

Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast  
April 2, 2017

*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.

**Aposticha theotokion**

O joy of the an-gels in heav - en and pro - tec - tress of the hu - man race

on earth, save us who seek refuge in you, O pure Vir - gin; for, next to God,

our hope is in you, O The - o - to - - - kos.

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

**Our venerable father and confessor Nicetas, Hegumen of Medikion** on Mt. Olympus in Bithynia, who for his defense of the holy icons patiently suffered imprisonment and exile under Leo the Armenian. (824)

*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 *un*harmed.

**Psalm 141**

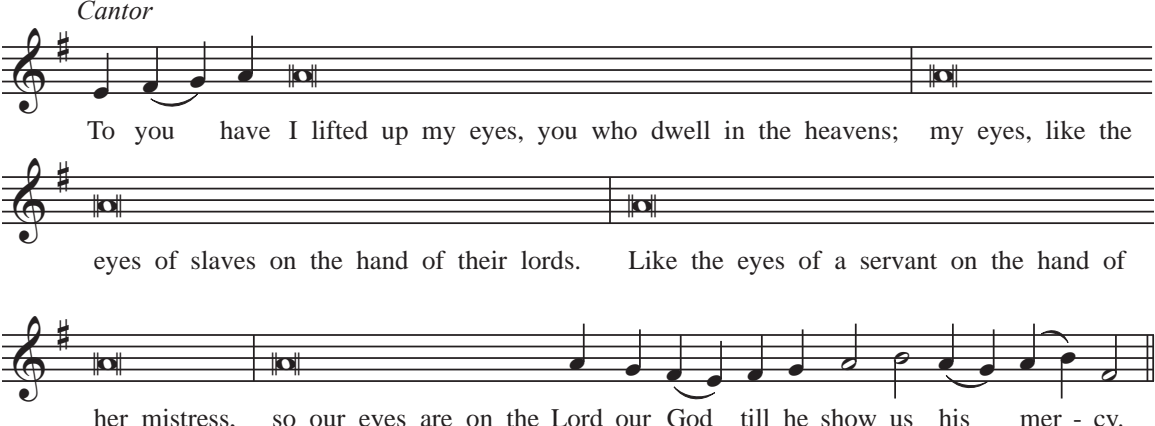
With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
 with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.  
 I pour out my trouble before him;  
 I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

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.

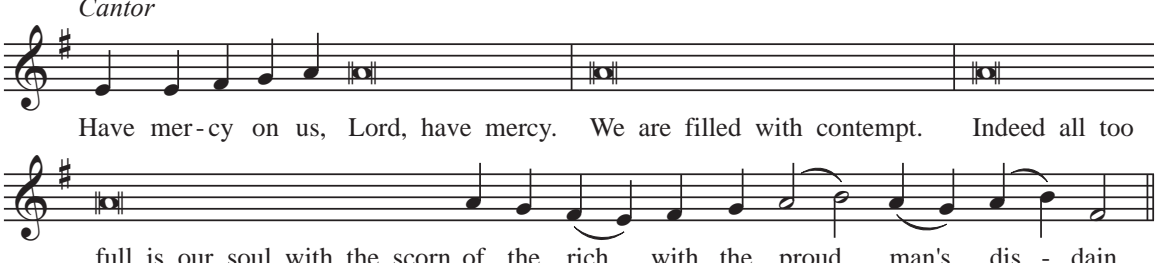
*Cantor*



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.

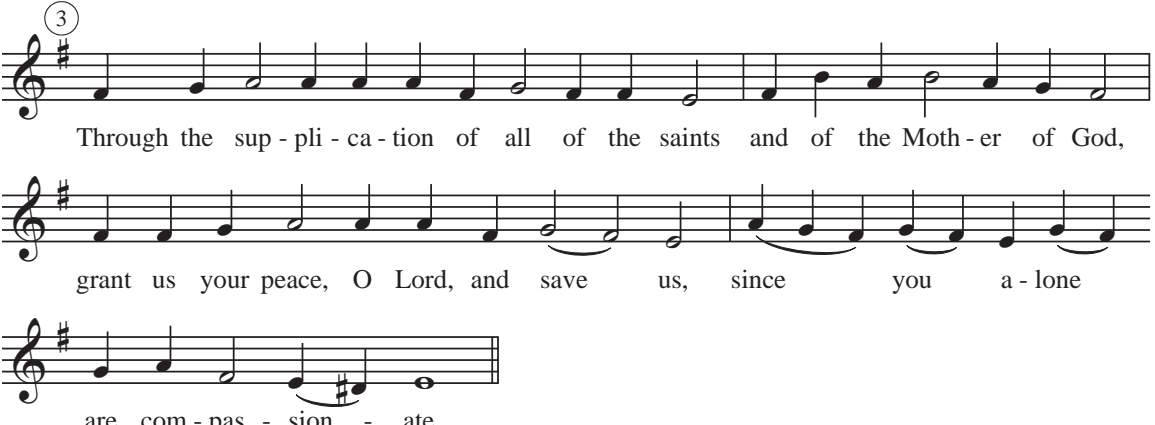
*All repeat, "Truly wondrous if the benevolence of the Lord for us..."*

*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.

③



Through the sup- pli - ca - tion of all of the saints and of the Moth - er of God, grant us your peace, O Lord, and save us, since you a - lone are com - pas - sion - ate.

life, O Vir - gin.

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

### Aposticha

#### Aposticha of the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 1 samohlasen

Tru - ly wond - rous is the benevolence of the Lord for us; fore - see - ing the future  
 as though it were al-read - y pres - ent. He set be - fore us the parable of  
 Lazarus and the wick - ed rich man. Con - sid - ering the end of each of them,  
 let us a - void the selfishness and hard - heartedness of the lat - ter,  
 and im - itate the strength and endurance of the form - er, so that we may  
 cry out with him in the bos - om of A - bra - ham: O Lord and just  
 Judge, glo - ry to you!

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 5 samohlasen

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

dwelt with-in your heart, O bless-ed fa-ther Ni-ce-tas, and you suf-fered

joy-ful-ly. You-have re-ceived the recom-pense of your la-bors,

and now you look up-on the splen-dor of God.

### Theotokion

*Cantor:* Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ever

and for-ev-er. A-men.

In your womb, O all-ho-ly Bride of God, you a-lone bore


the uncontainable God with-out con-fin-ing him. He be-came man in his good-ness.

There-fore, I beseech you, rescue me from the pas-sions which re-strict me,


that, hav-ing trod the straight and nar-row path, I may at-tain that which leads to

*(on 2)*  
Cantor:   
Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; ac-claim him all you peo - ples!


②   
Gen-tle and kind by na - ture, you be-came a war-rior fired by zeal for the faith.


  
Clad in the ar - mor of faith, bearing the lance of ascetici-sm, O Ni - ce - tas,


  
you de - nounced the blasphemy of her - e - sy. God - bear - ing


  
fa - ther, you venerated the icon of the Sav - ior as you fol-lowed the rule giv-en

  
by the Fa - thers.

*(on 1)*  
Cantor:   
Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.


①   
With bes-tial cru - el - ty, the dark-est of ty-rants im-pris-oned you

  
in the most ob - scure of place in the bit-ter - ness of ex - ile. But par - a - dise

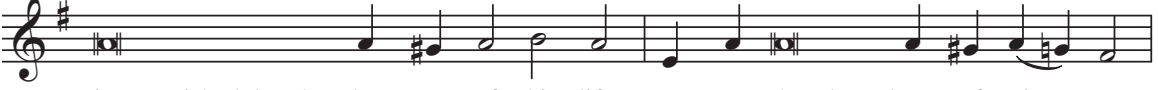
*Tone 1 samohlasen*  
Cantor:   
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur-vive?


  
But with you is found for - give - ness: for this we re - vere you.

**Stichera of the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 1 podoben: Prechval'nij mučenicy**


⑥   
E-ven though you were rich, O Christ, you be-came poor to en-rich us mor-tals

  
with the treas-ure of your im-mor - tal light. And e - ven though I have been

  
impoverished by the pleas-ures of this life, grant me the abun-dance of vir - tues;

  
give me a place with Laz - a - rus the poor and spare me from the punishment

  
of the rich man and from the tor-ments that my deeds de - serve.

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

I have a - - massed treas-ures of lux - u - ry and e - vil deeds; tak-ing  
de-light in the pleas-ures of this life, I have be-come liable to the fires of Ha-des.  
My spir-it knows the poverty of Laz - a - rus, for I have been abandoned at  
the gate of good deeds. Have mer-cy on me, O Lord, wretch that I am.

Cantor:

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

4

With fer - vor, let us be-gin the sixth week of the ho - ly Fast; O faith-ful,  
let us sing a hymn of praise to the Lord in prep-a - ra-tion for the feast of Palms.  
For he comes in glory and the power of his di - vin - i - ty; he draws near  
to Jerusa-lem to van - quish death. There - fore, let us prepare symbols of victory,

the palms of our virt-ues, that we may cry: Ho-san-na to the Cre - a - tor  
of the world!

(on 3) *Tone 2 samohlasen*

Cantor:

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

**Stichera of our venerable father Nicetas - Tone 2 samohlasen**

3

Un - der the guid - ance of the Word, you be - came a faith - ful guide, O holy  
stew-ard Ni - ce - tas. Sow - ing the good seed of sal - va - tion, gath - er - ing in a  
har - vest a hun - dred - fold, you brought it to the Lord in joy. O bless - ed fa - ther,  
as you stand forev - er in his pres - ence, be mind - ful of your flock which ceaselessly  
ven - er - ates your ho - ly mem - o - ry.