

'Lord I Call' - Forefeast of Nativity

December 22

Reader (6): If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6

Obikhod

The never - setting Sun presses for - ward to rise, enlightening all things

under heav - en. Let us hasten with clean hands and pure deeds to meet Him;

let us prepare to be borne on high with Him in spir - it! Let us beseech

Him in His com - pas - sion, that, as He comes in His good pleasure to

His own strange birth, He may lead us, who have become strangers to the

path of life in E - den, into Bethlehem where He comes to be born!

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Reader (5): For Thy name's sake I have waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Tone 6

Obikhod

The Word of God, upborne on the shoulders of the Cher - u - bim,
goes to dwell in a womb without blem - ish.
The passionless One is bound fast to the flesh;
He comes on earth as a man, born of the tribe of Ju - dah.
A cave becomes the palace of the King of all;
the throne of fire is replaced by a man - ger,

where the Virgin Mary lays Him as a babe,
for He comes to restore the first - cre - a - ted man,
as He is well - pleased so to do.

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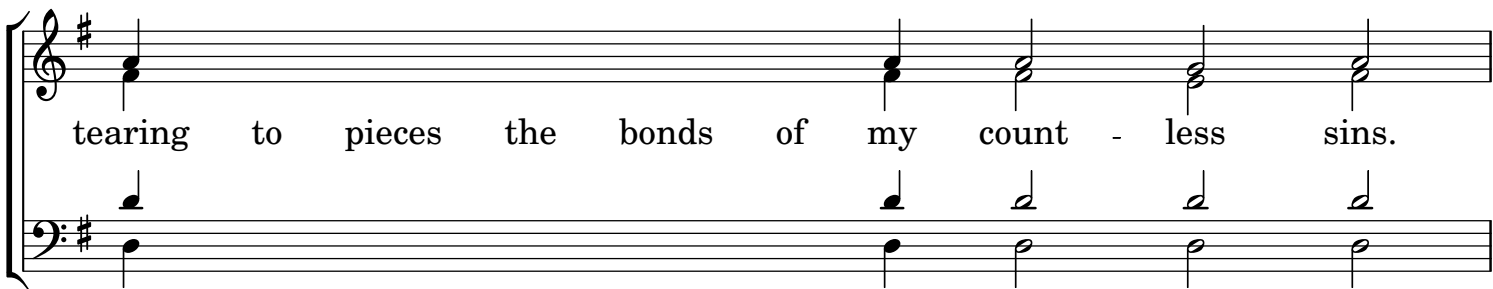
December 22

Reader (4): From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

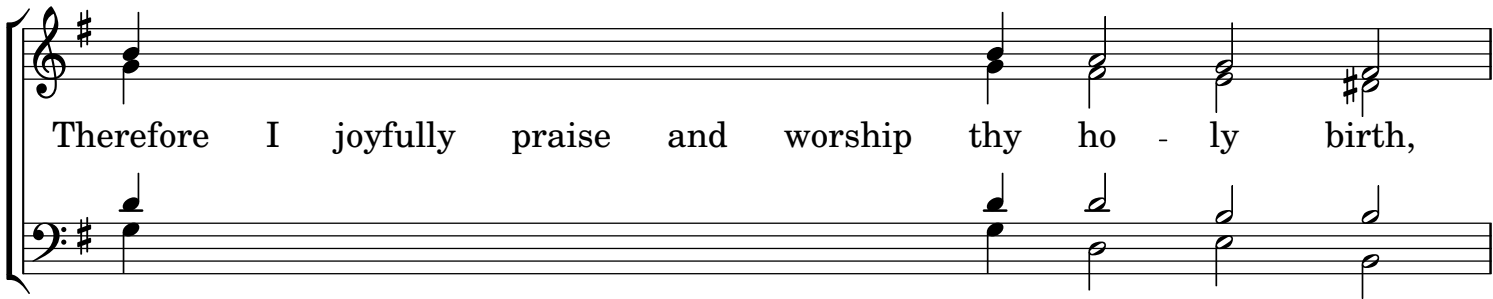
Tone 6

Obikhod

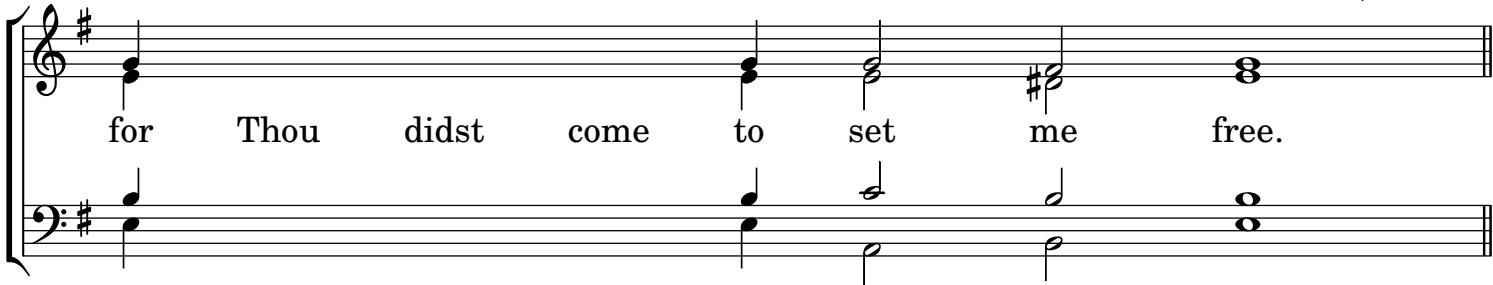
O Word of God without be - gin - ning, the Virgin lays
Thee in a manger of dumb beasts. Thou didst choose to begin Thy
life in the flesh in a manner beyond un - der - stand - ing.
Thou hast come to loose me from the fetters of e - vil
with which the envious serpent bound me.
O Lover of mankind, Thou art wrapped in swad - dling clothes,



tearing to pieces the bonds of my count - less sins.



Therefore I joyfully praise and worship thy ho - ly birth,



for Thou didst come to set me free.