearance

and wisdom. You have made a strange and wonderful

journey. Now come and worship God, Who

[ journeyed from on high ]

jour - neyed from on high to come and take His a -

bode in me, // and Who grants the world great

mer - cy."