

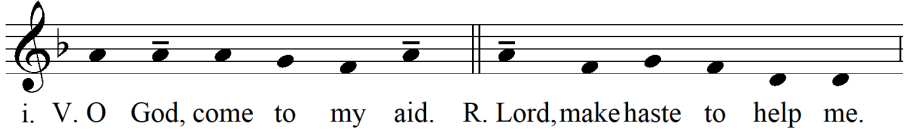
BELMONT ABBEY



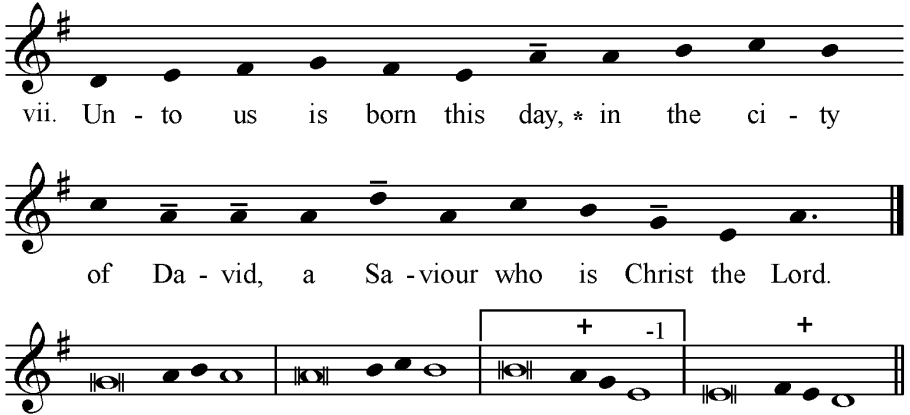
VESPERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

VESPERS

INTRODUCTION



PSALMODY



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.

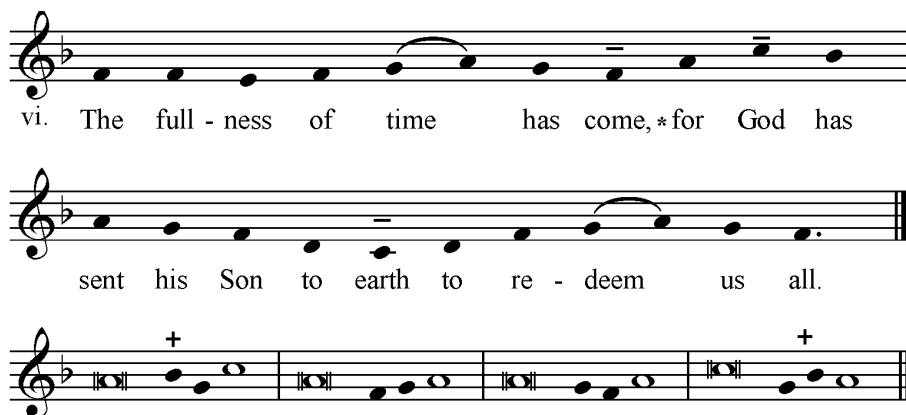
A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

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.



Psalm 110

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

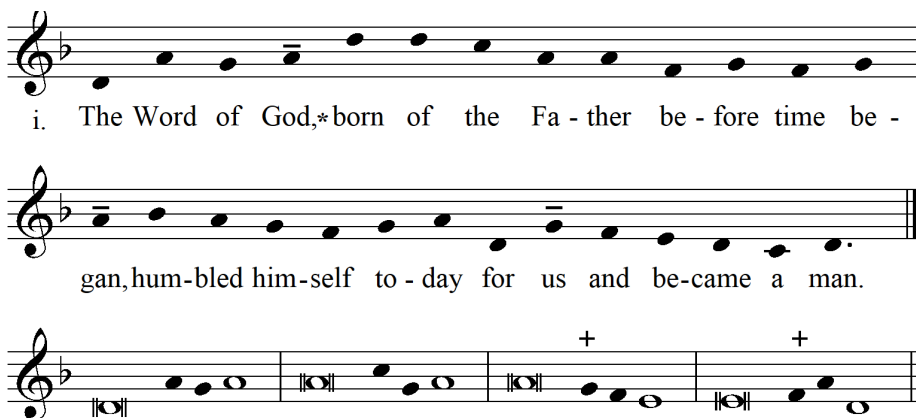
Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
 keeps his covenant ever in mind.
 He has shown his might to his people
 by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth:
 his precepts are all of them sure,
 standing firm for ever and ever:
 they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
 and established his covenant for ever.
 Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
 all who do so prove themselves wise.
 His praise shall last for ever!



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.

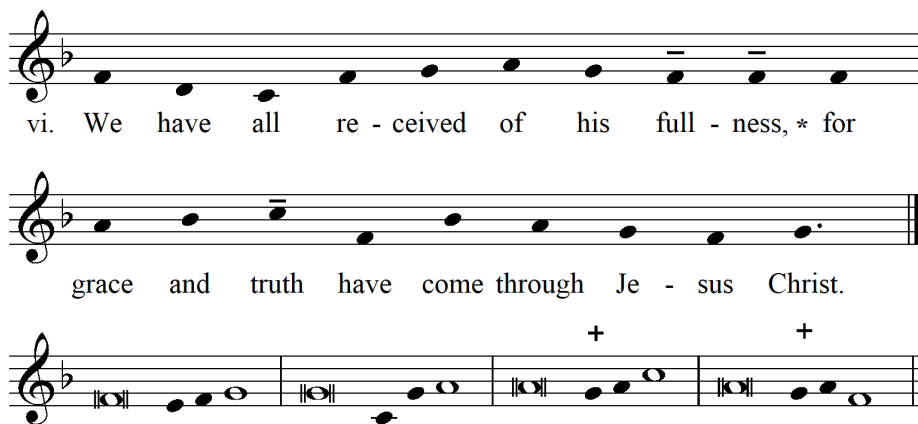
The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
‘A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

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.'



Canticle: John 1: 1-5, 9-14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word,
 and the Word was with God,
 and the Word was God.
 He was with God in the beginning.

Through him, all things were made;
 without him, nothing was made that was made.
 In him was life
 and that life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, that gives light to every man,
was coming into the world.

He was in the world, †
and though the world was made through him,
yet the world did not know him.
He came to his own people
and his own did not receive him.

But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
who were born not of the will of man but of God.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory,
as the Father's Only Begotten Son,
full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.
The law indeed was given through Moses:
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God,
but the Only Begotten Son of God,
who is close to the Father's heart,
has made him known.

SCRIPTURE READING

RESPONSORY



vi. R. The Word was made flesh and dwelt a - mong us *



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. V. And we be-held his glo - ry.



V. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

HYMN *as appointed*

MAGNIFICAT



vii. On this day * Christ is born for us. On this day a



Sa - viour has ap - peared on earth. On this day the an - gels



sing on earth: Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the hungry with good things
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons forever.

INTERCESSIONS

OUR FATHER

COLLECT

BLESSING

ANTIPHON OF OUR LADY

ANTIPHON TO OUR LADY

SIMPLE TONE

v
A L-ma * Red-emptó-ris Ma-ter, quæ pérvī- a cæ-li Por-
 ta manes, et stella ma-ris, succurre cadénti, Súrge-re qui
 cu-rat, pópu-lo : Tu quæ genu- isti, Na-tú-ra mi-ránte, tu-um
 sanctum Ge-ni-tó-rem, Virgo pri- us ac posté-ri- us, Gabrí- é-
 lis ab o-re Sumens il-lud Ave, pecca-tó-rum mi-se-ré- re.