



be - fore your birth - giv - ing, for all of us have you now as our help,  
 our refuge and our con - fir - ma - tion, you are our me - diatrix before Christ,  
 our Lord and mas - ter. We pray you to ask him for peace in the world and  
 the for - give - ness of sins for those who flee to your pro - tec - - - tion.

*The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the First Sunday, page 10*

*Aposticha of the First Sunday, page 65*


**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
 First Sunday of the Great Fast  
 February 21, 2021**

**The Finding of the venerable relics of the Martyrs at Eugenia near Constantinople.** During the reign of the emperor Arcadius, a divine revelation showed the burial place of these martyrs of whom it was said, "God alone knows their names, and he has written them in the Book of Life in heaven."

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

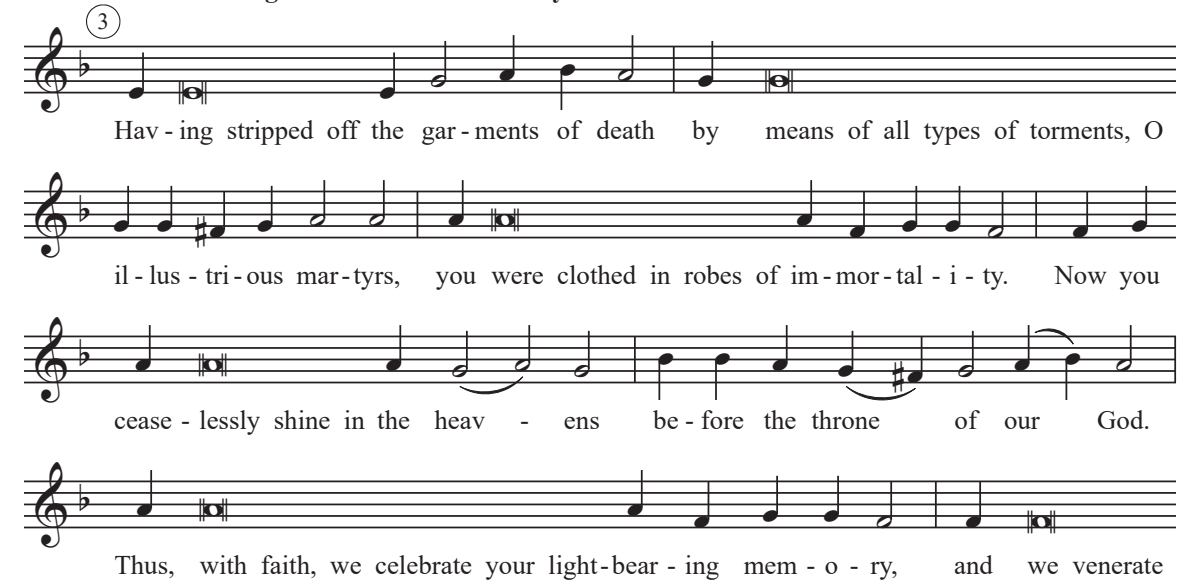
*Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 5, p. 39)  
 Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 62. Then:*

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 finding of the relics of the martyrs - Tone 4 samohlasen**



Hav - ing stripped off the gar - ments of death by means of all types of torments, O  
 il - lus - tri - ous mar - tyrs, you were clothed in robes of im - mor - tal - i - ty. Now you  
 cease - lessly shine in the heav - ens be - fore the throne of our God.  
 Thus, with faith, we celebrate your light - bear - ing mem - o - ry, and we venerate

the chest of your sa - - cred rel - - - ics.

*Cantor* (on 2)

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

②

Pro-viding for the weak-ness of man - kind, the power of God grants healings to

all who ap-proach. What a won-der! Through grace, the few ashes remaining

from the bodies of the mar - tyrs pour forth streams of won-drous mir - a - cles!

Come, let us gain health of soul and bod-y. With thanks-giv-ing, let us sing to God,

"O Sav-ior of the world, they fought the good fight for your sake: by their prayers,

de - liv - er us from all e - vil!"

*Cantor* (on 1)

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

①

Hid - den under the ground for a long time, the victorious martyrs are now

brought to light as a pre-cious treas-ure which en-rich-es the Queen of Cit - ies.

A wise hi - erarch bears them in his hands, car - rying them into the ho - ly

tem-ple. Those en-treat-ing them receive en-light-en-ment, ben - e - fits, health, and

pro-tec - tion for those who re-ceive them as ser - vants of God.

*The faithful STAND.*

*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** - in the same tone

O all-immaculate The-o - to - kos, you are the intercessor for the whole

hu - man race. Save from every attack of the en - e - my those who bow in piety