

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Wednesday in the Fourth Week of the Great Fast
March 14, 2007

The reading from Genesis tells of the drunkenness of Noah and how his three sons react to their father's behavior.

The reading from Proverbs, still using the "compare/contrast" style we heard last Friday, demonstrates how good and evil are received by the wise and by the foolish.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 4

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 *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 4

The fast which brings blessings has now run half its course. It is pleased with the
days which have passed and proposes profit in those still to come. Striving
for virtue produces even more good deeds. Therefore, let Christ, the giver of
all good gifts, be pleased to hear our cry. You fasted and endured the
Cross for us; allow us to partake of your divine Pascha blamelessly
and to pass our lives in peace, properly praising you together with the Father



and the Spir - it.

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

Tone 5



Those who do good deeds in se - cret not boast-ing a-bout them in pub - lic



but bear - ing them in their hearts, will re - ceive a spiriual re - ward.



God who sees all se - crets will re - ward them for their self - con - trol.



Let us com - plete the fast with - out put - ting on a gloom - y face.



Let us pray in the in ner room of our soul, cry - ing out in - ces - sant - ly:



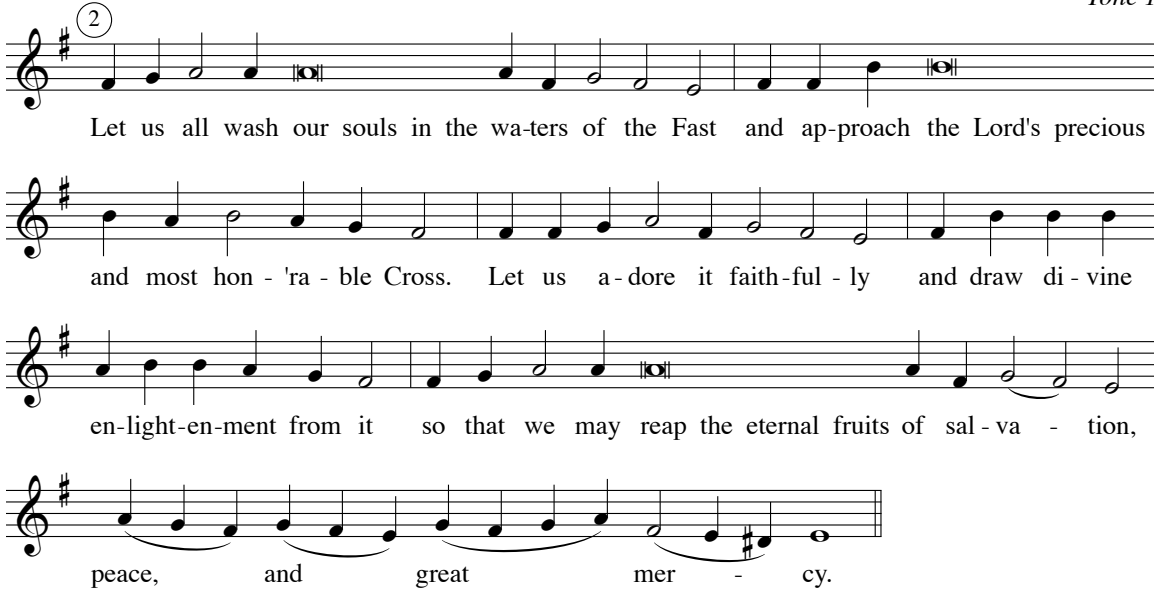
Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, lead us not into tempta - tion, we pray;



but de - liv - er us from e - - - vil.

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


②



Let us all wash our souls in the wa-ters of the Fast and ap-proach the Lord's precious
and most hon - 'ra - ble Cross. Let us a-dore it faith-ful - ly and draw di - vine
en-light-en-ment from it so that we may reap the eternal fruits of sal - va - tion,
peace, and great mer - cy.

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

①



As we a-dore the Cross of the Lord today, let us cry out: Hail, Tree of Life,
you de-mol-ished Ha-des. Hail, Joy of the World, you abol-ished cor-rup-tion.
Hail, for you scat-ter the de-mons by your pow-er. You are an
in - vin - cible weapon to sup-port the faith - ful. We be - seech you, guard and

sanc - ti - fy those who hon - or you.

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

Theotokion - Tone 8

To-day the inaccessible Lord draws me close to him. He en-dures his Passion to

free me from my pas - sions. He who gives light to the blind, re-ceives

spit-ting from im - pure lips and per-mits himself to be scourged to save the

cap - tives. When his Moth - er, the Virgin, saw him on the Cross,

she sighed and said, A - las, O my be - lov - ed Child!

You sur-pass every mortal in beau - ty; yet you are now without charm or

at - trac - tion, hav - ing nei - ther grace, nor form, nor life. A - las,

O Light of my eyes, a sword pierc - es my heart, and I suf - fer inwardly

to see you so. I sing and praise your Pas - sion, I ven-erate your in fin-ite
mer - - - cy, O long - suf - fer - ing Lord, 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 71: 18, 1)



Bless - ed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el who a - lone works
won - - - ders.

Verse: O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice. *All repeat Prokeimenon*

Deacon: Wisdom!

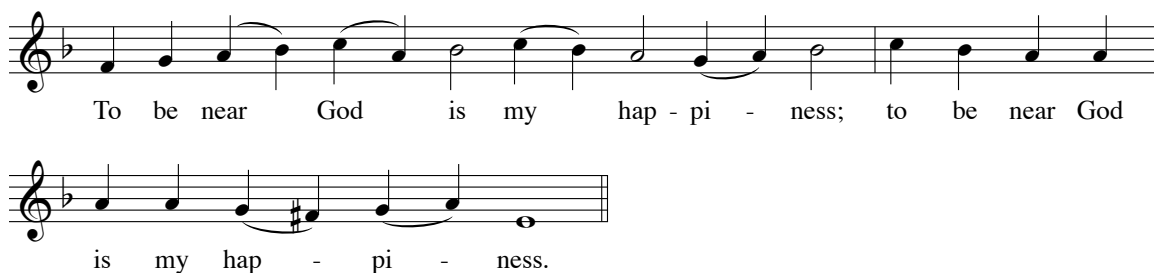
Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 9:18 - 10:1]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 72:28, 1)



To be near God is my hap - pi - ness; to be near God
is my hap - pi - ness.

Verse: How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart.

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 12:23 - 13:9]

Celebrant: Peace ☩ be to you, reader.

At the Veneration: *(after the service)*

3 times

We bow to your Cross, O Lord, and we glo - ri - fy
your ho - ly res - ur - rec - tion.