

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
First Sunday of the Great Fast  
February 17, 2013**

**Our holy father Leo, Pope of Rome** who, born in Etruria [Tuscany], first stood out as a diligent deacon of Rome. He was then elevated to the chair of Peter, where rightly and by his merit he deserved to be called "the Great." He nourished his flock by his excellent and prudent discourse. Because of his orthodox teaching on the incarnation of God, the true faith was vigorously affirmed through his delegates to the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. He rested in the Lord at Rome, where he was buried on this day. (461)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Evening for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) and the Sundays of the Great Fast.*

**Lamp-lighting Psalms**

**Psalm 140 - Tone 5 samohlasen**

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.

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 *unharmed*.

#### **Psalm 141**

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.

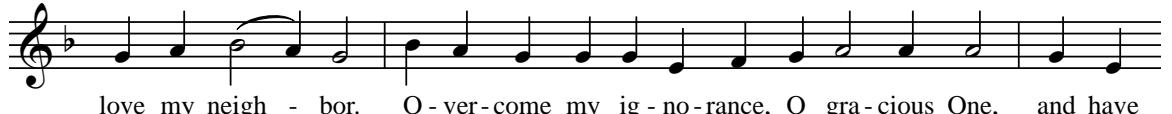
*Cantor:* 

Bring my soul out of this pris - on and then I shall praise your name.


**Stichera of Repentance - Tone 5 samohlasen**

<sup>⑩</sup> 

O Lord, I have nev - er stopped sin - ning, I do not understand the need to



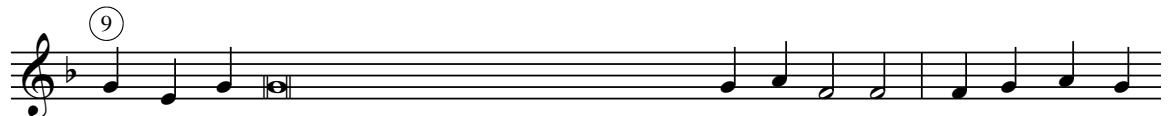
love my neigh - bor. O - ver - come my ig - no - rance, O gra - cious One, and have



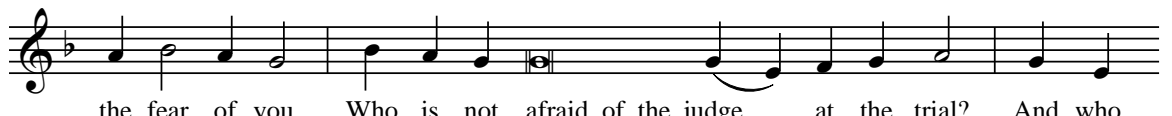
mer - cy on me: for you a - lone are the God of good - ness.

*Cantor:* 


A - round me the just will as - sem - ble be - cause of your good - ness to me.

<sup>⑨</sup> 

O Lord, I am afraid because I have not stopped do - ing e - vil, and be - cause of



the fear of you. Who is not afraid of the judge at the trial? And who,



de - siring to be healed, angers the physi - cian as I have? O long - suf - fering Lord,

have compas-sion on my weak - ness and have mer - cy on me.

*Cantor:*   
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!

⑧   
Woe is me, for I resemble the ster-ile fig tree; I fear both the curse and the axe.

But you, the heavenly Garden-er, O Christ our God, make my dried-up soul fertile


once a-gain. Wel-come me like the Prod-i - gal and have mer - cy on me.

*Cantor:*   
Let your ears be at - ten - tive to the voice of my plead - ing.






⑦   
O Lord, born of the Vir - gin, do not con-sid - er the mul - ti - tude of my sins;



wipe a - way all my faults and give me thoughts of re - pent - ance; O on - ly

Lov - er of us all, have mer - cy on me.

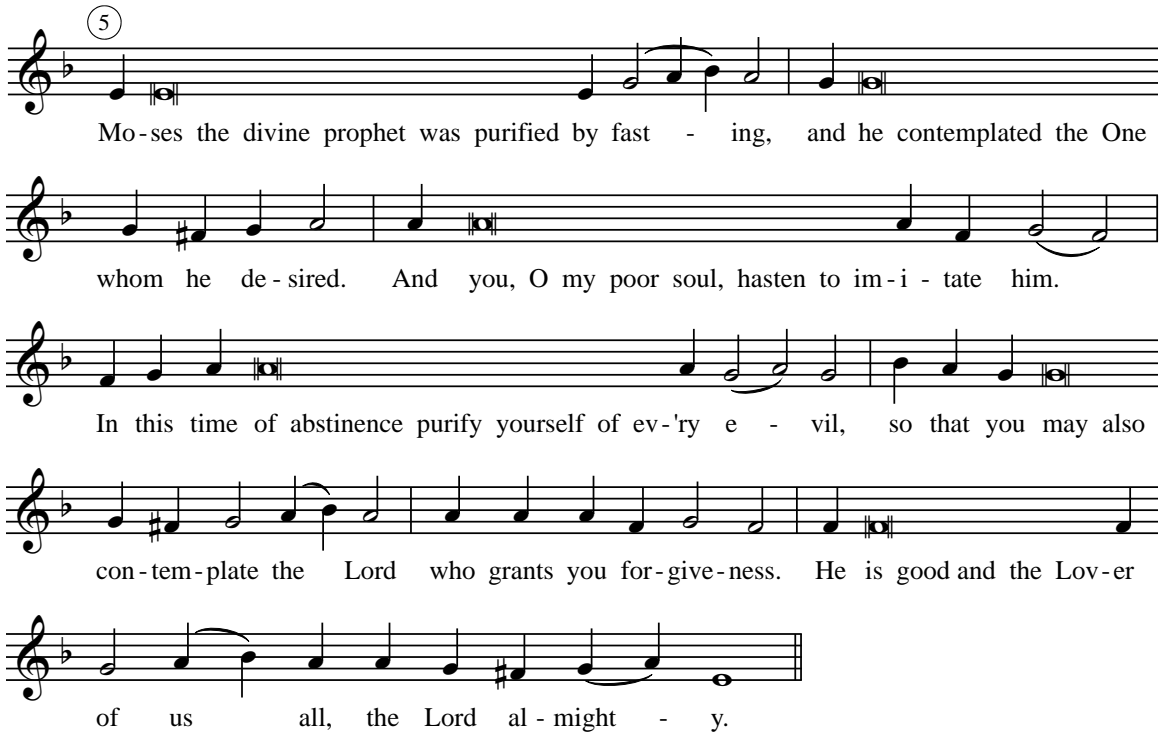
Cantor:   
Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,  
  
Is - rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

**Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 4 samohlasen**

⑥   
Grant contrition and estrangement from e - vil to my soul submerged in the  
  
a - byss of pas-sions and separated from you, O divine King of the u - ni - verse.  
  
I have no oth - er hope but you. May I find up-right-ness and vir - tue.  
  
Save me, a poor sinner, in your im-mense good - ness, O al-might-y Lord  
  
and Sav - ior of us all.

Cantor:   
My soul is wait - ing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watch-man for day - break.

⑤



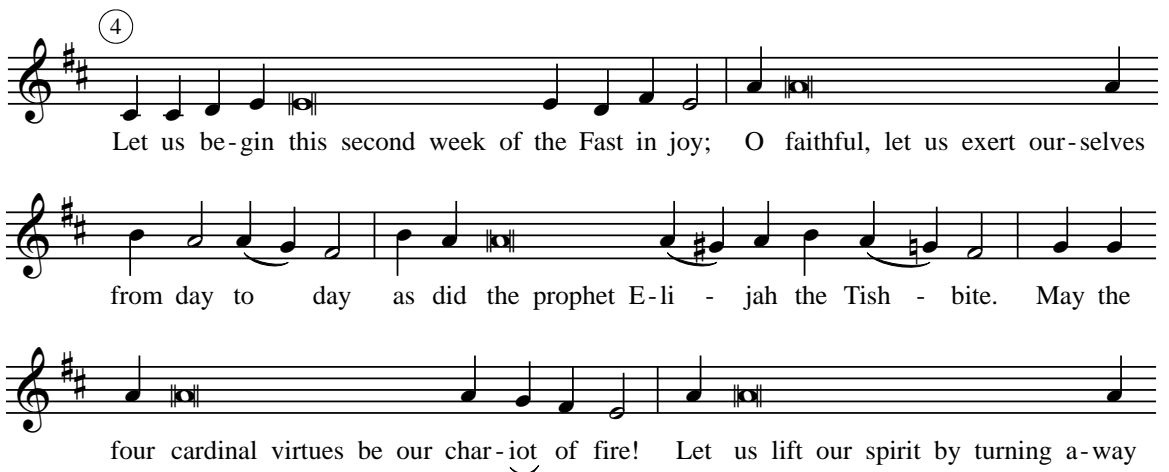
Mo-ses the divine prophet was purified by fast - ing, and he contemplated the One  
whom he de - sired. And you, O my poor soul, hasten to im - i - tate him.  
In this time of abstinence purify yourself of ev - 'ry e - vil, so that you may also  
con - tem - plate the Lord who grants you for - give - ness. He is good and the Lov - er  
of us all, the Lord al - might - y.

*(on 4)* *Tone 6 samohlasen*

Cantor: 

Let the watch-man count on day - break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

④



Let us be-gin this second week of the Fast in joy; O faithful, let us exert our-selves  
from day to day as did the prophet E-li - jah the Tish - bite. May the  
four cardinal virtues be our char-iot of fire! Let us lift our spirit by turning a-way

from pas - sions, and through pur - ity, let us strug - gle a - gainst the flesh,

so that we may resist and con - quer the En - e - my.

*(on 3)* *Tone 8 samohlasen*

Cantor:

Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,

Is - rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

**Stichera of our holy father Leo, Pope of Rome - *Tone 8 samohlasen***

What shall we name you, God - in - spired one? Head of the or - tho - dox Church

of Christ? Eye of pi - ety, clearly seeing hearts with spiritual un - der - stand - ing,

pour - ing out the word of life to all the ends of the earth? Di - vine - ly inscribed

scroll of the true faith? Pray that our souls may be saved!

Cantor: 

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!



What shall we now call you, won - drous one? Preach-er of the truth and



firm foun - da - - tion? Se - nior a - mong the hon - ored coun - cil?



Ex-cel-lent rule of teach - ings, pos-sess-ing the meas-ure of cor - rec - tion?



The one who cut down the division of Nes - to - ri - us and the con - fu - sion



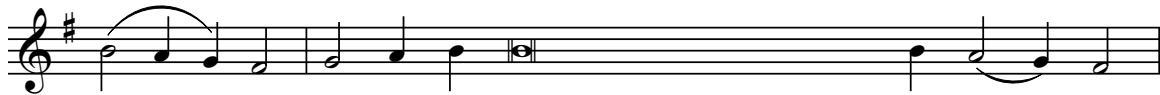
of Eu - ty - ches with di - vine - ly - wrought rev - el - a - tions?

Cantor: 

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful for - ev - er.



What shall we now call you, mar - vel - ous one? Prince and rul - er in spir - it - ual



splen - dor, ex - er - cis - ing mastery over the passions of the bod - y?



Ves-sel of di - vine mer - - - cy; dwell-ing of per - fect love?  
 Lov - ing pas - tor, awaiting the repentance of sin - ners? Pray that our souls  
 may be saved.

*Cantor:*

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev - er  
 and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen**

O wretch-ed soul, to whom do you lik - en your-self, for you have not risen to  
 re-pent-ance in an - y way, and fear not the fire that awaits the e - vil.  
 A - rise, and call upon her who is a - lone quick to help. Cry a - loud: -  
 O Vir-gin Moth - er, en - treat your Son and our God to-de - liv - er me

from the snare of the de - ceiv - - - er.

*The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 8.*

## Aposticha

*Tone 8 samohlasen*

① & ②

Come, let us purify our-selves by shar-ing with the poor, not sound-ing the trumpet  
 for our giv - ing of alms, nor dis - play - ing our good deeds. May our  
 left hand know not what our right hand does, lest vain-glo - ry rob us  
 of our fruit! But in se - cret, let us say to him who knows all things.  
 For-give us our tres-pass-es, Fa - - - ther, in your good - ness  
 for man - kind.

*Cantor*

To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the

eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of  
her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his  
mer - - - cy.

*All repeat, "Come, let us purify ourselves..."*

*Cantor*

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too  
full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's dis-dain.

③

O mar - tyrs of the Lord, you sanc - tify all places and heal all  
dis - eas - es. There - fore, we ask of you: Pray that our souls be  
de - liv - - - ered from the snares of the en - e - my.

Cantor

Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev - er and  
for - ev - er. A - men.

**Theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen**

The heav - ens sing your praise, O spouse - less Moth - er, and we glo - ri - fy  
your giv - ing birth in a man - ner be - yond all words; O Theotokos,  
intercede for the sal - va - - tion of our souls.

*The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon on page 13.*