

Prefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Troparion

December 20-23

Byzantine Chant, Tone 4
Special Melody, *Joseph was amazed*

Transcribed from the
arrangement by Abdo Elyas,
Protopsaltis of the Archdiocese
of Mt. Lebanon (20th century)

Ison

Make read - y, O Beth-le - hem; for E-den hath been o-pened for all.

Pre- pare, O Eph - ra - tha; for the Tree of life hath blos-somed forth

in the cave from the Vir - gin; for her womb did ap-

-pear as a su-per-sen-su-al par - a-dise, in which is plant - ed the di-

- vine Plant, where-of eat - ing we shall live and not

die as Ad - am. Ver - i - ly, Christ shall be

born, rais - ing the like - ness that fell of old.

Please note: In some places in the Antiochian Patriarchate, this hymn is sung using the hard chromatic version, or Palatine mode, of "Joseph was amazed," as above. Properly, it should be done in the soft chromatic, Dismissal Hymn, version.