

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Wednesday of the Sixth Week of the Great Fast
March 12, 2008

The reading from Genesis tells the story of Joseph, son of Jacob, meeting and reconciling with his eleven brothers. This long reading is seen as a type of Christ, given over to death but restored to life and reconciling all to Himself.

The reading from Proverbs compares and contrasts the wicked man with the one who trusts in the Lord.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 5

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 lift-ing 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 21: 23 - 22: 4]

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 *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 5

Rich in the pas-sions, I am draped in a subtle robe of hy - poc - ri - sy,
I de-light in e - vils of in - tem - p'rance. I am a model of ut - ter heart - less - ness.
I have a - ban - doned my rea - son. Starved of all good and sick from ne - glect,
I lie be - fore the gates of re - pent - ance. But you, O Lord, make me destitute of
sin like Laz - a - rus, save me from having to beg him to dip his fin - ger in
wa - ter to soothe my tongue in the unquench - a - ble flames. Let me a - bide

Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord, in the land of
the liv - - ing.

Verse: I love the Lord, for he has heard the cry of my appeal.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 43:26-30; 45:1-16]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4

My vows to the Lord I will ful - fill be - fore all
his peo - - ple.

Verse: I trusted, even when I said: I am sorely afflicted.

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!

in - stead in the bosom of the Pa - tri arch A - braham, O Lov - er of
 all of us.

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

As you walked in the flesh, O Je - sus, in the land be - yond the Jor - dan,
 you cried out to those who were with you: Our friend Laz - arus is already
 dead and buried in the grave. My friends, I re - joice, for you will learn
 that I whom you see be - got - ten as man re - main in - divisibly God and
 know all things. Come, let us go and give him life. Let death taste
 its to - tal de - feat and the de - struction which I will ac - com - plish by grant - ing
 great mer - cy to the world.

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

Tone 6

Faith-ful, let us imitate Mar-tha and Mar-y and present to the Lord the ap-pear of
god - ly deeds. When he comes to raise up our mind, which lies
dead in the tomb, miserable, senseless, and un - con - cerned, o - blivious to the
fear of the Lord, lack - ing en - er - gy and life, let us cry
out: Consid - er us, O Lord; once you raised your friend Lazarus by your awe - some
pres - ence, now restore us all to life by grant - ing great mer - cy.

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

Tone 5

For two days Lazarus has been in the grave be - hold - ing those who have died
since time be - gan. There he sees strange and fear - ful sights: a num - ber - less

mul - titude held in Ha - des' chains. There - fore, his rel - atives weep bit - ter - ly
be - fore his grave. But Christ came to give life to his friend
so that all might proclaim with one voice: Bless - ed are you, O Sav - ior;
have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: (*Tone 1*) Glory ...now and ever...

Theotokion

Tone 1

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.