

THE OFFICE OF SUNDAY VESPERS
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Roman Rite. Psalter : Festal Psalms

Ordinary Form. At First Vespers



DEACON CANDIDATES STUDY DAYS

Diocese of Oakland

2013

FROM A HOMILY BY SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS



GOD manifested his Incarnation to us by the signs we celebrate today. The first is that after searching the stars for his appearance in glory, the Wise Men found him in a cradle: a crying baby. They marvel at the sight of this Child, shown to them in swaddling clothes, who has for so long been hidden from them amid the constellations of heaven. Lost in wonder, they ponder over what they gaze upon: heaven on earth, earth taken up to heaven; man in God, God in man; what the whole world cannot encompass, contained in a tiny body. From the moment they see him, they believe without question. The gifts they

offer proclaim their faith: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. Through their action the Gentiles have moved from the last place to the first, since today, in the Wise Men's profession of faith, pagan credulity has been consecrated to the truth.

Today we also commemorate Christ's going down into the waters of the Jordan, to wash away the sin of the world. For this is why he has come, as John himself bears witness in the words: *Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.* Today a servant restrains his Lord, man touches God, John lays his hand upon Christ — not to grant forgiveness, but to receive it.

Today, as the prophet says, *The voice of the Lord is heard over the waters* — the voice that declares, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Today the Holy Spirit broods over the waters in the form of a dove. As in the time of the Deluge Noah learned from a dove that the flood had subsided upon the earth, so now, by the same sign, we know that the world has been saved from everlasting destruction. But here, unlike Noah's dove which brought him a branch of an ancient olive tree, the Holy Spirit pours out all the riches of a new anointing upon the head of the Father of the world to come. So the prophecy is fulfilled: *God, your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness, above all your companions.*

Finally we recall today that when he changed water into wine Christ worked the first of his heavenly signs. But water was destined to be changed into the sacrament of his Blood, so that from the vessel of his own body he might give pure wine to those would drink. Thus he would fulfill the prophet's words: *My cup is overflowing: how magnificent it is!*

INTERCESSIONS



Celebrant : Today our Savior was adored by the Magi. / Let us also worship him with joy as we **pray**:

All : Save the poor, **O Lord**.

Cantor : King of the nations, / you called the Magi to adore you / as the first representative of the **nations**,

All : give us a willing spirit of adoration *and service*.

Cantor : King of glory, / you judge the peoples with **justice**,

All : grant mankind an abundant measure *of peace*.

Cantor : King of ages, / you endure from age to **age**,

All : send your word as fresh spring rain / falling on *our hearts*.

Cantor : King of justice, / you desire to free the poor who have no **advocate**,

All : be compassionate to the suffering and the *afflicted*.

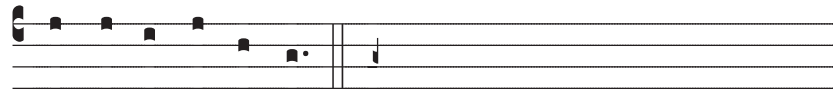
Cantor : Lord, your name is blest for all **ages**,

All : show the wonders of your saving power / to our deceased brothers *and sisters*.

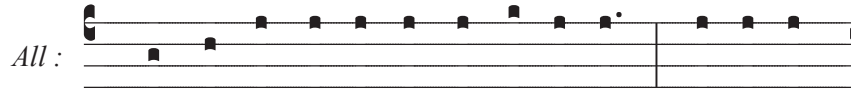
Celebrant : Our Father . . .

Celebrant : May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, we pray, shed its light upon our hearts, * that we may pass through the shadows of this world and reach the brightness of our eternal home. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, * for ever and ever.

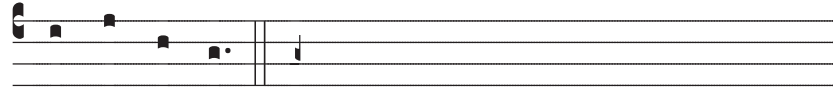
All : Amen.



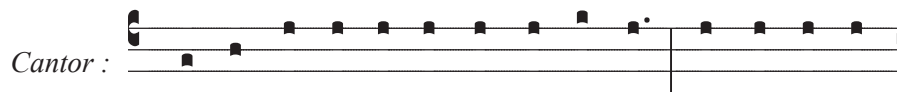
his children for ev- er.



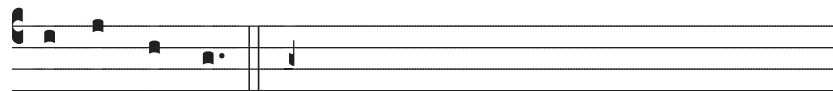
10. Glo- ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, * and to the



Ho- ly Spir- it:



11. as it was in the be- gin-ning, is now * and will be for



ev- er. A- men. *The antiphon is repeated by All.*

All: Seeing the star, the *wise men said:* *
This must signify the birth of *some great king.*
Let us search for him /
and lay our treasures *at his feet:* *
gold, frankincense and *myrrh.*

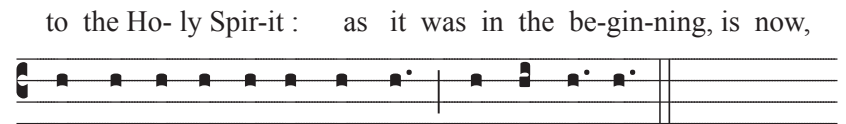
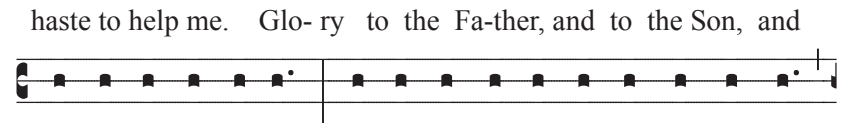
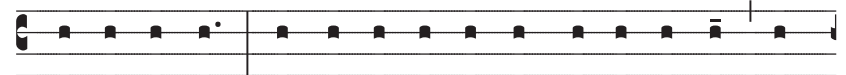
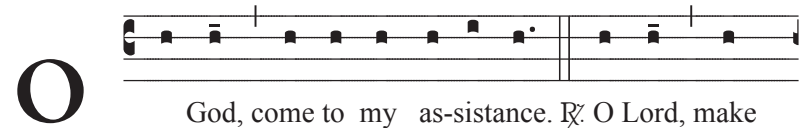
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

AT FIRST VESPERS

The stars traverse the skies; the Wise Men journey from pagan lands, while the earth receives its Redeemer in the cave. There must be no one without some gift to offer, no one unmindful of the gratitude he owes. Let us celebrate the world's salvation, the day Christ was born in our humanity, for today Adam's sentence is reversed. No longer can it be said, *You are earth, and to the earth you shall return*; rather, 'You are now united to heaven, and to heaven you shall be admitted.' — *Saint Basil the Great*

OPENING VERSE

STAND



HYMN

Hostis Herodes impie. (L.M.)

*C 1. Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou
fear
Because the Christ is come so near?
He who doth heav'nly kingdoms grant
Thine earthly realm can never want.*

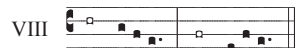
**A 2. Lo, Sages from the East are gone
To where the star hath newly shown:
Let on by light, to Light they press,
And by their gifts their God confess.**

*C 3. The Lamb of God is manifest
Again in Jordan's water blest,
And he who sin had never known
By washing had our sins undone.*

**A 4. Yet he that ruleth ev'rything
Can change the nature of the spring,
And gives at Cana this for sign:
The water reddens into wine.**

*C 5. Then, glory, Lord, to thee we pay
A For thine Epiphany today;
All glory through eternity
To Father, Son, and Spirit be.*

Amen.



VIII ANTIPHON I

SIT

Cantor : Begotten of the Father /
before the daystar shone or *time began*, *
the Lord our Savior has appeared on *earth today*.

Psalm 134 [I]

Cantor : Praise the name of the **Lord**, *
praise him, servants of the **Lord**,

All : who stand in the house of the **Lord** *
in the courts of the house of our **God**.

Cantor : Praise the Lord for the *Lord is good*. *
Sing a psalm to his name for *he is loving*.

All : For the Lord has chosen Jacob *for himself* *
and Israel for his *own possession*.

Cantor : For I know the *Lord is great*, *
that our Lord is high *above all gods*.

All : The Lord does whatever *he wills*, *
in heaven, on earth, *in the seas*.

Cantor : He summons clouds from the ends of the earth ; /
makes lightning produce the **rain** ; *
from his treasures he sends *forth the wind*.

All : The first-born of the Egyptians *he smote*, *
of man and *beast alike*.

Cantor : Signs and wonders he worked /
in the midst of your *land, O Egypt*, *
against Pharaoh and *all his servants*.

All : Nations in their greatness *he struck* *
and kings in their splendor *he slew*.

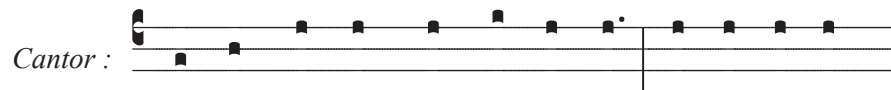
Cantor : Sihon, king of the Amorites, *
Og, the *king of Bashan*, *
and all the *kingdoms of Canaan*.

All : He let Israel inherit *their land* ; *
on his people their land *he bestowed*.

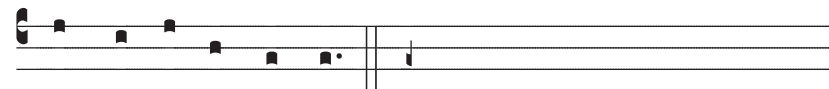
Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to the **Son**, *
and to the **Holy Spirit** :

All : as it was in the beginning, *is now*, *
and will be for ever. **Amen**.

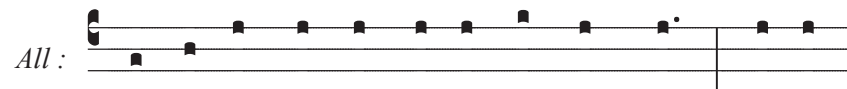
All : Begotten of the Father /
before the daystar shone or *time began*, *
the Lord our Savior has appeared on *earth today*.



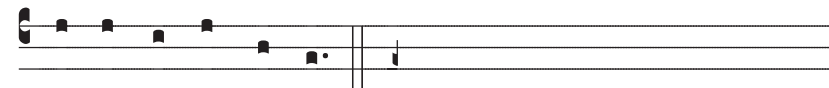
5. He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered



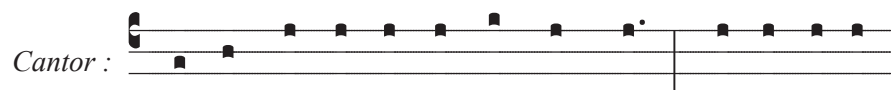
the proud in their conceit.



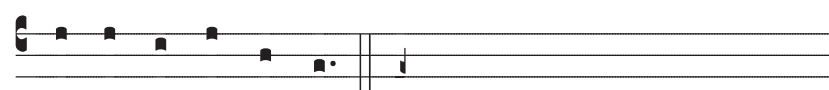
6. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has



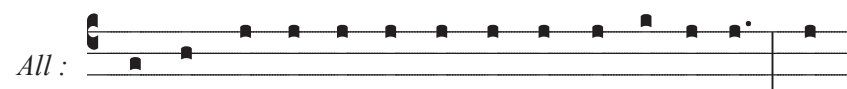
lifted up the lowly.



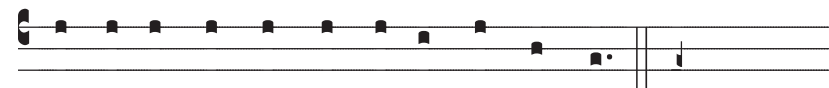
7. He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he



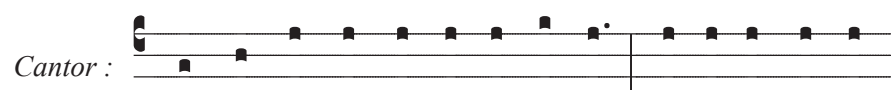
has sent away empty.



8. He has come to the help of his servant, Is- ra- el * for



he has remembered his promise of mercy,



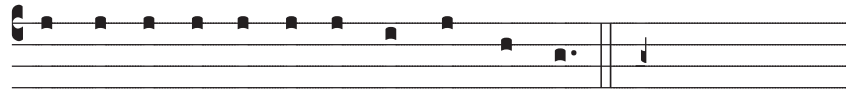
9. the promise he made to our fathers, * to A-bra-ham and

The soul rejoices in the Lord *Luke 1 : 46-55*

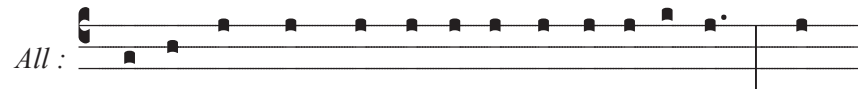
VIII G

M

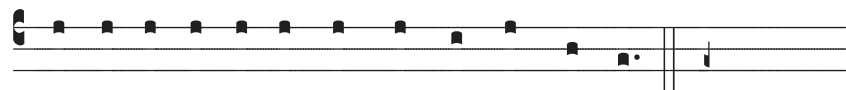
Y soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, * and



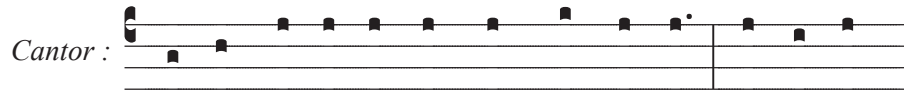
my spir- it re-joic- es in God my Sav- ior.



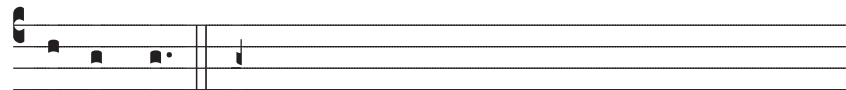
2. for he has looked with fav-or on his low-ly servant. * From



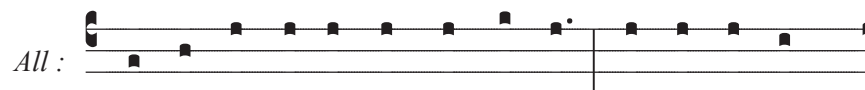
this day all gen- er- a- tions will call me bless-ed :



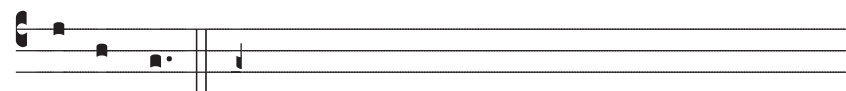
3. the Al-might-y has done great things for me, * and ho- ly



is his Name.



4. He has mer- cy on those who fear him * in ev- 'ry gen-

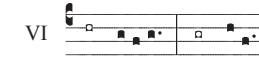


er- a- tion.

ANTIPHON 2

Cantor : Great is the *Lord, our God*, *
transcending all *other gods*.

Psalm 134 [II]



Cantor : Lord, your name *stands for ever*, *
unforgotten from age *to age* :

All : for the Lord does justice *for his people* ; *
the Lord takes pity on *his servants*.

Cantor : Pagan idols are silver *and gold*, *
the work of *human hands*.

All : They have mouths but they *cannot speak* ; *
they have eyes but they *cannot see*.

Cantor : They have ears but they *cannot hear* ; *
there is never a breath on *their lips*.

All : Their makers will come to *be like them* *
and so will all who trust *in them* !

Cantor : Sons of Israel, *bless the Lord* ! *
Sons of Aaron, *bless the Lord* !

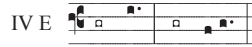
All : Sons of Levi, *bless the Lord* ! *
You who fear him, *bless the Lord* !

Cantor : From Sion may the *Lord be blest*, *
he who dwells in *Jerusalem*.

All : Glory to the Father, and *to the Son*, *
and to the Holy *Spirit* :

Cantor : as it was in the beginning, *is now*, *
and will be for ever. *Amen*.

All : Great is the *Lord, our God*, *
transcending all *other gods*.



ANTIPHON 3

Cantor : The star burned like a flame, /
pointing the way to God, the King of **kings** ; *
the Wise Men saw the sign /
and brought their gifts in homage to their *great King*.

Canticle *Cf. 1 Timothy 3:16*

Cantor : Christ manifested in the flesh, /
Christ justified in the **Spirit**.

All : *R*z Praise the Lord, all *you nations*.

Cantor : Christ contemplated by the angels, /
Christ proclaimed by the **pagans**.

All : *R*z Praise the Lord, all *you nations*.

Cantor : Christ who is believed in the world, /
Christ exalted in **glory**.

All : *R*z Praise the Lord, all *you nations*.

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to the **Son**, *
and to the Holy **Spirit** :

All : as it was in the beginning, is **now**, *
and will be for ever. **Amen**.

All : The star burned like a flame, /
pointing the way to God, the King of **kings** ; *
the Wise Men saw the sign /
and brought their gifts in homage to their *great King*.

READING

2 Timothy 1 : 9-10

God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design--the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior. He has robbed death of its power and has brought life and immortality into clear light through the gospel.



RESPONSORY

Cantor : All peoples will be *blest in him*, *
men and women of *ev'ry race*.

All : All peoples will be *blest in him*, *
men and women of *ev'ry race*.

Cantor : All nations will *acclaim his glory*, *
All : men and women of *ev'ry race*.

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to *the Son*, *
and to the Holy **Spirit** :

All : All peoples will be *blest in him*, *
men and women of *ev'ry race*.

CANTICLE OF MARY

STAND

Cantor : Seeing the star, the *wise men said* : *
This must signify the birth of *some great king*.

Let us search for him /
and lay our treasures *at his feet* : *
gold, frankincense and **myrrh**.

The Cantor begins the Canticle, and alternates verses with All.

Responsory

Resp. VI

A LL peo-ples will be blessed in him, * men and wom-en
of ev'-ry race. All peo-ples. √ All na-tions will ac-claim his
glo-ry. * Men and wo-men. √ Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to
the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it. All peo-ples.

At Magnificat. Antiphon

VIII

T HREE mys-ter-ies * mark this ho-ly day: to-day the star
leads the Ma-gi to the in-fant Christ; to-day wa-ter is changed
in- to wine for the wedding feast; to-day Christ wills to be bap-
tized by John in the riv-er Jor-dan to bring us sal-va-tion.

Chant settings by Fr. Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.
Copyright © 2013 Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1010
U.S.A. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Email: webersf@gmail.com

THE OFFICE OF SUNDAY VESPERS THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Roman Rite. Psalter : Festal Psalms

Ordinary Form. At First Vespers



DEACON CANDIDATES STUDY DAYS

Diocese of Oakland

2013

FROM A HOMILY BY SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS



GOD manifested his Incarnation to us by the signs we celebrate today. The first is that after searching the stars for his appearance in glory, the Wise Men found him in a cradle: a crying baby. They marvel at the sight of this Child, shown to them in swaddling clothes, who has for so long been hidden from them amid the constellations of heaven. Lost in wonder, they ponder over what they gaze upon: heaven on earth, earth taken up to heaven; man in God, God in man; what the whole world cannot encompass, contained in a tiny body. From the moment they see him, they believe without question. The gifts they

offer proclaim their faith: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die. Through their action the Gentiles have moved from the last place to the first, since today, in the Wise Men's profession of faith, pagan credulity has been consecrated to the truth.

Today we also commemorate Christ's going down into the waters of the Jordan, to wash away the sin of the world. For this is why he has come, as John himself bears witness in the words: *Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.* Today a servant restrains his Lord, man touches God, John lays his hand upon Christ — not to grant forgiveness, but to receive it.

Today, as the prophet says, *The voice of the Lord is heard over the waters* — the voice that declares, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Today the Holy Spirit broods over the waters in the form of a dove. As in the time of the Deluge Noah learned from a dove that the flood had subsided upon the earth, so now, by the same sign, we know that the world has been saved from everlasting destruction. But here, unlike Noah's dove which brought him a branch of an ancient olive tree, the Holy Spirit pours out all the riches of a new anointing upon the head of the Father of the world to come. So the prophecy is fulfilled: *God, your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness, above all your companions.*

Finally we recall today that when he changed water into wine Christ worked the first of his heavenly signs. But water was destined to be changed into the sacrament of his Blood, so that from the vessel of his own body he might give pure wine to those would drink. Thus he would fulfill the prophet's words: *My cup is overflowing: how magnificent it is!*

THE EPIPHAY OF THE LORD

Antiphons *In Cantu*
for cantor, schola or choir

I Ant.
VIII

HE comes in splen-dor, * the King who is our peace;
he is su- preme o- ver all the kings of the earth.

Psalm 109

2 Ant.
VI

Alight has shone * through the darkness for the upright
of heart; the Lord is gracious, mer- ci- ful and just.

Psalm 112

3 Ant.
IV E

ALL the peo-ple, * whom you have made, will come and

worship be- fore you, Lord. *Canticle, Revelation 15 : 3-4*