

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**
celebrated on
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

During the Great Fast, the Church calls us back to our baptismal covenant. Through the disciplines of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer (outlined for us in the 6th chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew), we re-focus our lives on loving the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul, and on loving our neighbors as ourselves.

The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is the service of Vespers, with the distribution of Holy Communion consecrated the previous Sunday at the Divine Liturgy.

This pamphlet contains the Lamp-lighting Psalms and the hymns taken with them, as translated by the Inter-Eparchial Commission on the Liturgy.

During the season of the Great Fast, the Church reads two books of the Old Testament through from beginning to end: the book of Genesis and the book of Proverbs. We hear from Genesis to give us the history of mankind's relation with God; we hear from Proverbs to gain insight into our daily life in God.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 1

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 as - cend 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 unharmed.

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.

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!

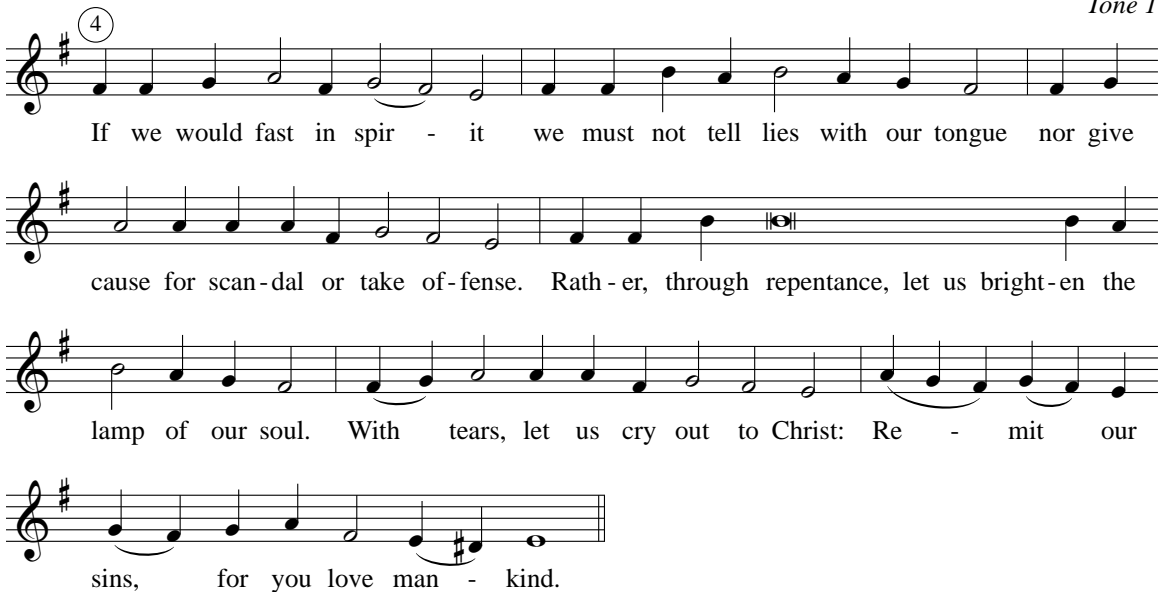
Let your ears be attentive *
to the voice of my pleading.

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 1



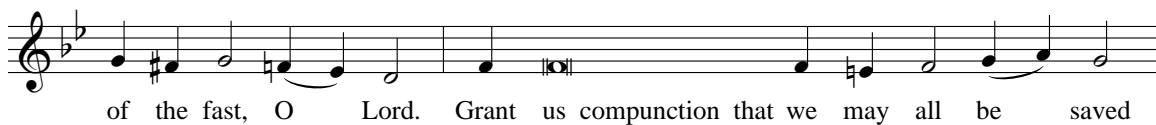
If we would fast in spir - it we must not tell lies with our tongue nor give
cause for scan-dal or take of-fense. Rath - er, through repentance, let us bright-en the
lamp of our soul. With tears, let us cry out to Christ: Re - mit our
sins, for you love man - kind.

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

Tone 3



Through the prayers of the di - vine a - pos - tles, let us right - ly keep the season



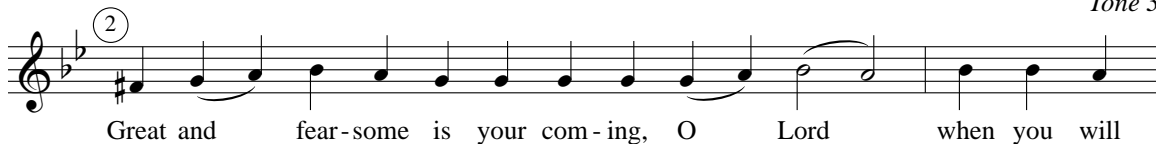
of the fast, O Lord. Grant us compunction that we may all be saved



and glorify your goodness and compassion.

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


Tone 3



Great and fearsome is your coming, O Lord when you will



sit in judgment and dispense justice. Do not judge me, for I am



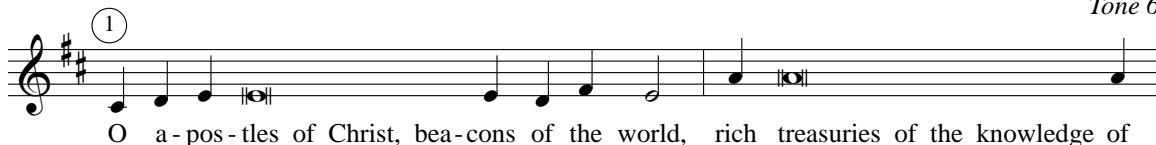
already condemned; but spare me through the prayers of your apostles



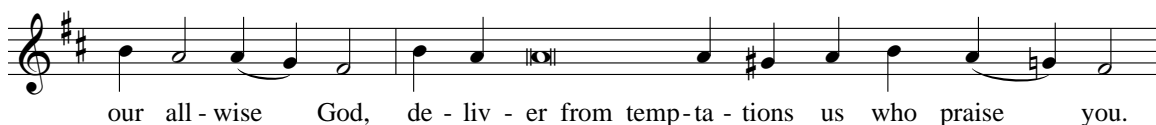
who have been pleasing to you, O God.

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

Tone 6



O apostles of Christ, beacons of the world, rich treasures of the knowledge of



our all-wise God, deliver from temptations us who praise you.

Through your ho - ly prayers lead us through the sea - son of the fast and guide
 us to live free from all e - vil and to please our God as we anticipate the
 pas - sion of Christ, of - fer - ing him our praise with con - fi - dence.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 now and ever and forever. Amen.

Theotokion

Tone 4

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 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.

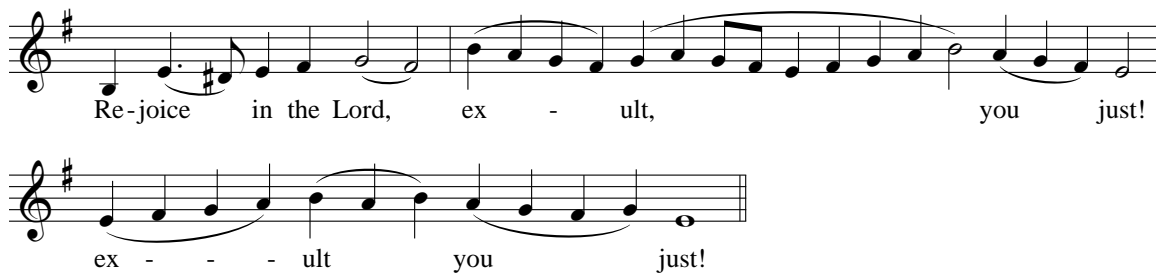
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The verses of the Prokeimena are sung by the Deacon.

Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 6



Re-joyce in the Lord, ex - ult, you just!
ex - - - ult you just!

Verse: Happy are they whose offenses are forgiven.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 4: 16 - 26]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 1



May your mer - - - cy, O Lord be up - on
us who have placed our hope in you.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones.

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 5: 15 - 6: 3]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.