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Proper of Time.

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord.

Day of the Nativity of the Lord.

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HAMILTON ONTARIO.
THE GREGORIAN INSTITUTE OF CANADA.
MMXIII.

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### The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord. At Matins.

If this Vigil should fall on Saturday, the Fast of the Ember Days should be observed in the previous week. If however this Vigil should fall on a Sunday, the Invitatory of the Vigil will be This day ye shall know. 220. Then all of the service should be of the Sunday until the Versicle of the Third Nocturn, which will be Be ye steadfast. before the proclamation of the Gospel. From then on, however, let all be of the Vigil: and after the first Prayer, which will be of the Vigil, after the Benedictus. only a Memorial of the Sunday should be made, but no Memorial of Saint Mary. Neither should Matins of the same be said in Convent, nor a Memorial of All Saints.

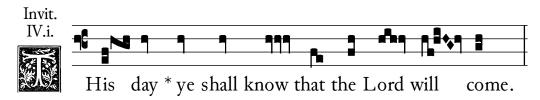
At Prime the Antiphon will be O Judah and Jerusalem. 225.

The Antiphons, Chapters,  $\overline{XX}$ .  $\overline{XX}$  and Collects at all the Hours will be of the Vigil, with the Prayer of the aforesaid Vigil and nothing of the Sunday.

Even so, the Sunday Mass should be said in Chapter after Prime, before Terce and before the Procession. The Mass of the Vigil should be said after Sext, in Choir at the High Altar with Alleluya. V. Tomorrow the iniquity. Sequence. Let us all rejoice.

• Let this Invitatory be intoned by a single Clerk of the Second Form, unless it be a Sunday.

Hodie scietis.





Ps. O come, let us sing.  $13^*$ .

Hymn. To earth descending. 18.

At the Nocturn, Antiphons and Psalms of the feria.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . Be ye steadfast.  $\mathcal{R}$ . Ye shall see the salvation of the Lord upon you.

Lesson from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1.: 18.

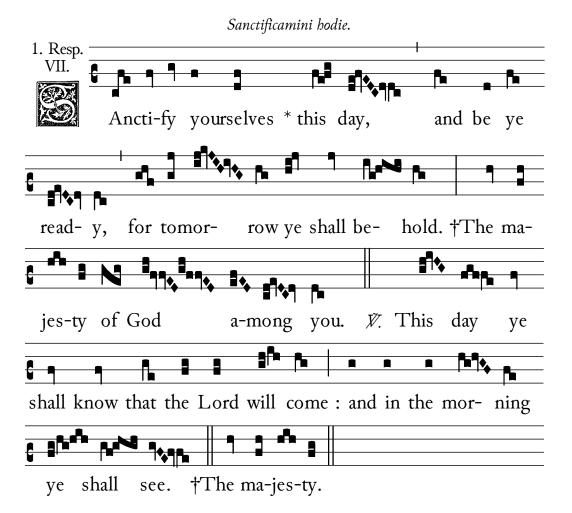
T that time. When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. And so forth.

Homily of Origen.

HY was it necessary that Mary the mother of Jesus should be espoused to Joseph: except in order that by him this Holy One would be concealed from the Devil, and that the spiteful one by trickery should contrive no vengeance against the

was she betrothed to Joseph: that Joseph would be seen to bear the care of the newborn child and even of Mary herself: whether going into Egypt or returning once more from thence. For that reason she was espoused to Joseph: yet not joined in wedlock. Of his mother one saith, Mother immaculate, mother incorrupt, mother untouched. His mother. Whose is his? The mother of God, of the Only Begotten, of the

Lord, and of the King of all men: of the Creator and Maker of all things. He which in heaven is without a mother: and in earth is without a father. Of himself which in heaven according to divinity is in the nature of the Father: and in earth according to the assuming of a body is in the nature of the mother. O great grace of admiration, O indescribable sweetness, O ineffable and great sacrament. Herself a virgin, herself likewise mother of the Lord, herself the giver of birth, herself his handmaiden and his fashioner, herself which gave birth. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

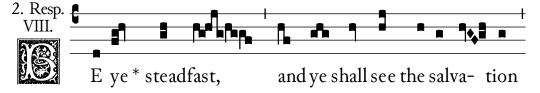


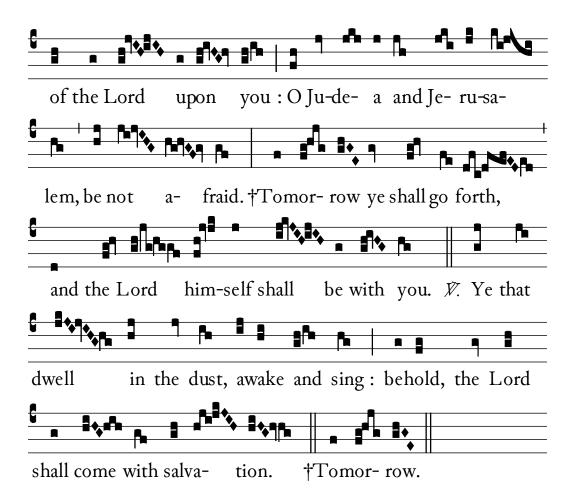
Lesson ij.

HO hath ever heard such, who hath seen such greatness? Who could have thought of this: that a virgin would be a mother, an untouched would beget, and that a virgin hath remained and yet hath given birth? Just as indeed formerly a bush was seen to be burning and the fire did not touch it, and as three boys were kept shut up in the furnace: and yet the fire did not hurt them, nor was the odour of the fumes upon them: or just as when Daniel was shut up within the lion's den: while the doors were shut a meal was brought to him by Habakkuk: and thus this holy Virgin hath brought forth the Lord : but she hath remained untouched. A mother hath produced: but hath not lost her virginity. She hath given birth to a child: and as it is said she hath remained a virgin. Thus the Virgin hath brought forth : and hath remained a virgin. A Mother hath been made by the Son : and the seal

chastity hath not perished. Wherefore? Because it was not only that man which appeared: but the Only Begotten was God who had come in the flesh. Neither unexpectedly was he born in the flesh: but perfect divinity came in the flesh. Whole therefore and undivided, God came in human kind or was brought forth in flesh: and both God and Lord took up the form of a servant. Neither indeed did a part of the Only Begotten come in body: nor did he divide himself such that half was with the Father, and half was within the Virgin: but in truth wholly with the Father, and wholly within the Virgin. Wholly in nature of the Father, and wholly in human flesh. Not relinquishing the heavenly, he came to seek the earthly. Which in heaven are preserved: and which in earth are saved. Everywhere almighty: unbroken, undivided, this is the holy Only Begotten God. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### Constantes estote.





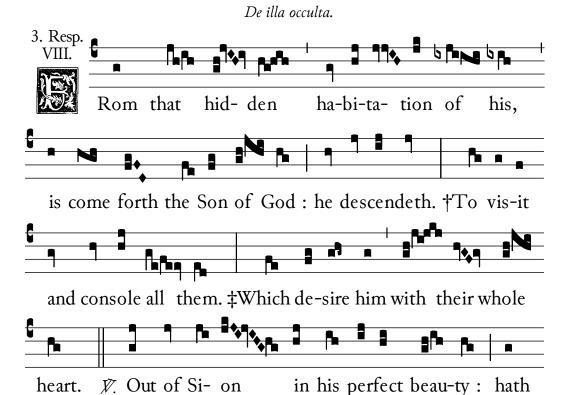
Lesson iij.

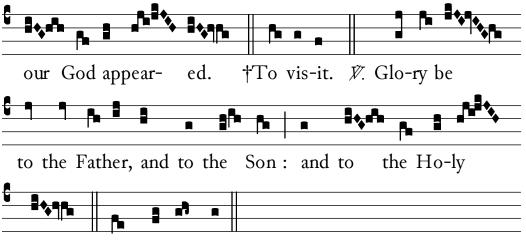
Word which hath been sent into the hearing of very many is not divided into separate parts: such that one part is in one place, and again another part is in another place, but is apprehended by all wholly and fully, such that for each person it is complete: how much the more the only begotten Word of God is wholly everywhere: both in heaven and in earth, both of the Father and in the

Virgin. And not divided (as it is said) neither rent, nor made into parts: but all holding all, filling all, illuminating and possessing all. And so of this Only Begotten God this mother is called the Virgin Mary: worthy of merit, immaculate of the Divine, one of the One, only of the Only. Neither indeed doth another only begotten come upon the earth: or another virgin bring forth an only begotten. In this which was said to all:

it is read that his mother Mary was bethrothed. And it saith, She was found with child. To whom was she found, or rather by whom was she found? First by the angel watching over her, protecting her, preserving her: or by his most blessed spirit to the honour of that one who was produced by herself. Next, the finding was not thought to be blessed incongruous by Joseph, himself holy and righteous : who almost permitted the condition of marriage, granted that it did not come to pass: nevertheless everyone believed that she was about to become

a wife. But Joseph her husband (it is said) was a just man, and was not willing to publicly expose her. He was called her husband, against the depravity of the Jews: that they would not rage against the Virgin. And therefore she was betrothed to the very Joseph, as was said above. If indeed she had not been espoused to Joseph: of all good things the unbelieving and hostile Jews would have slain her with stones. Therefore by this Evangelist he was called her husband. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.





Ghost. ‡Which de-sire him.

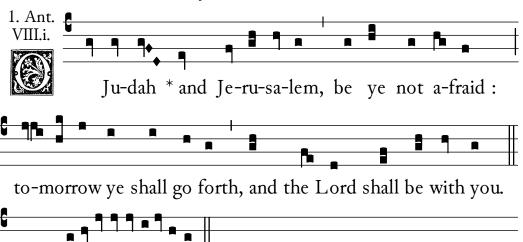
Te Deum. is not sung.

#### Before Lauds.

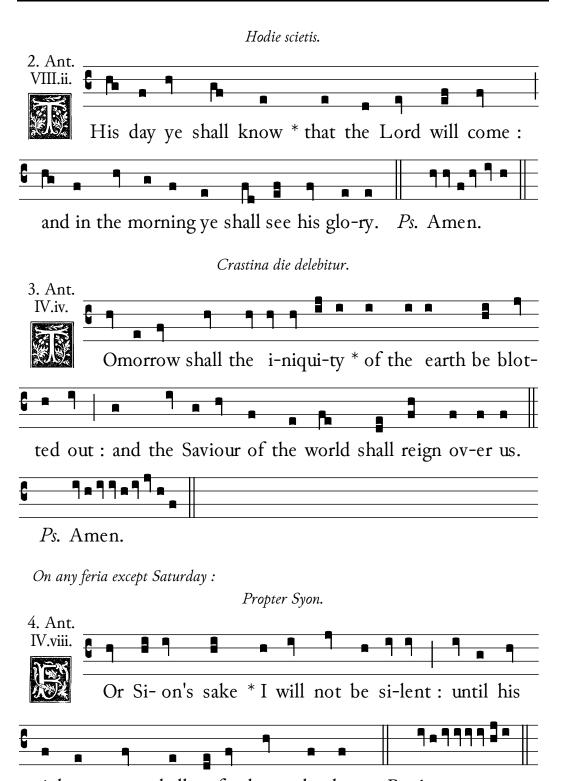
 $\overline{X}$ . Tomorrow shall the iniquity of the earth be blotted out.  $\overline{X}$ . And the Saviour of the world shall reign over us.

#### **I** At Lauds.

Judea et Hierusalem.



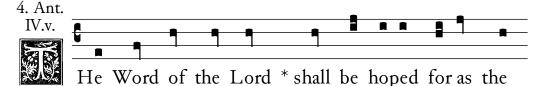
Ps. Have mercy upon me. (51./l.) [238]. And the other Psalms of the feria. If it be a Sunday the Ps. The Lord is King. (93./xcij.) [49]. should be sung.

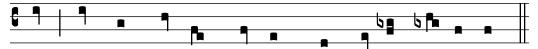


righteousness shall go forth as splendour. Ps. Amen.

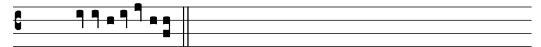






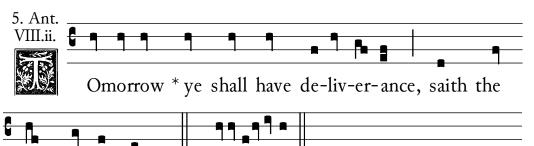


rain: and as the dew shall our God descend up-on us.



Ps. Give ear, O ye heavens. (Deut. xxxij.) [410].

#### Crastina erit vobis.



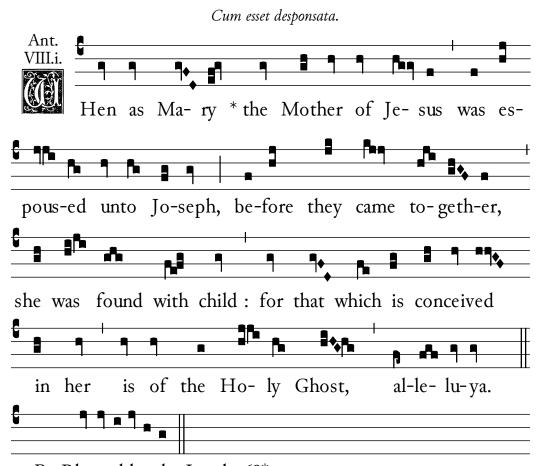
Lord God of hosts. Ps. O praise the Lord. (148-150.) [63].

Chapter. Isaiah 62.: 1.

Or Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. R. Thanks be to God.

Hymn. Hark to the voice. 48.

 $\overline{V}$ . This day ye shall know that the Lord will come. R. And in the morning ye shall see his glory. The Response should not be said aloud.



Prayer.

Ps. Blessed be the Lord. 68\*.

God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of our redemption: grant that as we joyfully receive thy Only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, so we may with sure

confidence behold him when he shall

come to be our judge, even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *R*. Amen.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . The Lord be with you.  $\mathcal{R}$ . And with thy spirit.

Let the Hebdomadary Boy sing the Benedicamus Domino.

The preceding Prayer should be said at Lauds and at the other Hours of this day and

also at First Vespers of Christmas.

The Preces should not be said, neither is genuflection made at this Lauds nor at the other Hours of this day.

Matins of Saint Mary should not be said in convent from this day until the Octave of Saint Stephen.

No Memorial is made at this Lauds if it be a Sunday, except only of All Saints, of course with the Ant. Behold, the Lord cometh. 142.  $\mathcal{N}$ . Behold, the Lord shall appear. 16. Prayer. Visit, we beseech thee. 16.

The Suffrage for the Peace of the Church is not said after this Lauds, nor from hence until the beginning of the History Domine ne in ira.

#### **I** At Prime.

Ant. O Judah and Jerusalem. 225.

Psalms. Save me, O God. (54./liij.) [124]. Blessed are those. (119.: j./cxviij.: j.) [126]. O do well. (119.: ij./cxviij.: ij.) [127]. Gloria Patri.

Ant. Glory to thee, O Trinity. [130].

*Ps.* Quicunque vult. [131].

Chap. O Lord, be gracious. [136].

R. Jesu Christ. with Alleluya. [137].

V. Thou that sittest. And it should be sung with Alleluya. daily within the Octave until to the Octave of the Epiphany and in that Octave, and the Verse Thou that sittest. is sung without Alleluya. on this day.

The Preces &c. which pertain to Prime are concluded without prostration. [144].

This ferial Versicle should be sung if it will not be a Sunday, and also on the Vigil of the Epiphany, on the R. Jesu Christ. [140].

If this Vigil falls on a Sunday, Prime will be sung this way.

The Hymn Now that the daylight. will be sung to the same melody that appears on the preceding Sunday. [79].

Ant. O Judah and Jerusalem. 225.

Ps. Save me, O God. (54./liij.) [124]. [Ps. Blessed are those. (119.: j./cxviij.: j.) [126]. Ps. O do well. (119.: ij./cxviij.: ij.) [127].

Ant. Thee all thy creatures. [130].

Ps. Quicunque vult. [131].

Chap. Now unto the King. [136].

R. Jesu Christ. with Alleluya. [138].

The remainder as in the Psalter.

 $\P$  At all the Hours the Hymn should be sung on the ferial melody, unless it be a Sunday.

#### **I** At Terce.

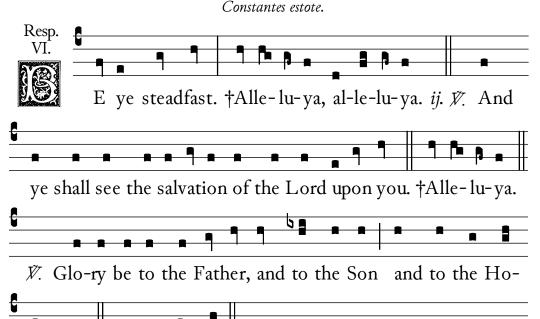
Let the Antiphon on the Psalms be begun by a Clerk of the Second Form from the Choir Side, and likewise the other Antiphons at the following Hours should continue in order.

Ant. This day ye shall know. 226.

Ps. Teach me, O Lord. (119. : iij./cxviij. : iij.) [173].

Chap. For Sion's sake. 227.

The Responsory should be sung by a Clerk of the Second Form nearest to him that began the Antiphon, and at the other Hours the R. should be sung in the same Form.



ly Ghost. Be ye steadfast.

 $\overline{\mathcal{N}}$ . Tomorrow ye shall have deliverance.  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ . Saith the Lord God of hosts.

Prayer. O God, who makest us glad. 228.

#### **1** At Sext.

Ant. Tomorrow shall the iniquity. 226.

*Ps.* My soul hath longed. (119. : *vj./cxviij.* : *vj.*) [190].

#### Chapter. Isaiah 62.: 2.

He Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a

new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. R. thanks be to God.

#### Crastina erit vobis.



ly Ghost. Tomorrow.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . This day ye shall know that the Lord will come.  $\mathcal{R}$ . And in the morning ye shall see his glory.

Prayer as above. 228.

#### ¶ At None.

Ant. Tomorrow ye shall have. 227.

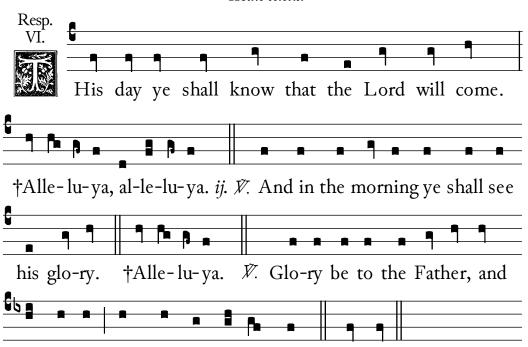
Ps. Thy testimonies are wonderful. (119.: ix./cxviij.: ix.) [213].

#### Chapter. Isaiah 62.: 4.

Hou shalt no more be termed Forsaken, neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but

thou shalt be called My delight, and thy land Inhabited. *R*. Thanks be to God.

#### Hodie scietis.



to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. This day.

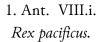
 $\vec{X}$ . Be ye steadfast.  $\vec{X}$ . Ye shall see the salvation of the Lord upon you. Prayer as above. 228.

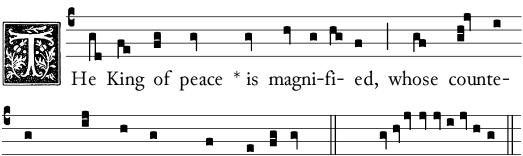


## ■ On the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord. At First Vespers.

This day at both Vespers and at Matins let four Rulers be designated from the Superior Grade.

On this day the Bishop or the Dean should begin the Antiphon, followed by the most senior person of the other side of the Choir, by whom the Mass of this day will be celebrated. The second Antiphon should be begun by another senior person, and so on in order of seniority.

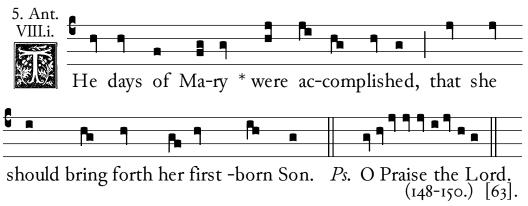




nance the whole earth hath de-sir-ed. *Ps.* Praise the Lord. (113./cxij.) [421].



#### Completi sunt dies.



The Bishop, in a silken Cope, should say the Chapter, without altering his place. If the Bishop be absent the Dean or any other taking his place should say the Chapter, changing neither place nor vestment.

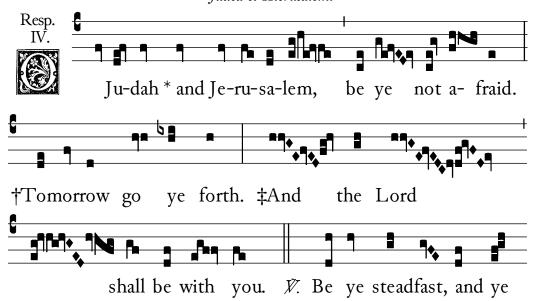
#### Chapter. Isaiah 9.: 2.

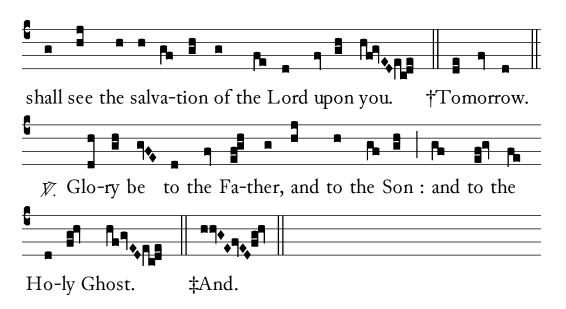
He people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the

shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. R. Thanks be to God.

The Cantor and two other persons at the discretion of the same Cantor, should sing at the Choir Step in silken Copes.

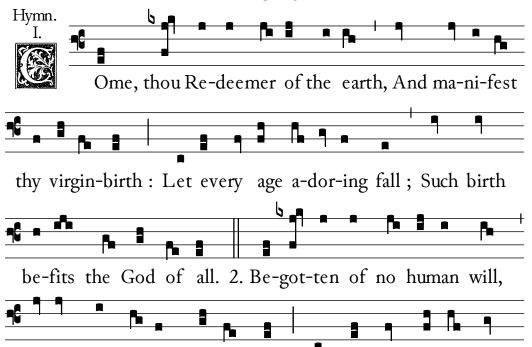
#### Judea et Hierusalem.



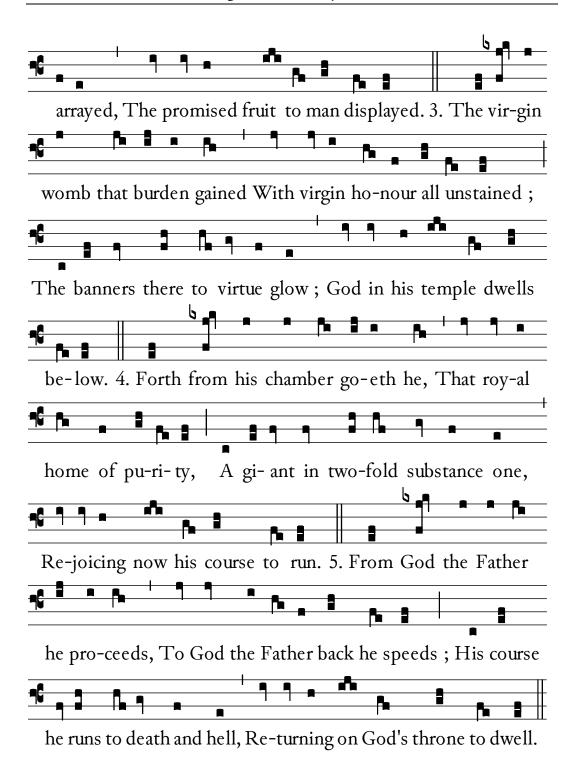


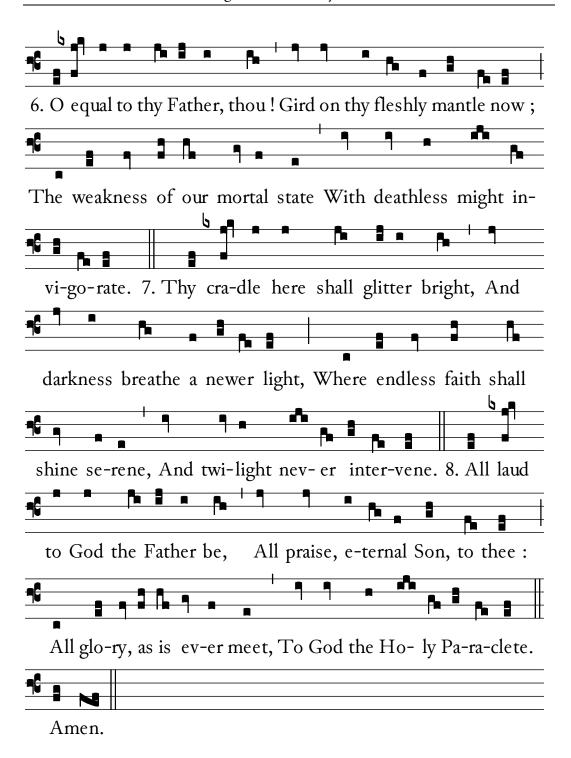
Two Rulers of the Choir Side begin the Hymn together, having first sought the Intonation from the Cantor.

Veni Redemptor gentium.



But of the Spi-rit, thou art still The Word of God in flesh





While the Hymn is sung let the two boys who attend to the Thuribles offer two silken Copes to the chief Priest, who sends one of the Copes across to another Priest, of his choice, for that Priest to cense the Altar.

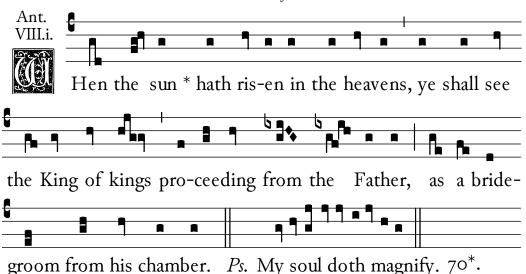
Two boys in Surplices at the Choir Step should sing.

V. As a bridegroom. R. The Lord cometh forth out of his chamber. The Response should not be said aloud.

A more senior person from the Choir side should begin the Antiphon on the Magnificat. If the Bishop be present the Cantor should impart the intonation of the Antiphon to him.

 $\P$  Let the whole Antiphon be sung before the Magnificat. is intoned.

Dum ortus fuerit.



Prayer.

God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of our redemption: grant that as we joyfully receive thy Only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *R*. Amen.

- $\mathcal{V}$ . The Lord be with you.  $\mathcal{R}$ . And with thy spirit.
- $\overline{V}$ . Benedicamus Domino. should be sung by two Clerks of the Second Form without Alleluya.
- Compline is sung as in the Psalter. [513.]

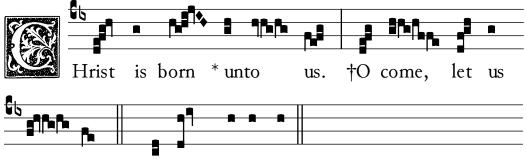


#### ■ The Day of the Nativity of the Lord.

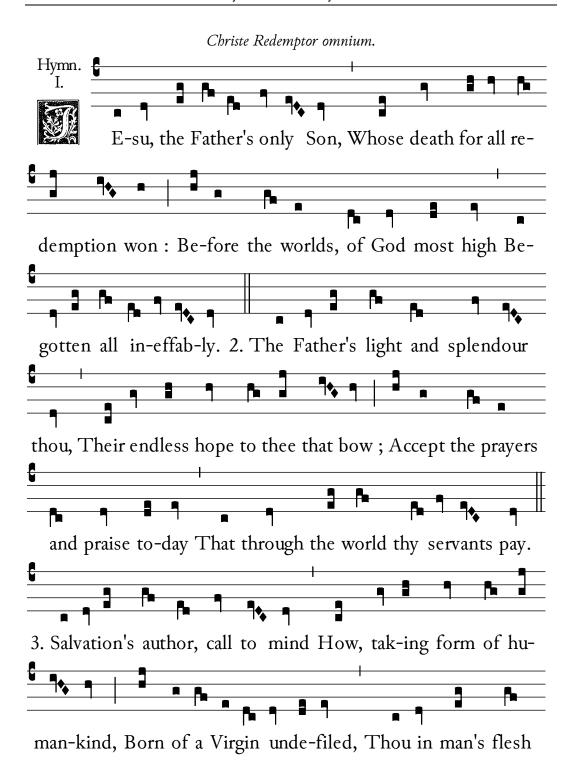
#### At Matins.

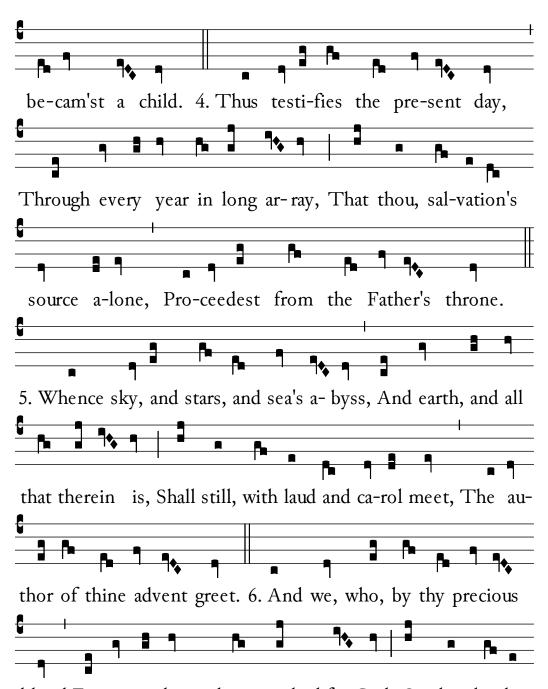
Let all the Rulers begin the Invitatory together and sing it through before it is repeated by the Choir. The Rulers sing the Psalm Venite. together.

Invitatory. IV.iii. *Christus natus est.* 

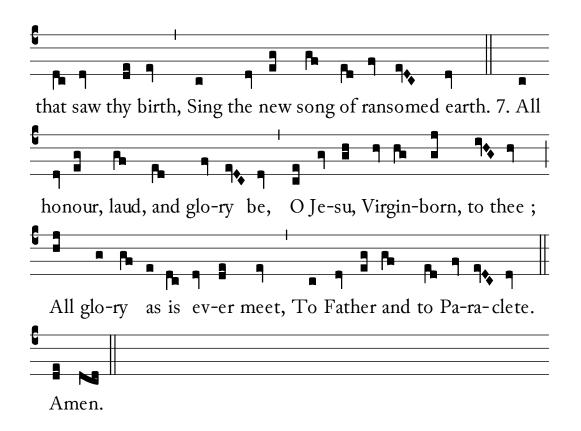


wor- ship. Ps. O come, let us sing. 18\*.



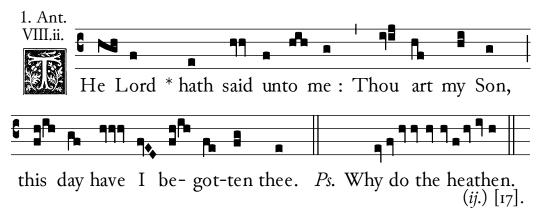


blood For sin re-deemed, are marked for God, On this the day



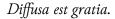
#### $\blacksquare$ At the j. Nocturn.

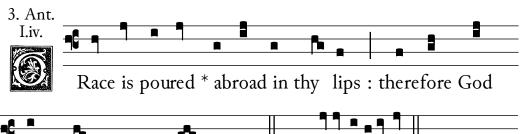
Dominus dixit ad me.



## 2, Ant. VIII.i. S a bridegroom \* the Lord cometh forth out of

his chamber. Ps. The heavens declare. (19./xviij.) [45].





hath bles-sed thee for ev-er. Ps. My heart is inditing. (45./xliiij.) [274].

Each Versicle should be sung by two boys in Surplices at the Choir Step.

 $\overline{V}$ . As a bridegroom. R. The Lord cometh forth out of his chamber.

The first six Lessons should be read in Surplices. Let the first and second Lessons be read by two Canons from the Second Form, and the third by a Canon of the Superior Grade, and thus let the Lessons ascend by step through the dignities of the people, so that the most senior person reads the final Lesson.

The singers for the Responsories should likewise be ordered in a similar way so that they too form an ascent of seniority, so that three of the Superior Grade who did not read will sing the final R. The first and second R.R. should be sung by two of the Second Form. The following Responsories are sung at a more senior level, in such a way that the sixth and ninth R.R. are sung by three. Each R. should be sung in Surplices at the Choir Step.

Let the readers and singers who will read and sing at Vespers and at Matins and at the Mass that follows humble themselves before the Bishop at the Blessing.

Lesson One. Isaiah ix.: 1-8.



T the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and

garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Thus saith the Lord God, Turn unto me : and ye shall be saved.

Two Clerks of the Second Form in Surplices standing side by side at the Choir Step together should begin this  $ot\!R^{\!\gamma}\!$ . Then they should at once return from the Step to their Stall.

 ${
m I\hspace{-.1em}I}$  Each Responsory with its Verse should be begun by two at the Choir Step in Surplices, but the third, sixth, and ninth Responsories should be sung by three in like manner.

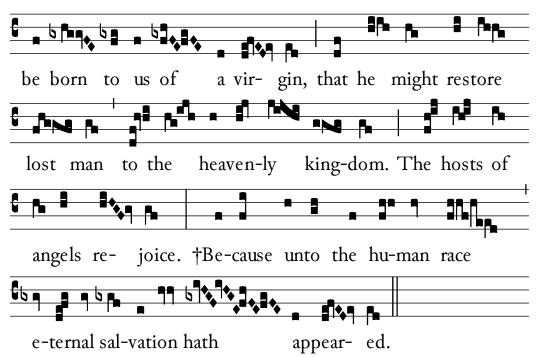
> 1. Responsory. V. Hodie nobis celorum.



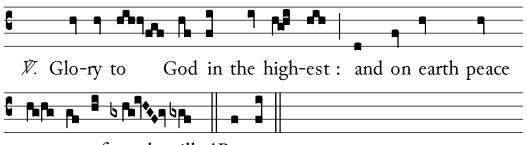


day \* the King His

of Hea-ven was pleas- ed to



This Verse should be sung by five boys in Surplices and white Amices, with their heads covered, and each carrying a lighted Candle into the place of honour, beyond the High Altar. Facing the Choir, let them sing this Verse together.



to men of good will. †Be-cause.

*Lesson ij. Isaiah* 40. : 1-11.

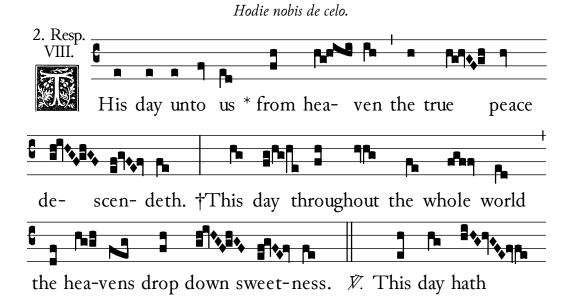
Omfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The

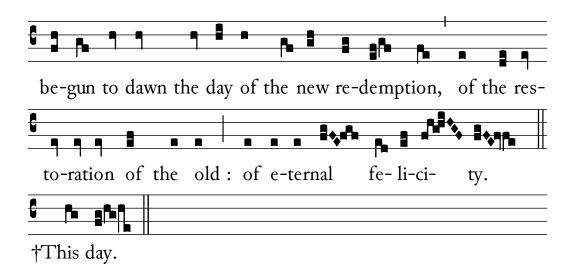
voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and

the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain;

O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are Thus saith the Lord with young. God, Turn unto me : and ye shall be saved.

At each Nocturn, in the second, fifth, and eighth Lessons the Altar is censed by a Priest in a silken Cope, selected in turn from each side of the Choir. However the Choir should be censed by a single boy.





Lesson iij. Isaiah 52. : 1-10.

Wake, awake ; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money. For thus saith the Lord God, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what have I here, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the Lord; and my

name continually every day Therefore my people blasphemed. shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak : behold, it is I. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem : for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Thus saith the Lord God,

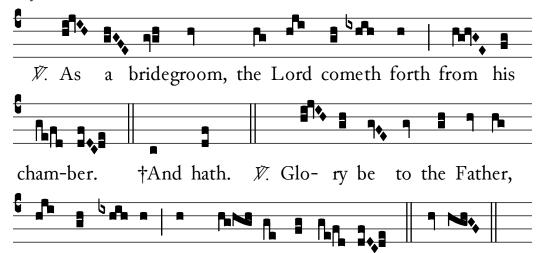
Turn unto me : and ye shall be saved.





and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. ‡The light.

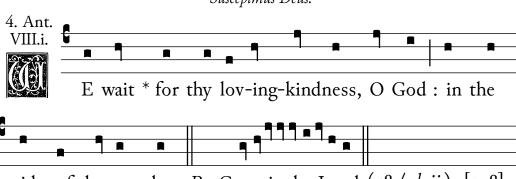
This following melody is sung on this Verse whenever it is sung, except at this Matins only.



and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. ‡The light.

#### **I** In the second Nocturn.

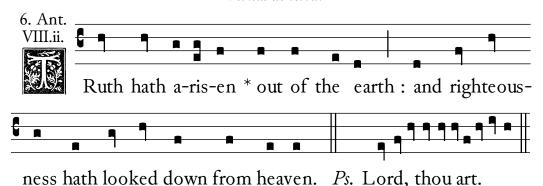
Suscepimus Deus.



midst of thy temple. Ps. Great is the Lord. (48./xlvij.) [278].

# Orietur in diebus. 5. Ant. III.iv. Here shall a-rise, \* in the days of the Lord, a-bundance of peace: and he shall reign. Ps. Give the King. (73./lxxj.) [324].

Veritas de terra.



 $\overline{\mathcal{V}}$ . He hath called upon me.  $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ . Thou art my Father.

Sermon of Blessed Isidore the Bishop on the Nativity of the Lord. Lesson Four.

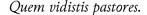
HE day of the Lord's birth in its origin hath been instituted by the fathers as a devout solemnity: because on that day Christ willed to be born bodily for the redemption of the world, coming forth from the womb of the Mother who was in the dignity of the Father. The reason of his taking on flesh is this. Indeed after that first parent had fallen, through the jealousy of the Devil,

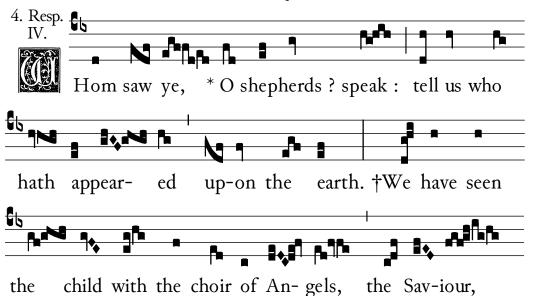
seduced by vain hope: immediately an exile and lost: he passed on into all his offspring the root of evil and of sin. And all mortal offspring multiplied exceedingly in evil, spread forth wickedness, and what is more wretched, all cults of idols. God therefore wishing to limit sin: provided for us with proverbs, laws, prophets, signs, plagues, portents. But when even thus warned the world did not

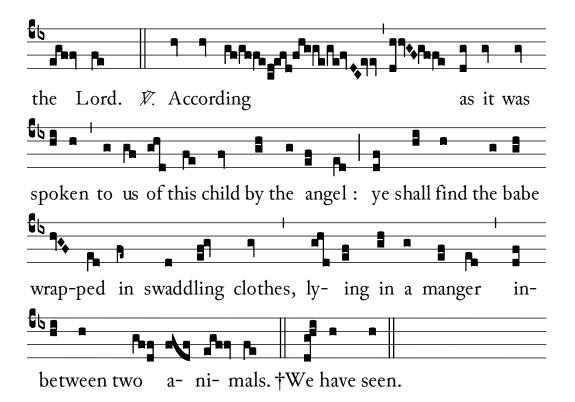
(85./lxxxiiij.) [359].

recognize its own errors: God sent his Son that he might put on flesh, and appear to mankind : and save sinners. Who therefore came among mankind: because in himself he was not able to be recognized by mankind. But that he might be seen, the Word was made flesh: assuming flesh, not changed into flesh. For he hath assumed human nature: he hath not lost divine nature. Thus the same is God and also is man, in divine nature equal to the Father: in human nature made mortal in us : for us : from us : remaining what he was, taking up what he was not : that he might

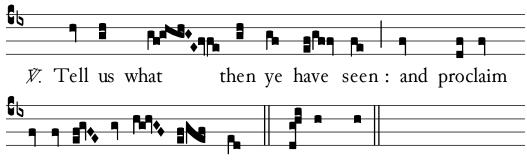
liberate what he had made. This therefore is the great solemnity of the nativity of the Lord : this the new and glorious festival of this day: the coming unto men of God incarnate. Accordingly this day, for the reason that on it Christ was born: is called Which therefore we the nativity. ought to observe during the yearly cycle as a solemn festival, that it should be recalled into memory that Christ was born: who with God the Father and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth God, for ever and ever. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.







During the week, V.



the na-ti-vi-ty of Christ. †We have seen.

And it should be sung throughout the week, whether a Sunday occurs or not.

Lessons five and six are read from the Sermon of Blessed Leo the Pope on the Nativity of the Lord.

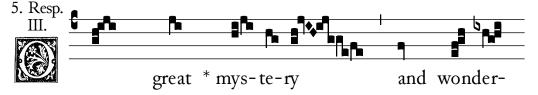
#### Lesson Five.

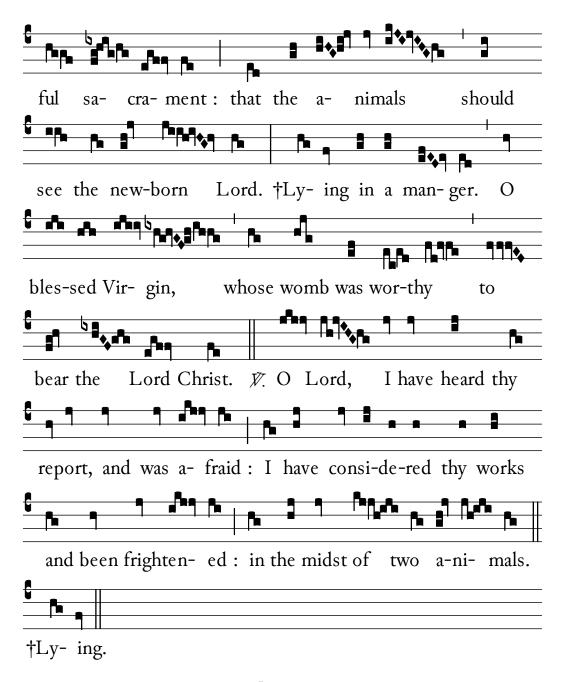
Et us be glad in the Lord, dearly beloved, and rejoice with spiritual joy that there has dawned for

us the day of ever-new redemption, of ancient preparation, of eternal bliss. For as the year rolls around, there recurs for us the commemoration of our salvation which, promised from the beginning, accomplished in the fulness of time, will endure for ever : on which we are bound with hearts up-lifted to adore the divine mystery: so that what is the effect of God's great gift may be celebrated by the Church's great rejoicings. For God the almighty and merciful, whose nature is goodness, whose will is power, whose work is mercy: as soon as the Devil's malignity killed us by the poison of his hatred, foretold at the very beginning of the world the remedy his piety had prepared for the restoration of us mortals: proclaiming to the serpent that the seed of the woman should come to crush the lifting of his baneful head by its power, signifying no doubt that Christ would come in the flesh, God and man, who born of a Virgin should by his uncorrupt birth condemn the despoiler of the human stock.

since the Devil was glorying in the fact that man, deceived by his craft, was bereft of divine gifts and, being stripped of his endowment immortality, had come under the grievous sentence of death, and that he himself, amid his miseries, had found a sort of consolation in having a transgressor as his companion, and that God, according to the requirments of the principle of justice, had changed his own resolution in regard to man, whom he had created in so high a position of honour: there was need of a dispensation of secret counsel, in order that the unchangeable God, whose will could not be deprived of its own benignity, should fulfil by a more secret mystery his original plan of loving kindness toward us, and that man, who had been led into fault by the wicked subtlety of the Devil, should not perish contrary to God's purpose. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### O magnum mysterium.



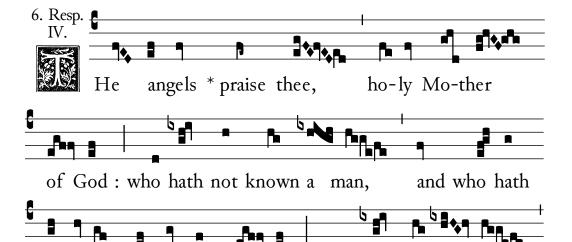


Lesson six.

Herefore there entereth these lower parts of the world the Son of God: descending from his heavenly throne and yet not quitting

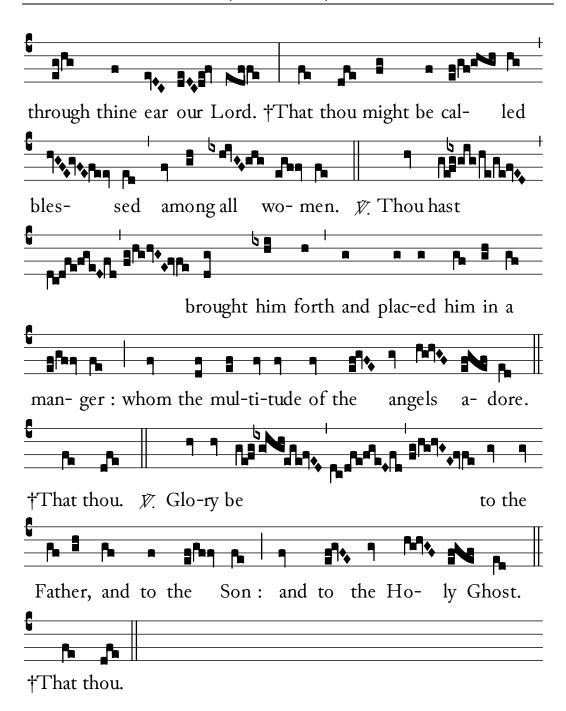
his Father's glory, begotten in a new order, by a new nativity. In a new order: because being invisible in his own nature, he became visible in ours, and he whom nothing could contain, was content to be contained: abiding before all time he began to be in time. The Lord of all things, he obscured his immeasurable majesty and took on him the form of a servant : being God, that cannot suffer, he did not disdain to be man that can, and immortal as he is, subject himself to the laws of death. And by a new nativity he was begotten, because the inviolate virginity knew not carnal desire: while it possessed in itself the nature of human substance. Lord took from his Mother our nature, not our fault. The form of the servant is created without the slave's And the New Man is so commingled with the old, as both to assume the reality of our race and to

remove its ancient flaw. For though the true mercy of God had infinitely many schemes to hand for the restoration of mankind, it chose that particular design which put in force for destroying the Devil's work not the efficacy of might but the dictates of justice. For the pride of the Ancient Foe not undeservedly made good its despotic rights over all men, and with no unwarrantable supremacy tyrannized over those who had been of their own accord lured away from God's commands to be the slaves of his will. And so there would be no justice in his losing the immemorial slavery of the human race, were he not conquered by that which he had subjugated. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

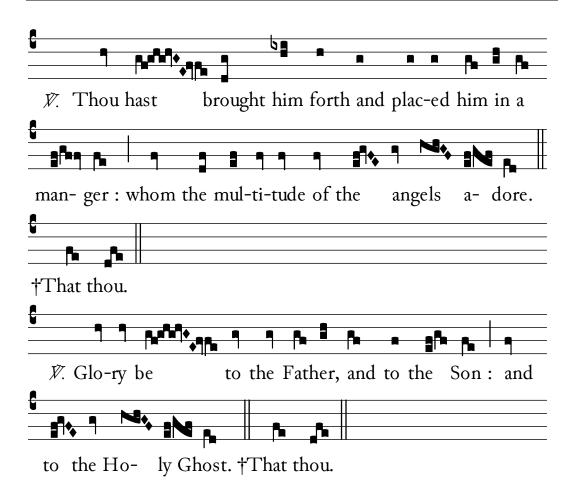


Te laudant angeli.

car-ri- ed the Lord in thy womb : and hath conceiv- ed

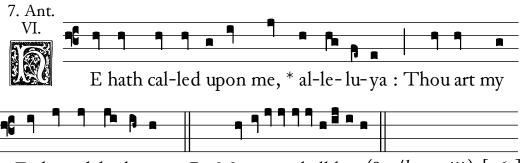


The following Verse should be sung on ferial days during the week, with the ferial melody: and whenever Thou hast brought him forth. is, sung except only at this Matins, on this Verse Gloria Patri.



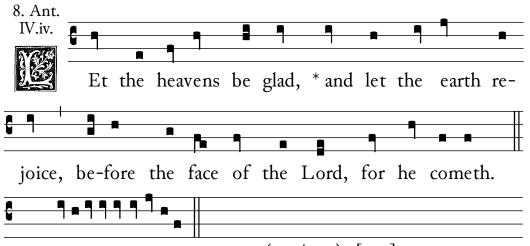
## ■ At the third Nocturn.

Ipse invocavit me.



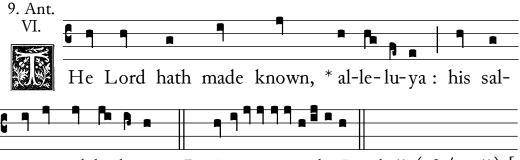
Father, al-le-lu-ya. Ps. My song shall be. (89./lxxxviij.) [363].

#### Letentur celi.



Ps. O sing unto the Lord. j. (96./xcv.) [370]

### Notum fecit Dominus.



vation, al-le-lu-ya. Ps. O sing unto the Lord. ij. (98./xcvij.) [384].

 $\overline{V}$ . The Word was made flesh.  $\overline{R}$ . And dwelt among us, alleluya.

The three final Lessons should be read in a silken Cope.

## ■ Lesson seven. According to Luke. ij.: 1-[].



T that time.
There went out
a decree from Cæsar
Augustus, that all
the world should be
taxed. And this

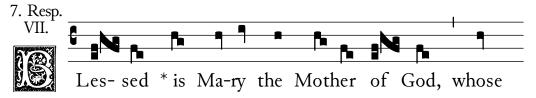
taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And so forth.

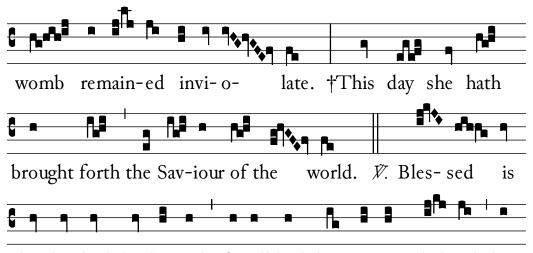
Homily of Blessed Gregory the Pope.

of the Lord we shall celebrate Ecause through the generosity the solemnity of the Mass thrice this day: we are not able to speak at length concerning the Gospel Lesson. But it compelleth us to say something however brief concerning the nativity of our Redeemer. Why is it that the world was enrolled when the Lord was to be born, unless this was to openly demonstrate that he came in flesh: who would enroll his elect in eternity? For against the rejected it is said by the prophet, Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; and with the just let them not be Who likewise rightly was written. born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem of course is interpreted house of bread. For in fact he it is which saith, I am the living bread which came down from heaven. Therefore the place in which the Lord was born, earlier was called the house of bread : because certainly it was to happen that he would appear there in the substance of flesh: who would refresh the minds of the elect in

fellowship. Who was not born in the house of his parents, but on a journey: surely in order to show, that by the human nature which he had assumed: he was being born as if in a foreign place. A foreigner evidently, I say not according to power: but according to nature. For of his power it is written, He came unto his own. Indeed in his nature before time was he was born: in our nature he came in time. He therefore who enduring eternally appeared in time: truly came down to a foreign place. And because it is written by the prophet: All flesh is grass: he who was made man changed our grass into wheat, who said of himself, Unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground die, itself remaineth alone. Whence at his birth he was laid in a manger: that he would refresh all the faithful and evidently the holy animals by the grain of his body: lest they would remain starved of the fodder of heavenly knowledge. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Beata Dei genitrix.





she that hath be-liev-ed: for all hath been accomplish-ed that



was told unto her by the Lord. †This day.

 $\P$  Lesson eight. A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. ij.: 15.



T that time.
The shepherds said to one another,
Let us now go even unto Bethlehem,
and see this thing

which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And so forth.

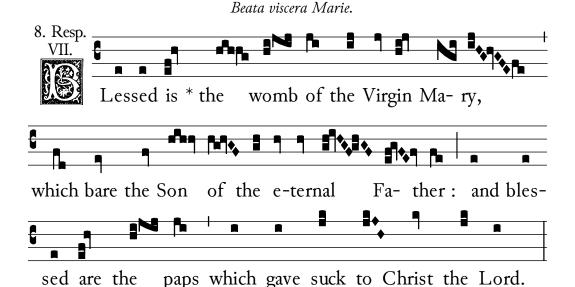
Homily of the Venerable Bede, Priest.

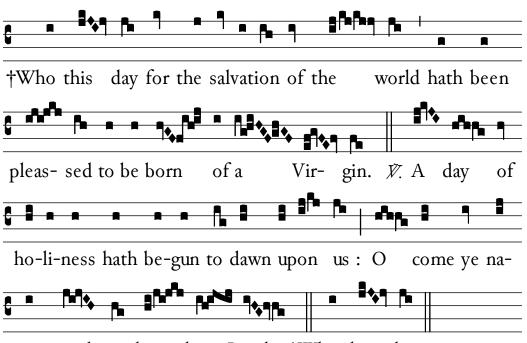
Hen the Lord the Saviour was born in Bethlehem (as is testified by the sacred history of the Gospel) to shepherds which were in the same country watching and keeping the night watches over their

flock: the angel of the Lord appeared with a great light and proclaimed to the world the Sun of Righteousness, not only by the voice of heavenly utterance, but also by the brightness of a divine light. Nowhere indeed in the whole course of the Old Testament have we that found angels, which so sedulously appeared to the fathers: did appear with light. But this was properly reserved for this day: when unto the true-hearted ariseth up light is in darkness: the Lord is merciful and loving. To be sure lest the authority of one angel should appear to be small: after one made

known the mystery of the new birth: at once there was a multitude of the heavenly host which sang glory to God, and likewise proclaimed peace among men: plainly demonstrating that by this nativity mankind were to be converted to the peace of one faith, hope, and goodwill: and to the glory of divine praise. However, mystically the shepherds of these flocks: are the teachers and guides of the souls of the faithful. The night during the vigil of which they kept watch over their flocks: indicateth the perils of temptation, from which all they who watch perfectly do not cease from guarding their subjects. And it is

good that at the birth of the Lord the shepherds keep watch over their flocks. For indeed that one which was born is he who said, I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd: giveth his life for his sheep. But the time was near when the same Shepherd of highest good, sent into the world by shepherds, would recall his sheep which wandered here and there far and wide : to the always green pastures of heavenly life. Of whom the supreme Shepherd commanded, If ye love me (he saith) feed my sheep. Clarifying which he saith, Strengthen thy brethren. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.





tions, and worship the Lord. †Who this day.

 $\blacksquare$  Lesson nine. The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John. j.: 1- $\square$ .



N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in

the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And so forth.

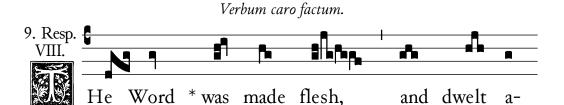
Homily of the Venerable Bede, Priest.

Eeing that we have treated of the birth in time of the mediator of God and mankind, of Jesus Christ the man, which this day hath come to pass: which hath been re-

vealed by the words of the holy evangelists Matthew and Luke: it is agreeable also that the words recorded by blessed John the Evangelist, that is, of the eternity of his divinity, in which he remaineth always equal with the Father, be examined, who alone as a privilege of chastity hath merited to grasp more deeply the mystery of his divinity: and likewise to reveal it to others. And not indeed was it indicated without reason that at supper he reclined on the breast of the Lord Jesus : but by this figuratively we are taught that he drank the draught of heavenly

wisdom more excellently than the others from the font of the very same most holy breast. And hence among the figures of the four animals he is rightly compared with the flying eagle. Of course it among all the birds is wont to fly higher, and living things among all accustomed to fix its gaze more directly toward the rays of the sun. While the other evangelists, as though walking upon the earth with the Lord : which explained sufficiently his temporal generation along with his temporal deeds : said little concerning his divinity, this one, however, as if flying to heaven with the Lord : dwelling upon very few of his temporal acts: came to know the eternal power of his divinity by which all things were made : flying more sublimely in mind, and likewise more clearly observing: and he delivered this also in writing for us to understand. While the other evan-

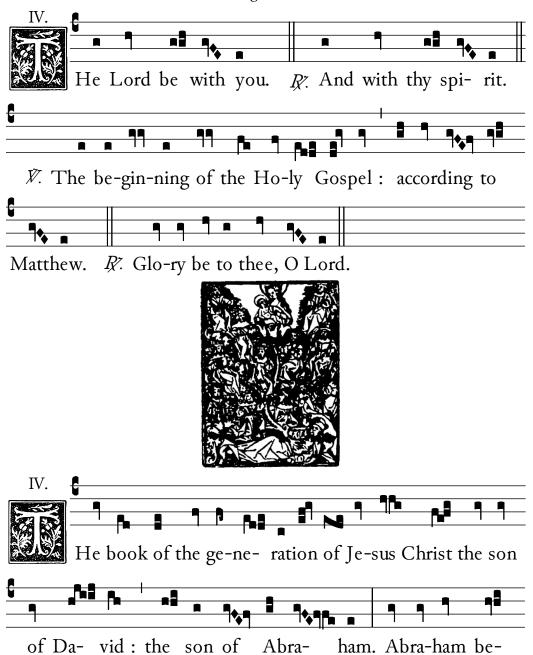
gelists describe Christ born in time, John beareth witness that the same was in the beginning : saying, In the beginning was the Word. The others relate his suddem appearance among men: that one declareth that He was always with God, saying, And the Word was with God. The others that he is truly of men : that one confirmeth that He is God, saying, And the Word was God. The others that he was a man dwelling for a time with men: that one showeth that He was God abiding with God from the beginning, saying, The same was in the beginning with God. The others present the wonders which He did as a man: that one teacheth that through Him God the Father made all creatures, visible and invisible: saying, All things were made by him: and without him was not anything made that was made. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

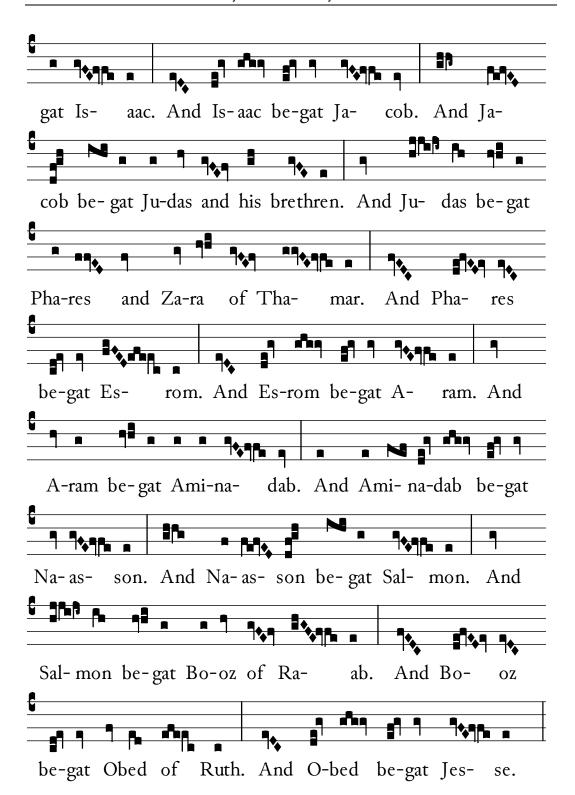


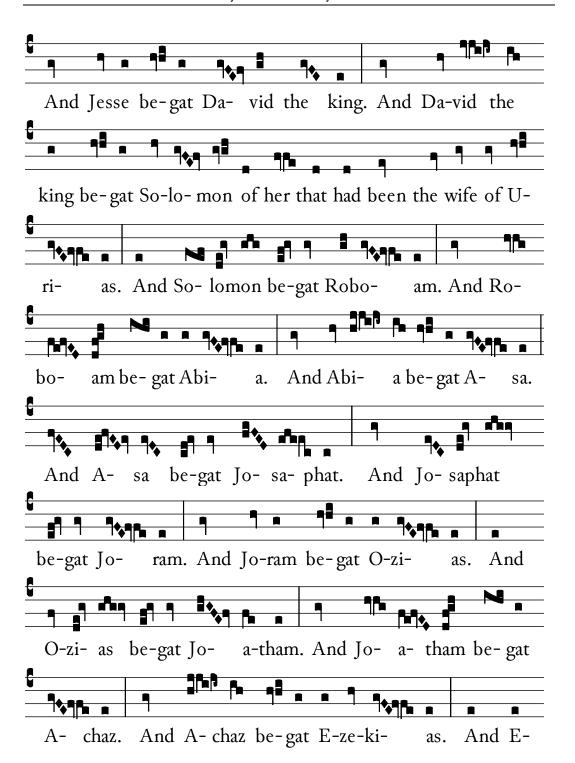


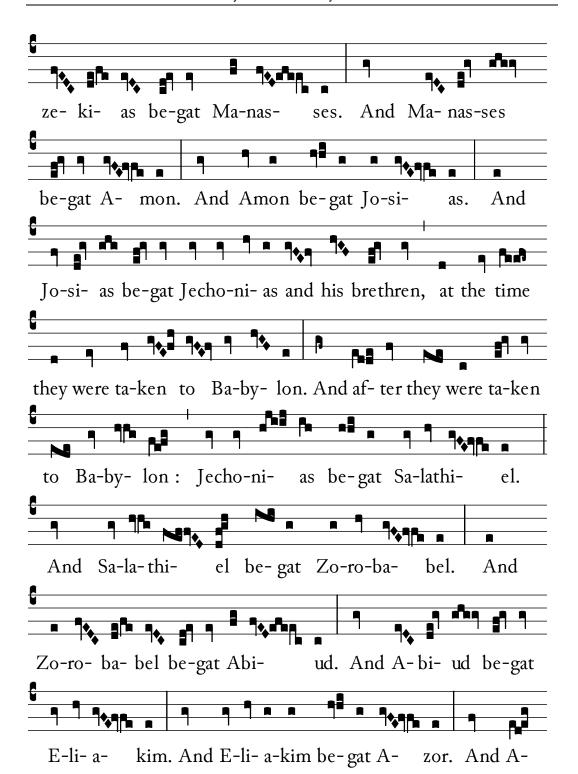
While this final R. together with its N and Gloria Patri. are sung, let the Deacon proceed with the Subdeacon and the Thurifer and the Taperer and the Acolyte bearing the Cross, all solemnly vested in preparation to cense the Altar. And, having received a Blessing from the Officiant in the midst of the Choir, let him approach the Pulpit for the singing of the following Gospel.

According to Matthew 1.: 1-16. Liber generationis.









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The Gospel being finished, let the Priest who performs the Office, in a silken Cope in his Stall, not altering his place, intone the Te Deum. [44]. in a loud voice. Afterwards, with his Secondary Priest as Thurifer, having himself placed the Incense in the Thurible at the Choir Step, let him cense the aforesaid Altar. But the other Altars should not be censed.

■ The Mass The Lord said. is celebrated after Matins and before Lauds.

## Before Lauds.

Immediately after the Mass the principal Priest should says this Versicle while facing the Atar.

V. The Word was made flesh. R. And dwelt among us. with Alleluya.

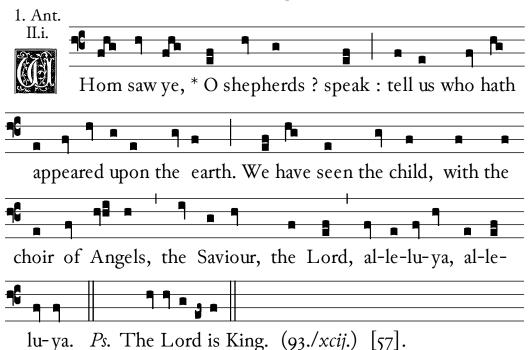
Likewise the same Priest should say V. O God, make speed. before he withdraws from the Altar.

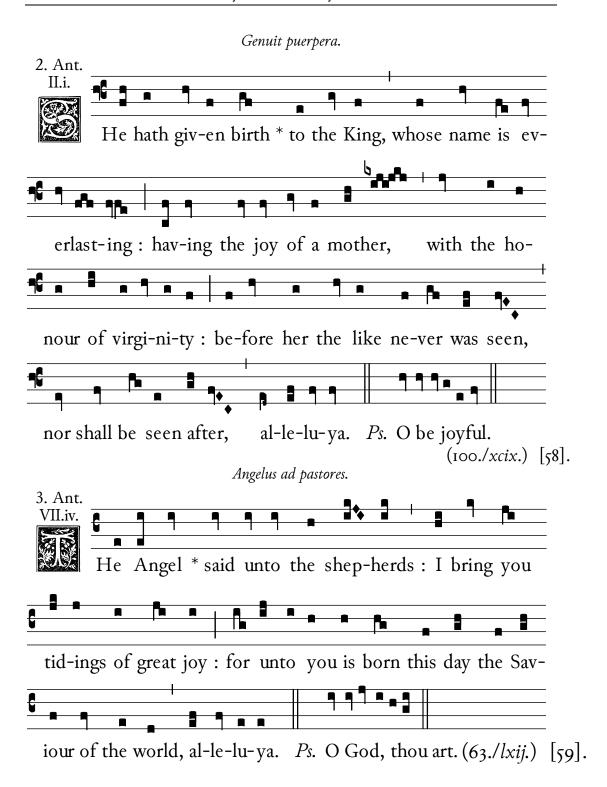
If however the Officiant has not celebrated the Mass, and the Bishop be not present, then he should say all the foregoing in Choir, in his Stall. If the Bishop be present, he should say all the foregoing in his seat.

At Lauds the Antiphons should be distributed through the Superior Grade in order.

## ¶ At Lauds.

Quem vidistis pastores.





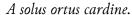


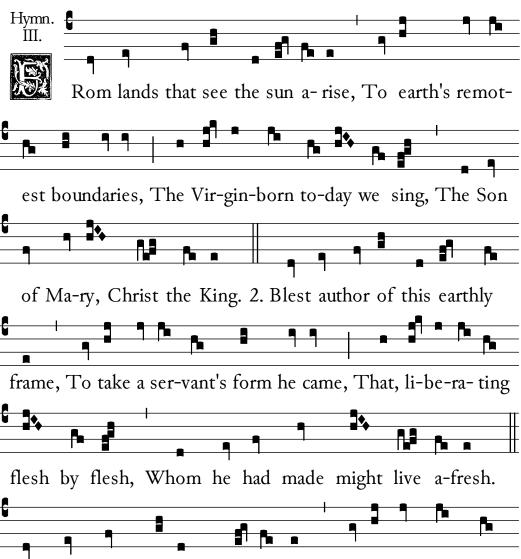
Let the Chapter and all the rest that pertains to Lauds be completed in the same way as at Vespers, except that at Lauds nothing should be censed except the Principal Altar.

Chapter. Titus 2.: 11, 12.

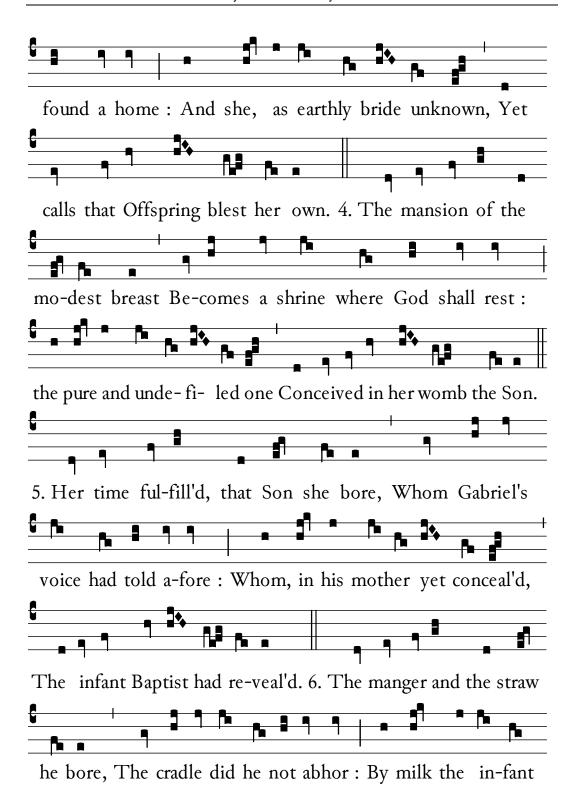
He grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and wordly lust, we

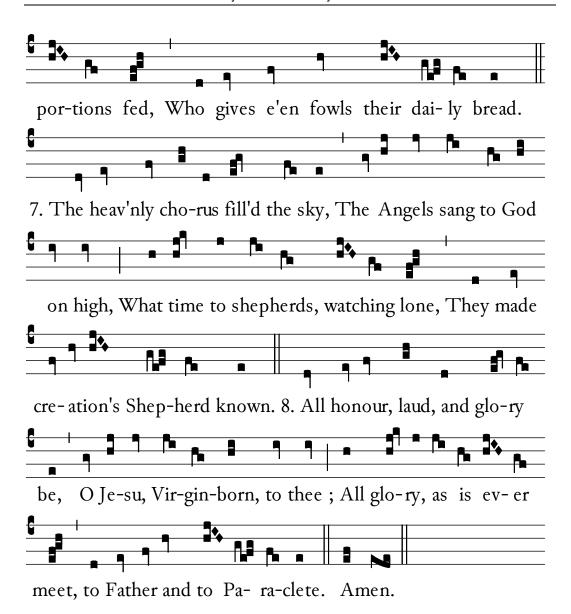
should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. R. Thanks be to God.

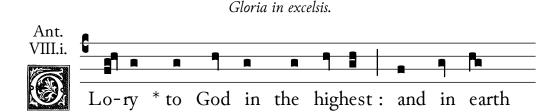


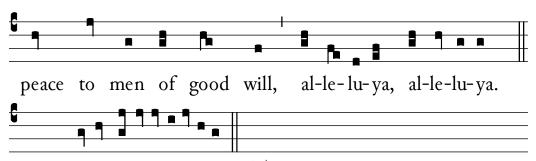


3. In that chaste pa-rent's ho-ly womb Ce-lestial grace hath









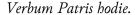
Prayer.

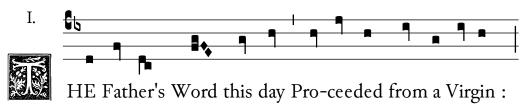
Ps. Blessed be the Lord. 68\*.

Rant, we bessech thee, almighty God, that the new birth of thine only-begotten Son in the flesh may deliver us: who are held by the ancient bondage under the yoke of

sin. Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son, Our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *R*. Amen.

• Let two Clerks of the Superior Grade in Surplices, standing together near the Principal Rulers and the Secondaries, sing together.







He hath come to re-deem us, And to the heavenly country

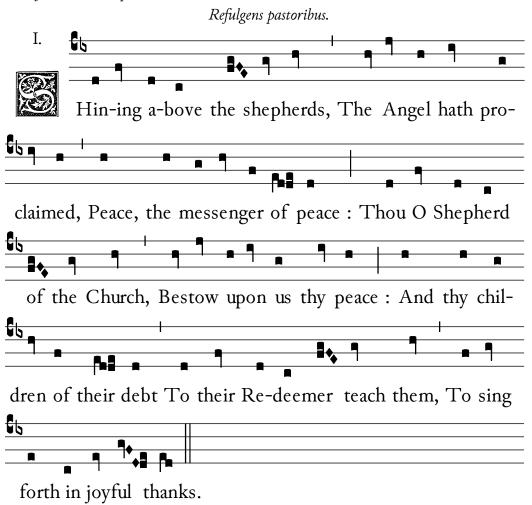


Hath wil-led to lead us back: Where the ange-lic pow-ers



With tuneful ju-bi- lation: Give blessing unto the Lord.

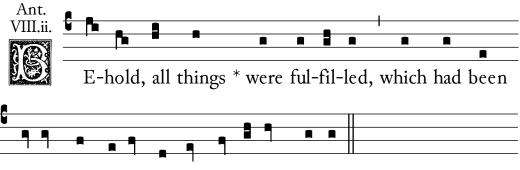
Let two other Clerks of the Superior Grade in similar vestments, taken from the other side of the Choir respond.



Then a let a Memorial be made of Saint Mary to fully complete the mystery of the Incarnation.

# Memorial of Saint Mary.

Ecce completa sunt.



spoken by the Angel to the Virgin Ma-ry.

V. After child-bearing, thou remainedst ever a spotless Virgin. R. Mother of God, intercede for us.

Prayer.

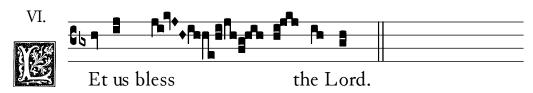
God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary hast bestowed upon mankind the rewards of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech thee, that we may perceive the benefit of her intercessions for us,

through whom we have been counted worthy to receive the Author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. R. Amen.

 $\tilde{V}$ . The Lord be with you.  $\tilde{R}$ . And with thy spirit.

¶ Two boys in Surplices, standing together behind the Priest or at the Choir Step, should sing.

Benedicamus Domino.





■ After Lauds, in the early morning, let the Mass Light shall shine. be celebrated.

### **1** At Prime.

Hymn. Now that the daylight. [82].

The Antiphon on the Psalms should be begun in the Superior Grade.

Ant. Whom saw ye. 271.

Psalms. Save me, O God. (54./liij.) [124]. Blessed are those. (119.: j./cxviii.: j.) [126]. O do well. (119.: ij./cxviij.: ij.) [127].

The Antiphon on Quicunque vult. should be begun by a second distinguished person.

Ant. Thanks, O God. [130].

Ps. Quicunque vult. [131].

Chapter. Now unto the King. [136].

The R. should be sung by another Clerk of the Second Form, or by a boy, at the discretion of the Second Ruler, changing neither place nor vestment.

R. Jesu Christ. with Alleluya. [138].

Ñ. Thou that deignedst. †Have mercy upon us. Ñ. Gloria Patri. Jesu Christ.

This Verse Thou that deignedst. is sung daily until the morrow of the Purification of Blessed Mary, except on the Day of the Epiphany and during the Octave of the same, and likewise on the Octave Day.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . O Lord, arise. [143].

Let the Preces and the rest that pertain to Prime be completed.

## ¶ At Terce.

Hymn. Come, Holy Ghost. [161].

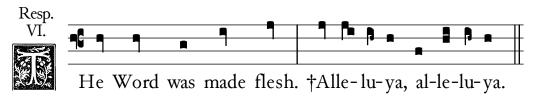
The Antiphon on the Psalms should be begun in the Superior Grade. She hath given birth. 258.

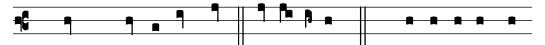
Ps. Teach me, O Lord. (119. : iij./cxviij. : iij.) [17]].

Chap. The grace of God. 272.

The Responsory is sung in the Second Form. Let the same order serve for the other Hours.

Verbum caro factum.







Father, and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. The Word.

 $\tilde{V}$ . He hath called upon me.  $\tilde{R}$ . Thou art my father.

*Prayer.* Grant we beseech thee. 277.

## **I** At Sext.

Hymn. O God of truth. [180].

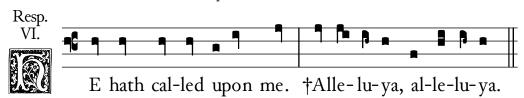
Ant. The Angel said. 272.

Ps. My soul hath longed. (119. : vj./cxviij. : vj.) [190].

Chapter. Titus [].: 4, 5.

He kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man hath appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us. *R*. Thanks be to God.

### Ipse invocavit me





V. Thou art my Father. †Alle-lu-ya. 

✓ Glo-ry be to



the Father, and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost.



He hath cal-led.

 $\vec{X}$ . The Lord hath declared.  $\vec{R}$ . His salvation. Prayer as above. 277.

## **I** At None.

Hymn. O God, creation's secret force. [197].

Ant. A little child. 273.

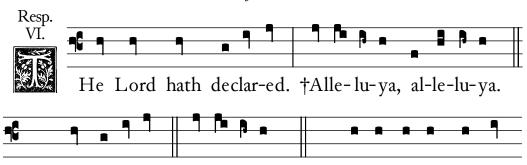
Ps. Thy testimonies are wonderful. (119.: ix./cxviij.: ix.) [207].

Chapter. Hebrews 1.: 1, 2.

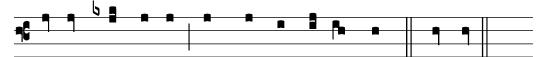
Od, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.

### Notum fecit Dominus.



₩. His salvation. †Alle-lu-ya. ₩. Glo-ry be to the Fa-



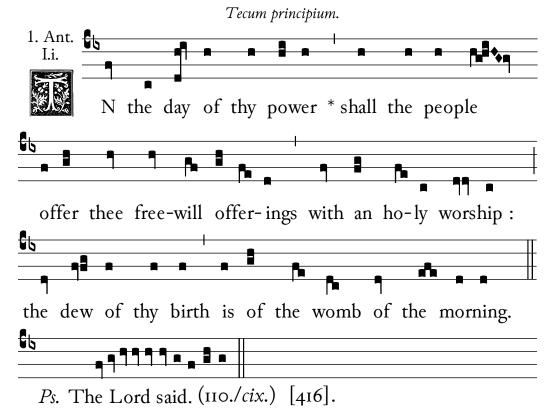
ther, and to the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. The Lord.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.  $\mathcal{R}$ . God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light.

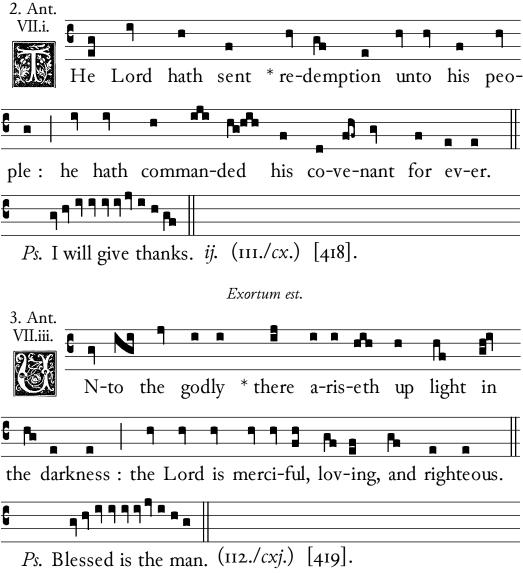
Prayer as above. 277.

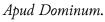
## ■ At Second Vespers.

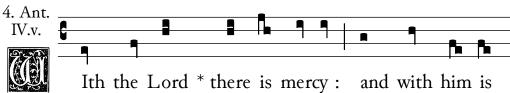
At this Vespers the first Antiphon shall be begun by the most senior person after the one who is the Officiant of this day, and then the second Antiphon should be begun by the most senior person from the other side of the Choir, and in this manner each Antiphon should be assigned according to dignity of the persons.



#### Redemptionem misit Dominus.



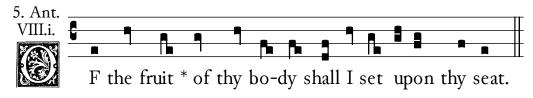


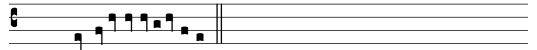




plente-ous re-demption. Ps. Out of the deep. (130./cxxix.) [467].

De fructu ventris.





Ps. Lord, remember David. (132./cxxxj.) [472].

The preceding Antiphons together with their Psalms are sung daily at Vespers until the Octave of the Epiphany, and during the Octaves of the Nativity and the Epiphany.

Let the Bishop or the Dean read the Chapter, altering neither place nor vestment.

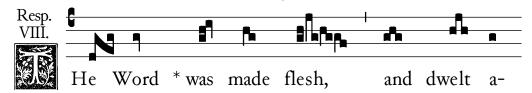
Chapter. Hebrews 1.: 1, 2.

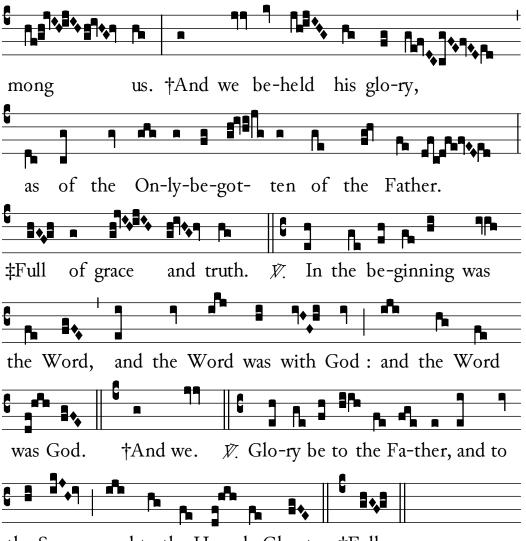
Od, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.

The R. The Word was made flesh. should be sung without the Prose by three distinguished persons in silken Copes at the discretion of the Cantor.

Verbum caro factum.



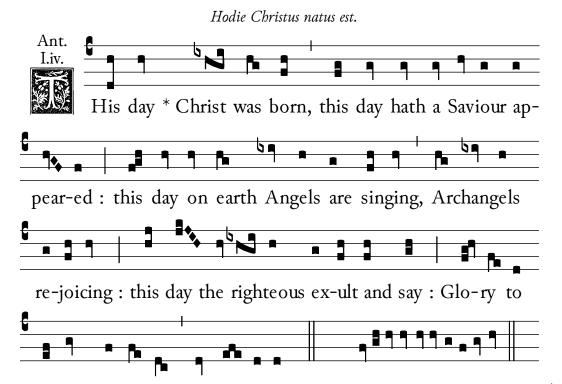


the Son: and to the Ho-ly Ghost. ‡Full.

Hymn. From lands that see. 274.

 $\mathcal{V}$ . Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.  $\mathcal{R}$ . God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light. The Response should not be said aloud.

The Antiphon on Magnificat. should be begun by a distinguished person from the Choir side. If the Bishop be present, the same should intone and sing the Antiphon.



God in the highest, al-le- lu-ya. Ps. My soul doth magnify.  $49^*$ .

Prayer.

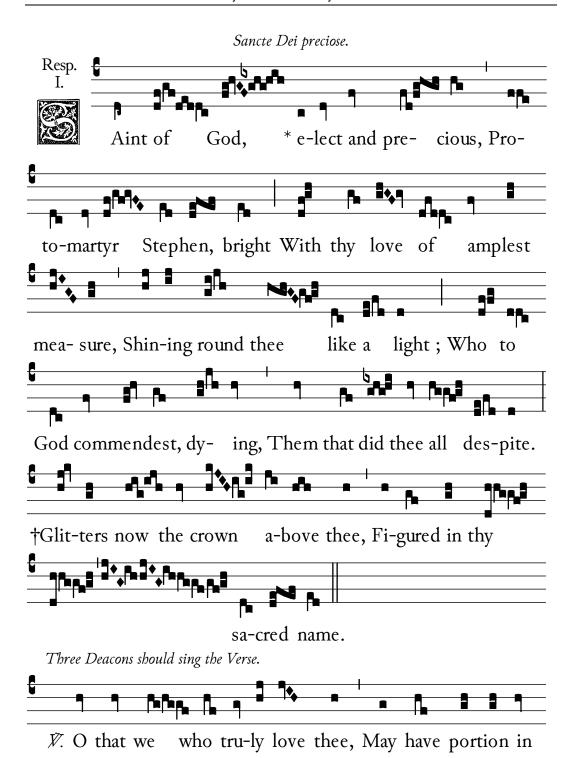
Rant, we bessech thee, almighty God, that the new birth of thine only-begotten Son in the flesh may deliver us: who are held by the ancient bondage under the yoke of

sin. Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son, Our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *R*?. Amen.

This Prayer is concluded with Benedicamus. sung by two Clerks of the Second Form in Surplices at the Choir Step.

# Procession of S. Stephen.

The same by two Clerks of the Second Form in Surplices should sing at the Choir Step the following R. Meanwhile let all the Clerks gather in silken Copes carrying lighted Candles in their hands, and thus walk in procession through the midst of the Choir to the Altar of S. Stephen while singing this R. which is begun by a Deacon.

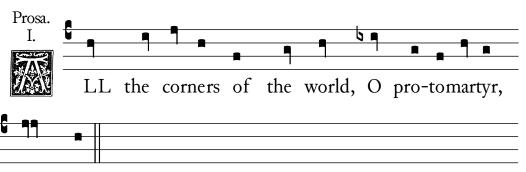




nei- ther sin nor shame. †Glit-ters.

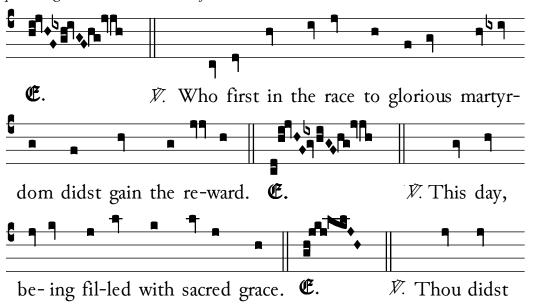
Let all the Deacons together sing the Prose, as follows.

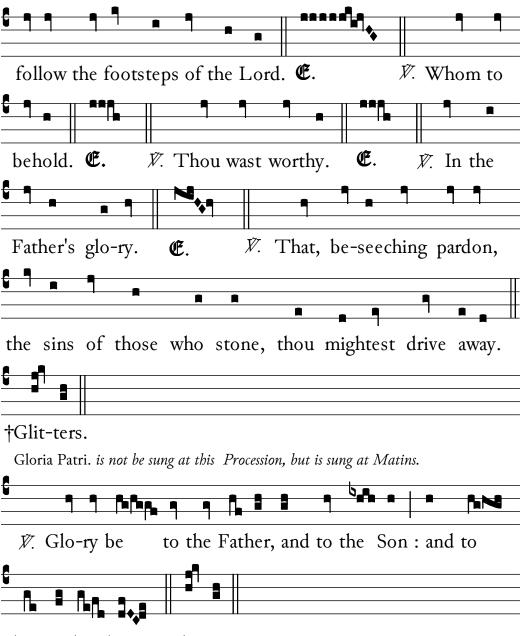
Te mundi climata.



## praise thee.

Let the Choir or the Organ respond to the singing of the Prose in the melody of the preceding Verse on the letter **E**. after each Verse.





the Ho-ly Ghost. †Glit-ters.

During the singing of the Prose, a Priest censes the Altar and then the Image of S. Stephen. Afterwards the Priest says in a moderate voice V. Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour, O Lord. R. And hast set him over the works of thy hands. V. Let us pray.

Prayer.

Rant us, O Lord, we beseech thee, so to imitate that which we hold in honour, that we may learn to love our enemies, as we celebrate the birthday of him who prayed even

for his murderers to thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *R*. Amen.

While the Cantor of the Deacons chosen from among them by their agreement is returning there should be sung a R. of Saint Mary: namely Solem justicie. XX or Stirps Jesse. XX or Ad nutum. XX or an Antiphon of Saint Mary: followed by this Versicle.

 $\bar{\mathcal{V}}$ . Thou art fairer than the children of men.  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$ . Full of grace are they lips.

Prayer.

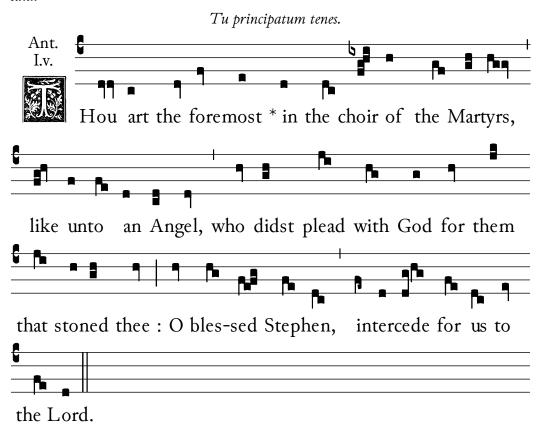
God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary hast bestowed upon mankind the rewards of eternal salvation : grant, we beseech thee, that we may perceive the benefit of her intercession, since

through her we have been counted worthy to receive the Author of life, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. R. Amen.

From this day until the Purification of Blessed Mary always at Lauds, at the Memorial of Blessed Mary, when a Memorial is made of the same, should be said the V. After child-bearing. [256]. and at Vespers the V. Thou art fairer. only, as above, except when a Memorial is made of a Commemoration of the same at Vespers of any Saint, with this Ant. Under thy protection. XX. Then however will be said the V. Holy Mother of God. [447]. and always with the Prayer O God, who through. [75].

# Memorial of S. Stephen.

Where a Procession of Saint Stephen is not made a Memorial of the same should be said.



 $\mathcal{V}$ . Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour, O Lord.  $\mathcal{R}$ . And hast set him over the works of thy hands.

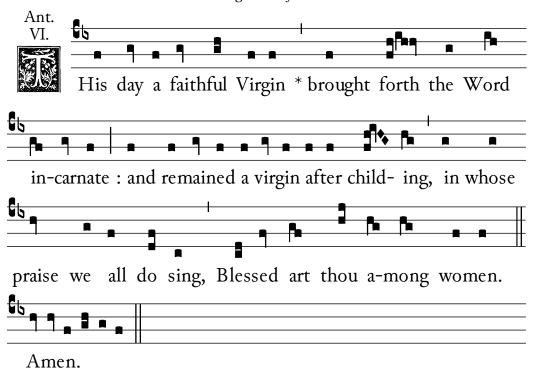
#### Prayer.

Rant us, O Lord, we beseech thee, so to imitate that which we hold in honour, that we may learn to love our enemies, as we celebrate the birthday of him who prayed even for his murderers to thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *R*. Amen.

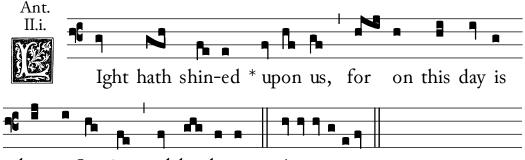
And then no Memorial should be made of Saint Mary at Lauds until the morrow of the Circumcision, nor indeed at Vespers, except where a Procession is made.

¶ The following Antiphons should be sung daily at the Memorial of the Nativity of the Lord at Vespers and at Lauds in order during the whole Octave, with repetition of the same.

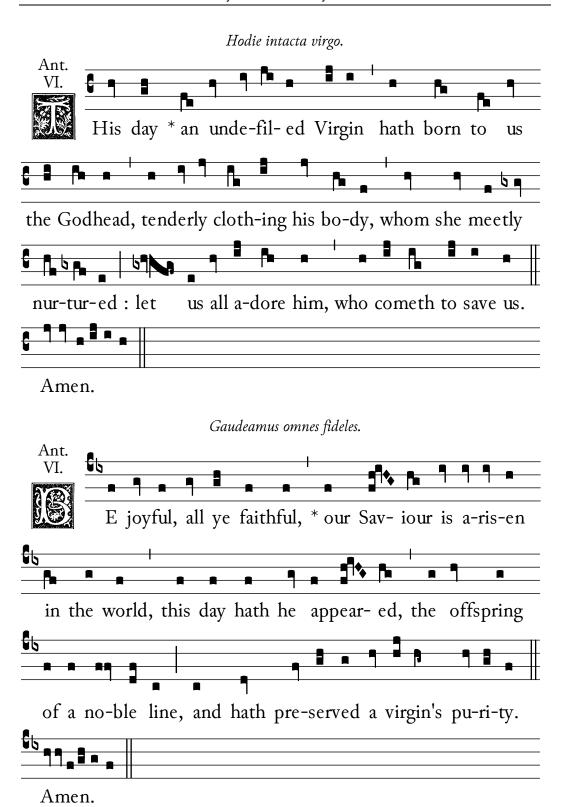
### Virgo hodie fidelis.

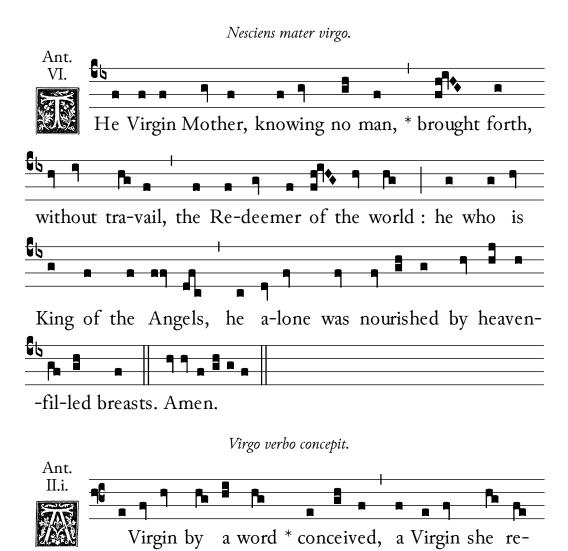


#### Lux orta est.

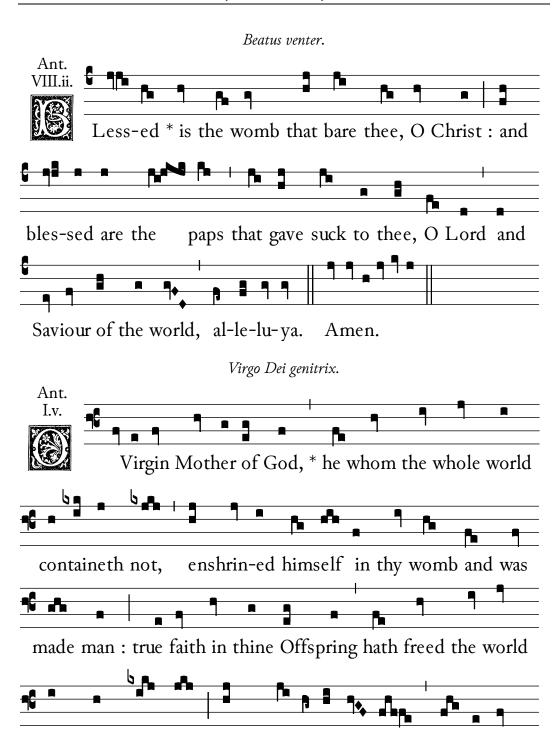


born a Sav-iour, al-le- lu-ya. Amen.





mained: a Virgin she bare the King of all kings. Amen.



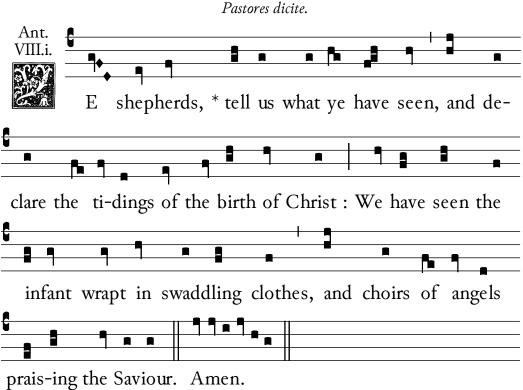
from transgres-sion,

and thy-virgi-ni- ty

re-maineth



o-late. Amen. in-vi-



**■** Compline of the Nativity. [518].

 $\blacksquare$  Note that from this day the Choir is as it were irregular until the Procession which is made from the Altar of S. Thomas the Martyr on the Feast of the Holy Innocents.