

Have mer - cy on us through their prayers!

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.

Aposticha theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen

Re-ceive the prayers of your serv - - - ants, O our ho - ly La - dy.

De - liver us from every af - flic - - - tion and dan - - - ger.

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

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
March 6, 2016**

The holy martyrs and bishops of Cherson: Basil, Eugene, Agathadore, Elpidius, Etherius, Capiton, and Ephrem, who preached in the Crimea and gave their lives for the Faith. (4th century)

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 8 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 *un*harmed.

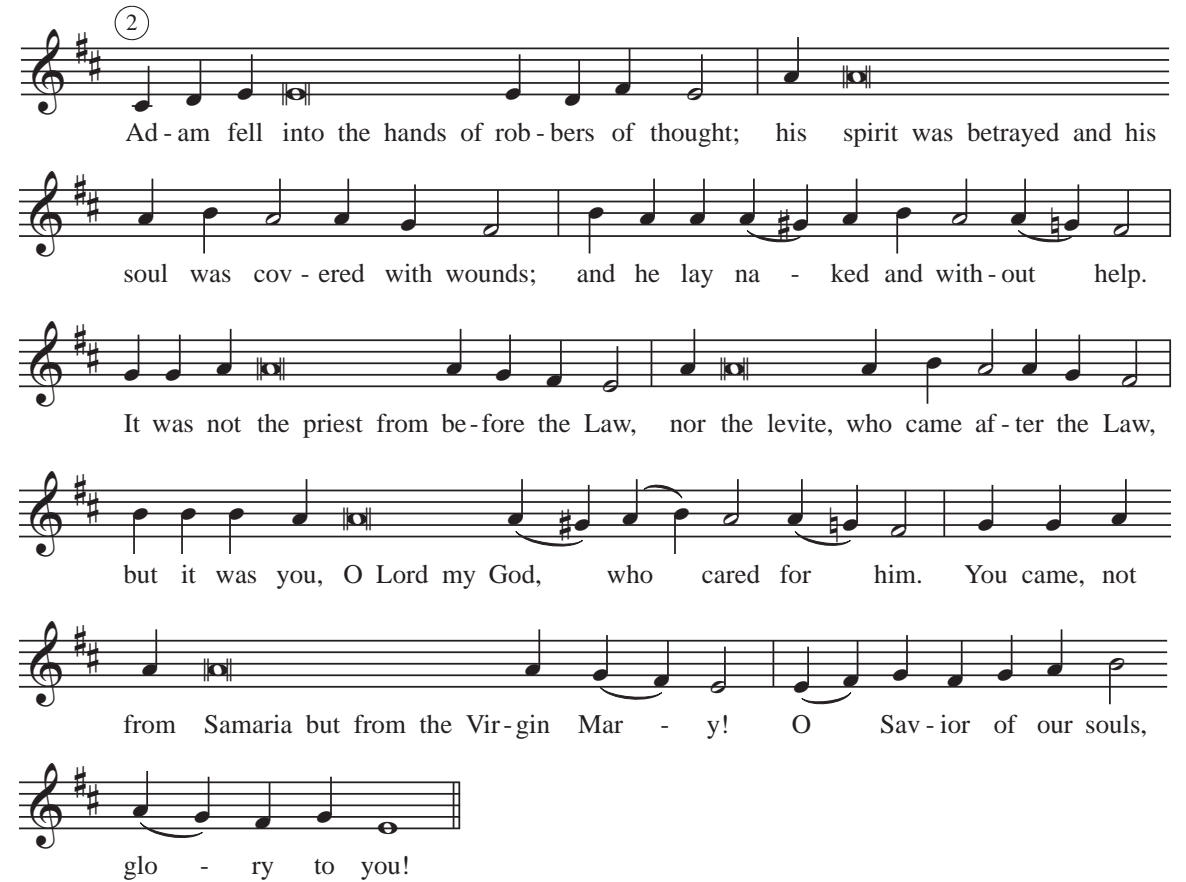
Psalm 141

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.

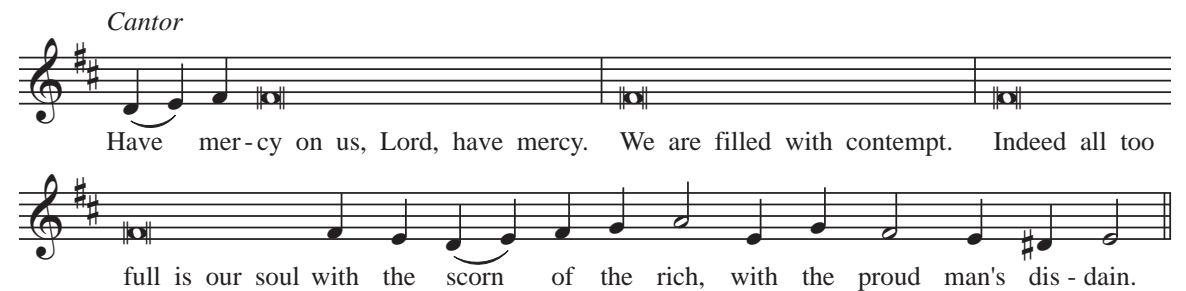
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.
I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

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.



Ad-am fell into the hands of rob-bers of thought; his spirit was betrayed and his soul was cov-ered with wounds; and he lay na-ked and with-out help. It was not the priest from be-fore the Law, nor the levite, who came af-ter the Law, but it was you, O Lord my God, who cared for him. You came, not from Samaria but from the Vir-gin Mar-y! O Sav-ior of our souls, glo-ry to you!

Cantor



Have mer-cy 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.



Your mar-tyrs did not re-ject you, nor did they re-nounce your law.

Aposticha

Aposticha of the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 7 samohlasen

①

The One who plant - ed the vineyard and called the work - ers is the Sav - ior
 whom we shall soon be - hold; come, let us re - ceive the recompense of our labors
 in this Fast, for the Mas - ter remunerates generous - ly from his heart;
 e - ven though we have labored for on - ly a short time, we shall re - ceive
 great mer - cy for our souls.

Cantor *Tone 6 samohlasen*

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 hands of her
 mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mer - cy.

(on 10)

Cantor:

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

Stichera of Repentance in the Tone of the Week - Tone 8 samohlasen

⑩

Un - ceas - ingly the angels sing to you, O King and Mas - ter. I fall before you
 like the Publi - can and cry out: O God, cleanse me and have mer - cy on me!

(on 9)

Cantor:

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

⑨

You are im - mor - tal, O my soul! Do not be overcome by the waves of life,
 but rise up and, to your Benefac - tor, cry out: O God cleanse me and have
 mer - cy on me!

(on 8)

Cantor:

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

8

Give me the gift of tears, O Lord, as once you gave them to the sin - ful
 wo - man, and let me pour them o - ver your feet, for they have
 turned me away from the path of er - ror. I will of - fer you a sweet-smell - ing
 oint - ment, the con - ver - sion of my heart and the puri - ty of my life,
 so that I too may hear your gen - tle voice: Go in peace, for your faith has
 saved you.

(on 7)

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plead - - ing.

7

When I look at my man - y e - vil deeds, and when I think of the fear - some
 judg - ment, I am seized with fright and take re - fuge in you; O Lord

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 4 samohlasen

Take away the defilement of my pas - sion - ate heart, O all - glori - ous The - o - to - kos.
 Cleanse all the wounds and de - file - ment which come from sin, O pure La - dy.
 Stop the wav - er - ing of my mind, that I, your wretched and unprofit - a - ble
 serv - ant, may ex - tol your pow'r and great as - sis - tance.

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

the wise Basil, the sublime Capiton, Agathadore, and El - pi - di - us, as well as
 the far-famed Etheri-us and Eu - gene? For their lives were ven - 'ra - ble
 and in holi-ness they strug - gled in order to dwell in the hea - ven - ly
 king - - - dom.

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

① Put - ting to death all carnal cares by his strug - gles, Bas - il was able to call the
 dead back to life. Ca-piton, the ho - ly pas - tor, ex - ult - ed in the midst of the
 flames with-out be - ing con - sumed. By their prayers, O Lov - er of us all,
 grant us par - don and great mer - - - cy.

and Lover of us all, do not de-spise me; you a-lone are with-out sin.
 Be - fore the end, grant me con - tri - tion and save me.

Tone 3 samohlasen

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur-vive?
 But with you is found for - give-ness: for this we re-vere you.

Stichera of the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 3 samohlasen

⑥ In this time of fast-ing, O faith-ful, let us strive to gain the great glo-ry
 of heav - en, through the mercy of our great God and Sav - ior
 who delivers us from the flames of Ha - des.

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

⑤

Hav - ing passed the mid-point of this Fast, let us man - ifest the beginning of
 con-ver - sion, so that at the end of a ho - ly life, we may find the
 happiness that does not pass a - way.

Tone 7 samohlasen

Cantor:

Let the watchman count on daybreak and Is-ra - el on the Lord.

④

Hav - ing passed half the distance of this ho - ly Fast, let us has - ten to its
 com - ple - tion in joy; let us a - noint our souls with oil for the strug - gle,
 that we may be worthy to venerate the holy Passion of Christ our God
 and to con - tem - plate his glo - rious Re - sur - rec - tion.

(on 3) *Tone 4 samohlasen*

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 holy martyrs of Cherson - Tone 4 samohlasen

③

In - vinci - ble mar - tyrs, far - famed hierarchs, lights of the un - i - verse,
 un - shakable pillars of the Church of God, sup - ports of the faith
 and instructors for be - liev - ers, you swept a - way all error, O Fa - thers of
 hea - ven - ly thoughts guid - ing our souls toward the light as com - pan - ions
 of the an - gels and champions of the ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

Cantor:

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

②

What divine prais - es can we ad - dress to the blessed and il - lus - tri - ous Eph - rem,