

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Wednesday of the Third Week of the Great Fast
February 20, 2008

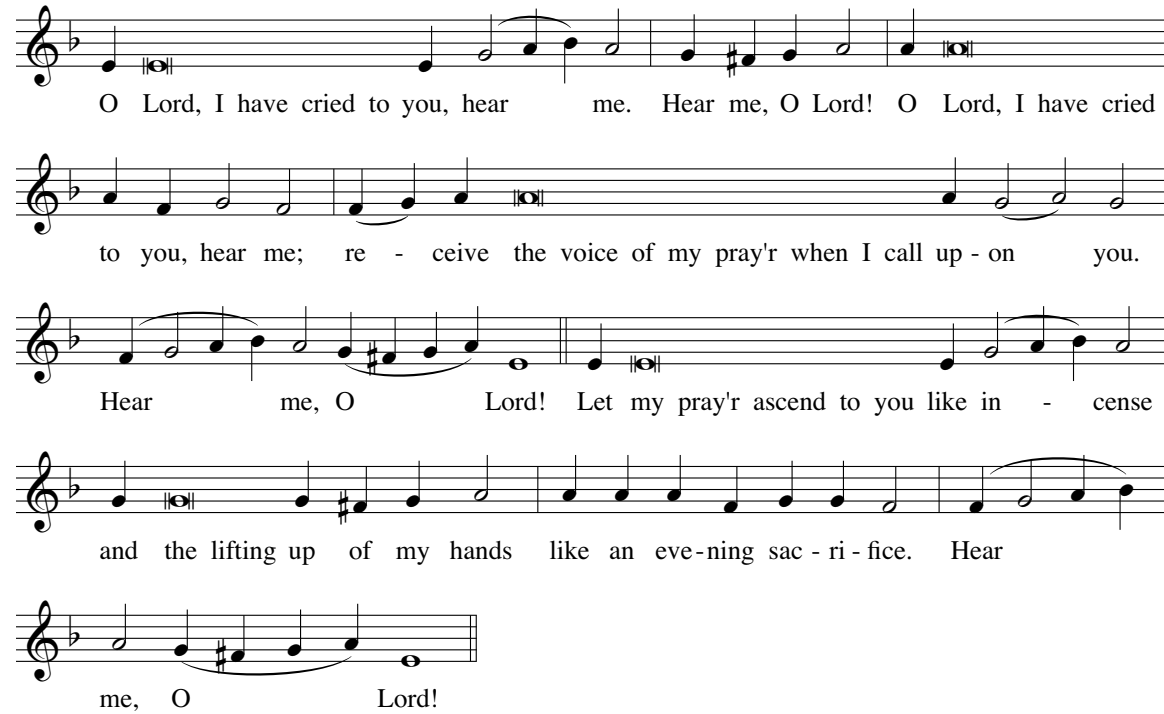
The reading from Genesis tells of God's promise to Abram to make him the "father of many nations."

The reading from Proverbs uses the device of literary "compare and contrast" which can be summed up in this verse: "All the ways of a man may be pure in his own eyes, but it is the Lord who proves the spirit."

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.

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 9:12-18]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.

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*harméd.

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.

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.

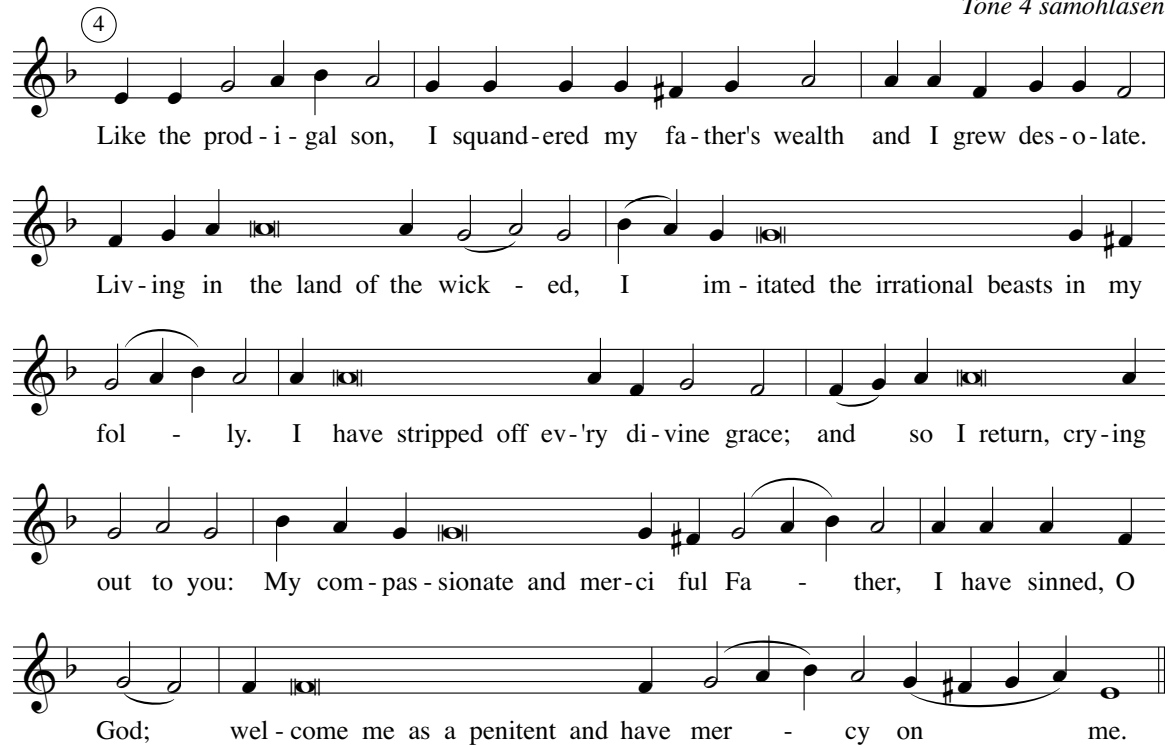
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would stand?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we *revere* you.

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 samohlasen


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 mer-ci ful Fa-ther, I have sinned, O
God; wel-come me as a penitent and have mer-cy on me.

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

Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4 (Psalm 51:10b, 3)



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?

All repeat the Prokeimenon.

Deacon: Wisdom!

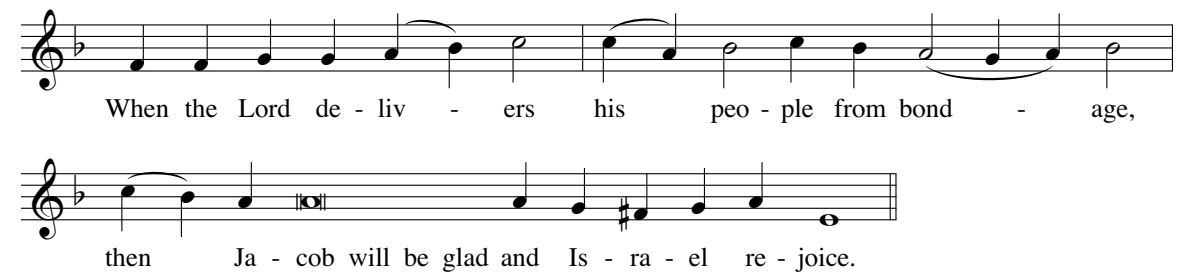
Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 7:6-9]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 52: 7b, 2a)



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

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

All repeat the Prokeimenon.

The faithful kneel.

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!

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!

I am a prod - igoal 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 all of us.

Cantor: *(Tone 5)* Glory ...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 5 samohlasen

Re - joyce, O Seal of Pro - phe - cy, good news of the god - ly - voiced a - pos - tles;
 for you tru - ly gave birth to God in the flesh which we can - not fathom or ex - plain,
 O pure one. For this you were the first to be hon - ored and to sa - vor
 the de - lights of Par - a - dise. There - fore, we extol you with songs as a
 bril - liant ad - vo - cate and in - ter - ces - sor pleas - ing to God.
 Through you, O most pure one, we have been en - riched and made wor - thy of the
 everlasting life of your Son who rich - ly be - stows great mer - cies.