

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 26, 2012**

Our venerable father and confessor Procopius the Decapolite, who, at the time of emperor Leo III Isaurus [c.680-740] vigorously contended for the cult of holy Images. (741)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Evening for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) and the Sundays of the Great Fast.

Lamp-lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - Tone 4 samohlasen

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 lifting 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 *unharmed*.

Psalm 141

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 *within* me.

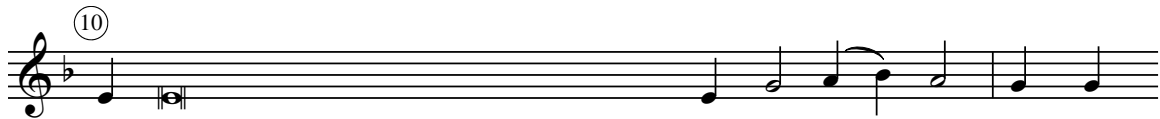
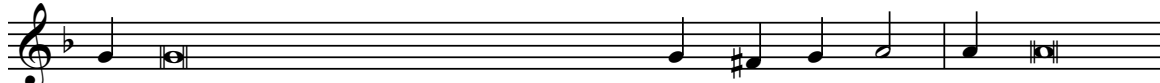


But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

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.

Cantor:  Bring my soul out of this pris-on and then I shall praise your name.

Stichera of Repentence in the tone of the week - Tone 4 samohlasen

¹⁰  With my tears I desire to wash away the mark of my sins, O Lord, and through
 pen - ance, I long to make the rest of my life pleas - ing to you; but the enemy
 deceives me and struggles with my soul. Save me before I com - plete - ly
 per - ish, O Lord.

Cantor:  A - round me the just will assem-ble be-cause of your good-ness to me.

⁹  Who is there among the storm - tossed who hastens to your harbor and is not saved,
 O Lord? Who is ill and seeks your healing and is not cured? O Cre - a - tor
 of everyone and Heal-er of the sick, save me before I com - plete - ly

per - ish, O Lord.

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

⑧
Wash me with my tears, O Sav - ior, for I am blemished because of my

man - y sins. And so I bow be - fore you; I have sinned, O God;

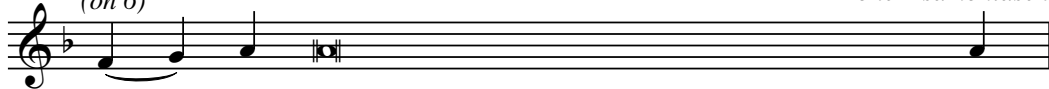
have mer - cy on me.

Cantor:
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plead - ing.


⑦
I am the lost sheep of your mys - ti - cal flock, and I take refuge in you, O

good Shep - herd. Have mer - cy on me, O God.

(on 6)

Cantor:  *(on 6)*


If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur-vive?



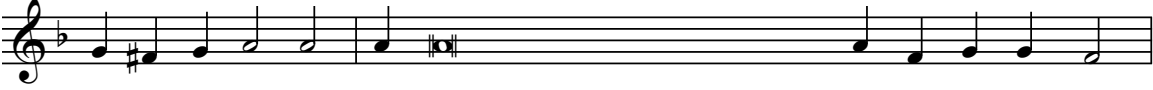
But with you is found forgive-ness: for this we re - vere you.

Stichera of the First Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 4 samohlasen


⑥




Grant contrition and estrangement from e - vil to my soul submerged in the



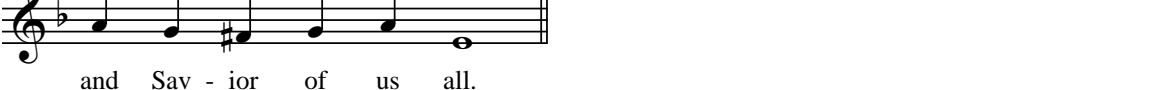
a-byss of pas-sions and separated from you, O divine King of the u - ni - verse.



I have no oth - er hope but you. May I find up-right-ness and vir - tue.

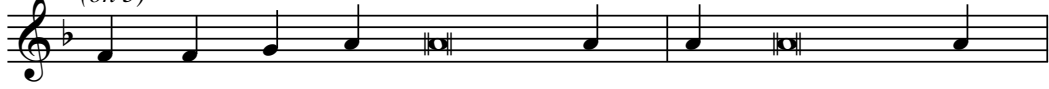


Save me, a poor sinner, in your im-mense good - ness, O al-might - y Lord

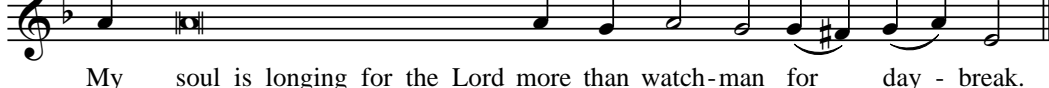


and Sav - ior of us all.

(on 5)

Cantor:  *(on 5)*

My soul is wait - ing for the Lord. I count on his word.



My soul is longing for the Lord more than watch-man for day - break.

5

Mo - ses the divine prophet was purified by fast - ing, and he contemplated the One
 whom he de - sired. And you, O my poor soul, hasten to im-i - tate him.
 In this time of abstinence purify yourself of ev-'ry e - vil, so that you may also
 con-tem-plate the Lord who grants you for-give-ness. He is good and the Lov-er
 of us all, the Lord al - might - y.

Tone 6 samohlasen

(on 4)

Cantor:

Let the watch-man count on day - break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

4

Let us be-gin this second week of the Fast in joy; O faithful, let us exert our-selves
 from day to day as did the prophet E-li - jah the Tish - bite. May the
 four cardinal virtues be our char-iot of fire! Let us lift our spirit by turning a-way

from pas - sions, and through pur - ity, let us strug - gle a - gainst the flesh,
so that we may resist and con - - - quer the En - e - my.

Tone 4 samohlasen

Cantor: Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,
 Is - rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

Stichera of our venerable father Procopius the Decapolite - *Tone 4 samohlasen*

③ By virtue of cre - a - tion, you were made in the image and like - ness of God,
 O blessed fa-ther Pro-co-pi-us. You made e - very effort to preserve the dignity of
 the i - mage by your pi - ety, the pu-ri - ty of your soul, chas - tity,
 temperance in restrain-ing the pas - sions, per - se - ver - ence in the true faith,
 and the manner in which you ob - served the pre - cepts of Christ.

Cantor: 

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!

② 

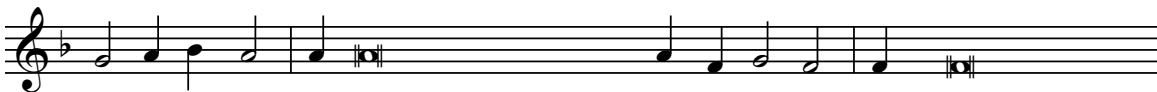
You joined the confes-sion of the faith to the asceticism which you had first set out



to prac-tice, O Pro-co - pi - us. In both, you were well-pleasing to the Cre - a - tor,



who seeks no - bil - ity of soul in all of us. You glo - rified the coming of our



God in the flesh by bowing down before his sac-red i - con, which represents him in




his hu - man con - di - - - tion.

Cantor: 

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.

① 

O venerable father Pro-co - pi - us, by opposing the impious who rendered



the in-car-na-tion vain, you had to endure the tor-ture of scour-ging, all types of

vile mistreatment, sufferings in chains and im - pris - on - ment. Nev - er - the - less,
 you af - firmed the truth and thus inherited the kingdom of Christ in ineffa - ble joy
 and e - ter - nal de - light.

Cantor:
 Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er
 and for - ev - er. A - men.

Theotokion - *Tone 4 samohlasen*

All - pure one, you contained the uncontain - a - ble God in your womb when he became
 one of us in his love for man - kind, tak - ing our nature from you and making it
 di - vine. Do not de - spise me now in my af - flic - tion, but take
 pit - y on me and quick - ly de - liv - er me from all the mal - ice and harm
 of the E - vil One.

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 8.

Aposticha

Aposticha of the first Sunday of the Great Fast - *Tone 8 samohlasen*

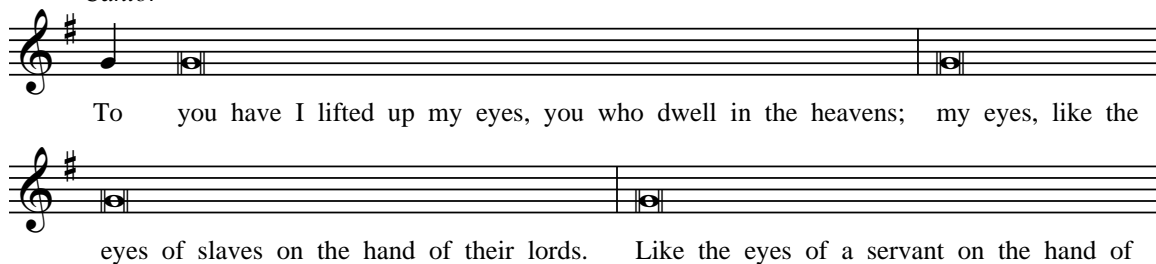
Tone 8 samohlasen

① & ②



Come, let us purify our-selves by shar-ing with the poor, not sound-ing the trumpet
for our giv-ing of alms, nor dis-play-ing our good deeds. May our
left hand know not what our right hand does, lest vain-glo-ry rob us
of our fruit! But in se-cret, let us say to him who knows all things.
For-give us our tres-pass-es, Fa - - - ther, in your good - - - ness
for man - - - kind.

Cantor



To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the
eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of

her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his
mer - - - cy.

All repeat, "Come, let us purify ourselves..."

Cantor

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too
full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's dis - dain.

③

O mar - tyr's of the Lord, you sanc - tify all places and heal all dis - eas - es.
There - fore, we ask of you: Pray that our souls be de - liv - - - ered
from the snares of the En - e - my.

Cantor

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er and
for - ev - er. A - men.

Aposticha theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen

The heav - ens sing your praise, O spouse - less Moth - er, and we glo - ri - fy
your giv - ing birth in a man - ner be - yond all words; O Theotokos,
intercede for the sal - va - - - tion of our souls.

The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon on page 13.