

12/24 - Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord
on "Lord, I have cried" to "Rejoice, O life giving Cross"

In the 5th Tone

4/3

O Thou who art most per - fect, thou bearest the guise

of Adam in the i - mage of God; Thou who hidest all things

in Thy hands by Thy pow - er dost desire to be held

by hu - man hands. The pure and most im - ma - cu - late

one pro - claimed, say - ing: "How can I wrap Thee in swad-dling

bands as a babe; how can I feed Thee at my breasts

who sustain-eth all things? How can I marvel at Thy

po-verty which is past un-der-stand - ing? How can I

call Thee my Son, who am now Thy hand - maid? I hymn and

bless Thee who bestowest great mer - cy u - pon the world."

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VI
V2
V3

2

Be-hold - ing the pre - e - ter - nal God in - car-nate of

B

her as a babe, hold - ing him in her arms and

kiss-ing him of - ten, full of joy, the most immaculate one

ex-claimed to Him: "O God most high, Thou invisible King,

how can I look u - pon Thee? I cannot grasp the mystery of

Thy bound-less im - pov' - rish-ment! For the least

and most base of caves con - tain - eth Thee, new - ly born with -

in _____ it - self, who didst not vi - o - late my vir -

gi - ni - ty, but preserveth my womb as it was before birth -

giv - ing, and grant - est great _____ mer - cy."

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VI
V2
V3

1 The pure one heard the magi standing to-gether out-side the cave,

B

and, exclaiming in awe, she spake these things to them as a ser -

vant: "Whom seek _____ ye? For I see that

ye have come from a country far dis - tant, in that ye

have the appearance and wis-dom of the Per - sians. Ye have made

a strange pas-sage and jour - ney, and have come with

haste to worship Him who hath made His jour-ney from on high, and made

His abode strangely with - in _____ me, as He _____

know - eth__ how, and granteth great mer - cy to _____ the

world!"