



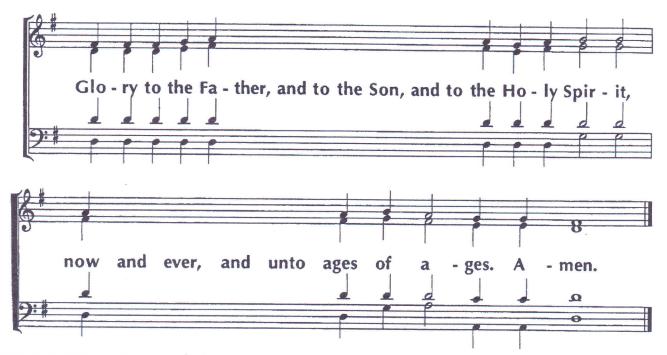
READER: Thou art the Expectation of the nations, O Christ, foretold by Jacob in days of old. Thou hast sprung from Judah's tribe, to plunder the might of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria, replacing error with faith acceptable to God. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

READER: Thou hast filled the stargazers with joy, O Lord. They know the hidden meaning of the prophet Balaam's words. Thou hast made the star of Jacob to rise. As the first-fruits of the Gentiles it led them unto Thee. Thou didst openly receive their precious gifts. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

READER: Thou hast descended into the Virgin's womb, O Christ, like rain on the fleece and as raindrops watering the earth. All earth's rulers fall down before Thee: Ethiopia and the islands of Arabia, the kings of Tarshish, of Sheba, and Medes. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!



KATAVASIA: Stem and flower...



READER: Thou wast registered as Caesar's subject, O Christ, in obedience to his decree. We

were slaves of sin, and subject to the hateful enemy; by Thy poverty Thou hast set us free! Thou wast united to our nature in every way. Though we were formed from

dust, by this communion we are made divine!

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

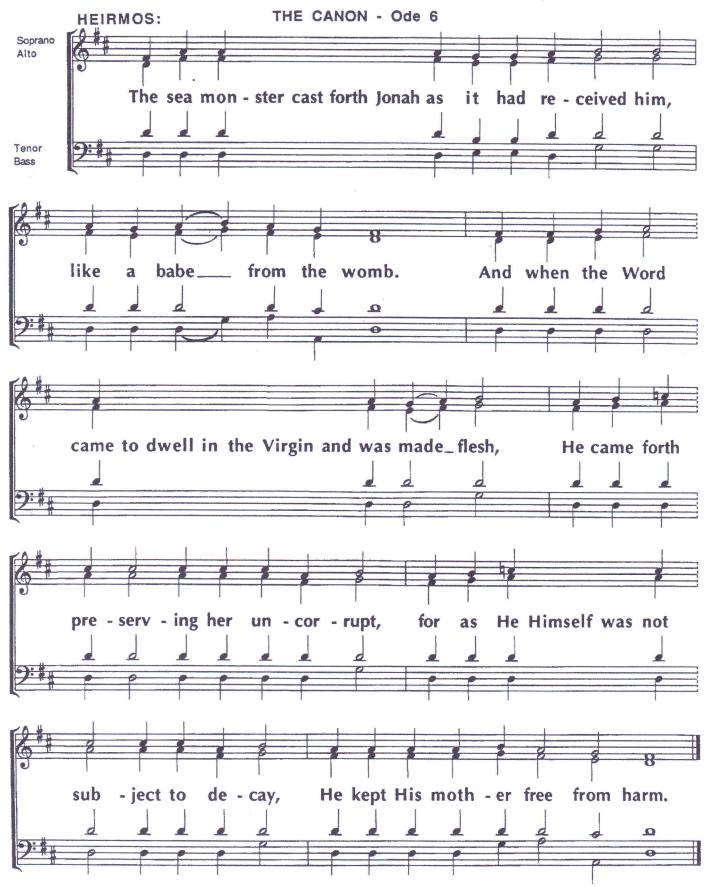
READER: Behold, the Virgin, as foretold of old, has conceived and given birth to God made

man. She remains a virgin still. Through her we are reconciled to God. Let us sinners

faithfully sing her praise. She is truly Theotokos!



KATAVASIA: O God of peace...

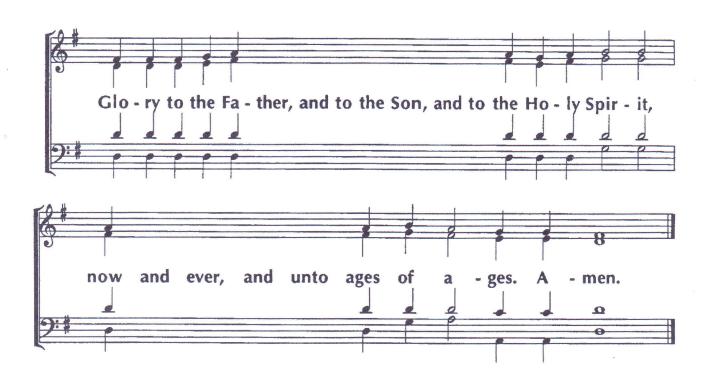




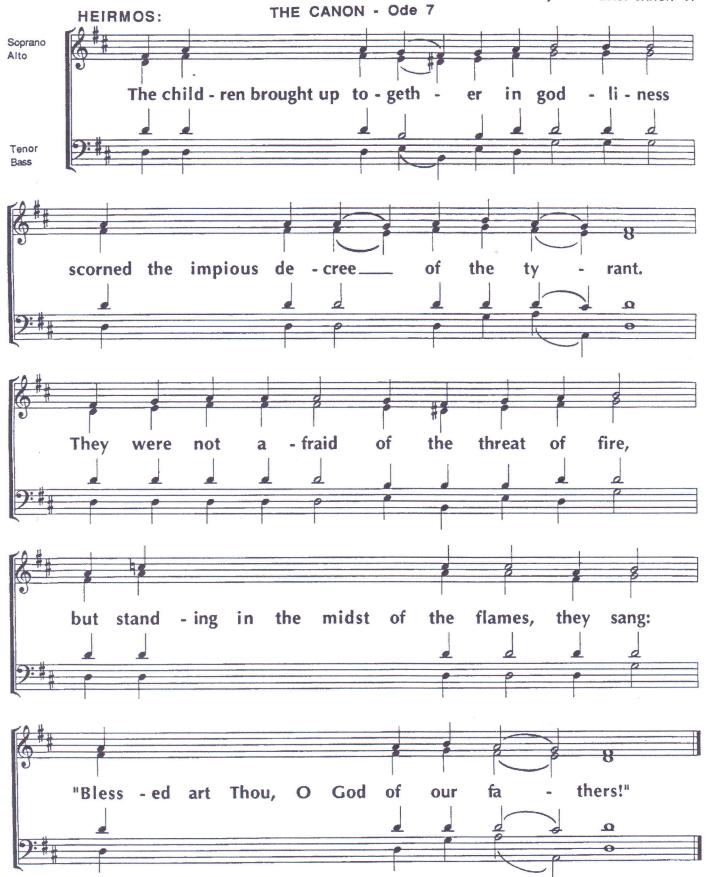
READER: Christ our God has come in the flesh. The Father begot Him from the womb before the morning star. He rules the heavenly hosts, yet now He lies in a manger of dumb beasts. He who looses the tangled knots of sin now in wrapped in swaddling clothes.

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

READER: A Son is born and given to the faithful, a newborn child of Adam's race, yet He is Father and Ruler of the world to come. He is called the Angel of Great Counsel. He is the Mighty God, He rules all creation by His might.



KATAVASIA: The sea monster...

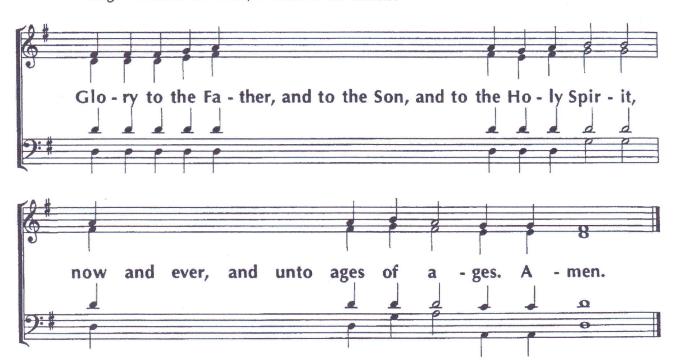




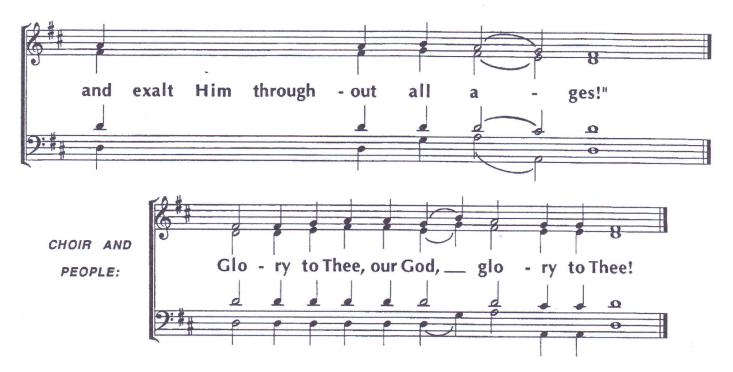
READER: The shepherds abiding in the fields were terrified by a dazzling sight. Around them shone the glory of the Lord. An angel shouted unto them, "Sing praises! The Messiah is born!" Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

READER: "What news is this?" asked the shepherds. "Has God's Messiah truly come? Let us go to Bethlehem." They saw Thee there, and worshipped Thee. With Thy Mother, they sang: "Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!"



KATAVASIA: The children brought up...



READER: The daughter of Babylon drove David's children from Zion with sword and spear. Now she sends her sons, the wise men, bearing gifts, to worship in David's city, where God has come to dwell. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all ages!"

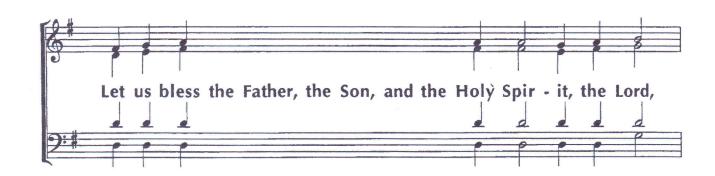
REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

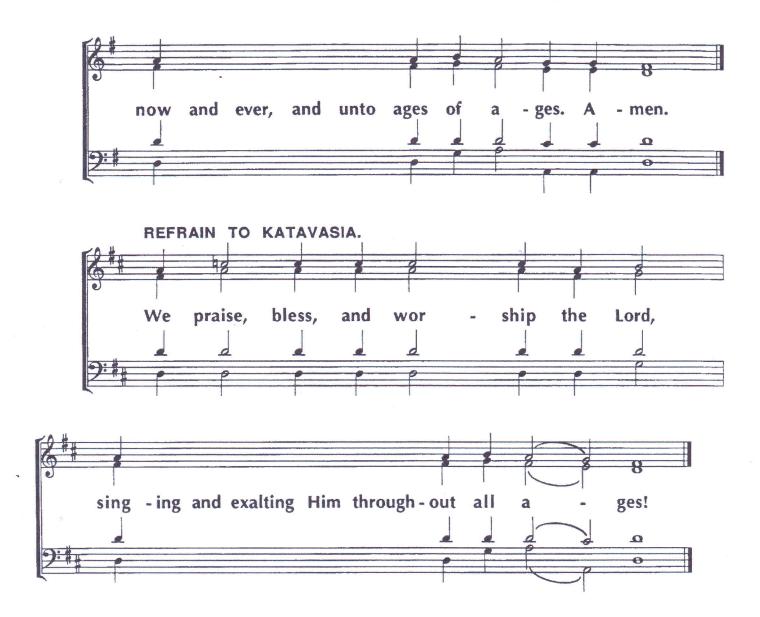
READER: Grief had silenced the harps. Zion's children would not sing in a foreign land. But now Christ has shone forth in Bethlehem, destroying the din of Babylon's idolatries. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all

ages!"

REFRAIN: Glory to Thee, our God; glory to Thee!

READER: Babylon plundered Zion and captured all her royal wealth. But now, with a guiding star, Christ lures her treasure-laden wise men back to Zion. So let us raise the song: "Let all creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him throughout all ages!"





KATAVASIA: The furnace moist with dew...





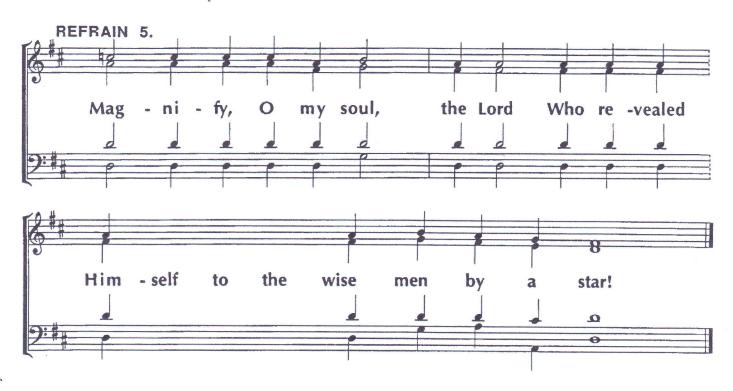
READER: The wise men saw a new, uncharted star, following an unexpected course. Its brightness surpassed every star in heaven. It foretold the Messiah's birth: Christ, the King, born on earth in Bethlehem, for our salvation.



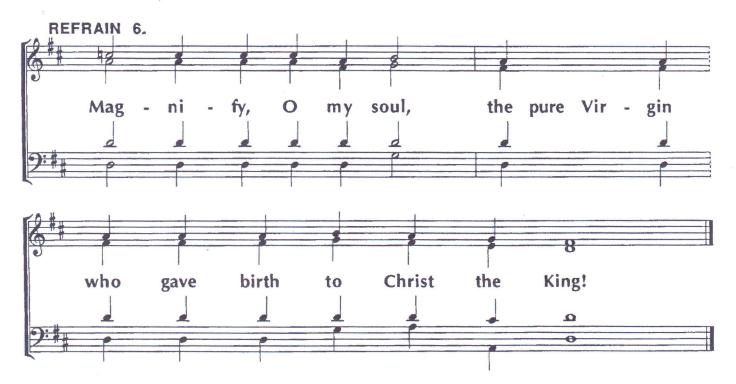
READER: (repeat) The wise men...



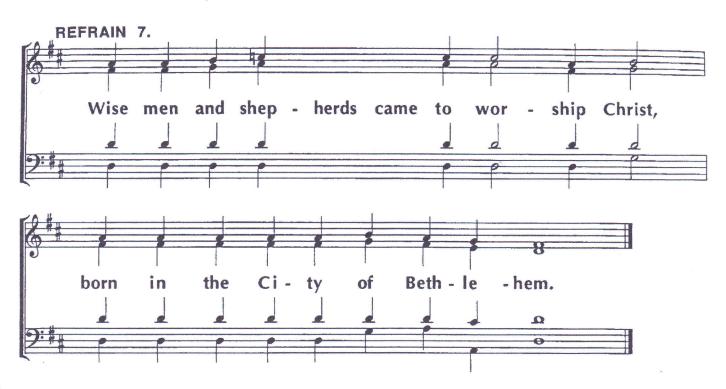
READER: "Where is the newborn Infant-King? We have seen His star," the wise men said. "We have come to worship Him." Godless Herod trembled with fury. In his raging madness he plotted to kill Christ.



READER: (repeat) Where is the newborn...



READER: Herod inquired when the star appeared which had led the wise men to Bethlehem; but after they worshipped Christ with gifts, that same star led them back to their own land, confounding their pursuer -- that godless murderer of children.



READER: (repeat) Herod inquired...



KATAVASIA: I behold a strange...