

Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 14, 2016

The holy apostle Onesimus, a fugitive slave whom St. Paul the apostle caught and gave birth to in Christ, a son in the faith, as Paul himself wrote to his master Philemon.

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

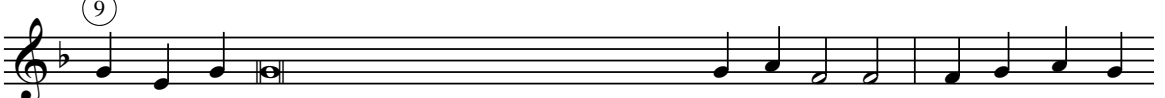


for they are stronger *than* I.

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

Stichera of Repentance - Tone 5 samohlasen

¹⁰  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.

⁹  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;


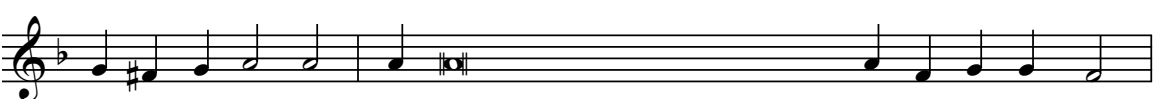



wipe a - way all my faults and give me thoughts of re - pent - ance; O on - ly



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

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

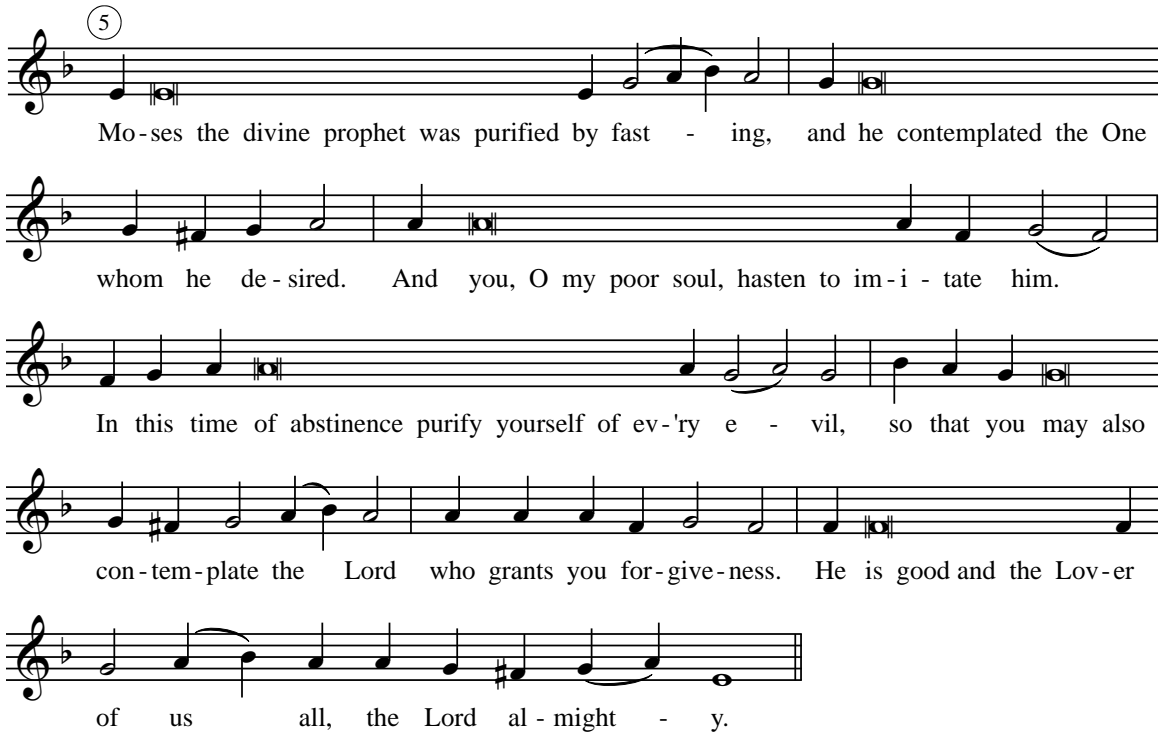
Is - rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

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



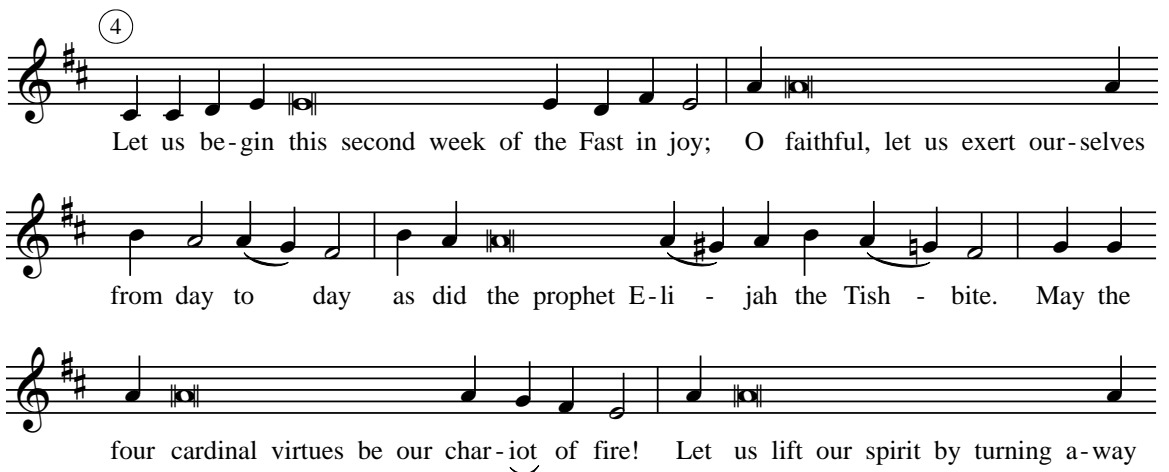
Mo-ses the divine prophet was purified by fast - ing, and he contemplated the One
whom he de - sired. And you, O my poor soul, hasten to im - i - tate him.
In this time of abstinence purify yourself of ev - 'ry e - vil, so that you may also
con - tem - plate the Lord who grants you for - give - ness.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

Tone 1 samohlasen

Cantor: ^(on 3)

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

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

Stichera of the holy apostle Onesimus - *Tone 1 samohlasen*

To - day, we celebrate with hymns the sa - cred me - mo - ry of the di - vine

apostle Onesi - mus, a mar - tyr for God. He was a - dopt - ed by God through grace

for the sake of our faith, and be - got - ten by the faith of Paul,

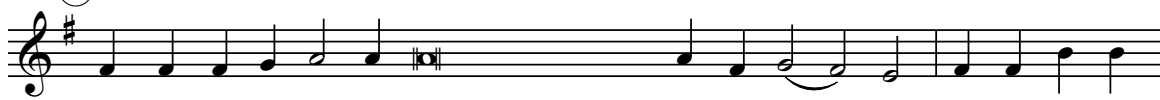
let us praise him.

Cantor: *(on 2)*




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

②



Na-tural-ly es-cap-ing the slavery of decep-tion. O wise one, you be-came a



child of God by grace, the Ho - ly Spi - rit and faith in Christ.




join - ing the ho - ly and all-praiseworth-y dis - cip - les of Paul, O most




pro - fit - a - ble O - ne - - - si - mus.

Cantor: *(on 1)*




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

①



O thrice-bles - sed O - ne - si - mus, you be-came a dis - ci - ple of the Word,



thanks to the most praised Paul, preacher and a - pos - tle. Three times

you received a two - fold crown from Christ. You were a-dorned as a priest,
 a preacher, and an ath - lete, O praised a pos - - - - - tle.

Cantor:

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

Theotokion - Tone 1 samohlasen

With the staff of your intercession, O pure The - o - to - kos, drive sav - age passions
 from my wretch - ed soul, guide me peace - ful - ly toward life and add me
 to the flock of your chos - en sheep.

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

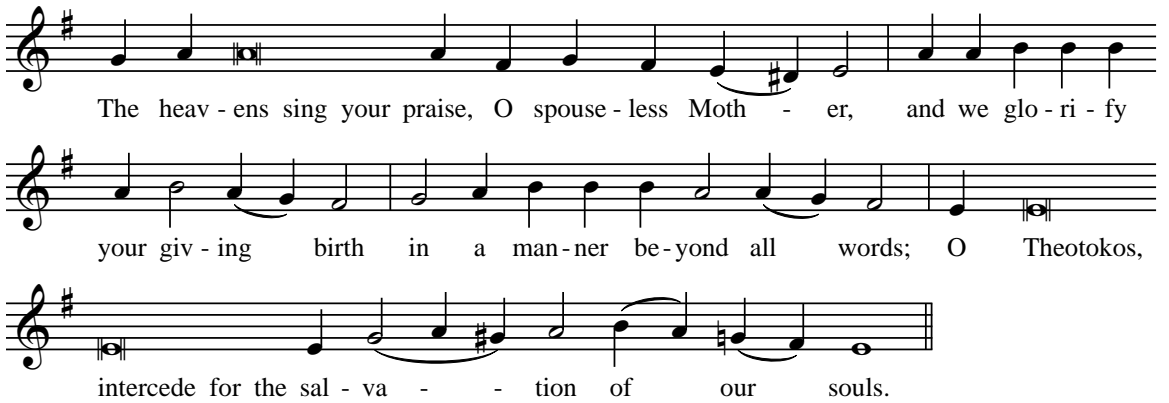
de - liv - - - ered from the snares of the en - e - my.

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.