

**The Divine Liturgy  
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Wednesday in the Third Week of the Great Fast  
March 7, 2007

*The reading from Genesis tells of the entrance of Noah and his family and the living creatures into the ark which God commanded him to build.*

*The reading from Proverbs tonight personifies Folly, describing her as a loose woman who tempts men from their straight path into ways of destruction.*

# 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

Like the prod - i - gal son, I squand ered my fa - ther's wealth and I grew des - o - late.  
Liv - ing in the land of the wick - ed, I im - itated the irrational beasts in my  
fol - ly. I have stripped off ev 'ry di - vine grace; and so I return, cry ing  
out to you: My com - pas - sionate and merci ful Fa - ther, I have sinned, O  
God; wel - come me as a penitent and have mer - cy on me.

**Cantor:** (*Tone 6*) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

③  
O a - pos - tles who have seen God, you re - flect the spir - i - tual Sun.

Pray for our soul's en - light - en - ment, de - liv - er us from the gloomy darkness

of pas - sions, and intercede that we may see the day of sal - va - tion.

Through your prayers and in - ter - ces - sions, cleanse our hearts, wounded by the

e - vil one. Saved by faith, we will al - ways hon - or you; for you have

saved the world by your all - wise preach - ing.

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

②  
I am a prod - igital son exiled in an e - vil land, I have squandered horribly the

wealth you gave me, O com - pas - sion - ate fa - ther. Now I starve for

lack of good deeds. Clothed with the shame of my trans - gres - sion, be - hold

me, stripped of grace. So I cry out to you: I have sinned, for I know your  
 good - ness. Re - ceive me mercifully as one of your hired hands, O Christ,  
 through the prayers of the a - pos - - - tles who have loved you.

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

O a - pos - tles of the Lord, en - lighteners of the whole world, you did good deeds  
 and brought sal - va - tion. Like the heav - ens, you declare the glo - ry of God,  
 you shine with miracles and wondrous heal - ings as if with stars. Beg the  
 Lord for us in - ces - sant - ly that he accept our prayers as a pure fra - grance  
 and allow us all to see his life - giv - ing Cross, to bow be - fore it  
 and kiss it with awe. Send down on us your mer - cies, O Sav - ior who



love man - - - kind.

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

**Theotokion**

*Tone 6*



En-vi-ous of your flock, O most pure one, the adversary constant-ly be-sieg-es it,



hop - ing to make a meal for him-self; but you, O The - o - to - kos,



de - liv - er us from his clutch - es.

### The Hymn of the Evening

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!



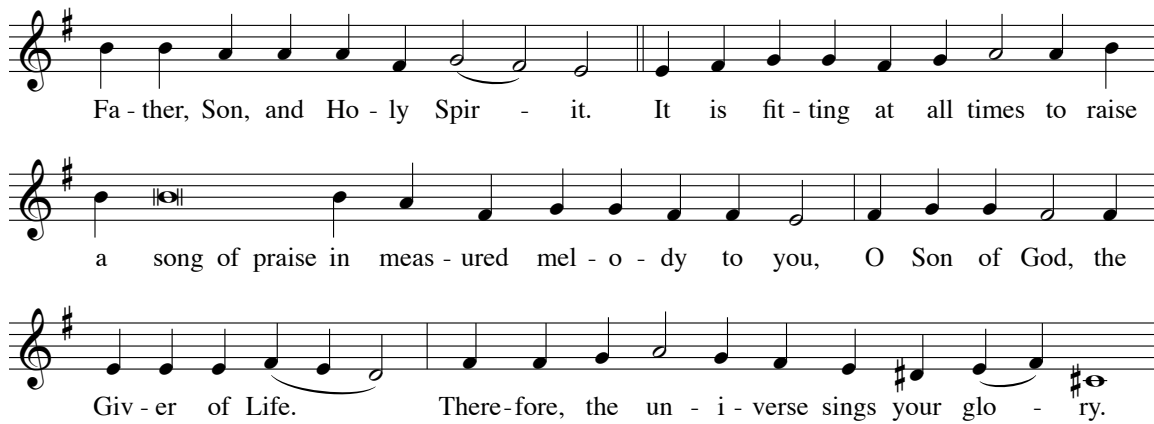
O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,



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,



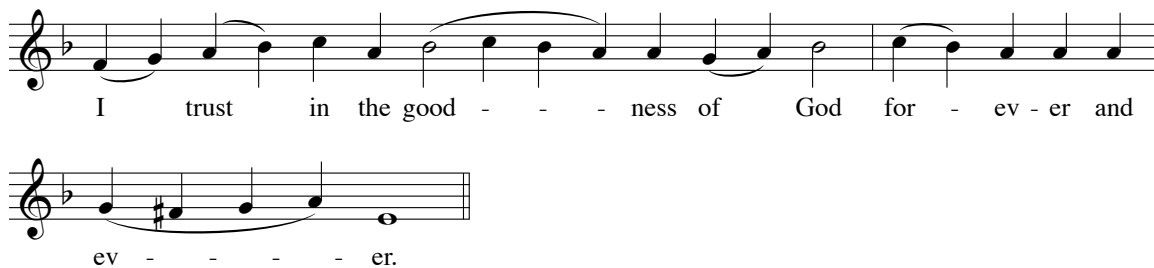
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it. It is fit-ting at all times to raise  
a song of praise in meas-ured mel-o-dy to you, O Son of God, the  
Giv-er of Life. There-fore, the un-i-verse sings your glo-ry.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace ✠ be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 1 - Tone**



I trust in the good-ness of God for-ev-er and  
ev-er.

*Verse:* Why do you boast of your wickedness, you champion of evil?

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Lector:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Genesis 7: 6 -9]



**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 2, Tone 4**

When the Lord de - liv - ers his peo - ple from bond - age,  
then Ja - cob will be glad and Is - ra - el re - jice.

*Verse:* The fool has said in his heart: There is no God.

*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 ]

**Celebrant:** Peace ☩ be to you, reader.