



**THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE**

**VESPERS**

**BENEDICTINE COMMUNITIES  
TURVEY BEDFORDSHIRE**

**26, 28, 30 DECEMBER**

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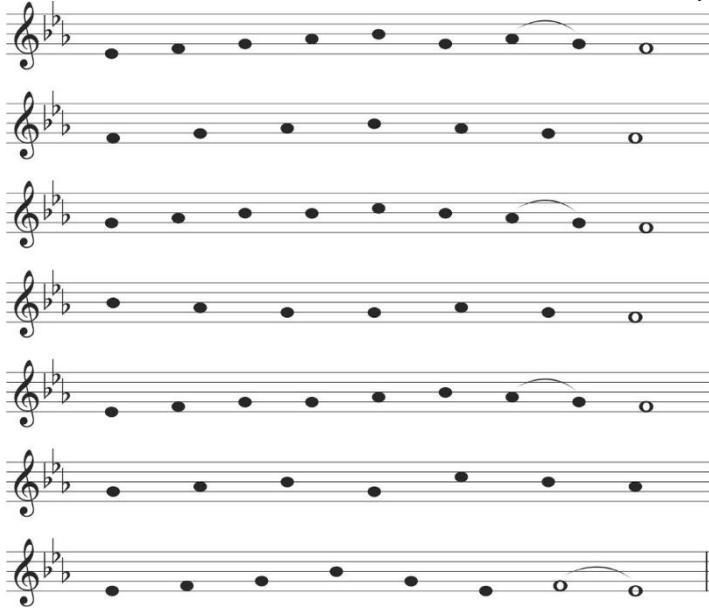
# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

# VESPERS

O God, come to our aid,  
O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever, amen. Alleluia!

## HYMN

Turvey



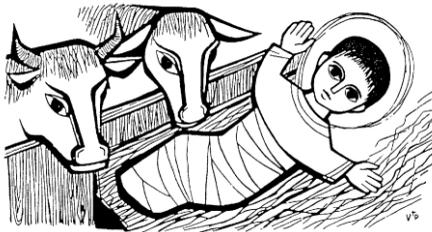
Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of all things that are and have been  
And that future years shall see:  
Evermore and evermore

He, by prophets sung, is with us,  
Promised since the world began;  
Of our human line descended,  
Son of Mary, Son of man:  
All creation, praise your Maker!  
See fulfilled his saving plan:  
Evermore and evermore.

All you heights of heav'n, adore him,  
Angels and archangels, sing!  
Every creature, bow before him,  
Singing praise to God our King;  
Let no earthly tongue be silent,  
Let the world with worship ring:  
Evermore and evermore.

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit,  
Persons Three, yet Godhead One;  
Praise to her, the Saviour's mother,  
While eternal ages run:  
Evermore and evermore.

Aurelius C. Prudentius 348–c.413  
translated by J.M.Neale and others



## ANTIPHON 1



Ho - ly and strong \* on the day of your great power,



from the womb be - fore the dawn I be - got you.



## Psalm 109

( The Lord's revelation to my Master:  
'Sit on my right:  
your foes I will put beneath your feet.'

( The Lord will wield from Zion  
your sceptre of power:  
rule in the midst of all your foes.

( A prince from the day of your birth  
on the holy mountains;  
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

( The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.  
'You are a priest for ever,  
a priest like Melchizedek of old.'

The Master standing at your right hand  
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.

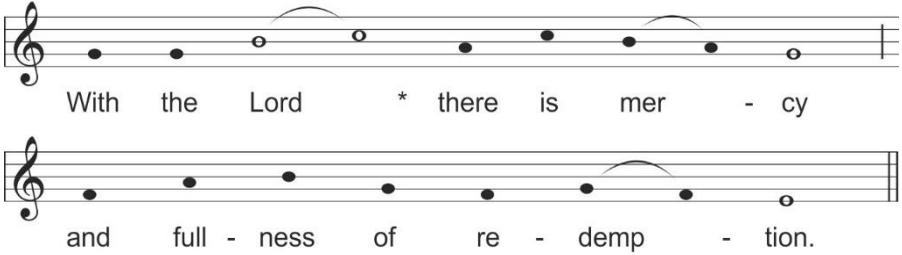
( He, the Judge of the nations,  
will heap high the bodies;  
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside  
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever, amen.

## REPEAT ANTIPHON

## ANTIPHON 2



With the Lord \* there is mer - cy  
and full - ness of re - demp - tion.



## Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

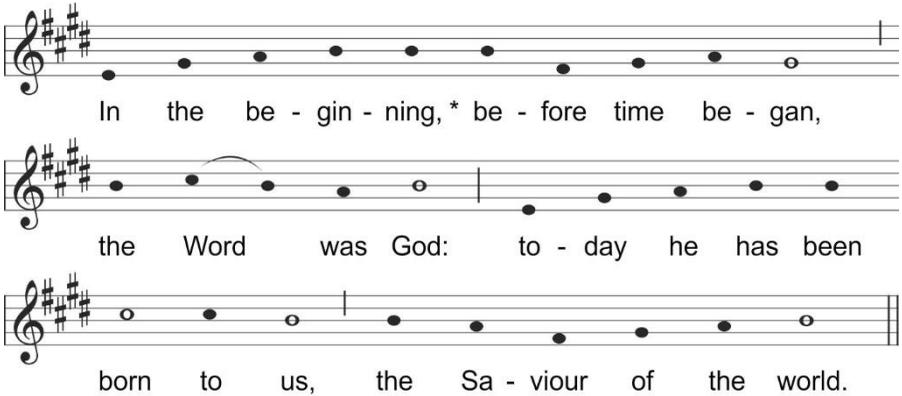
My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever, amen.

## REPEAT ANTIPHON

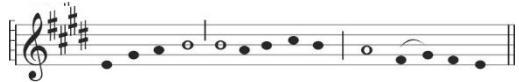
### ANTIPHON 3



In the be - gin - ning, \* be - fore time be - gan,  
the Word was God: to - day he has been  
born to us, the Sa - viour of the world.

### NT Canticle

(Titus 2:11-14,3:2-7)



The grace of God has dawned  
with healing for àll humankind,  
teaching us to put aside the conduct of this world.

Let us live temperate, honest and godly lives in this age  
as we await òur blessed hope—  
the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus  
Christ.

He gave himself for us  
to free us from àll that is wicked,  
and to purify for himself a people eager to do good.

Let us speak evil of no one  
and show hònour to all,  
for we ourselves were once led astray by malice,

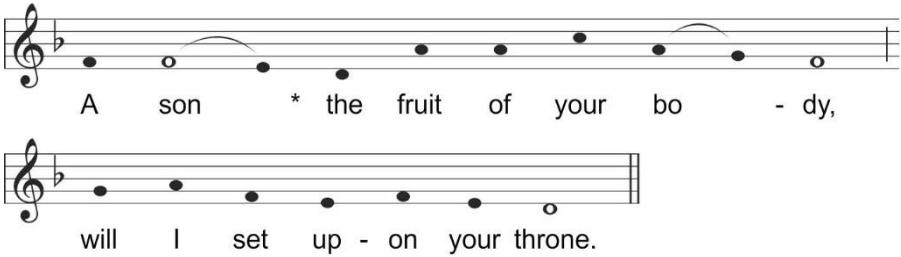
but when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour  
appeared,  
he saved us because of his mercy,  
not for any righteous action of our own.

Through Christ our Saviour he gave us new birth  
and poured the Holy Spirit richly upon us,  
making us heirs in hope of eternal life: these are words we may  
trust.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever, amen.

### REPEAT ANTIPHON

## ANTIPHON 4



A son \* the fruit of your bo - dy,  
will I set up - on your throne.

## Psalm 131



O Lord, remember David  
and all the many hardships he endured,  
the oath he swore to the Lord,  
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

'I will not enter the house where I live  
nor go to the bed where I rest.  
I will give no sleep to my eyes  
to my eyelids I will give no slumber  
till I find a place for the Lord,  
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.'

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;  
we found it in the plains of Yearim.  
'Let us go to the place of his dwelling;  
let us go to kneel at his footstool.'

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,  
you and the ark of your strength.  
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:  
your faithful shall ring out their joy.  
For the sake of David your servant  
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;  
he will not go back on his word:  
'A son, the fruit of your body,  
will I set upon your throne.

If they keep my covenant in truth  
and my laws that I have taught them,  
their sons also shall rule  
on your throne from age to age.'

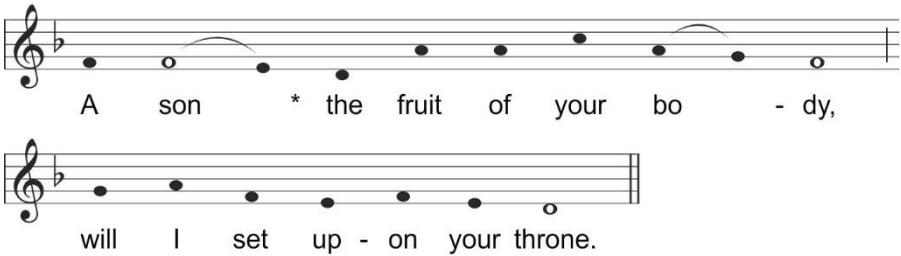
For the Lord has chosen Zion;  
he has desired it for his dwelling:  
'This is my resting-place for ever,  
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,  
I will fill her poor with bread.  
I will clothe her priests with salvation  
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:  
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.  
I will cover his enemies with shame  
but on him my crown shall shine.'

Glory be to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for ever, amen.

#### ANTIPHON 4



A son \* the fruit of your bo - dy,  
will I set up - on your throne.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a flat key signature (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of notes: a quarter note on G4, a half note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on F5, a quarter note on G5, a quarter note on F5, a quarter note on E5, and a half note on D5. A slur covers the notes from A4 to B4. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F4, a quarter note on E4, and a half note on D4. The system ends with a double bar line.



# SCRIPTURE READING

## RESPONSORY

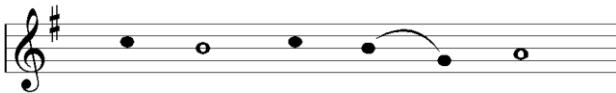


CANTOR: The Word was made flesh, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia!

### ALL REPEAT



CANTOR: He dwelt a - mong us:



ALL: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



CANTOR: Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, the Son



and Ho - ly Spi - rit:

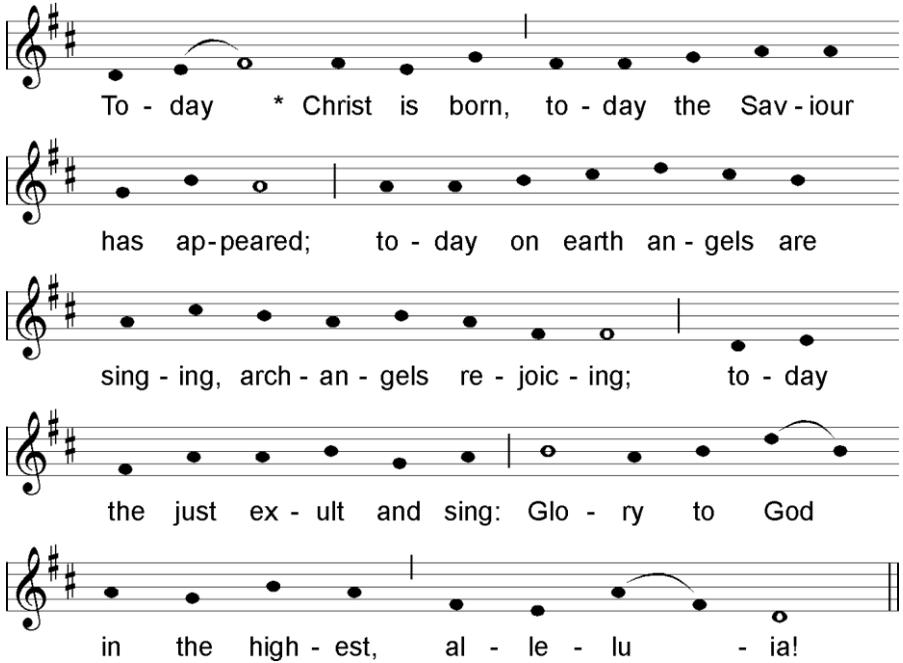


ALL: The Word was made flesh, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia!

# MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON



To - day \* Christ is born, to - day the Sav - iour  
has ap - peared; to - day on earth an - gels are  
sing - ing, arch - an - gels re - joic - ing; to - day  
the just ex - ult and sing: Glo - ry to God  
in the high - est, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the Magnificat Antiphon. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The music is written in a simple, folk-like style with mostly quarter and eighth notes. There are some rests and a few longer notes with slurs. The lyrics are: "To - day \* Christ is born, to - day the Sav - iour has ap - peared; to - day on earth an - gels are sing - ing, arch - an - gels re - joic - ing; to - day the just ex - ult and sing: Glo - ry to God in the high - est, al - le - lu - ia!". The asterisk is placed above the word "Christ". The final note of the piece is a whole note on the G line of the staff, followed by a double bar line.





## INTERCESSIONS

**OUR FATHER**      *(said by the Superior)*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

LET US BLESS THE LORD  
THANKS BE TO GOD

May the divine assistance remain always with us.  
And with our absent brothers and sisters. Amen.

