

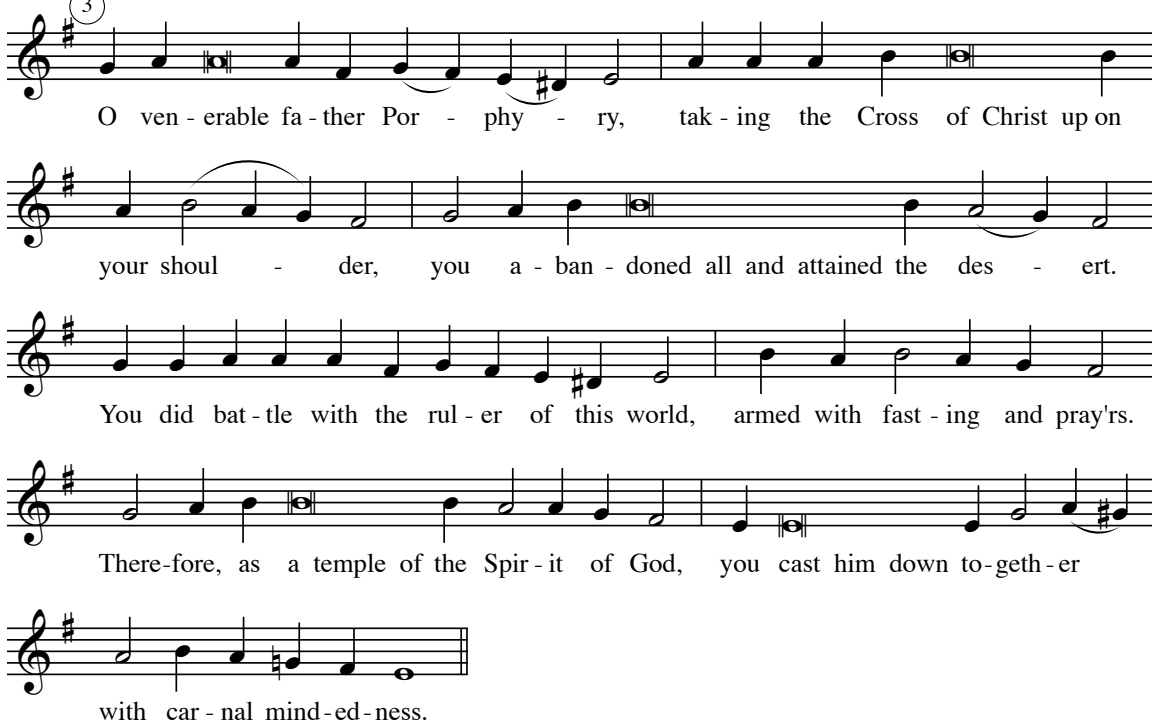
**First Sunday of the Great Fast**  
**February 25, 2007**  
**The Holy Bishop Porphyry of Gaza**

**Our holy father Porphyry**, bishop of Gaza in Palestine. Born in Thessalonica, he spent five years as a hermit in Skete and as many across the Jordan, where he was notable for his kindness toward the poor. Afterwards ordained a bishop, he overturned many temples of idols and was afflicted with troubles by their attendants for a long time, until, worthy of respect, he rested in peace with the saints. (421)

**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

*Tone 8 samohlasen*

3



O ven - erable fa - ther Por - phy - ry, tak - ing the Cross of Christ up on  
your shoul - der, you a - ban - doned all and attained the des - ert.  
You did bat - tle with the rul - er of this world, armed with fast - ing and pray'rs.  
There - fore, as a temple of the Spir - it of God, you cast him down to - geth - er  
with car - nal mind - ed - ness.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

2



As of old God saved the three youths from the fire by his An - gel,

so now through you he saved three youths that had been dragged down

in - to a pit. For when they were borne as in a bas - - - ket

he o - vershadowed them with the light of a cloud which formed three cross-es

on their bod - ies to the reproof of those who op - posed you, O

Por - phy - ry.

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

<sup>1</sup>  
Who can wor - thily praise your temp - ta - tions and pains, your mis - for - tunes and

trib - u - la - tions, your strug - gles for the faith, O Por - phy - ry?

For you showed the boldness that you have be - fore God to be great.

There - fore, we entreat you, for you have such bold - - - ness:

Pray in our be - half to the Lord, that we may be saved!

**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

**Theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen**

The pre - eternal God, tak - ing flesh from your blood, has re - vealed you, O pure Lady,

as our in - ter - ces - sor. There - fore, deliver your servants from all mis for - tune

and ev - 'ry e - vil cir - cum - stance, and grant that all who glorify and bow

be - fore you be counted worthy of the splen - dor of the e - lect.