

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on
Wednesday in the Fifth Week of the Great Fast
March 21, 2007

The reading from Genesis tells of God's promise to Abram to make him the "father of many nations."

The reading from Proverbs uses the device of literary "compare and contrast" which can be summed up in this verse: "All the ways of a man may be pure in his own eyes, but it is the Lord who proves the spirit."

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 8

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O
Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I
call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my
pray'r ascend to you like in - - - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands
like an eve - ning sac - ri - - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *unharm*ed.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths *of* distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of *my* pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would stand?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we *revere* you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman *for* daybreak.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

Tone 8

I fell in with thiev-ing e - vil thoughts; they stripped my wretched mind and beat me
ter - ri - bly. My soul is total-ly wound - ed, and I lay stripped of virtue
on the road of life. A priest saw me suffering from in - cur - a - ble wounds
but passed by with-out a se - cond glance. Next, a Le - vite came and saw, but
he a - void - ed me, re - pulsed by the painful pol - lu - tion of my soul.
But who chose to take flesh, O Christ our God, not from Samaria,

but from Ma - ry, grant me heal-ing in your love for man-kind, pour-ing out
on me your great mer - cy.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Tone 4

Like the fool-ish serv - ant I have hidden the talent en-trust - ed to me
and bur - ied it in the ground I have been con-demned as use - less,
I no long-er dare to en-treat you. But in your forbearance, take pit-y on
me so that e - ven I may cry out to you: Be - fore I am com-plete - ly lost,
save me, O Lord.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations,
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

The harlot bathed your pure and pre-cious feet with her tears and called upon all

to ap-proach you to be absolved from the charges made a - gainst them.

O Sav - ior, grant me her faith that e-ven I may say: Be - fore I am

com-plete - ly lost, save me, O Lord.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on I) he is faithful forever.

① Out of envy the Prince of E - vil drove the first-crea-ted man from Par - a-dise;

but by saying: Re-mem-ber me, the thief on the cross re-gained Par - a -dise.

With faith and fear I also cry to you: Re - mem - ber me. Be - fore I am

com-plete - ly lost, save me, O Lord.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 4

O humility be-yond words! O marvel of this won-drous birth! How can a virgin

car - ry in her arms her Cre - at - or and her God as a new - born babe? O
 Ben - efactor, you took flesh from her. Be - fore I am com - plete - ly lost,
 save me, O Lord.

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
 the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
 reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
 a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the

Giv - er of Life. There-fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ☩ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4 (Psalm 93: 1, 2)

O Lord, a - ven-ging Judge, a - ven-ging God, ap - pear.

Verse: Judge of the earth, arise, give the proud what they deserve.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 17: 1 - 9]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 95: 1, 2)

Sing a new song to the Lord. Sing a new song to the Lord.

Verse: Sing to the Lord; bless his name.

The faithful kneel.

The Blessing With Light

Deacon: Give the command!

Celebrant: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The light of Christ shines upon everyone.

The faithful give no response to these words. All make three prostrations in silence.

The faithful are seated. The lector, without introduction, begins:

Lector: A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Proverbs 15: 20 - 16: 9]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.