The Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

December 20

Apolytikion

Fourth Mode (hard chromatic) "Joseph was amazed"

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath
proved a true spiritual Paradise,

wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live,

and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

December 20 - The Forefeast of the Nativity
The Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

December 20

Kontakion

Intonation: #8

Third Mode

"On this day the Virgin"

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth

birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages.

Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the
glad-some tid-ings; with the Angels and the shep-herds now glo-ri-fy Him Who is will-ing to be gazed on as a young Child Who be-fore the ages is God.