6. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? * But there is forgiveness with Thee.

The iniquitous one, * seeking the hidden Treasure, * slew the innocent babes on this day; * and Rachel was inconsolable, * beholding their unjust slaughter * and untimely death, * and wept for them, her womb wracked with pain. * But she is gladdened now, ** seeing them in the bosom of Abraham

5. For Thy Name’s sake, have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word: * My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

The all-iniquitous king * searched for the timeless King * Who had come under time, * and, unable to find and slay Him, * he cut down a multitude of innocent babes. * Thereby making them martyrs * and citizens of heaven on high, * though he knew it not; ** and they reprove his madness throughout all ages

4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch: * Let Israel hope in the Lord.

When Thou wast born of the Virgin, * O pre-eternal Lord, * and didst become a babe in Thy goodness, * a choir of babes were admitted * by virtue of the blood of their martyrdom, * their calm souls illumined, O Thou Who art most just; * and Thou hast made them to dwell in the mansions of everlasting life, * where they denounce the malice of Herod ** and His most cruel insanity.

3. In the same Tone: For with the Lord, there is mercy; and, with Him, is plenteous redemption: * And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

A model of abstinence for monastics * hast thou shown thyself to be, * O most wise and God-bearing Marcellus, * a pillar of fire extending spiritually from earth to the heavens * through abstinence, O most wise one, * a converser of purity, * a truly genuine preserver of silence, * an animate tower of courage, ** and a most excellent rule of virtue.
2. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: *Praise Him, all ye people.*

The uprisings of the passions * didst thou cause to wither away, O venerable one, * through mighty vigils and instruction in the Scriptures, * by earnest supplications * and the outpouring of tears. * Wherefore, thou hast truly been revealed to be * a habitation worthy of the Master, * granting healings unto those who approach thee with faith, ** having been deemed worthy of the delight of immortality.

1. For His merciful kindness is great towards us: *And the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.*

Delighting most directly * in the beauty of thy Master, * without the mediation of the mirror of the flesh * and most clearly being such, * O all-blessed one, * pray thou for those who in purity praise * thy most sacred memory * and honor it with psalms and hymns, ** that we may obtain mercy on the Day of Judgment.

‘Glory’ in the Eighth tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

The most iniquitous Herod, seeing the star which is the brightest of all creation, was troubled, and seized the suckling infants from their mothers' arms; but Elizabeth, taking up John, entreated the stone, saying: “Receive thou a mother and her child!” O Lord, Thou treasure which the manger held, Whom the star announced and to Whom the magi paid homage, glory be to Thee

‘Now and ever in the same tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A most glorious mystery is wrought today: nature is restored and God becometh a man! Yet He hath remained what He hath been, and what He hath not been, that hath He taken upon Himself, without undergoing either commingling or division.
APOSTICHA - Tone VI

An awesome mystery do I behold! For God Who holdeth all creation in the palm of His hand is surrounded in the flesh in a manger of dumb beasts, and He Who clotheth the sea in darkness is wrapped in rags.

Verse: From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. * The Lord hath sworn and will not repent.

Our incorporeal God hath become incarnate! He Who is without beginning hath taken on a beginning! He Who is full now emptieth Himself through the Virgin in a little cave! And He Who nurtureth every creature is nurtured on milk as a babe.

Verse: The Lord said unto my Lord: * Sit Thou at My right hand.

Shepherds dance at Thy nativity and offer up glory with the angels; the star offereth a gift, and magi pay homage; and mankind, saved, magnifies the Theotokos.

‘Glory’ in the Eighth tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the dominion of the Jews was abolished. Let the infants slaughtered for Christ leap up, and let Judea lament; for a voice was heard in Rama: Rachel, weeping, bewailing her children, as it is written, for the all-iniquitous Herod in slaying the babes fulfilled the Scriptures, filling Judea with innocent blood and staining the earth red with it, but the Church of the nations is mystically purified thereby and arrayed in beauty. The Truth is come! God Who hath been born from the Virgin hath appeared to those who sit in shadow, that He may save us all.

‘Now and ever in the same tone: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, having arrived in Bethlehem, Thou didst make Thine abode in the cave; Thou Who hast heaven for Thy throne wast laid in a manger; Thou Whom the armies of the angels surround didst descend unto shepherds, that Thou mayest save our race, in that Thou art compassionate. Glory be to Thee!
TROPARION

Troparion of the innocents, in Tone I:
Through the pangs of Thy saints, * wherewith they suffered for Thee, O Lord, *
be thou entreated; and heal all our pains, ** we pray Thee, O Lover of mankind.

‘Glory’ in Tone VIII
In thee, O father, the image of God was preserved, * for taking up thy cross, thou
didst follow after Christ; * by activity thou didst learn to disdain the flesh, as
something transient, * but to care for thy soul as something immortal. ** Wherefore,
with the angels thy spirit doth rejoice, O venerable Marcellus.

‘Now & ever’ of the feast, in Tone IV:
Thy nativity, O Christ our God, / hath shown to the world the light of wisdom: / for, by it,
those who worshipped the stars / were taught, by a star, to adore Thee, / the sun of
righteousness, / and to know Thee, the orient from on high: // O Lord, glory to Thee.