

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
First Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 13, 2011**

**Our venerable father Benedict.** Born in Nursia in Umbria and educated in Rome, he began a hermit's life in the Subiaco region. He gathered many disciples around himself, and then went to Monte Casino. There he founded his celebrated monastery and composed his "Rule for Monks." This rule spread so widely that he has deserved to be called the patriarch of monks in the West. It is said that he died on the twenty-first day of March. (550)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast.*

*Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 1, p. 24)  
Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 61*

**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.

**Stichera of our venerable father Benedict - Tone 2 samohlasen**

③

O ho - ly fa - ther, with faith and in true love, you re - nounced the world  
from child - hood. and joy - ful - ly fol - lowed Christ cru - ci - fied. Hav - ing  
mor - tified your flesh in a mul - ti - tude of strug - gles, you re - ceived the  
pow - er of healing in a - bun - dance, so that you could bring an end to all types of  
dis - eas - ses, dri - ving a - way spite - ful spi - rits, thus you were made

wor - thy of great praise.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations; **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him, all you peoples!

②

You, who are the a-dorn-ment of as - ce - tics, ga - thered an incomparable flock  
of ho - ly monks to sing to the Lord, O ven-e - ra - ble fa-ther. You traced out  
the path to hea-ven for all those who per-fect - ly fol - low your di-vine  
teach - ings O ble - sed fa-ther Ben - e - dict, im - itating your life so full  
of vir - tues. You bring them to-gether on the day of your pass-ing to God.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

①

Like E - li - jah of old, O ho - ly fa - ther, you brought down rain from  
hea - ven by your di - vine prayers. The jar o - beyed you and pro - duced oil.

You re - turned the dead to life and worked o - ther

mir - acles for the greater glory of God our Sav - ior. Thus, O ven - erable father

Benedict, we cel - e - brate your mem - o - ry with love.

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

**Theotokion** - *Tone 8 samohlasen*

O joy of all who mourn, in - ter - ces - sor for the oppressed and nourisher

of the hun - gry, con - so - la - tion of wanderers and staff of the blind,

vis - i - ta - tion of the in - firm, pro - tec - tion and help of them who la - bor,

help of or - phans, you are the Mother of the Most High God. Has - ten, we pray,

that your serv - ants be saved!

*The service continues on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p.10*

*Aposticha of the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 63*