

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 22, 2015**

The holy martyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna who is honored as a disciple of blessed John and the final witness of the apostolic age. Under the emperors Marcus Antoninus and Lucius Aurelius Commodus, about the age of 90, he was given over to the flames in the amphitheater at Smyrna in Asia. Before the proconsul and the whole people, he gave thanks to God the Father because he had been deemed worthy to be numbered among the martyrs and to receive a portion from the cup of Christ. (c.155)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast.

Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 4, p. 36)

Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 61

Cantor: (Tone 1) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

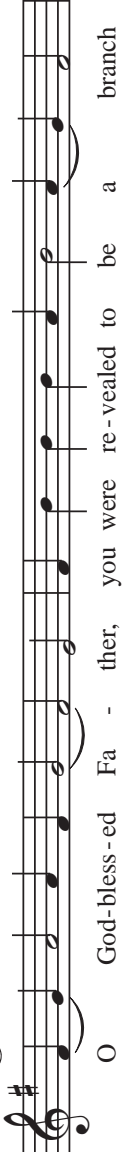
Stichera of the holy martyr Polycarp - Tone 1 samohlasen

O God-bless-ed Fa - ther, while still liv - ing on earth, you were joined
with the bod-i - less an - gels, and with them you ministered to the Trin - i - ty.
There - fore, as you dwell always in the highest as a heav - en - ly man,
you in - i - ti - ate those on earth into the mys - ter - ies of God.

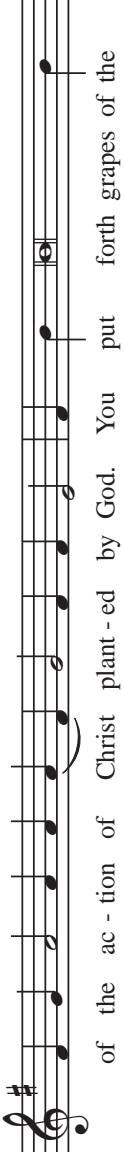
Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations; **Psalm 116**

(on 2)

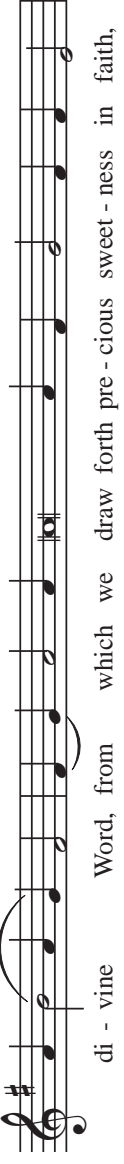
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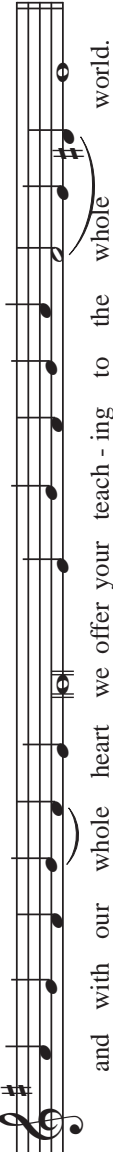
O God-bless-ed Fa - ther, you were re - vealed to be a branch



of the ac - tion of Christ plant - ed by God. You put forth grapes of the



di - vine Word, from which we draw forth pre - cious sweet - ness in faith,

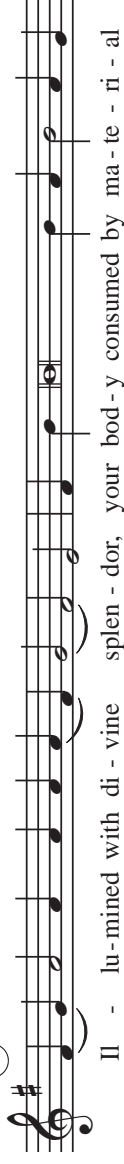


and with our whole heart we offer your teach - ing to the whole world.

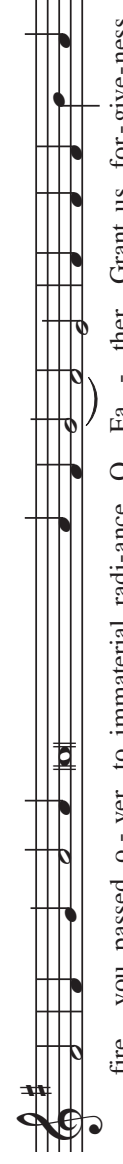
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;

(on 1)

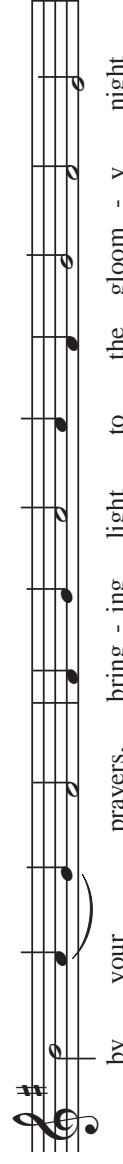
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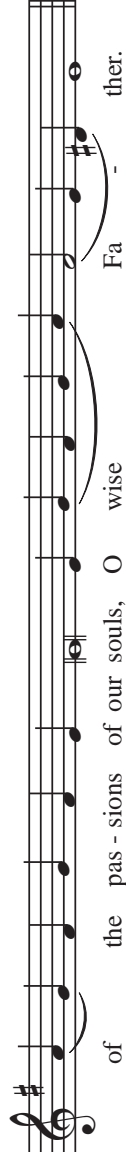
Il - lu - mined with di - vine splen - dor, your bod - y consumed by ma - te - ri - al



fire, you passed o - ver to immaterial radi - ance, O Fa - ther. Grant us for - give - ness



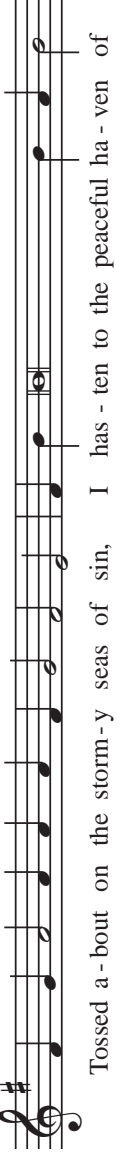
by your prayers, bring - ing light to the gloom - y night




of the pas - sions of our souls, O wise Fa - ther.

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

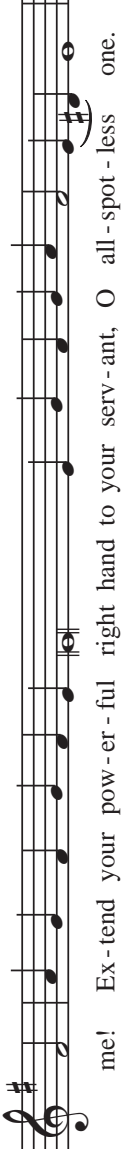
Theotokion - Tone 1 samohlasen



Tossed a - bout on the storm - y seas of sin, I has - ten to the peaceful ha - ven of



your prayer, O most pure The - o - to - kos; I cry out to you: Save



me! Ex - tend your pow - er - ful right hand to your serv - ant, O all - spot - less one.

The service continues on page 9.

Prokeimenon for the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p.10

Aposticha of the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 63