

December 20th - 23rd

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

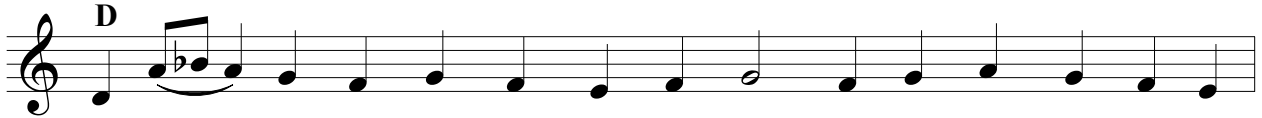
Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"-1st Set

(Also sung as the Aposticha at Vespers when this Sunday falls on the 24th)

Byzantine Chant Tone 1

Special melody: *O all-lauded Martyrs*

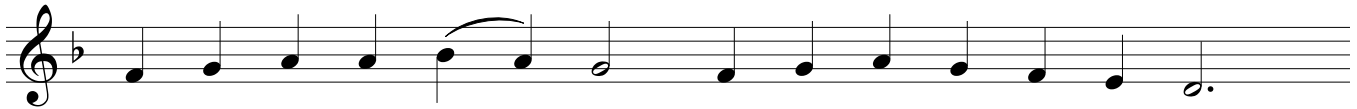
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih



1) O pure— liv - ing pal - ace of our God, O all-blame-less Vir-gin,
2) *At Cae - sar's com-mand-ment, Thou, O Christ, wast en-rolled with us Thy*
3) Thē all - ho - ly Vir - gin free of blame hav - ing pon - dered on the



He Whom all the Heav - ens can - not con - tain hath been con - tained in thee.
ser - vants in Thy ten - der com - pas - sion that Thou might - est come to grant
great in - com - pre - hen - si - ble child - birth that trans - fig - ured and — made new



Past all un - der - stand - ing, thou shalt bear Him in the cave;
free - dom and re - demp - tion and Thine ev - er - last - ing life
na - ture's stab - lished bound - 'ries, she cried out un - to her Son:



for He hath been made poor — and hath tak - en flesh that
to us Thy thank - less ser - vants, who wor - ship Thy di -
O most be - lov - ed Child, — I am sore a - mazed at



He might de - i - fy and make rich — me, who was ren - dered poor
- vine and sav - ing Birth, O long - suf - fring and for - bear - ing Lord,
this great mys - ter - y; how I gave birth, and am vir - gin still,



by a sur - feit of ex - ceed - ing bit - ter — food.
since Thou cam - est that Thou might - est save our — souls.
by Thy pow - er, Who hast made all by — Thy — will.