

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**
celebrated on Clean Wednesday
February 21, 2007

The reading from Genesis relates the works of God's creation on the sixth day, making the living creatures and then creating man, and then resting from all His works on the Sabbath (seventh day).

The reading from Proverbs tells us the reason we are being given this instruction: "Thus you may walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the just."

The Finding of the venerable relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia near Constantinople. During the reign of the emperor Arcadius, a divine revelation showed the burial place of these martyrs of whom it was said, "God alone knows their names, and he has written them in the Book of Life in heaven."

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

While fast-ing in body let us al-so fast in spir - it. Let us loos-en ev'ry bond of
in - i - qui - ty. Let us cut through the knots of forced a - gree - ments. Let us
rip up ev - 'ry un - just con - tract. Let us give bread to the hun - gry
and wel - come the homeless poor in - to our homes so that we may receive great
mer - cy from Christ our God.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

③ Tone 2

O a - pos - tles and eye - wit - nes - ses of God, Je - sus, who is the true

spir - i - tual sun, sent you out as radiant bolts of lightning in - to the whole world.

By the bright - ness of your di - vine preach - ing, he has dis - persed the dark - ness

of er - ror and en - light - ened those caught in the e - vil gloom of ig - nor - ance.

En - treat him like - wise to send down up - on us en - light - en - ment and

great mer - cy.

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

②

E - li - jah was carried up to the heights of heav - en, rid - ing in a di - vine

char - i - ot of vir - tues, be - cause he had been made bril - liant by fast - ing.

My low - ly soul, long for the same, and like - wise fast from all wicked - ness

and mur - der - ous strife and from pleas - ures which delight but pass a - way.

So you will escape the bitter, everlast-ing pain of Ge - hen - na, cry-ing out to

Christ: O Lord, glo - ry to you.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
 (on 1) he is faithful forever.

Sticheron of the Holy Martyrs

Tone 4 podoben: Zvannyj svyše buw

Hav-ing stripped off the gar-ments of death by means of all types of tor - ments,

O il - lus - tri - ous mar - tyrs, you were clothed in robes of im - mor - tal - i - ty.


Now you cease - lessly shine in the heav - - - ens be - fore the throne

of our God. Thus, with faith, we celebrate your light - bear - ing mem - o - ry,

and we venerate the chest of your sa - - - cred rel - - - ics.

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

Theotokion



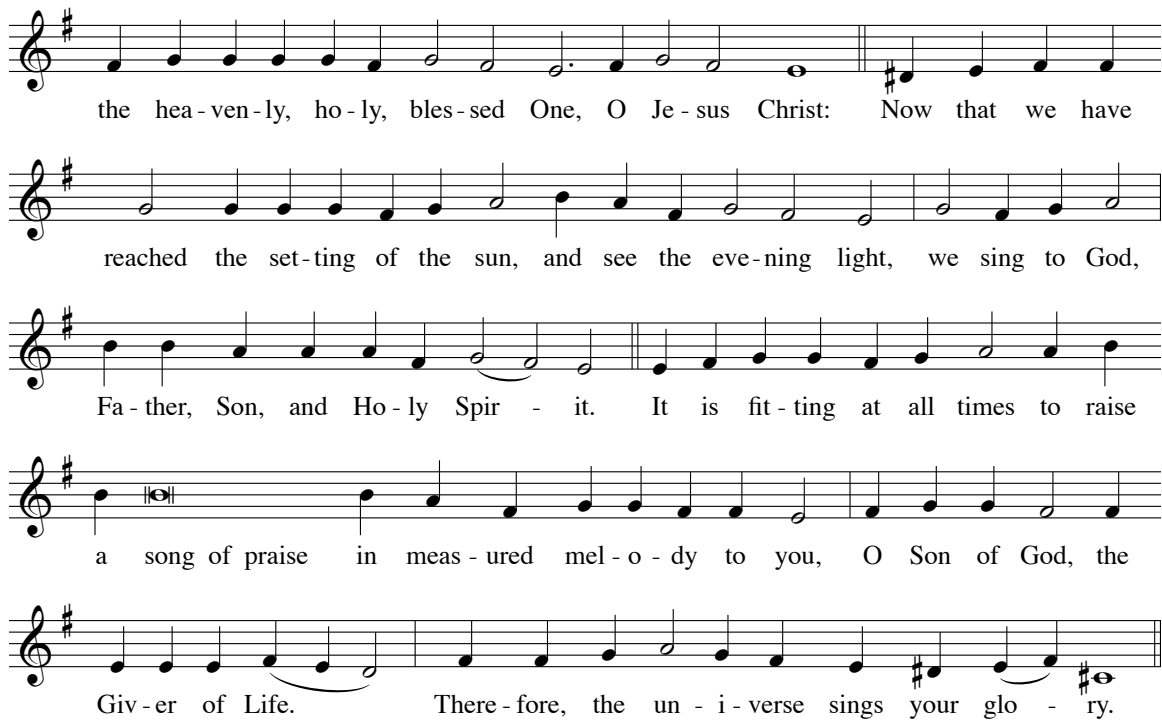
As you are an interces-sor for us all, O all-immacu-late The - o - to - kos,
from every assault of the en - e - my, save those who piously bow before
our birth - giv - ing, for we all have now ac-quired you as our help,
our refuge, our confirmation and me-di - a - trix be-fre Christ our Lord and Mas - ter.
Be - seech him, we pray you, that he grant peace to the world and for-give-ness
of sins to those who have re - course to your pro - tec - tion.

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,



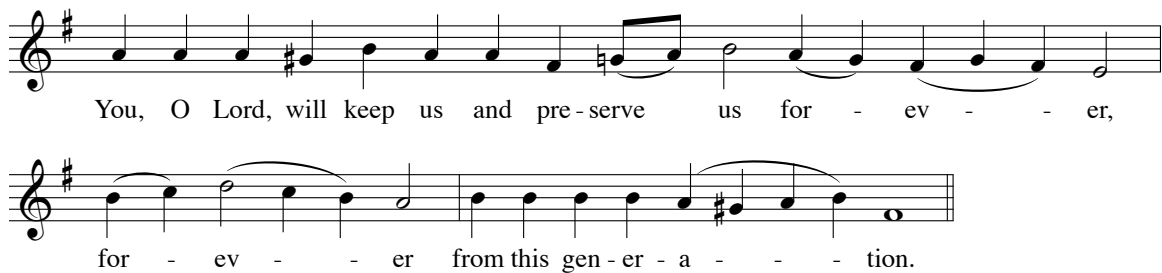
the hea-ven-ly, ho-ly, bles-sed One, O Je-sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set-ting of the sun, and see the eve-ning light, we sing to God,
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir - it. It is fit-ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas-ured mel-o-dy to you, O Son of God, the
Giv-er of Life. 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 5 (Psalm 11:8,2):



You, O Lord, will keep us and pre-serve us for - ev - - er,
for - ev - - er from this gen-er-a - - - tion.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the righteous have vanished.

Deacon: Wisdom!

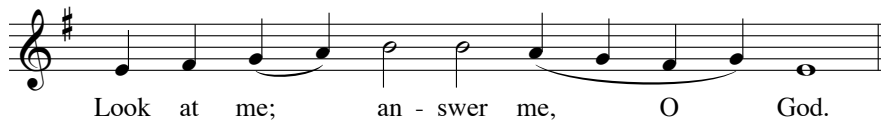
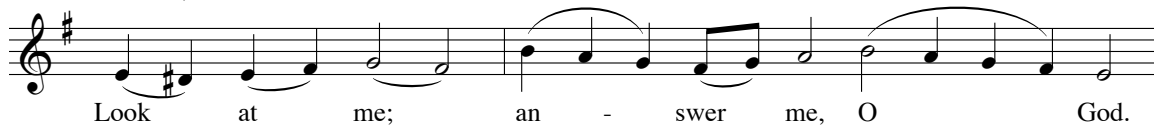
Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 1:24 - 2:3]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2, Tone 6



Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the righteous have vanished.

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 2:1-22]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.