

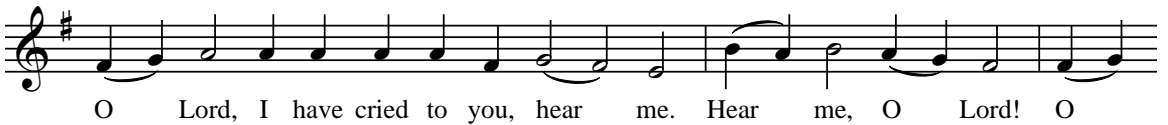
**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
March 25, 2012**

Synaxis of Gabriel the Archangel, who brought the Good News to Mary, the chosen one, and to the priest Zachary, the father of the prophet and forerunner John.

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 1 samohlasen



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 *un*harmed.

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 the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 1 podoben: Prechval'nij mučenicj

⁽¹⁰⁾ 

E-ven though you were rich, O Christ, you be-came poor to en-rich us mor-tals



with the treas-ure of your im-mor-tal light. And e-ven though I have been



impoverished by the pleas-ures of this life, grant me the abun-dance of vir-tues;




give me a place with Laz-a-rus the poor and spare me from the punishment




of the rich man and from the tor-ments that my deeds de-serve.

Cantor: 

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

⁽⁹⁾ 

I have a - - massed treas-ures of lux-u-ry and e-vil deeds; tak-ing



de-light in the pleas-ures of this life, I have be-come liable to the fires of Ha-des.



My spir-it knows the pov-erty of Laz - a - rus, for I have been abandoned at



the gate of good deeds. Have mer-cy on me, O Lord, wretch that I am.



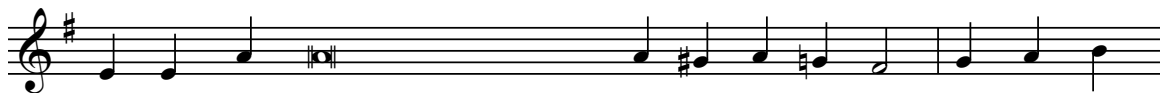
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!



With fer - vor, let us be-gin the sixth week of the ho - ly Fast; O faith-ful,



let us sing a hymn of praise to the Lord in prep-a - ra-tion for the feast of Palms.



For he comes in glory and the power of his di - vin - i - ty; he draws near



to Jerusa-lem to van - quish death. There - fore, let us prepare symbols of victory,



the palms of our virt-ues, that we may cry: Ho-san-na to the Cre - a - tor




of the world!


Cantor: 

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


Stichera of the Annunciation - Tone 4 samohlasen



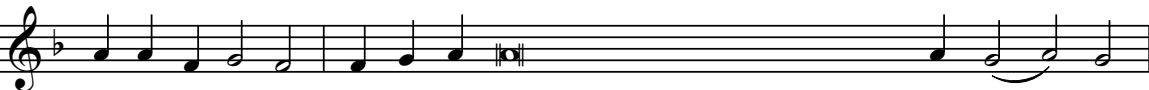
In the sixth month the Arch - an - gel was sent to a pure Vir - gin.




He greet-ed her: Re-joice! He an-nounced that the Redeemer would come forth



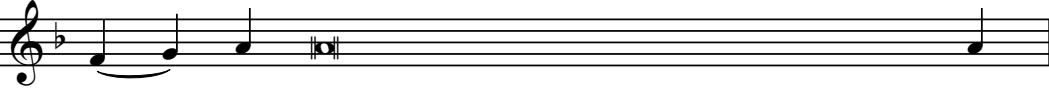
from her. She re-ceived his greet-ing with faith and conceived you, the God from




be-fore all a - ges, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to be-come man



for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: 

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.

And all repeat: "In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent..."

Cantor: 

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) 

The The - o - to - kos heard a voice she did not know. The Archangel spoke



to her the words of good news. She re - ceived the greet - ing with faith and con - ceived



you, the God from be - fore all a - ges. There - fore, we also rejoice and cry



out to you, O un - ap - proach - able God who were in - car - nate of her:



Grant peace to the world and great mer - - cy to our souls.

Cantor: 

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

(4) 

Be - hold our res - to - ra - - tion is now re - vealed. God beyond words



is united with hu-man-i - ty. The er - ror is erased by the Arch-an-gel's voice,



for the vir-gin re-ceives the joy. What is earthly has be-come heav-en;



the world is freed from the an-cient curse. Let cre - a - tion rejoice and give voice



to hymns: O Lord, our Creator and Re-deem - er, glo - ry to you!



Cantor: Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,



Is - ra - el indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

Stichera of the Synaxis - Tone 1 podobn: Prechvalnii mučenicy



The arch-an - gel Gabriel, the spirit who sees God face to face, gaz-es up on



the brilliant, saving, and gleam-ing Light. He sings heav-enly and awesome hymns



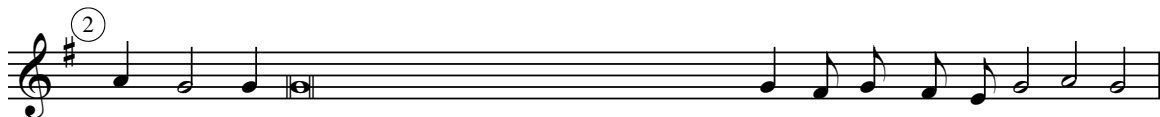
with the ranks on high. He im-plores God to grant peace and great mer - cy



to our souls.



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



The great mys-tery, previously unknown to the angels and hid-den from e - ter - ni - ty,



is made known to you a-lone, O Ga-bri-el. When you came to Nazareth, you told



it to the pure One. To - geth - er with her, implore God to grant peace



and great mer - cy to our souls.



You made the winds your mes-sen-gers, and flam-ing fire your ser - vants.



O prince of an-gels, all-per - fect Ga-bri-el, you are filled with the di-vine



bright-ness. You ful - fill the wishes and commands of the Al - might - y.

Save those who lovingly ven-er - ate you. Al-ways ask God to grant
peace and great mer - cy to our souls.

Cantor:

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

Doxastikon of the Annunciation - Tone 6 samohlasen

The Arch - an - gel Ga - bri - el was sent from heav - en to the Vir - gin
to an - nounce the good news of her con - cep - tion. Com - ing to
Naz - a - reth he was a - mazed as he reflected on the mys - te - ry:
How can the One Who Is incomprehen - si - ble in the high - est be born of a
vir - gin? Heav - en is his throne, the earth is his foot - stool, and in a



wom-an's womb he is con-tained. The six - winged seraphim and the many-eyed



cherubim cannot look up-on him; yet, with a single word, he has been pleased to



take on flesh. He re-mains the Word of God. Why do I stand still and



not say to the Maid - en: Re - joice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you;



Re-joice, pure Vir-gin; re-joice, Un-wed-ded Bride; re-joice, Moth-er of Life;



bles - ed is the fruit of your womb.

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

Aposticha

Aposticha of the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - *Tone 1 samohlasen*

① & ②

Tru-ly wond-rous is the benevolence of the Lord for us; fore-see-ing the future
as though it were al-read-y pres-ent. He set be-fore us the parable of
Lazarus and the wick-ed rich man. Con-sid-ering the end of each of them,
let us a-void the selfishness and hard-heartedness of the lat-ter,
and im-itate the strength and endurance of the form-er, so that we may
cry out with him in the bos-om of A-bra-ham: O Lord and just
Judge, glo-ry to you!

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, "Truly wondrous if the benevolence of the Lord for us..."

Cantor



Have mer-cy 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.



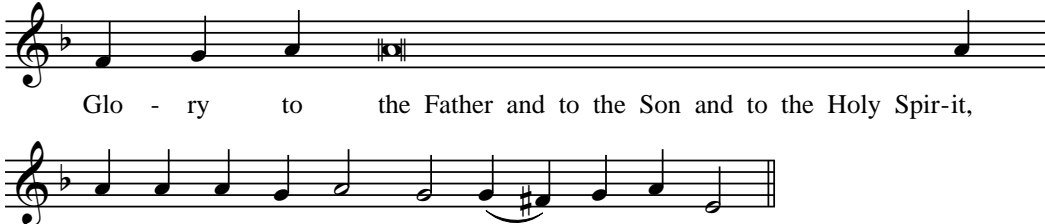
Through the sup - pli - ca - tion of all of the saints and of the Moth - er of God,



grant us your peace, O Lord, and save us, since you a - lone



are com - pas - sion - ate.

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 of the Annunciation - Tone 4 samohlasen



To-day is the joy of the annunciation and the feast of vir-gin-i - ty. The creatures
 of earth unite with those of heav-en. Ad - am is renewed and Eve is freed from her
 an-cient sor-row. She who is of our own substance becomes the tem-ple of God
 by the di - vin - ity of him who was con - ceived. O what mystery, the
 incomprehensible quality of the con - de - scen - sion and the in - expressible wealth
 of good - ness! An an - gel announc-es this mir - a - cle.
 The virginal womb re-ceives the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it is sent down,

and the Fa-ther on high is well - pleased. Through the u - ni - ver - sal will,
rec - on - cil - iation is ac - com - plished for all. Let us, who have been saved in
it and through it, sing with Gabriel to the Vir - gin: Re - joice, O Full of Grace!
For our sal - va - tion, Christ our God took na - ture from you and joined it
to him - self. There - fore, im - plore him to save our souls.

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