



The Canons of Nativity

THE FIRST CANON

A composition of Cosmas the Monk

Mode $\frac{4}{q}$ Pa ♀

ODE ONE

Heirmos

L^Π o! Christ ____ is born; glo - ri - fy ye Him. ^π_q Yea, Christ is
come from Heav- en, re- ceive ye Him. ^π_q Now Christ ____ is on earth;
be lift - ed high. ^Δ_q Sing now, O all ye earth-born, chant to the
Lord, and in ju - bi - la - tion, ^Δ_q all ye peo- ples, raise a hymn,
for He is glo - ri - fied. ^π_q

Troparia

Ω^Π an be - came sub - ject un - to death; ^π_q cre - a - ted
in God's im - age, he dis - o - beyed ^π_q and lost ____ the di - vine

and bet - ter life. ^Δ Though man - kind once had fal - len in - to cor -

rup - tion, the wise Cre - a - tor ^Δ doth re - fash - ion him a - new,

for He is glo - ri - fied. ^π q

^Π **W** hen ____ He saw man - kind per - ish - ing, ^π q whom He, the

Mak - er, formed with His ver - y hands, ^π q de - scend - ing, He

bowed the Heav - ens down. ^Δ From the di - vine pure Vir - gin did

He take on man - kind's ver - y es - sence ^Δ and in truth was

He made flesh, for He is glo - ri - fied. ^π q

^Π **C** hrist ____ our God is the Fa - ther's Son, ^π q His Wis - dom

Word, and Pow - er, and Ra - di - ance; ^π q un - known ____ to the Hosts

be - yond the world, ^Δ and to all of the earth - born, tak - ing man's

flesh, He be - came in - car - nate, ^Δ and re - gained us for Him - self,
 for He is glo - ri - fied. ^Π

First Ode - Katavasia

L ^Π o! Christ ____ is ____ born; ____ glo
 - - ri - - fy ____ ye ____ Him; ^Π yea, Christ
 is ____ come ____ from ____ Heav - - - en re - - - ceive ____
 ye ____ Him. ^Π Now Christ ____ is ____ on earth;
 ____ be ____ lift - ed ____ high. ^Δ Sing now, ^Π
 ____ O ____ all ____ ye ____ earth - born, ____ chant ____
 to the ____ Lord, ____ and ____ in ju - bi - la -
 - tion, ^Δ all ye peo - ples, raise a hymn ^Π ____ for He ____
 is ____ glo - - - ri - - - fied. ^Π

ODE THREE

Heirmos

He who ere the ag - es with - out change from the Fa -
 ther was born ___ as the Son, hath tak - en flesh from the pure
 Vir - gin with - out seed in these last days. To Christ ___ God
 now let us cry a - loud: Thou hast ex - alt - ed the horn ___
 of our strength. Thou a - lone art ho - ly ___ Lord.

Troparia

Once did earth - en A - dam share that no - bler, di - vine
 breath of life ___ ere he fell through wom - an's guile in - to cor -
 rup - tion. Yet, now be - hold - ing a wom - an give birth ___
 un - to Christ, he cri - eth out: Thou art be - come ___ what I
 am ___ for my sake. Thou a - lone art ho - ly ___ Lord.

^Π
Thou, O Christ, didst take on ^π₉ our worth - less clay and there-
 by, Thou didst share ^π₉ what is worse, of the Di - vine Na- ture
 mak- ing ^Δ₂ all men to be par- tak - ers. ^π₉ Made man _____ while
 Thou yet re - main - est God, ^Δ₂ Thou hast ex - alt - ed the horn ^Π
 of our strength. ^Δ₂ Thou a - lone art ho - ly ^π₉ Lord.

^Π
Beth - le - hem, make mer - ry! ^π₉ O'er the prin - ces of Ju -
 dah thou sit - test as Queen! ^π₉ For, from thee Is - ra - el's True Shep-
 herd, ^Δ₂ up - on the che - ru - bim seat - ed, ^π₉ doth come _____
 forth as Christ for all to see. ^Δ₂ He hath ex - alt - ed the
 horn ^Π of our strength, ^Δ₂ and He reign- eth o - ver ^π₉ all.

Third Ode - Katavasia



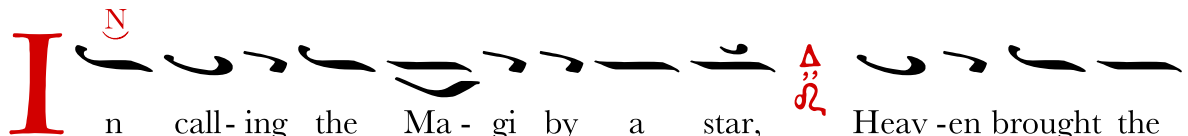
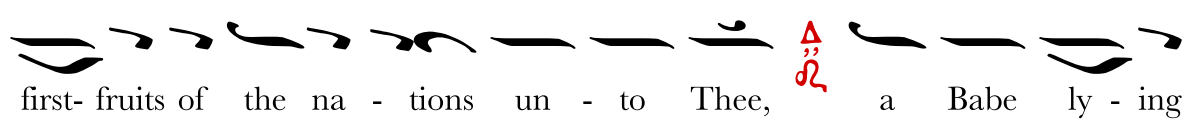
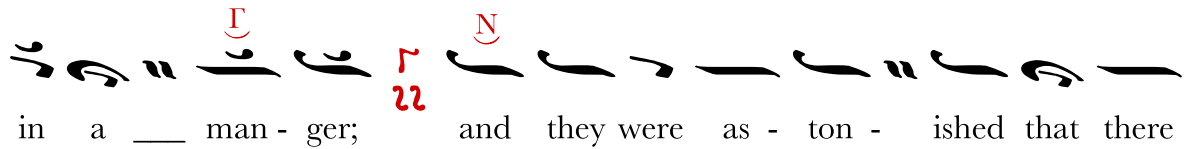
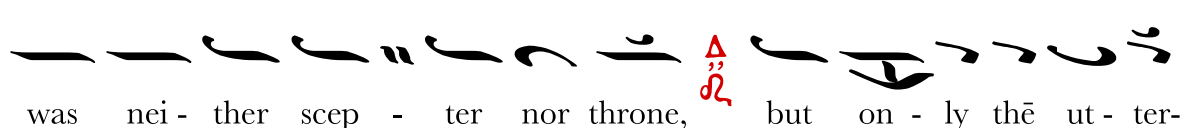
e, Who ere _____ the _____ ag - - es with-
 out change _____ from _____ the _____ Fa - ther _____ was _____ born
 _____ as _____ the _____ Son, hath tak - en
 flesh from the _____ pure Vir - - - gin with - - - out
 seed _____ in _____ these _____ last _____ days. To Christ _____
 _____ God now let _____ us _____
 cry a - loud: Thou hast ex - alt - ed the horn _____
 of our _____ strength. * Thou _____ a - lone _____ art _____ ho -
 - - - ly, _____ Lord.

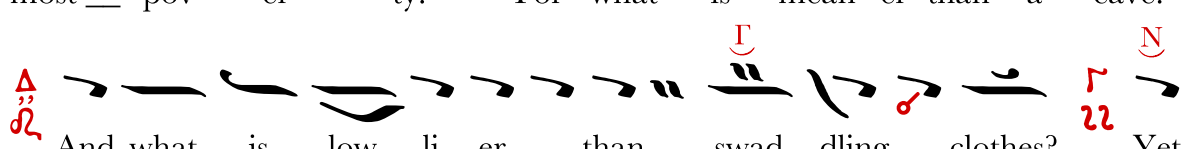
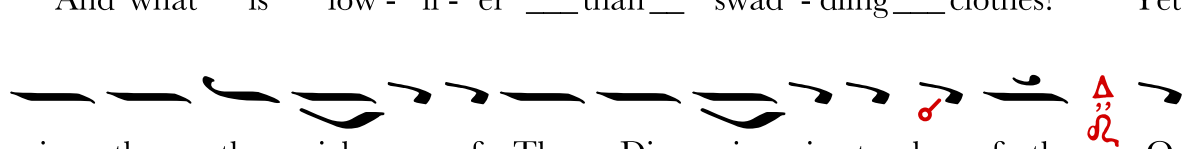
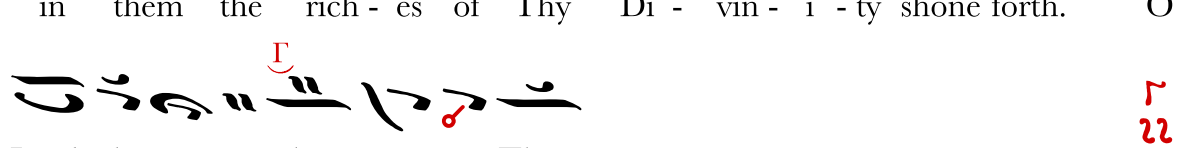
Final:

* Thou _____ a - lone _____ art _____ ho - - - - ly, -
 _____ Lord.

Hypakoë

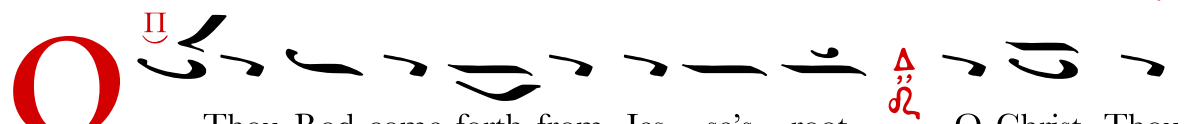
Mode  Ni 


I^N n call-ing the Ma - gi by a star,^Δ Heav-en brought the

first- fruits of the na - tions un - to Thee,^Δ a Babe ly - ing

in a ___ man - ger;^Γ and they were as - ton - ished that there

was nei - ther scep - ter nor throne,^Δ but on - ly thē ut - ter-

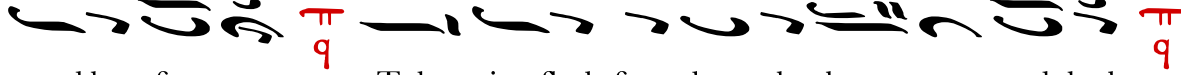
most ___ pov - er - ty.^Γ For what is mean-er than a cave?^N

^Δ And what is low - li - er ___ than ___ swad - dling ___ clothes?^Γ Yet

in them the rich - es of Thy Di - vin - i - ty shone forth.^Δ O

Lord, glo- ry ___ be to ___ Thee.^Γ

ODE FOUR

Heirmos


O^Π Thou Rod come forth from Jes - se's root,^Δ O Christ, Thou


 fra - grant Bloom there - of: from the pure Vir - gin's womb didst Thou

 come forth, the Praised One out of the mount o - ver - shad -

 owed by for - est. Tak - ing flesh from her who knew not wed - lock

 and yet im - ma - te - ri - al as God: Glo - ry to Thy pow - er,

 O Sov' - reign___ Lord.

Troparia


From the tribe of Ju - dah hast Thou dawned, O Christ, as Ja - cob

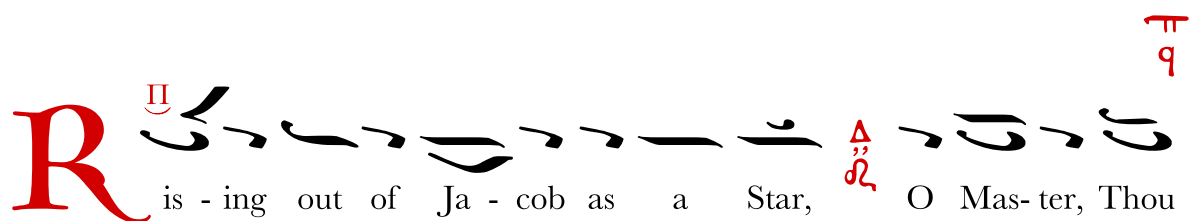
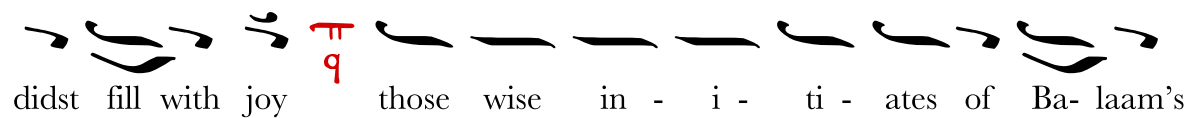
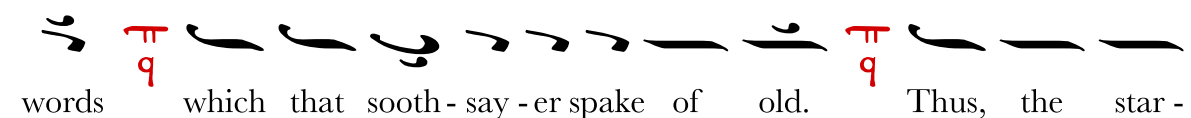
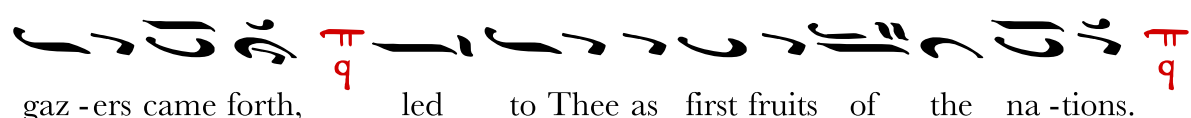
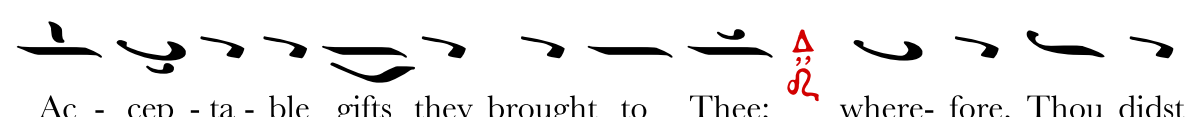
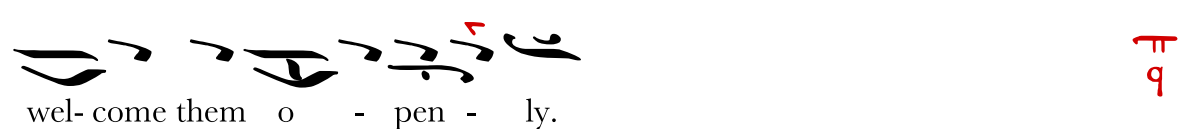
 once fore - told: The Ex - pec - ta - tion of the na - tions is Thy

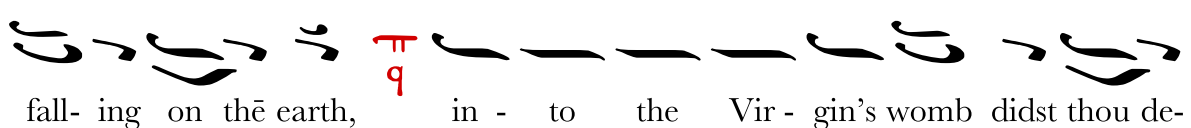
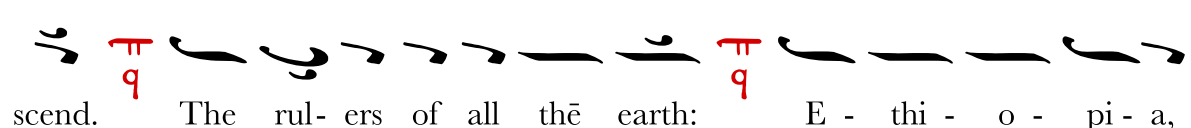
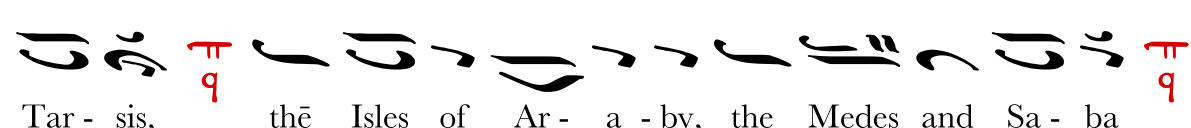
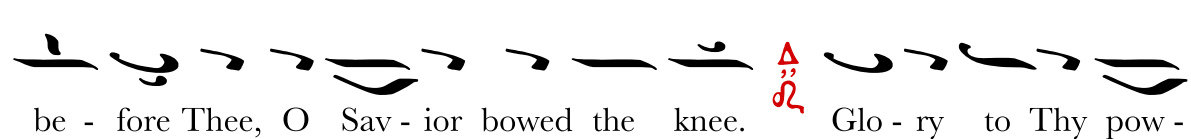
 Name. Da - mas - cus doth yield her strength, Sa - mar - i - a her

 spo - ils. Plun - dered by Thy com - ing, Thou dost turn them from

 er - ror to faith which pleas - eth God. Glo - ry to Thy pow - er, O

 Sov' - reign___ Lord.


Ris - ing out of Ja - cob as a Star,  O Mas - ter, Thou

didst fill with joy  those wise in - i - ti - ates of Ba - laam's

words  which that sooth - say - er spake of old.  Thus, the star -

gaz - ers came forth,  led to Thee as first fruits of the na - tions. 

Ac - cep - ta - ble gifts they brought to Thee;  where - fore, Thou didst

wel - come them o - pen - ly. 


O Christ, as dew come down up - on a fleece,  as rain - drops

fall - ing on thē earth,  in - to the Vir - gin's womb didst thou de -

scend.  The rul - ers of all thē earth:  E - thi - o - pi - a,

Tar - sis,  thē Isles of Ar - a - by, the Medes and Sa - ba 

be - fore Thee, O Sav - ior bowed the knee.  Glo - ry to Thy pow -

er, O Sov' - reign___ Lord.

π
9

Fourth Ode - Katavasia



Thou Rod come forth___ from Jes - se's ___

root, ___ O Christ, ___ Thou fra - grant ___ bloom

there - - - of: from the pure

Vir - gin's womb___ didst___ Thou come___ forth, the praised ___

one ___ out of the ___ mount o - - - ver - shad -

owed___ by ___ for - - - est. Tak - ing flesh from___ her ___

who knew ___ not___ wed - - - lock, and yet im -

- ma - te - ri - al as ___ God: ___ Glo - ry

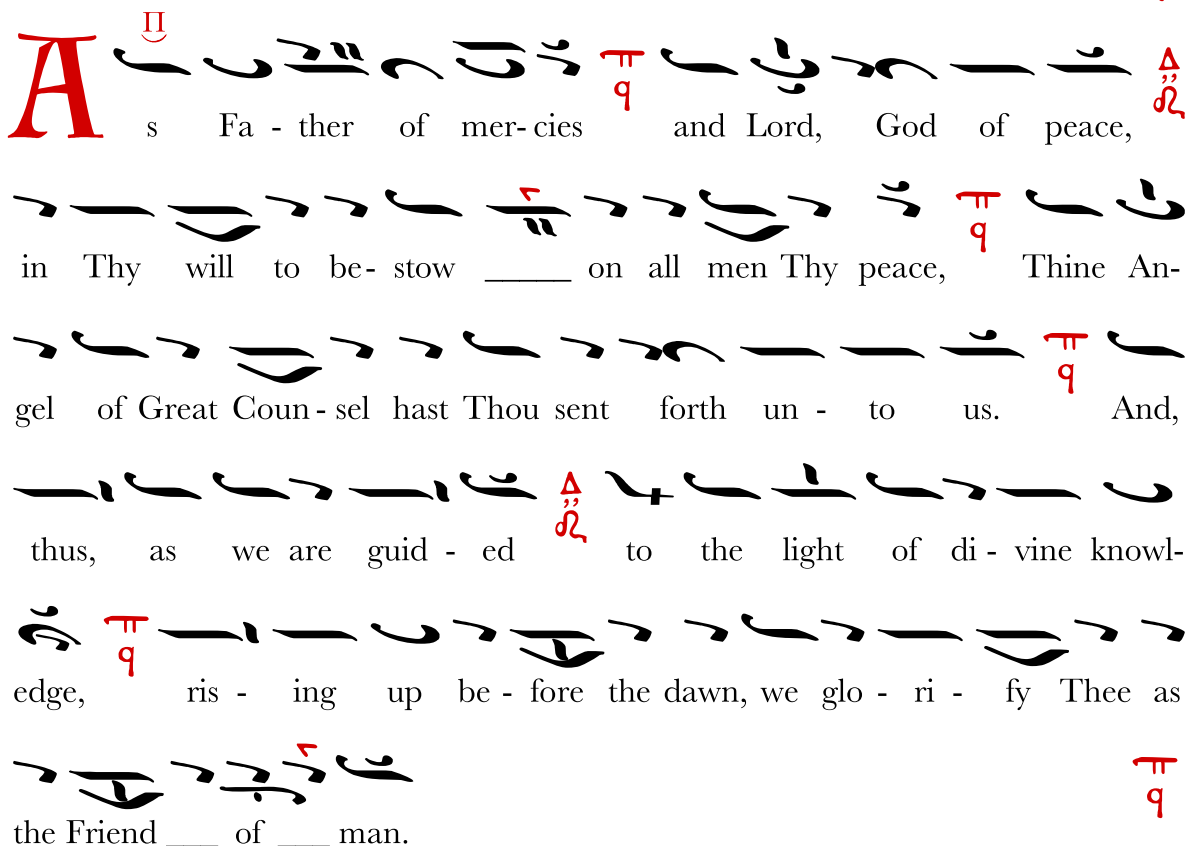
to ___ Thy ___ pow - er, ___ O ___ Sov' - - -

- reign___ Lord.

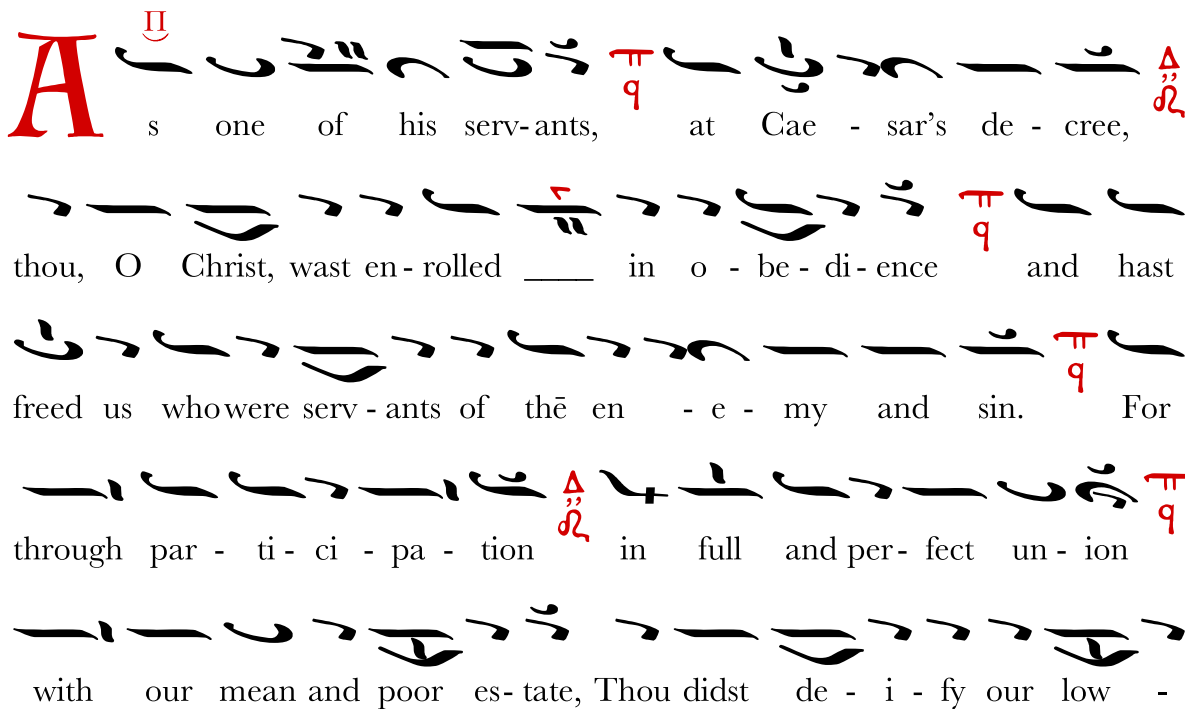
π
9

ODE FIVE

Heirmos


A s Fa - ther of mer - cies and Lord, God of peace,
 in Thy will to be - stow ____ on all men Thy peace, Thine An -
 gel of Great Coun - sel hast Thou sent forth un - to us. And,
 thus, as we are guid - ed to the light of di - vine knowl -
 edge, ris - ing up be - fore the dawn, we glo - ri - fy Thee as
 the Friend ____ of ____ man.

Troparia


A s one of his serv - ants, at Cae - sar's de - cree,
 thou, O Christ, wast en - rolled ____ in o - be - di - ence and hast
 freed us whowere serv - ants of thē en - e - my and sin. For
 through par - ti - ci - pa - tion in full and per - fect un - ion
 with our mean and poor es - tate, Thou didst de - i - fy our low -

ly ___ clay.

π
9

B ^Π e - hold, how the Vir - gin, <sup>π
9</sup> as once it was said, <sup>Δ
22</sup>

hath con - ceived in her womb, ___ bear-ing God-made- man. <sup>π
9</sup> Yet, Vir-

gin she re - main - eth, and through her are re - con - ciled <sup>π
9</sup> we

sin - ners to the Lord God, <sup>Δ
22</sup> there-fore, let us sing her prais-

es <sup>π
9</sup> and chant with faith that she is ver - i - ly the Moth - er

of our Lord ___ and ___ God.

π
9

Fifth Ode - Katavasia

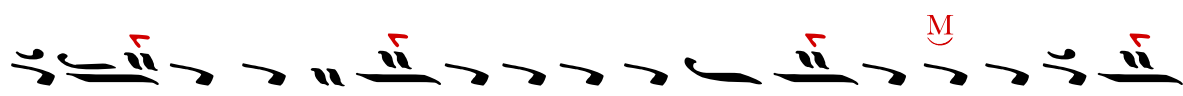
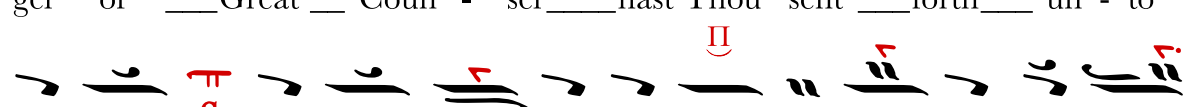


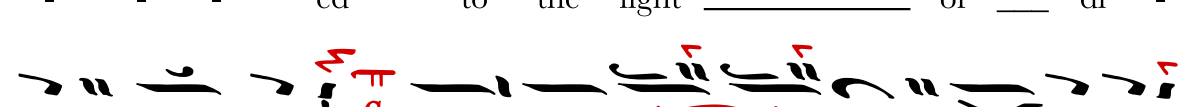
^Π s Fa - - ther _____ of ___ mer -

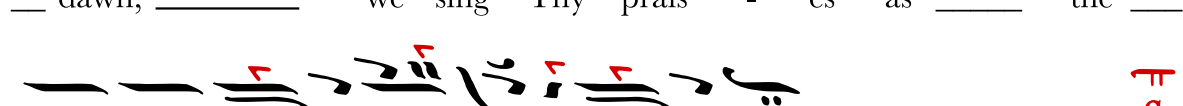
- - cies <sup>π
9</sup> and Lord, ^φ _____ God ___ of _____

peace, <sup>Δ
22</sup> in Thy will _____ to be - stow _____ on

___ all _____ men ___ Thy _____ peace, <sup>π
9</sup> Thine An -


 gel of ___ Great ___ Coun - sel ___ hast Thou sent ___ forth ___ un - to

 ___ us. And, thus, ___ as ___ we ___ are guid

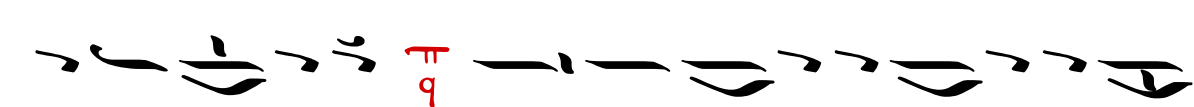
 - - - ed to the light ___ of ___ di -

 vine ___ knowl - edge, ___ ris - ing up ___ be - fore ___ the ___

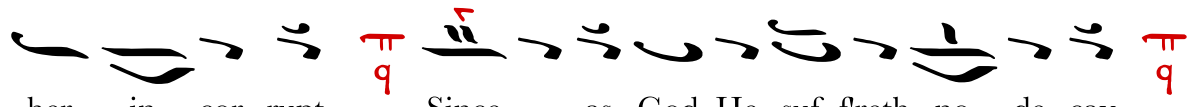
 ___ dawn, ___ we sing Thy prais - es as ___ the ___

 Friend ___ of ___ man.

ODE SIX

Heirmos


 he mon- ster from the deep spat the Proph - et Jo - nah forth

 but kept him un - harmed, just like a new - born ___ babe.

 While the Word of God, hav - ing dwelt in the Vir - gin and put

 ___ on our flesh, did come forth from her and yet pre - served

 her in - cor - rupt. Since ___ as God He suf - freth no de - cay,

He pre - served His pure Moth - er thus free ___from___ harm. π
9

Troparia

C^Π hrist our God is come, π
9 made flesh is He Whom from the womb

π
9 the Fa - ther be - gat Δ
9 be - fore the morn - ing ___ star. π
9

π
9 He doth hold the reigns of the pure and im - mac - u - late pow

- ers a - bove, π
9 Who with dumb beasts in a man - ger as

a babe is laid. π
9 He ___doth loose the tan - gled cords of sin, π
9

Who is wrapped in the tat - ters of swad - dling ___ bands. π
9

F^Π rom A - dam's sub - stance formed, π
9 an in - fant Child, a Son

is born, π
9 and He is be - stowed Δ
9 un - to all faith - ful ___

men. π
9 And He ver - i - ly π
9 is the Fa - ther and Prince of the

Age ___yet to come, π
9 and the An - gel of Great Coun - sel

is He called by Name. This___ is He Who is the might - y God,
 Who doth rule all cre - a - tion with sov' - reign___might.

Sixth Ode - Katavasia

L he mon - - ster _____ from _____ the _____
 deep spat the ___ Proph - et___ Jo - nah___ forth but kept
 _____ him un - harmed, just _____ like _____ a _____
 _____ new - born _____ babe._____ While the ___ Word of ___ God,
 hav - ing ___ dwelt ___ in ___ the _____ Vir - gin
 _____ and _____ put _____ on _____ our _____ flesh,
 did come forth _____ from her, _____ and yet _____ pre - served
 her _____ in - cor - rupt. Since _____ as God He
 suf - freth_____ no _____ de - cay, He pre - served _____

His ____ pure ____ * Moth - er thus ____ free ____

from ____ harm.

π
9

Final:

* Moth - er thus ____ free ____ from ____

harm, ____

π
9

Kontakion

Mode  Γα 4

The Original Melody

O ^N n this day the ^Π Vir - gin bear - eth the Tran - scen - dent
 in ^N Es - - sence; ^{π q} to the Un - ap - proach - a - ble, the
 earth doth of - fer a small ^Π cave; ^{π q} An - gels join in
 choir with shep - - herds in ^N giv - ing glo - - ry; ^{π q} with
 — a star the ^Π Ma - gi trav - el up - on their jour - - ney;
^{π q} for our ^N sakes is born a young ^{Δ 2} Child, ^{Δ 2} He that ex -
 ist - ed be - fore the ^{v 2} ag - es as God.

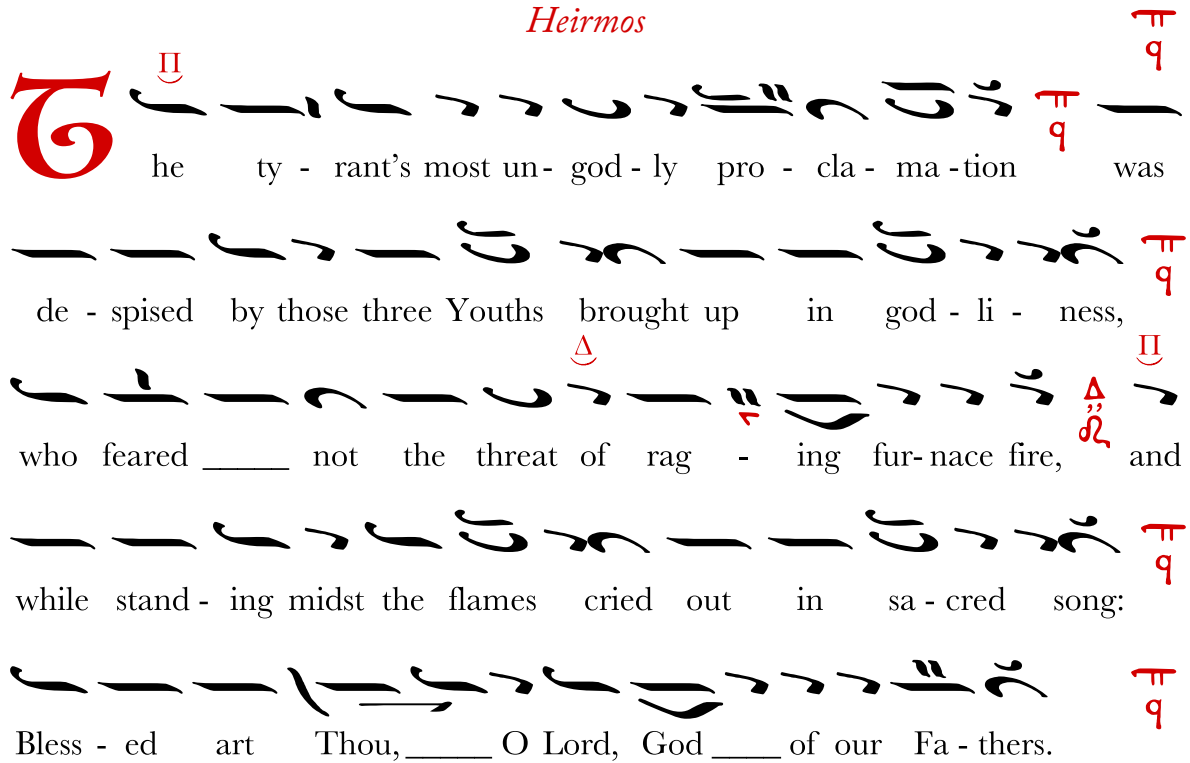
Ikos

Bethlehem hath opened Eden; come, let us see. We have found the delight that is hidden; come, let us lay hold on the things of Paradise within the cave. There hath the unwatered Root appeared, sprouting forth forgive- ness; there is found the undug Well, whence David of old yearned to drink; there hath the Virgin brought forth a Babe, and straightway made an end of the thirst both of Adam and of David. For this cause, let us hasten thereto, where there is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

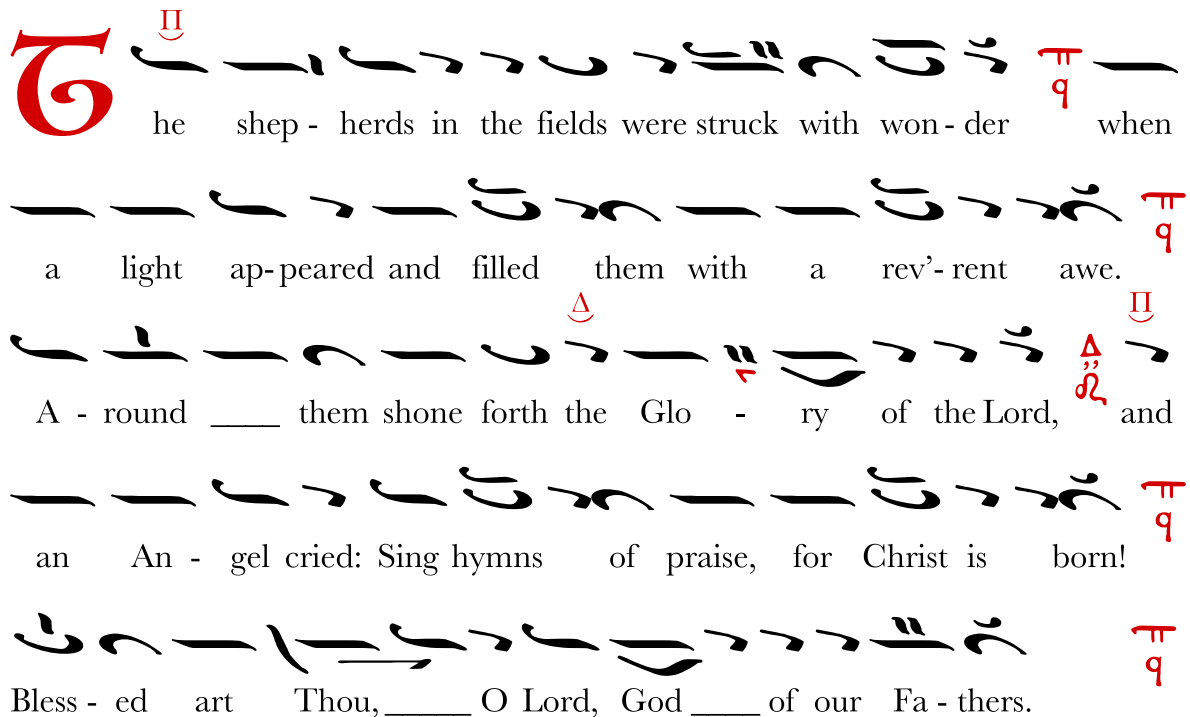
^{Δ 2} ^N He that ex - ist - ed be - fore the ^{v 2} ag - es as God.

ODE SEVEN

Heirmos


 he ty - rant's most un - god - ly pro - cla - ma - tion was
 de - spised by those three Youths brought up in god - li - ness,
 who feared ____ not the threat of rag - ing fur - nace fire, and
 while stand - ing midst the flames cried out in sa - cred song:
 Bless - ed art Thou, ____ O Lord, God ____ of our Fa - thers.

Troparia

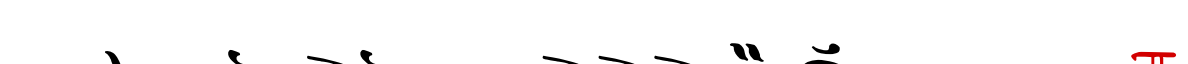

 he shep - herds in the fields were struck with won - der when
 a light ap - peared and filled them with a rev' - rent awe.
 A - round ____ them shone forth the Glo - ry of the Lord, and
 an An - gel cried: Sing hymns of praise, for Christ is born!
 Bless - ed art Thou, ____ O Lord, God ____ of our Fa - thers.



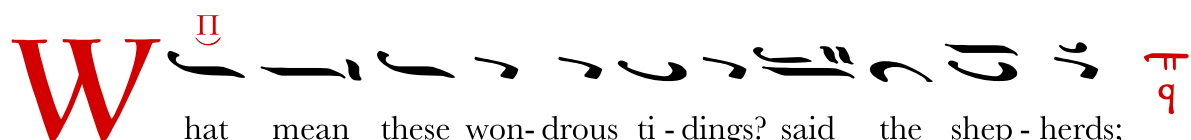
 n hear - ing the glad ti - dings of the An - gel, all
 

 the Heav - ens' Hosts then sud - den - ly cried out in song:
 

 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and on earth peace,
 

 good will t'wards men, for Christ hath now shone forth. Bless - ed
 

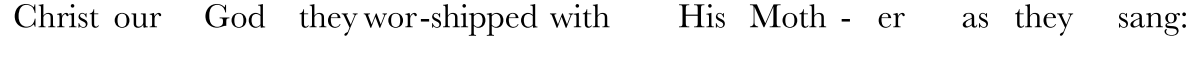
 art Thou, ____ O Lord, God ____ of our Fa - thers.



 hat mean these won-drous ti - dings? said the shep - herds;
 

 let us go and see this mar - vel which is come to pass.
 

 And when ____ they had reached the cave ____ in Beth - le - hem,
 

 Christ our God they wor-shipped with His Moth - er as they sang:
 

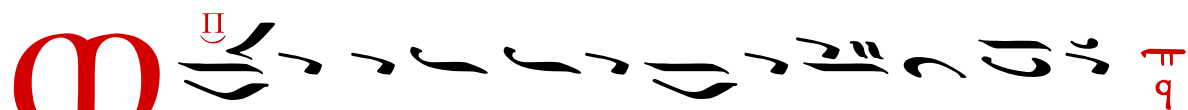
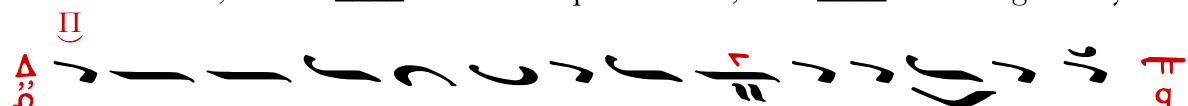
 Bless - ed art Thou, ____ O Lord, God ____ of our Fa - thers.

Seventh Ode - Katavasia

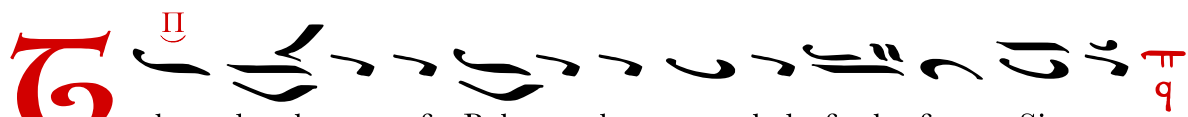
he ty - rant's most un - god - - ly
 proc - - - la - ma - - tion was de -
 spised _____ by those _____ three _____ Youths _____ brought _____
 up _____ in _____ god - li - - ness, _____ who
 feared _____ not the threat _____ of rag - ing
 _____ fur - nace _____ fire, _____ and while _____ stand -
 - ing _____ midst _____ the flames _____ cried _____ out _____
 in _____ sa - cred _____ song: _____ Bless - ed art
 Thou, _____ O _____ Lord, _____ God _____ of _____
 our _____ Fa - - - - - thers.

ODE EIGHT

Heirmos


 oist with dew, the fier - y fur - nace was the im - age
 and the type of a won - der past na - - - ture. As it
 did not burn the Three Youths with - in it, so the Vir - gin's
 womb re - ceived no harm by the fi - re of the God - head with -
 in. So, let ____ us now praise Him, as ____ we sing the hymn:

 Let the whole of cre - a - tion bless ____ and ex - tol the Lord,
 and ex - alt Him great - ly to ag - es of all ag - es.

Troparia


 he daugh - ter of Bab - y - lon once led forth from Si - on
 Da - vid's chil - dren whom her spears had van - - - quished. Now,
 she send - eth forth her own sons, the Ma - gi, who, bear - ing gifts,

come en - treat - ing Da - vid's daugh - ter in whom God ____ came to dwell.

So, let ____ us now praise Him, as ____ we sing the hymn: Let

the whole of cre - a - tion bless ____ and ex - tol the Lord, and

ex - alt him great - ly to ag - es of all ag - es.

S or - row set a - side the harps of Si - on's chil - dren, who

would not sing in the midst of a strange ____ land. But Christ,

Who out of Beth - le - hem bright - ly shin - eth, de - stroy - eth Bab -

y - lon's er - ror and her in - stru - ments of mu - sic and song.

So, let ____ us now praise Him, as ____ we sing the hymn: Let

the whole of cre - a - tion bless ____ and ex - tol the Lord, and

ex - alt him great - ly to ag - es of all ag - es.

S i - on the high Queen did Bab - y - lon once plun - der, de -

spoil - ing her of all her wealth of rich - - es. The treas -
 ures now of Bab - y - lon Christ doth draw forth guid - ing to Si -
 on by a star the three Ma - gi kings who stud - y the stars.
 So, let ___ us now praise Him, as ___ we sing the hymn: Let
 the whole of cre - a - tion bless ___ and ex - tol the Lord, and
 ex - alt him great - ly to ag - es of all ag - es.

Eighth Ode - Katavasia



e praise ___ and we bless ___ and we ___ wor
 - - ship ___ the ___ Lord. ___



oist ___ with ___ dew, the fi - ery ___ fur -
 nace was ___ thē ___ im - - age and ___ the ___
 type ___ of ___ a ___ won - der ___ past ___ na - -

ture. As it did not burn the Three Youths
 with - in it, so the Vir - gin's womb re -
 - ceived no harm by the fi - re
 of the God - - - head with -
 in. So, let us now praise Him, as
 we sing the hymn: Let the whole of cre - a -
 tion bless and ex - tol
 the Lord, and ex - alt Him great - ly
 to ag - es of
 all ag - - - es.

Final:

* all ag - - - es.

Verse I

११

Heirmos – Troparion A

9

Repeat above Verse and Troparion

Verse II

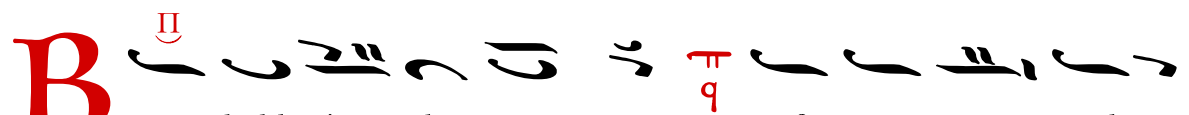



 ag - ni - fy, O my soul, — our — God, born of a




 Vir - gin,  in flesh of man in - car - nate.

Troparion B




 e - hold - ing the strange course of a new and un-





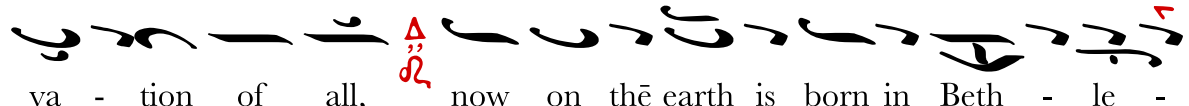
 com-mon star, which had now be - gun to shine bright - er than




 all the lights of the Heav - ens, the Ma - gi from Per -




 sia were giv - en a sign that Christ the King, for the sal-

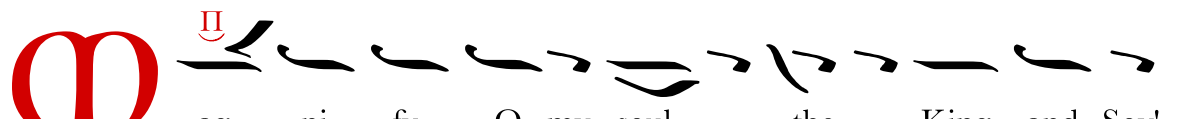



 va - tion of all, now on thē earth is born in Beth - le -

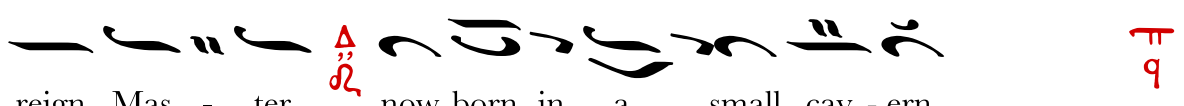



 hem.

Verse III



 ag - ni - fy, O my soul, — the — King and Sov' -




 reign Mas - ter  now born in a small cav - ern.

Repeat Troparion: Beholding the strange course . . .

Verse IV

ᾠ ag - ni - fy, O my soul, — our — God and sov'- reign
 Mas - ter **Δ** now wor-shipped by the Ma - gi. **π**

Troparion C

Ρ ray, tell us where is He, **π** the new - ly born Child and
 King **π** Whose bright star ap - peared in the heav - ens? **Δ** For, Him
 we come now to wor - ship. **π** So spake — the wise Ma - gi.
π Then, He - rod, thē en - e - my of God, was troub - led.
 Mad - dened with rage, **Δ** he sought in his fur - y how to slay —
 the — Christ. **π**

Verse V

ᾠ ag - ni - fy, O my soul, — the — One now man -

i - fes - ted by a star un - to the Ma - gi.

Repeat Troparion: Pray, tell us where is He, . . .

Glory & Verse VI

lo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Spir - it. 

ag - ni - fy, O my soul, — the — Vir - gin The - o -

to - kos,  who hath giv - en birth — un - to Christ, our

King and Sav - ior.

Troparion D

hen, He - rod in - quir - ed: what time did that star ap -

pear ⁹ which to Beth - le - hem led the Ma - gi, ^Δ that Christ with























they went ___ back to their own land and fled that wick-ed slay - er

of babes, thus leav - ing him be - hind in mock - er - y.

Both now & Verse VII

Both now and ev - er, and un - to thē ag - es of ag -
es. A - men.

The Ma - gi and the Shep - herds__ came to ren - der
wor - ship to Christ born in the cit - ty of Beth - le -
hem.

Repeat Troparion: Then Herod inquired . . .

Ninth Ode - Megalynarion & Katavasia

Mag - ni - fy, __ my __ soul, __ the
__ Vir - gin The - o - to - kos,
more __ hon - 'ra - ble __ and __ glo - - - rious __
than __ all __ the hosts __ of __ heav - -

- - en.

π
9



Π

myst - - 'ry _____ most _____ won-

- - 'drous _____ and strange _____ do _____ mine _____ eyes

_____ be - - hold: _____ for _____ the _____ cave _____ is

_____ now be - come heav - - en; _____ a throne _____ of

Che - ru - bim the _____ Vir - - gin; the man - ger, a _____ place

_____ where the Lord _____ God, thē on -

- ly Un - con - tain - a - ble, _____ doth lie _____ as a

_____ babe. _____ Him do we praise with hymns and _____ mag

- - - - ni - - - fy. _____

π
9

Final:

* _____ Him do we praise with hymns and _____ mag - - - -

_____ ni - - - fy. _____

π
9

ⲡ
ⲑ

Ⲇ^ⲓ o - day with - in the cave — the — pure and spot - less

Vir - gin ⲁ^ⲓ bear - eth our Sov'-reign Mas - ter. ⲡ
ⲑ

Ⲇ^ⲓ o - day our Lord and Mas - ter, — from a Vir - gin

Moth - er ⲁ^ⲓ is born as a small in - fant. ⲡ
ⲑ

Ⲇ^ⲓ o - day the ho - ly Shep - herds — see the Lord and

Sav - ior, ⲁ^ⲓ wrapped in swad - dling clothes — and now ly - ing in

a man - ger. ⲡ
ⲑ

Ⲇ^ⲓ o - day the most un - touch - a - ble Mas - ter, as an

in - fant ⲁ^ⲓ in bands is tight - ly swad - dled. ⲡ
ⲑ

Ⲇ^ⲓ o - day all of cre - a - tion re - joic - eth and ex -

ult - eth ⲁ^ⲓ for Christ to - day is born — from a pure and

Vir- gin Maid - en.

π
9

Π
To - day the most un - touch - a - ble Mas - ter, as an

in - fant ^Δ in bands is tight- ly swad- dled.

π
9

Π
The pow - ers of the Heav - ens de - clare un - to the
whole__world ^Δ the new - born Child as Sav - ior and Lord and

Sov'-reign Mas- ter.

π
9

Π
Ma - gi - fy O my soul __ the __ rule and One do -
min - nion ^Δ of the un - di - vid - ed ²² God - head

in Three Per - sons.

π
9

Π
Ma - gi - fy O my soul __ the __ pure and spot - less
Maid - en ^Δ who __ from the curse hath saved us.

π
9