

**The Divine Liturgy  
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Friday in the Fifth Week of the Great Fast  
March 31, 2006

*The reading from Genesis tells one of the most difficult stories in the Old Testament: the command of God to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah.*

*The reading from Proverbs this evening emphasizes the behavior of the foolish man, who has no understanding of the wisdom of God.*

## The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 6

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.

**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 *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.

**Psalm 129** 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 6

④

I left the Jerusalem of your di-vine com-mands and went down toward the  
pas-sions of Je-ri-cho, dragged down by the false glo-ry of earth-ly cares.  
I fell in with thieving thoughts of e-vil, who stripped off the robe of my  
a-dop-tion by grace, leav-ing me wound-ed, with-out the breath of life.  
A priest came by and ignored me, looking down at my fall; then a Levite avoided me  
as some-thing un-clean. But you, O Lord, incarnate from the Vir-gin in-ex-pres-si-bly,

have poured out your sal - va - tion like oil on my scars, O Christ our God,  
 in the blood and water will - ing - ly shed from your side. Bind up my wounds with  
 lin - en and merciful - ly in - clude me in the choir of heav - - - en.

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

③ Ga - bri - el stood be - fore you, O maid - en, and revealed to you the pre - e - ter - nal plan  
 when he greet - ed you and said: Re - joice, O Un - sown Ground;  
 re - joice, O Bush Un - burned; re - joice O Un - fath - om - a - ble Depth; re - joice,  
 O Bridge which leads to Heav - en, and Ladder which Ja - cob saw raised on high;  
 re - joice O Di - vine Jar of Man - na; re - joice, O Re - lease from the Curse;  
 re - joice, O Restora - tion of Ad - am; the Lord is



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

The un-defiled maiden said to the angel-ic com-mand-er: How do you appear to me in hu-man form but speak of su-per-hu-man things? You have said that God will be with me and will o-ver-shad-ow my womb. Tell me, how am I a spa-cious land? How am I a sanc-ti-fied place? How shall I conceive the one who is borne up-on the cher-u-bim? Do not de-ceive me, for I am in-no-cent. I have not known the pleasures of mar-riage. How then shall I bear a child?

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

①

The bod - i - less an - gel said: When - ever God so wills, the order of na - ture is  
o - ver - turned to ac - com - plish su - per - hu - man deeds. Be - lieve that my words are  
true, all - ho - ly and most pure one. She ex - claimed: Let it be done to  
me ac - cord - ing to your word, and I shall bear the fleshless God who takes  
flesh from me so that he may restore the ancient dignity of hu - man na - ture  
by joining it to the di - vine, as he a - lone can do.

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

**Theotokion**

*Tone 2*

To - day is revealed the mystery from all e - ter - ni - ty; the Son of God  
be - comes the Son of Man that, by shar - ing in what is worse, he may give me  
a share in what is bet - ter. Once Ad - am was de - ceived, he sought to



be-come god but failed. Now God becomes man that he may make Ad - am God.



Let cre - a - tion re-joyce; let na - ture ex - ult; for the arch - an - gel stands in fear



be - fore the Vir - gin. He greets her: "Rejoyce!" and sor - row is dis - pelled.



O God, in your mer - ci - ful com - pas - sion you have be-come



man. Glo - ry to you!

### 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 102: 8, 1)

The Lord is com-pas - - sion and love, slow to an - ger and rich in  
 mer - - - cy.

*Verse:* My soul gives thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless his holy name.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

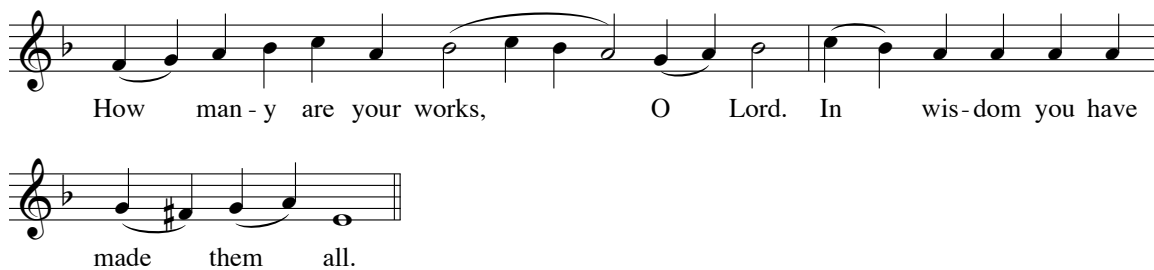
**Lector:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Genesis 22: 1-18]

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4** (Psalm 103: 24ab, 1ab)



How man - y are your works, O Lord. In wis - dom you have  
made them all.

*Verse:* Bless the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, how great you are.

*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 17: 17 - 18: 5]

**Celebrant:** Peace ✠ be to you, reader.