

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of
Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
February 11, 2018**

Our holy father Meletius, archbishop of Antioch, was elected to the patriarchal see in 360, but within a month he was sent into exile by Emperor Constantius. Reinstated in 379, he held a council of 150 bishops and took a prominent role in the Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (381). He was persecuted on account of the Nicene faith with frequent exile and soon after presiding over the First Ecumenical Council of Constantinople departed to the Lord. His virtues were celebrated with the highest praises by Saints Gregory of Nyssa and John Chrysostom (381)

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 3 samohlasen



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*.




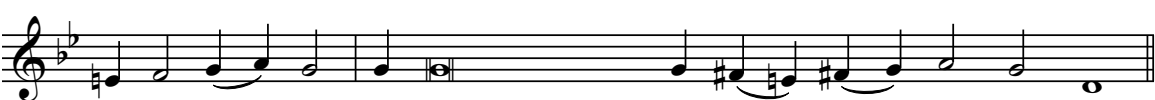
Tone 3

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

Stichera of Repentance - Tone 3 samohlasen

¹⁰

We of - fer you our eve - ning hymn, O Christ, with in - cense and

spir - it - ual song. Have mercy upon our souls, O Sav - ior.

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

⁹

Save me, O my Lord God, for you are the Sav - ior of all.

A storm of passion is toss-ing me a - bout, and the weight of transgression

is sink-ing me. Give me your help-ing hand, and lead me to the light of

hu-mil - i - ty; for you alone are merci-ful and you love man - kind.

of van - i - ties. Through re - pent - ance, perfect me com - plete - ly,
 O Christ our God, have mercy on me and save me.

Tone 2

Cantor: *(on 6)*

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 Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 2 podoben: Jehda ot dreva

⑥

En - ter - ing in - to the a - re - na of the ho - ly Fast, let us
 make ev - 'ry ef - fort to hum - ble our flesh by ab - sti-nence;
 in prayer and with tears let us seek the Lord our Sav - ior, and, that
 we might turn a - way from our e - vil deeds, let us say to him:
 We have sinned a - gainst you, O Christ our King, save us as

you saved the Nin - e - vites of old, and in your good - ness, grant us a share in the
King - dom of Heav - en.


Cantor: *(on 5)*

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

When I see my deeds that de - serve such pun - ish - ment, I
am with - out hope, O Lord, for I have dis - o - beyed
your ho - ly com - mand - ments, and I have led a fool - ish life.
There - fore I be - seech you: Pur - i - fy me in the wa - ters of re - pent - ance
by fast - ing and prayer, O Sav - ior full of good - ness;
do not re - ject me, O Ben - e - fac - tor of the u - ni - verse.

Cantor: *(on 4)*



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

④



Let us be - gin the time of this bright Fast, giv - ing our-selves



to spir - it - ual strug - gle. Let us san - cti - fy our soul and



pur - i - fy our flesh. Let us not on - ly fast from food; let us al - so



ab - stain from ev - 'ry pas - sion and cul - ti - vate spir - it - ual vir - tues.



And let us faith - ful - ly per - se - vere in this,



so that we may be worthy to see the holy Pas - sion of Christ our God



and the joy of his ho - ly Res - ur - rec - tion.

Tone 4

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 Meletius - Tone 4 samohlasen

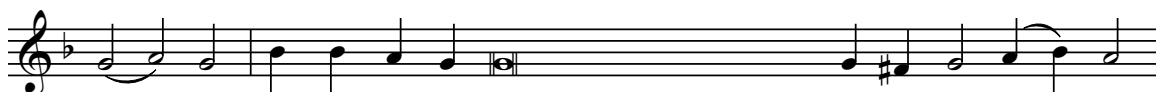
③



You wise - ly taught that the Word, co - eternal with the Fa - ther, and bo - di - less,



was united to his flesh in his Per - son with - out un - dergoing change or con -



fu - sion. He may be con - templated in two natures and in two en - er - gies,



which may not be separated from one an - o - ther be - cause of their real u - nion.

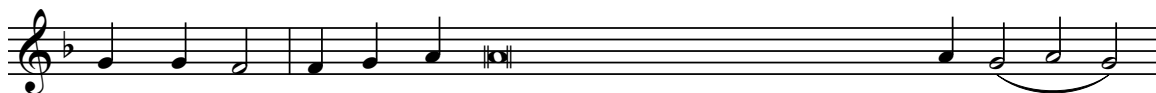


Praise the Lord, all you na - tions, ac - claim him all you peo - ples!

②



O blessed Me - le - tius, you delighted in the law of the Lord. As the



Script - ures say, you be - came a tree planted near the waters of asce - ti - cism.



You yield - ed the fruit of the vir - tues by the grace of the one who enlight - ened

your ho - ly soul and made it ca - pable of re - cei - ving all the
 in - spi - ra - tions of the Spi - rit.

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

① As said in the Song of Songs. O blessed fa - ther Me - le - tius, your cheeks
 are like doves, cherishing chastity and re-nounc - ing plea - sure for the sake of the
 joys of the age to come. Christ has grant - ed them to you as a gift for he
 accepted your count - less strug - gles and your flam - ing zeal, with which you
 con-front - ed all dan - gers to the Faith.

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 4 samohlasen



O Most Im-mac-u-late One, wheth-er I sail on the sea, travel on land, or rest at home,



give me grace and keep my mind a - lert. En - a - ble me to do God's will,



so that be-cause of the sins of my life, I will find myself hastening under



your pro - tec - tion on the day of judg - - - ment.

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

Aposticha

Aposticha of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 4 samohlasen

① & ②



The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the



favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works



of dark - ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light,

so that cross - ing the o - cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the
 Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior
 of our souls.

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

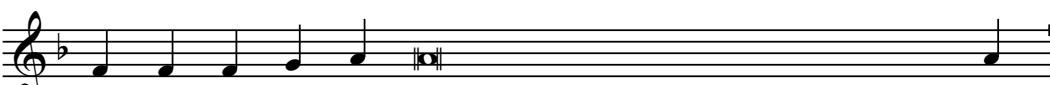
All repeat, "The light of your grace..."


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 You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God. Through their




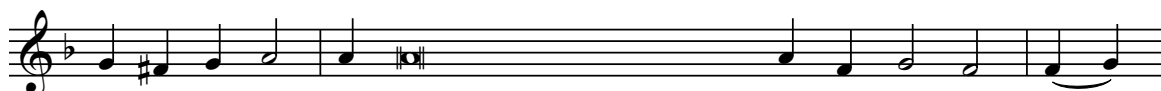
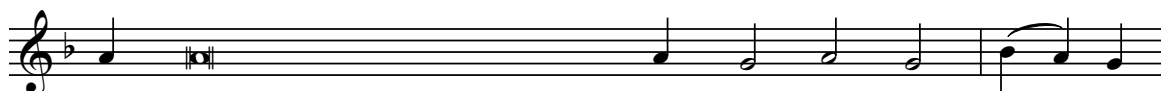


in - ter - ces - sions, send up - on us great mer - cy.

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 - Tone 4 samohlasen



The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - gin, for you have given

birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through

whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech

him to send the light of sal - va - tion up - on the souls who pro - fess

the true faith, prais - ing you as the Moth - er of our God.

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