The Eve of the Nativity of Christ

December 24

Apolytikion

Fourth Mode (hard chromatic)

"Joseph was amazed"

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the
time was come that she should bear her Child,

but no place was found within the inn

for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace

for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For

Christ is born now to raise the image

that had fallen a foretime.
On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give 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 An-gels 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.