

**LITURGICAL
PROPERS**
Great Lent 2017:
**Presactified
Divine Liturgy**



Wednesday, March 1, 2017 - The Holy Venerable-Martyr Eudocia (98-117)
Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat
This an altiturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 2:3-11

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 8

10. *Lead my soul forth from prison* that I may give thanks to Your name.*

O faithful, while fasting bodily,

let us also fast in spirit.

Let us loosen every bond of injustice;

let us tear apart the strong chains of violence;

let us rip up all unjust assertions;

let us give bread to the hungry

and welcome the poor and homeless to our houses,

that we may receive from Christ our God, His great mercy.

9. *The just shall gather around me* when You have been good to me.*

O faithful, while fasting bodily, (*Repeat Previous*)

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;* O Lord, hear my voice!*

What honour and praise can fittingly be ascribed to the saints?

They bowed their necks under the sword for You,

the One who left the heavens and came down.

They shed their blood for You,

the One who took the form of a servant.

By emulating Your poverty

they humbled themselves unto death.

By their prayers, have mercy on us, O Lord,

according to Your compassion.

In Tone 2

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

Jesus, the true spiritual Sun,
sent you as lightning through all the world,
to overcome the darkness of error
by the brightness of your divine teachings;
O holy apostles, who have seen the Lord,
beseech Him to send His light and His mercy on us.

6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with Your forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

Elijah ascended in the divine chariot of his virtues,
and by his fasting he was carried to the heights of heaven in glory.
Strive, O my humble soul, as he did,
fast and shed all evil, malice, envy, and corrupting luxury
so that you may be delivered from all eternal pain of death
and cry out to Christ:
O Lord, glory be to You!

In Tone 5

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.*

O divine apostles,
fervent intercessors for the world and defenders of the faithful.
You received from Christ our God the boldness to intercede for us.
We beseech you that we may pass this solemn time of the Fast untroubled
and receive the grace of the consubstantial Trinity.
O great and glorious preachers, pray for our souls.

In Tone 4

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

You revealed yourself, most glorious one,
to be a most holy priest,
the foundation of the Church, an unshakeable pillar,
a most true and God-given wonderworker!
You became a most radiant lamp,
having acquired the life-giver Jesus
like the tree of life in the middle of Paradise,
bishop and martyr Theodotus!

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

You revealed yourself, most glorious one, to be a most holy priest,

the foundation of the Church, an unshakable pillar, a most true and God-given wonderworker!

You became a most radiant lamp,

having acquired the life-giver Jesus

like the tree of life in the middle of Paradise,

bishop and martyr Theodotus!

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.

Although you were stretched out on a tree

and cruelly beaten with thongs of leather,

shut up in prison, your feet inhumanly pierced with nails

and placed on a fiery bier,

you revealed yourself, wondrous one, to be unchanged:

Glorifying Him Who strengthened you in all things, /

bishop and martyr Theodotus!

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.

You strangled the enemy with the thongs of your struggle, and overthrew his power!

You took courage, most brilliant one

and now wearing the crown of victory,

you live in the kingdom of heaven.

You have been counted worthy of enlightenment

and the beauty of those who feast!

You pray that those who honour you may be saved,

Theodotus, glory of martyrs!

In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

Attend to the groaning of my broken heart, O bride of God. Accept the lifting up of my hands.

Do not reject me, O Mary, spotless Virgin, full of love,

so that I may praise and magnify

Him, who in you magnified the human race.

this Job did not sin with his lips.

Gospel - Matthew 26:6-16

At that time, while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she

poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they

were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold

for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said

to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service

for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have

me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly

I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she

has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty

pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to

betray him.

struggling together; and he said to the man that did the wrong, “Why do you strike your fellow?” He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh, and stayed in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. The shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. When they came to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come so soon today?” They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” He said to his daughters, “And where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. She bore a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, “I have been a sojourner* in a foreign land.”

Prokeimenon II, Tone 4

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,* do not discard the work of Your hands.

verse: I thank You, Lord, with all my heart.

Reading II - Job 2:1-10

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, “Whence have you come?” Satan answered the LORD, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause.” Then Satan answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life.” So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God, and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all

Prokeimenon I, Tone 5

You, O Lord, will guard us, and will keep us,* from this generation, and forever!

verse: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

Reading I - Genesis 1:24-2:3

God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: the quadrupeds, the creeping things, and the wild animals of the earth according to their kind.” It was so. So God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and all the creeping things on earth according to their kind. God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.” So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them. Then God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing herb that sows seed on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. I also give every green plant as food for all the wild animals of the earth, for all the birds of heaven, and for everything that creeps on the earth in which is the breath of life.” It was so. Then God saw everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good. So evening and morning were the sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth and all their adornment were finished. And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 6

Look at me and answer me* O Lord my God!

verse: How long, O Lord, will You forget me? How long will You hide Your face from me?

Reading II - Proverbs 2:1-22

My son, if you receive the words of my commandment
And hide them within yourself,
Your ear will be obedient to wisdom,
And you will incline your heart to understanding;

You will entrust it to your son as an admonition.
For if he calls upon wisdom,
And you utter your voice for understanding;
If you seek perception with a strong voice,
If you seek her as silver
And search for her as treasure,
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord
And find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom,
And from His face come knowledge and understanding;
And He stores up salvation for the upright;
He will protect their journey,
That He might guard the ways of His ordinances;
And He will carefully guard the way of those who reverence Him.
Then you will understand righteousness and judgment,
And accomplish successfully every good path for yourself.
For if wisdom comes into your mind,
And the perception in your soul seems to be good,
Then good counsel will guard you,
And holy thinking will keep you,
That it might rescue you from an evil way
And from a man who speaks nothing trustworthy.
Woe to those who forsake the paths of uprightness
So they may walk in the ways of darkness,
Who delight in evils
And rejoice in evil perversion,
Whose ways are crooked
And their paths devious,
So they may cause you to be far from the straight way
And a stranger to righteous judgment.
My son, do not lay hold of evil counsel,
Nor forsake the teaching of your youth
And forget the divine covenant;
For it establishes its house with death,
And its paths beside Hades with the dead;
All who journey there do not return,
Nor do they lay hold of straight paths;
For they do not comprehend the years of life.

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*
She who was rejected because of her life,
and who was accepted because of her conversion,
came to You, bearing myrrh, and saying:
Do not cast me out, O Son of the Virgin, for I am a wretched one;
O joy of the angels do not despise my tears;
but receive me in repentance, and in Your goodness, accept me a sinful one.
In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

O Lord, the woman who had fallen into a multitude of sins,
recognized Your divinity and thus joined the ranks of the myrrh-bearing
women;
before Your burial, she offered You myrrh with her tears:
“Alas,” she said, “Woe is me!
The stinging night of pleasure seizes me;
the dark and moonless love of sin grasps me.
Accept the stream of my tears and my copious weeping, O Lord,
for You make the waters fall from the clouds into the sea.
Incline Your ear to the cry of my heart,
for You incline the heavens in Your ineffable condescension.
Allow me to kiss Your most pure feet,
and to dry them with the locks of my hair;
for these are the feet that Eve heard in Paradise,
and, trembling at their approach, she hid herself.
O Lord, who can search out the number of my sins?
Who shall search the depth of Your judgments, O Redeemer and Saviour of our
souls?!

In Your infinite love, do not despise Your servant.”

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

To the God of heaven give thanks* for His love endures forever.

verse: Give thanks to the God of gods, for His love endures forever.

Reading I - Exodus 2:11-22

One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on
their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.
He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid
him in the sand. When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were

In Tone 6

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Drowning in the abyss of sin,
the harlot found in You a harbour of salvation.
She poured out myrrh with her tears, and said:
O Lord, You can forgive sins,
but You await the repentance of sinners.
Behold me, O Master, for I am sinking in the storm of sin;
in Your great goodness, save me.

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Today Christ comes to the house of the Pharisee,
and the sinful woman falls at His feet.
She bows before Him and says:
Behold, I am drowning in the abyss of sin;
I have lost all hope because of my deeds.
In Your goodness, do not turn away from me;
but grant me forgiveness, O Lord, and save me.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

The harlot loosened her hair for You, O Lord,
while Judas reached out his hand to the godless ones.
One acted to receive Your forgiveness, the other to gain money.
Therefore, we cry out to You:
O Lord, sold for our deliverance, glory to You.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

Filled with the odour of sin, the woman drew near to You, O Saviour;
she poured out her tears over Your feet and thus proclaimed Your Passion.
“O Master, how shall I dare to raise my eyes to You,” she cried.
Yet You came to save the fallen;
You raised Lazarus from the tomb;
so lift me also from the abyss of death.
O Lord, accept me in my misery and save me.

For if they walked in good paths,
They would find the smooth paths of righteousness.
The inhabitants of the land will be good,
And the simple will be left in it;
For the upright will dwell in the land,
And the holy will be left in it.

Friday, March 3, 2017 - The Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus (286-305) *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 3:1-14

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 5

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Come, O faithful, let us fulfil the works of God in the light;
and let us walk with dignity as in the light of day;
let us tear up every unjust contract,
and let us cast aside every object of scandal for our neighbour.
Let us turn away from the pleasures of the flesh,
so that we may grow in our spiritual gifts.
Let us give food to the poor;
let us draw near to Christ, and in repentance, let us say:
O our God, have mercy on us.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Come, O faithful, let us fulfil the works of God in the light; (*Repeat Previous*)

In Tone 8

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

Through the supplication of all the saints and of the Theotokos,
grant us Your peace, O Lord, and save us,
since You alone are compassionate.

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

O saints, your confession of faith in the arena
destroyed the strength of devils and set us free from delusion.
When you were beheaded, you cried out:
O Lord, may the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Your sight;
for in our love for You, the Lover of humankind,
we have despised this temporal life.

*6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is
that You may be revered.*

How beautiful is the manner of your exchange, O saints;
for you have given your blood and received heaven.

Truly, you have done well!

You have obtained immortality by forsaking corruptible things.
Making a single choir with the angels,

you sing unceasingly the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.

*5. I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on
Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

O martyrs, worthy of praise,
though the earth may not have covered you, heaven received you,
opening to you the gates of Paradise, where you dwell,

delighting in the Tree of Life.

Beseech Christ to grant our souls

peace and great mercy.

In Tone 2

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

let us celebrate this feast in the joy of the Spirit;

for, on this day, the holy martyr Theodore prepares a spiritual banquet for us,

the lovers of the feast;

he brings joy to our hearts,

and we cry out to him:

Rejoice, invincible warrior, who has vanquished powerful tyrants;

and for the love of Christ our God,

you gave given over your body of flesh to torments.

Rejoice, for in the midst of dangers,

O Lord, who suffered for us,
grant us Your forgiveness and save us.

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. O Lord, hear my voice!*
While the sinful woman was offering You her ointment,
Your disciple conspired against You.

She rejoiced to pour out the precious myrrh,
while he hastened to sell the One who is beyond price.
As she came to recognize her Lord,
the disciple separated himself;

she was set free,

while Judas became enslaved to the Enemy.

She was ennobled through repentance,

while he was disgraced by his vile actions.

O Saviour, who suffered for us,

grant us Your forgiveness and save us.

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer:*

O the misery of Judas!

He saw the sinful woman kiss the feet of the Lord,

and he shamefully thought of his kiss of betrayal.

She loosened her hair,

while he let himself be bound up by passion;

instead of the fragrance of myrrh, he bore the odour of his perverse and evil

In Tone 2

for jealousy does no know how to seek what is good.
O the misery of Judas!

O Lord, keep our souls from falling like him.

*6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is
that You may be revered.*

The sinful woman hastened to buy the precious myrrh,

in order to anoint her Saviour.

She said to the merchant:

Give me the myrrh that I might anoint the One

who washed me of all my sins.

family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 - Great and Holy Wednesday; Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parios *Great and Holy Week. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - *Matins* - John 12:17-50; *Sixth Hour* - Ezekiel 2:3-3:3

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

In You, born of the Virgin, the harlot recognized her God;
ashamed of her sinful deeds, she sighed and wept, and said:
O Lord, loosen my debt to You, as I unloosen my hair.
Grant Your love to the one who loves You, despite all my unworthiness;
and I shall exalt Your love for all,
harlots and publicans alike,
O Lover of humankind and their Benefactor.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

The harlot mixed her tears with the precious myrrh,
as she poured them over Your most pure feet,
which she covered with kisses;
thus You showed her to be justified.

you showed yourself to be a valiant soldier of the heavenly army.
Therefore, we pray to you, O glory of martyrs,
intercede for the salvation of our souls.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

O holy martyr Theodore,
you generously grant the God-given grace of your miracles
to all the faithful who hasten to you.

We rejoice in this, and we sing:

You are the liberator of captives and healer of the sick,
the wealth of the poor and salvation of those who sail the seas,
the defender of those who cherish your holy memory;
now, for all of us who praise you,
beseech Christ for His great mercy.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

O holy martyr Theodore,
you are truly the “gift of God,”
for, being alive even after your death,
you are attentive to the requests of those who come to you.
A son was once seized from his mother
and made a prisoner in the pagan army;
the widow bathed your sanctuary with her tears;
and you were moved with compassion.
You mounted a white horse and mysteriously returned her child;
and even now, you do not cease to work miracles.
Beseech Christ our God to save our souls.

O Theodore, thrice-blessed,
with your name, I praise the gift of God;
you are a shining torch of the divine brightness.
By your deeds you have illuminated the universe.
You have shown yourself to be stronger than fire,
and you crushed the head of the treacherous dragon.
Therefore, Christ has placed on your head the crown of victory.
And now that you enjoy the divine favour,
O holy and great martyr,
beseech God for the salvation of our souls.
In Tone 6, Glory...

The enemy used the apostate emperor as his servant
against the Christian people who were purified by the Fast;
he tried to defile them with food polluted by the blood of sacrifices.
But, you more wisely foiled his plan,
by appearing in a dream to the bishop of that time
and warning him of the danger.
We also offer you our sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and we honour you with the title of protector
as we celebrate the annual memory of this event.
We beseech you to preserve us from the evil designs of the enemy
by interceding with God for us,
O holy martyr Theodore.

In Tone 8, Now...

Let us sing a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary,
glory of the whole world!
She was herself formed by human seed,
yet she became the Mother of the Master,
the Gate of heaven, the theme of the angels' hymn and the beauty of the
faithful.

She was seen as being heavenly and the Tabernacle of the Godhead.
She indeed tore down the wall of enmity between God and man, and brought
peace in its place.
She opened the Kingdom of Heaven.

the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those
slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received
the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master,
you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent
also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping
where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him,
and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will
be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him
into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

“Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that wicked slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in

Let us therefore cling fast to her for she is the anchor of faith, and let us receive as our stronghold the Lord who was born of her. Be of good cheer, then, and have confidence, O people of God, for He will fight our enemies for us; He is all-powerful!

Prokeimenon I, Tone 5

May the Lord answer in time of trial;* may the name of Jacob’s God protect you!

verse: May He send you help from His shrine and give you support from Sion!

Reading I - Genesis 2:20-3:20

Adam gave names to all the cattle, to all the birds of heaven, and to all the wild animals of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.” Now the two were naked, both Adam and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent was more cunning than all the wild animals the Lord God made on the earth. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden; but from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of the two were opened, and they knew they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Then they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden that afternoon, and Adam and his wife hid themselves within the tree in the middle of the garden from the presence of the Lord God. So the Lord God called Adam and said to him, “Adam, where are you?” He replied, “I heard Your voice as You were walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son, and she named him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew him out of the water." **Prokimenon II, Tone 4**
How good and how pleasant it is, * when people live in unity!
verse: It is like precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron.

Reading II - Job 1:13-22

Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job, and said, "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them; and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies, and made a raid upon the camels and took them, and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and

escaped to tell you." While he was yet speaking, there came another, and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you." Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshipped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Gospel - Matthew 24:36-26:2

The Lord said to his disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then

Thus He said, "Who said you were eaten from the one tree and I ate?" Thus the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than all the wild animals of the earth. On your breast and belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel." **Prokimenon II, Tone 6**
O Lord, arise in Your strength, * we shall sing and praise Your power.
verse: O Lord, Your strength gives joy to the king; how Your saving help makes him glad!

Reading II - Proverbs 3:19-34

The ways of wisdom are good ways,
And all her paths are in peace.
She is a tree of life for all who cleave to her,
And she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.
God by wisdom founded the earth
And prepared the heavens with discernment.
With perception the depths were broken up,
And the clouds flowed with dew.
My son, do not be careless,
But keep my counsel and thinking,
That your soul may live,

On Your right are the paths that lead to You,
and on Your left are those who turn away from You.
Do not make me perish with the goats,
even though I have been disfigured by sin.
But place me on Your right with Your sheep,
and in Your love for humankind, save me.

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

O Bridegroom, whose grace surpasses all human beauty,
You invite us to the spiritual feast in Your palace.
Strip me of the coarse garment of my sin,
and make me a partaker of Your Passion.
Clothe me in the glorious adornment of Your beauty.
In Your mercy, accept me as a luminous guest
at the banquet in Your Kingdom.

In Tone 7, Glory... Now...

Behold, the Lord entrusts His talent to you;
accept this gift with fear, O my soul.
Multiply it for the One who granted it to you;
share it with the poor and you shall have the Lord as your friend.
Then you shall be at His right when He comes in glory,
and you shall hear His blessed voice say to you:
You are indeed my servant;
enter into the joy of Your Lord.
Even though I have gone astray, O Lord,
make me worthy of this joy.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 6

Arise, O Lord, and go to Your resting place,* You and the ark of Your might.
verse: O Lord, remember David and the many hardships he endured.

Reading I - Exodus 2:5-10

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, and her maidens walked beside the river; she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to fetch it. When she opened it she saw the child; and lo, the babe was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said

And grace may be around your neck.
And there will be healing for your flesh
And care for your bones,
That you may walk confidently in peace in all your ways,
And your foot may not stumble.
For if you sit down, you will be without fear,
And if you lie down, your sleep will be pleasant.
And do not be afraid of intimidation when it comes upon you,
Nor of the attack of the ungodly when it comes at you;
For the Lord will be over all your ways,
And He will plant your feet firmly, that you may not be shaken.
Do not withhold doing good to the needy,
When you may give a helping hand;
Do not say, when you are able to do good,
"Come back tomorrow, and I will give you something";
For you do not know what the next day will bring forth.
Do not devise evil things against your friend
Who dwells beside you and trusts in you.
Do not be ready to quarrel with a man in vain,
Lest he do you some harm.
Do not incur the reproach of evil men,
Neither seek their ways.

Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (c. 845) - *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an alturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 5:16-26

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

10. *Lead my soul forth from prison * that I may give thanks to Your name.*

O faithful, to undertake a spiritual fast,

we must speak no deceit with our tongues

nor place obstacles in the path of each other.

But by repentance let us brighten the lamp of our souls,

that with tears we may call out to Christ:

Forgive our trespasses, for You love humankind.

9. *The just shall gather around me * when You have been good to me.*

O faithful, to undertake a spiritual fast, (*Repeat Previous*)

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice!*

O martyrs, worthy of praise,

though the earth may not have covered you, heaven received you,

opening to you the gates of Paradise, where you dwell,

delighting in the Tree of Life.

Beseech Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy.

In Tone 3

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive * to the voice of my prayer.*

Through the prayers of the divine apostles, O righteous Lord,

grant that this time of the Fast may be well spent.

In Your kindness grant repentance to our hearts,

that we all may be saved and give glory to You.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

In Tone 4

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

You have heard of the condemnation of the one who hid the talent;

O my soul, do not hide the word of God.

Proclaim His wonders and increase His gifts,

that you may enter into the joy of your Lord.

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

You have heard of the condemnation of the one who hid the talent; (*Repeat Previous*)

In Tone 6

4. *From the morning watch until night * let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Come, O faithful, let us zealously labour for the Lord;

for He entrusts His riches to His servants;

let each multiply the talent of grace.

Let one gain wisdom by doing good;

let another serve with splendour;

let the faithful share the knowledge of faith with the unenlightened;

let others share their goods with the poor.

Thus we shall multiply the treasure that has been entrusted to us,

and we shall be the faithful stewards of grace,

Grant this to us, O Christ our God,

in Your goodness toward humankind.

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Come, O faithful, let us zealously labour for the Lord; (*Repeat Previous*)

2. *Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

When You shall come in glory with the powers of heaven,

to be seated on the throne of judgment, O Jesus,

do not cast me far away from You, O Good Shepherd.

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 - Great and Holy Tuesday; Holy Priest-Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamos in Asia - *Great and Holy Week. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Matins - Matthew 22:15-23:39; *Sixth Hour* - Ezekiel 1:21-2:1

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

How shall I enter the splendour of your saints,
because of my unworthiness?

If I dare to enter into Your bridal chamber,
my garment shall give me away;
for I do not have a wedding garment,
and the angels shall cast me out.
Purify my soul, O Lord, and in Your goodness, save me.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

How shall I enter the splendour of your saints, *(Repeat Previous)*

In Tone 2

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

My slothful soul has fallen into sleep, O Christ, my Spouse,
and I do not have a lamp shining with the fire of virtues.
I have become like the foolish virgins;
for, instead of labouring, I have wasted my time.
Do not close off Your love and Your heart to me, O Master;
but dispel my dark slumber;
awaken me that I may enter Your palace with the wise virgins.
There the choir of the just shall resound as they sing to You:
O Lord, glory to You.

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

My slothful soul has fallen into sleep, O Christ, my Spouse, *(Repeat Previous)*

Your coming will be great and fearful, O Lord,
when You shall sit in just judgment.

Do not pass sentence on me,
for I am already condemned;
but show Your divine favour toward me,
through the intercession of Your apostles.

In Tone 6

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.*

O apostles of Christ who shine your light on all mortals,
you are the treasuries of the holy knowledge of God.
Through your prayers deliver from temptation those who praise you.
Guide us successfully through the course of this Fast;
direct our lives in peace,
so that with our eyes lifted up to the Passion of Christ,
we may with courage give praise to our God.

In Tone 2

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Bravely enduring the present happenings and rejoicing in things hoped for,
the holy martyrs said to each other:
We have not stripped ourselves of a garment,
but we have put off the old person.
The winter is bitter but Paradise is sweet.
Although the chill is painful, it becomes sweet enjoyment.
Let us not bow down, O captains.
We suffer a little at present
that we may receive the crowns of victory from Christ,
since He is God and the Saviour of our souls.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Bravely enduring the present happenings and rejoicing in things hoped for,

the holy martyrs said to each other:

We have not stripped ourselves of a garment,

but we have put off the old person.

The winter is bitter but Paradise is sweet.

Although the chill is painful, it becomes sweet enjoyment.

Let us not bow down, O captains.

We suffer a little at present

that we may receive the crowns of victory from Christ,

since He is God and the Saviour of our souls.

*2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

Throwing off their garments and going into the lake without trembling,

the holy martyrs said to each other:

Since we have lost Paradise,

let us not care for a corruptible garment today.

Having once been clothed in corruption through the serpent,

let us now beseech resurrection for all.

Let us despise the icy destroying cold and scorn the flesh,

that we may receive the crowns of victory from Christ

for He is God and the Saviour of our souls.

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

Looking upon the tortures as pleasures

and hastening towards the icy lake as towards the heat,

the holy martyrs said to each other:

Let us stand fearless in the winter season

that we may escape the dreadful fire of Hades.

Let a foot be burnt that it may rejoice forever;

let a hand be lost that it may be lifted towards the Lord;

let us not spare the dying nature.

Let us now accept death

that we may receive crowns of victory from Christ,

for He is God and the Saviour of our souls.

Glory...

Bravely enduring the present happenings

and rejoicing in things hoped for,

as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

“So when you see the desolating sacrilege standing in the holy place, as was

spoken of by the prophet Daniel (let the reader understand), then those in

Judea must flee to the mountains; the one on the housetop must not go down to

take what is in the house; the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those

days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. For at that

time there will be great suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of

the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut

short, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be

cut short. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There

he is!’—do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear

and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Take note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look! He is in

the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms,’ do

not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the

west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there

the vultures will gather.

“Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the

moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of

heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,

and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see ‘the Son of

Man coming on the clouds of heaven’ with power and great glory. And he will

send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from

the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and

puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all

these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven

and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

His sons would visit one another and prepare a banquet every day, and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When the days of their drinking were ended, Job sent and purified them; and he rose early in the morning and offered sacrifices for them according to their number, as well as one calf for the sins of their souls. For Job said, “Lest my sons consider evil things in their mind against God.” Therefore Job did this continually.

Then as it so happened one day that behold, the angels of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and the devil also came with them. The Lord said to the devil, “Where did you come from?” So the devil answered the Lord and said, “I came here after going about the earth and walking around under heaven.” Then the Lord said to him, “Have you yet considered my servant Job, since there is none like him on the earth: a blameless, true, and God-fearing man, and one who abstains from every evil thing?” So the devil answered and said before the Lord, “Does Job worship the Lord for no reason? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his cattle have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all he has, and see if he will bless You to Your face.” Then the Lord said to the devil, “Behold, whatever he has I give into your hand; but do not touch him.” Thus the devil went out from the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 24:3-35

At that time, when Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

“Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world,

the holy martyrs said to each other:

We have not stripped ourselves of a garment,
but we have put off the old person.

The winter is bitter but Paradise is sweet.

Although the chill is painful, it becomes sweet enjoyment.

Let us not bow down, O captains.

We suffer a little at present

that we may receive the crowns of victory from Christ,
since He is God and the Saviour of our souls.

Now...

O Virgin, the shadow of the law passed away
with the realization of grace.

For as the bush had burned without being consumed,
so you gave birth while a virgin
and you remained a virgin.

Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice;
instead of Moses Christ God came forth,
the Saviour of our souls.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 8

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,* exult, O you just!

verse: Blessed are those whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

Reading I - Genesis 4:16-26

Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod opposite Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael; and Mehujael begot Methushael; and Methu-shael begot Lamech. Then Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. So Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. His brother's name was Jubal. He is the one who invented the psaltery and harp. As for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, a smith and a manufacturer of bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. Then Lamech said to his wives Adah and Zillah:

“Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech,
And listen carefully to my words,

Because I killed a man for wounding me.
And a young man for hurting me.
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”
Again Adam knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore a son, and he named him Seth, saying, “God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” As for Seth, to him also a son was born. He named him Enosh, and he hoped in the Lord God and called upon His name.
Prokeimenon II, Tone 1
Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us* as we have hoped in You.
verse: Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Reading II - Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Drink waters from your vessels
And from the fountains of your spring.

Do not let the waters from your fountain be spilled by you,
But let your waters pass through your wide places;
Let them be only for you,
And let no stranger partake with you;

Let the fountain of your water be for you alone,
And rejoice together with the wife of your youth.

Let your loving deer and graceful colt keep company with you,
And let her alone go before you and be with you at all times;
For in living with her love, you will be great.
Do not be intimate with a strange woman,

Neither cling to the embrace of a woman not your own,
For the ways of man are before the eyes of God,
And He keeps close watch on all his paths.
Lawless women ensnare a man,
But each man is bound by the chains of his own sins.

Such a man dies with the uninstructed
And is cast forth from the abundance of his own substance;

And he is destroyed by lack of discernment.
My son, if you assume the debt of your friend,
You will deliver your hand to an enemy;
For a man's own lips become a strong snare to him,

who were the seed of Jacob were seventy-five persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already). Now Joseph died, as well as all his brothers and all that generation. Then the children of Israel increased and multiplied, became numerous, and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. But there arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph. Then he said to his nation, “Look, the race of the children of Israel is a great multitude and is stronger than we; come, let us outwit them, lest they multiply, and it happen in the event of war that they also join our enemies and fight against us and so escape out of the land.” Therefore he set taskmasters over them to afflict them in their works; and they built for Pharaoh strong cities—Pithom and Raameses and On, which is Heliopolis. But the more they humbled them, the more they multiplied and grew; and the Egyptians greatly abhorred the children of Israel. So the Egyptians tyrannized the children of Israel by force. They made their lives bitter with hard labor—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their labor in which they made them serve was by violence. Then the king of the Egyptians spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrath and the name of the other Puah; and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women and see they are about to give birth, if it is a male, then you shall kill him; but if a female, let her live.” But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing and saved the male children alive?” Thus the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the women of Egypt; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.” Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 8

We bless you* in the name of the Lord.
verse: “They have oppressed me from my youth,” this is the song of Israel.

Reading II - Job 1:1-12

There was a man in the land of Ausitis whose name was Job. That man was true, blameless, righteous, and God-fearing, and he abstained from every evil thing. Now he had seven sons and three daughters, and his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys in the pastures. Moreover he possessed a very large number of house servants. His works were also great on the earth, and that man was the most noble of all the men of the East.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

When You taught Your disciples to seek that which is higher,
You said to them, O Lord:
Do not imitate the pagans by lording over those who are weak;
it shall not be that way with you.
For I have chosen to be poor;
so the first among you shall become the servant of the rest;
the one who commands shall be as the one who obeys;
the most noble shall be as the lowest.
For I Myself have come to serve the poverty of Adam
and to give My life as a ransom for the many
who now sing: O Lord, glory to You!

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.*

When You taught Your disciples to seek that which is higher, *(Repeat Previous)*

In Tone 8, Glory...

O faithful, let us fear the punishment of the fig tree
which was dried up for not having borne any fruit;
let us offer worthy fruits of repentance to Christ,
who grants us His great mercy.

Now...

The Serpent thought he found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman,
who tried to make Joseph succumb to her words of flattery.
But he avoided sinning;
he left his garment behind, but was not ashamed of his nudity,
as were our first parents after their disobedience.
Through his prayers, O Christ, have mercy on us.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 6

May the Lord bless you from Sion,* and may you see prosperity of Jerusalem.
verse: Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways.

Reading 1 - Exodus 1:1-20

Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; Is-sachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. All those

And he is conquered by the utterances of his own mouth.
My son, do what I command you, and you will save yourself;
For you came into the hands of evil things through your friend.

Reading III - Isaiah 43:9-14

All the nations are gathered together, and the rulers shall be assembled from among them. Who will declare these things or tell us things from the beginning? Let them bring forth their witnesses, and be proven right; and let them speak the truth. "You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God, "and My Servant whom I chose, that you may know and believe, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no other God, nor shall there be after Me. I am God, and besides Me there is no one who saves. I proclaimed, and I saved. I denounced foreign gods so there were none among you. You are My witnesses, and I am a witness," says the Lord God. "Even from the beginning, there is no one who can deliver out of My hands; I will work, and who will reverse it?" Thus says the Lord God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon and arouse all who flee, and the Chaldeans shall be bound in ships.

Reading IV - Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
And no torture will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died,
And their departure was considered to be misfortune,
And their passage from us to be their destruction;
But they are at peace.
For though in man's view they were punished,
Their hope is full of immortality.
Though chastened in a few things,
Great kindness will be shown them,
For God tested them and found them worthy of Himself.
He tested them like gold in a furnace
And accepted them as a whole burnt offering.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
And they will run about like sparks through straw.
They will judge nations and rule over peoples,
And the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages.
Those who trust in Him will understand truth,
And the faithful shall continue with Him in love,

Because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

Reading V - Wisdom 5:15-6:3

The righteous live forever,

And their reward is with the Lord;

And their care is by the Most High.

Therefore they shall receive a kingly dwelling of dignity

And a crown of beauty from the hand of the Lord,

Because He will shelter them with His right hand

And protect them with His arm.

He will take His zeal as His full armor

And will turn His creation into weapons against His enemies.

He will wear righteousness as a breastplate

And put on impartial judgment as a helmet.

He will take holiness as an unconquerable shield

And sharpen His relentless wrath for a sword;

And creation will fight with Him against the senseless.

Well-aimed flashes of lightning will strike

And leap to their object as from a well-drawn bow of clouds;

And hailstones full of anger will be hurled

As from an engine of war.

The water of the sea will be vexed with them,

And the rivers will wash over them severely.

A powerful wind will oppose them,

And like a storm it will winnow them away.

Lawlessness will lay waste all the earth,

And wrongdoing will overturn the thrones of rulers.

Listen therefore, O kings, and understand;

Learn, O judges of the ends of the earth.

Give ear, you that rule over multitudes,

And take pride in yourself over a multitude of nations.

For power was given to you from the Lord,

And your lordship from the Most High,

Who will make a careful search of your works

And examine closely your plans.

7. Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:

O faithful, let us hasten to the saving Passion of Christ our God; (*Repeat*

Previous)

6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is

that You may be revered.

When You were going to Your Passion, O Lord,

You reassured Your disciples by taking them aside and saying:

How can You forget the words I have spoken to you?

The Scriptures say that all the prophets die only in Jerusalem!

Now the time of which I have spoken to you has arrived:

Behold, I shall be delivered into the hands of sinners;

they shall mock Me and nail Me to the Cross;

and after burying Me, they shall number Me among the dead.

Take courage, however, for I shall rise on the third day,

to bring joy and eternal life to all the faithful.

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on

Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.

When You were going to Your Passion, O Lord, (*Repeat Previous*)

4. From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.

Not understanding the depth of the ineffable mystery of Your plan of salvation,

the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to You, O Lord;

she asked You to grant them the places of honour in a temporal kingdom.

But in place of these honours,

You proclaimed to Your friends that they would drink from the cup of death,

the same cup from which You shall first drink

to cleanse us of our sins.

Therefore, we cry out to You:

O Saviour of our souls, glory to You!

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful

redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Not understanding the depth of the ineffable mystery of Your plan of salvation,

(*Repeat Previous*)

Monday, April 10, 2017 - Great and Holy Monday; Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompeius and others with them *Great and Holy Week. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Matins - Matthew 21:18-43; *Sixth Hour* - Ezekiel 1:1-20

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Going freely to His Passion,
the Lord said to His disciples along the way:
Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of man shall be delivered up, as it is written.
Come, let us purify our thoughts that we may go with Him;
let us be crucified with Him;
in Him we shall die to the pleasures of this life,
that we may live with Him and hear Him say to us:
I am no longer going to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer,
but I am going to My Father and your Father,
to My God and your God;
you shall go with Me to the heavenly Jerusalem
in the Kingdom of Heaven.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Going freely to His Passion, *(Repeat Previous)*

In Tone 5

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

O faithful, let us hasten to the saving Passion of Christ our God;
let us glorify His long-suffering which is beyond expression,
that He may save us from sin and death,
and that He may also raise us in His goodness and love for humankind.

Thursday, March 9, 2017 - The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (321-23)
Rank: Polyeleos Great Fast. Day of fast. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 6:1-12

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 8

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

The fast, which kills passions
promises to heal us who have been struck with sin.
Let us honor it as a God-given help
written by God on tablets which Moses received.
Let us not prefer the intemperance of the Hebrews;
let us not imitate those whose bodies fell in the wilderness!
Instead, let us be enlightened, as befits the Church.
Let us not be hypocritical like the Pharisees,
but let us be joyful, as the Gospel proclaims
by rejoicing in the Cross of Christ the Redeemer of our souls!

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

The fast, which kills passions *(Repeat Previous)*

In Tone 4

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

Your side was pierced when You hung upon the wood,
pouring life out upon me!
I was deadened by the guile of the serpent
by eating from the tree!
Therefore I glorify You, Christ, and entreat Your compassion:
Grant me to complete the fast with compunction,
that I may venerate Your Passion and Resurrection!

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

Your side was pierced when You hung upon the wood,
pouring life out upon me!
I was deadened by the guile of the serpent
by eating from the tree!
Therefore I glorify You, Christ, and entreat Your compassion:
Grant me to complete the fast with compunction,
that I may venerate Your Passion and Resurrection!

*6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is
that You may be reversed.*

The fruit of the tree brought sorrow to Adam,
for You banished him from Paradise,
but when You were crucified as Man upon the tree
You led him back, Savior!
Therefore I cry to you, Redeemer:
Having purified me through tears, repentance, and fasting,
now rescue me from my sorrow,
most gracious Jesus, the Savior of our souls!

*5. I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on
Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

And reaches out with her fruit to the needy.
Her husband is not anxious about those at home
When he spends a long time elsewhere,
For all her household are clothed.
She makes a double upper garment for her husband
And garments of fine linen and purple for herself.
Her husband is respected at the gates
And when he sits in council with the elders who inhabit the land.
She makes and sells fine linens
And girdles to the Canaanites.
She opens her mouth carefully and lawfully
And controls her tongue.
She clothes herself with strength and dignity
And rejoices in the last days.
She runs her household carefully,
And she does not eat the bread of idleness.
She opens her mouth wisely and lawfully,
And her charity raises her children, and they become rich,
And her husband praises her,
“Many daughters acquire riches; many do mighty things,
But you excel and surpass all.”
Desires to please are deceitful, and the beauty of a wife is vain;
For a wise wife is blessed,
And let her in fear praise the Lord.
Give to her from the fruits of her hands,
And let her husband praise her at the gates.

In Tone 5

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Word, we sing of Your life-creating Cross:
It has blossomed life in the world by slaying death!
Now we offer it to You in intercession.
Strengthen us as we fast in these holy days.
grant us strength to battle passions

lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation and the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. Then Joseph said to his brethren, "I am about to die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Thus Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 4

Those who put their trust in the Lord* are like Mount Zion.
verse: They cannot be shaken, for it stands unmoved forever.

Reading II - Proverbs 31:8-31

Open your mouth for the word of God,
And judge all men fairly;
Open your mouth and judge righteously,
And plead the cause of the poor and helpless.
Who will find a courageous wife?
For such a one is more valuable than precious stones.
The heart of her husband trusts in her;
She will not be at a loss for fine spoils,
For she provides good things for her husband all her life.
She weaves wool and linen cloth
And is productive with her hands.
She is like a ship trading afar off,
So she procures her livelihood.
She also rises before dawn
And gives food to her household,
And appoints tasks for her maidservants.
Seeing a farm, she buys it,
And from the fruits of her hands she plants her plot of land.
Strongly girding her loins,
She strengthens her arms for work.
She experiences work as a good thing,
And her lamp is not quenched all night.
She extends her arms to do profitable things,
And she applies her hands to the spindle.
She opens her hands to the poor

and a peaceful victory,
according to the greatness of Your mercy, Lover of mankind!

In Tone 1

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Let us in faith raise a magnificent song as is fitting
to the all-praised Codratus and the great Cyprian,
with the two named Dionysius and Anectus,
together with Crescens and the glorious Paul!
They are divinely crowned athletes of the Lord
and our most fervent intercessors!

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

Today another choir of holy martyrs appears: victorious and triumphant!
A brilliant assembly of divine passion-bearers,
a steadfast regiment, a chosen army!
Codratus is its captain.
He is revealed as an all-glorious conqueror!

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; eternally will His truth endure.*

All-praised Codratus, with your cutting words
you slashed through the twisted webs of the philosophers' wisdom like fog!
You taught in faith and suffered in patience for Christ.
Well-adorned in both teaching and suffering,
you have been crowned with the passion bearers!

In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

O how glorious is the miracle!
How did you enclose in your womb the God of All?
How did you carry the Creator of All as an infant?
Truly the mind and thought are confused;
your carrying of such a Child is beyond words.
O all-blessed and pure Theotokos,
pray to Him always to have mercy on our souls.

Your mercy, Lord, extends to the heavens; * Your truth, to the clouds!
verse: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep!

Reading I Genesis 5:1-24

This is the book of the genesis of mankind in the day God made Adam, whom He made in God's image. He made them male and female, and blessed them; and the day He made them He called his name Adam. Now Adam lived two hundred and thirty years, and begot a son according to his form and image, and named him Seth. After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were seven hundred years; and he begot sons and daughters. So all the days Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

Now Seth lived two hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. After he begot Enosh, Seth lived seven hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.

Now Enosh lived one hundred and ninety years, and begot Cainan. After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived seven hundred and fifteen years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died.

Now Cainan lived one hundred and seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived seven hundred and forty years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died.

Now Mahalalel lived one hundred and sixty-five years, and begot Jared. After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived seven hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.

Now Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.

Now Enoch lived one hundred and sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch was well-pleasing to God for two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three

Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. So when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found grace in your sight, speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, in the grave I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'" Then Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their sheep and oxen they left in the land of Goshen. There also went up with him both chariots and horses, and it was a very great gathering. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

So when the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him just as he commanded them. For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph's brothers saw their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil we did to him." So they came to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, "Thus you shall say to Joseph, "I beg you, forgive the injustice of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." " Now, forgive the injustice of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we

are your servants."

So Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your households." Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers. Then Joseph

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

Taking Your disciples with You, O Lord,
You came to Bethany to awaken Lazarus from the dead;
and, weeping over him in accordance with your human nature,
as God, You raised the one who had been dead four days;
and he cried out to You, O Saviour:
Blessed are You, O Lord, glory to You!

In Tone 8, Glory...

You have come to the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,
and You called the dead one to awaken as from his sleep.
He shook off the dust of the tomb at Your immortal words;
and, still bound by the grave-clothes,
he came forth at the sound of Your voice.
For You have power and lordship over all things,
and You are the Master of the whole world, O Lover of humankind:
O Lord, glory to You.

Now...

Having come to the end of the forty days, we cry out:
Rejoice, O city of Bethany, the home of Lazarus.
Rejoice, Martha and Mary, for Christ shall come to you tomorrow;
by His word, He shall give life to your departed brother.
Hearing His voice, the cruel and insatiable Hades will give up Lazarus after
four days.
Struck with admiration, the Hebrew people will carry palms and branches,
and they shall go before Him.
The children shall praise the One whom their parents looked upon with envy:
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

Prokeimenon I, Tone 6

Our help is in the name of the Lord,* who made heaven and earth.
verse: "If the Lord had not been on our side," this is the song of Israel.

Reading I - Genesis 49:33-50:26

When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed
and breathed his last, and was added to his people. Now Joseph fell on his
father's face and wept over him, and kissed him. Then Joseph commanded

hundred and sixty-five years. Thus Enoch was well-pleasing to God, and was
not found, for God translated him.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 6

Wait for the Lord,* and keep to His way!
verse: Fret not yourself because of the wicked; be not envious of evildoers!

Reading II Proverbs 6:3-20

My son, do what I command you, and you will save yourself;
For you came into the hands of evil things through your friend;
Do not be faint,
But provoke even your friend, for whom you assumed a debt;
Do not give sleep to your eyes
Nor slumber to your eyelids
That you may be saved, as a gazelle from the snares,
And as a bird from a trap.
Compare yourself with the ant, O sluggard,
And be zealous when you see his ways,
And become wiser than he.
For although he has no tilled land,
Neither anyone to compel him,
Nor any master to rule him,
Yet he prepares all his food in the summer
And makes his provisions abundant in the winter.
Or go to the honeybee,
And learn how she is a worker
And how solemnly she does her work,
Whose labors kings and common people use for health;
And she is desirable to all and glorious;
And although she is weak in bodily strength,
She leads the way in honoring wisdom.
How long, O sluggard, will you be idle,
And when will you arise from sleep?
You sleep a little; you sit down a little; you doze a short while;
And you fold your hands on your chest a little;
Then poverty comes to you as an evil traveler
And neediness as a swift runner.
But if you are diligent, your harvest shall come to you as a fountain,
And neediness as an evil runner shall desert you.

A man who is without discernment and is lawless does not walk in good ways. But he winks with an eye; he makes a sign with his foot,

And teaches with the wave of his hand.

And with a perverse heart, he constantly schemes evil things;

Such a man causes trouble in a city.

Therefore his destruction comes suddenly,

A deep and incurable wound.

For he rejoices in everything the Lord hates,

And he shall be broken because of his soul's uncleanness.

Epistle Hebrews 12:1-10

Brothers and Sisters, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children—

“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.” Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

At that time, Jesus told this parable, “For the kingdom of heaven is like a

landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out

You called to the one whom You loved:

Lazarus, come forth from the tomb!

And Death obeyed the Giver of life,

the Saviour of our souls.

*6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

Desiring to see the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord, (Repeat Previous)

*5. I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Having arrived at the tomb of Lazarus on the fourth day,

You wept for Your friend, O Lord.

You gave life to the one who had been dead four days;

Death was bound up by Your voice,

and the grave-clothes were unbound by Your hands.

Therefore, the company of apostles were filled with joy,

and all the choirs sang with one voice:

Blessed are You, O Saviour; have mercy on us.

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Having arrived at the tomb of Lazarus on the fourth day, (Repeat Previous)

*3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

The kingdom of Hades was demolished at the sound of Your voice, O Lord;

Your powerful word awakened from the tomb one who had been dead for days.

Lazarus becomes a saving prelude of our regeneration.

Nothing is impossible for the King of the universe;

O Lord, grant to Your servants forgiveness and great mercy.

*2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

Desiring to assure Your disciples of Your own Resurrection from the dead,

You came to the tomb of Lazarus.

And when You called him, Hades was despoiled,

and it gave up the one who had been dead four days;

and he cried out to You, O Saviour:

Blessed are You, O Lord, glory to You!

Friday, April 7, 2017 - Our Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene (829-42); Passing into Eternal Life (1919) of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia, First Superior of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
Last Day of the Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 66:10-24

Liturgy of the Preanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 8

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Having come to the end of the forty days,
we beseech You, O Lord and Lover of humankind:
May we also behold the holy week of Your passion,
and glorify in it Your lofty deeds
and Your ineffable work of salvation,
as we sing with one voice:
O Lord, glory to You.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Having come to the end of the forty days, *(Repeat Previous)*

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

O martyrs of the Lord,
we entreat you to beseech our God,
and ask great mercy for our souls
and forgiveness of our many offences.

In Tone 6

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

Desiring to see the tomb of Lazarus, O Lord,
since You were soon going to dwell willingly in the tomb,
You asked: Where have you placed him?
And, when You learned that which You already knew,

and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Friday, March 10, 2017 - The Holy Martyr Codratus and Those with Him
(249-51) *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an altiturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - *Sixth Hour* - Isaiah 7:1-14

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

10. *Lead my soul forth from prison* that I may give thanks to Your name.*
Behold, this is the acceptable time,
this is the day of salvation.

Visit my soul in the abundance of Your love,
and in Your unique goodness, lighten the load of my sins.

9. *The just shall gather around me* when You have been good to me.*
Behold, this is the acceptable time, (*Repeat Previous*)

In Tone 1

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.* O Lord, hear my voice!*
Through the supplication of all the saints and of the Theotokos,
grant us Your peace, O Lord, and save us,
since You alone are compassionate.

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

O saints, your confession of faith in the arena
destroyed the strength of devils and set us free from delusion.
When you were beheaded, you cried out:
O Lord, may the sacrifice of our souls be acceptable in Your sight;
for in our love for You, the Lover of humankind,
we have despised this temporal life.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up.

Gospel - John 10:9-16

The Lord said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

And every lawless man shall be destroyed.
 Who has woe? Who has tumult? Who has condemnation?
 Who has unpleasantness and gossip?
 Who has afflictions with no purpose?
 Whose eyes are pale?
 Is it not those who linger long with wines?
 Is it not those who hunt for the whereabouts of drinking parties?
 Do not be drunk with wine, but keep company with righteous men,
 And keep company in public walks;
 For if you set your eyes to the bowls and cups,
 Afterward you will walk about more naked than ground meat.
 And at last, he stretches himself out as one bitten by a serpent,
 And the venom spreads through him as one bitten by a horned serpent.
 When your eyes behold a strange woman,
 Then your mouth will speak twisted things;
 And you will lie down as in the heart of the sea
 And as a pilot in a great storm;
 And you will say, "They beat me, but I did not suffer,
 And they mocked me, but I knew it not;
 When will it be morning,
 That I may go seek those with whom I may company?"
 My son, do not envy evil men,
 Neither desire to be with them;
 For their heart ponders a lie,
 And their lips speak of sufferings.
 A house is built with wisdom,
 And it is built up with understanding.
 Storehouses are filled with perception
 From all honorable and good riches.
 It is better to be a wise man of strength
 And a man having discernment, than to be a man who has a large estate.

Epistle - Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Brothers and Sisters, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy,
 blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
 Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day,
 first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all
 when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are

How beautiful is the manner of your exchange, O saints;
 for you have given your blood and received heaven.
 Truly, you have done well!
 You have obtained immortality by forsaking corruptible things.
 Making a single choir with the angels,
 you sing unceasingly the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.*

O martyrs, worthy of praise,
 though the earth may not have covered you, heaven received you,
 opening to you the gates of Paradise, where you dwell,
 delighting in the Tree of Life.
 Beseech Christ to grant our souls
 peace and great mercy.

In Tone 4

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

You were called Sophronius by divine foreknowledge: a name meaning
 chastity.
 You were righteous and chaste in your deeds, courageous and wise.
 As a most eminent administrator,
 you were crowned nobly with natural virtues of both soul and body
 and you grew in them with steadfastness.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

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 chastity.
 You were righteous and chaste in your deeds, courageous and wise.
 As a most eminent administrator,
 you were crowned nobly with natural virtues of both soul and body
 and you grew in them with steadfastness.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all you people.*

I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again, and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.” Then Jacob arose from the Well of Oath, and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their baggage, and their wives in the carts Pharaoh had sent to carry him. So they took their livestock and their goods which they had acquired in the land of Canaan and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his seed with him. His sons and his sons’ sons, his daughters and his sons’ daughters, and all his seed he brought with him to Egypt.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 6

The Lord will keep you from all evil; * the Lord will keep your life.

verse: I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come!

Reading II - Proverbs 23:15-24:5

My son, if your heart becomes wise,

You will also gladden my heart;

And your lips shall spend time with the words on my lips,

If they be upright.

Do not let your heart envy sinners,

But be in fear of the Lord the whole day long.

For if you keep these words, you shall have offspring,

And your hope will not depart from you.

Hear, my son, and become wise,

And direct aright the thoughts of your heart.

Do not be a wine-bibber,

Neither provide contributions of meats or goods at drinking parties.

For every drunkard and fornicator shall become impoverished,

And every sluggard shall clothe himself with tattered and ragged garments.

Hear, my son, your father who begot you,

And do not despise your mother because she has grown old.

A righteous father rears his child well,

And his soul rejoices in a wise son.

Let your father and mother be glad in you,

And let her who bore you rejoice.

My son, give me your heart,

And let your eyes observe my ways;

For a house of prostitution is a pierced vessel

And a strange and empty well;

For he shall perish suddenly,

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Your mouth thundered forth the teachings of theology, all-blessed Sophronius! You clearly expounded the theology of the Unoriginate Father, the Co-Unoriginate Son and the equally everlasting Holy Spirit: the Trinity in unity and unity in Trinity; one God in essence!

*I. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

You wisely taught that the Word is equally unoriginate with the Father, most wise one;

that though incorporeal, He united flesh to His Person, without change or confusion;

that His actions are two-fold,

for both natures from which he acts and is beheld are revealed as contained,

one in the other,

for He is one, undivided in essence.

In Tone I, Glory...

What earthly delight endures unmingled with grief?

What earthly glory remains immutable?

All things are less than a shadow, more deluding than a dream.

In a single moment all these are effaced by death.

But in the light of Your countenance, O Christ, and in the enjoyment of Your beauty,

grant rest to those whom You have chosen;

for You love humankind.

Now...

Let us sing a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary,

glory of the whole world!

She was herself formed by human seed,

yet she became the Mother of the Master,

the Gate of heaven, the theme of the angels’ hymn and the beauty of the faithful.

She was seen as being heavenly and the Tabernacle of the Godhead.

She indeed tore down the wall of enmity between God and man, and brought peace in its place.

She opened the Kingdom of Heaven.

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All-wise Father George, (*Repeat Previous*)

2. *Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

Glorious Father George,
you endured the wrath of the senselessly enraged ungodly ones;
you saw them exalt themselves in impious arrogance,
and again beheld them when they were openly and utterly crushed
by the providence that moved against the foolish ones!

1. *Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

Father George, you were a co-worker of God,
a priest and husbandman!
By your words, you brought the souls of the saved to the Master,
bearing fruit a hundred-fold!
Pray that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy!

In Tone 4, Now...

O Mother of God,
because of you David the prophet became an ancestor of God;
he foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise
and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you:
“The Queen stood at Your right hand.”
God revealed you as a life-giving mother, when He chose to be incarnate of
you without a father.
He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted.
He found the lost sheep in the mountains,
carried it on His shoulders, offered it to the Father,
generously numbered it among the powers of heaven,
and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 6

In my distress I cried to the Lord,* and He heard me.

verse: Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue!

Reading I - Genesis 46:1-7

Now Israel took his journey with all he had, and came to the Well of Oath, and offered a sacrifice to the God of his father Isaac. 2Then God spoke to Israel in a vision of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!” So he said, “Here I am.” So God said to him, “I am the God of your fathers; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for

Let us therefore cling fast to her for she is the anchor of faith,
and let us receive as our stronghold the Lord who was born of her.
Be of good cheer, then, and have confidence, O people of God,
for He will fight our enemies for us;
He is all-powerful!

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

Your merciful love and Your truth* will guard me forever.

verse: I waited, I waited for the Lord and He stooped down to me; He heard my cry.

Reading I - Genesis 5:32-6:8

Noah was five hundred years old, and he begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now it came to pass that men began to exist in great numbers on the earth, and daughters were born to them. So when the sons of God saw the daughters of men were beautiful, they took wives for themselves of all they chose. Then the Lord God said, “My Spirit shall not remain with these people forever, for they are flesh. So their days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” Now there were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men of old, men of renown. Then the Lord God saw man’s wickedness, that it was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts within his heart was only evil continually. So God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and He thought this over. Then God said, “I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the earth, from man to cattle, and from the creeping things to the birds of heaven, for I am grieved I made them.” But Noah found grace in the presence of the Lord God.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 6

As for me, I said: Lord, have mercy on me;* heal my soul for I have sinned against You.

verse: Blessed are those who consider the poor and the weak. The Lord will save them in the evil day.

Reading II - Proverbs 6:20-7:1

For he rejoices in everything the Lord hates,
And he shall be broken because of his soul’s uncleanness:
A haughty eye, an unrighteous tongue,
Hands that shed righteous blood,
A heart that devises evil thoughts,

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

Zion, receive your King!

For behold, now He comes to You in meekness,

to raise up Lazarus and to destroy the bitter kingdom of death.

Summoned by God, let all monastics and faithful assemble

to welcome Christ with palms and cry:

Blessed is He Who comes to save mortals through the passion of the Cross,
and in His love, to grant freedom from passions to all.

In Tone 8

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is
that You may be revered.*

Uprorne on the seraphim in the highest, Christ,

as the God and Maker of all,

You go to mount an ass on earth, as our Brother in the flesh.

Bethany is glad, Savior, receiving You!

Jerusalem rejoices, expecting You!

Death is slain, foretasting Lazarus's resurrection from the dead!

We, fulfilling the greeting with palms, in joy,

extol the majesty of your love, Lord!

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on
Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Uprorne on the seraphim in the highest, Christ, (*Repeat Previous*)

In Tone 1

4. *From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.*

All-wise Father George,

you venerated the holy and undefiled icon of Christ with honor!

You were strengthened by His might,

not fearing at all the threats of those who fought against God!

Entreat Him now that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy!

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful*

*redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

And feet that hasten to do evil;

As a false witness he kindles injustice

And causes quarrels between brethren.

My son, guard the laws of your father,

And do not depart from the rules of your mother.

But fasten them to your soul continually

And wear them as a collar upon your neck.

When you walk about, bring along this commandment

And let it be with you;

And as you sleep, let it guard you,

That when you arise, it may speak to you.

For a commandment of law is a lamp and a light,

And the way of life is reproof and instruction,

That you may keep yourself from a married woman

And from the slanderous tongue of a strange woman.

Do not let the desire of beauty conquer you;

Neither be caught by her eyes,

Nor captivated by her eyelids;

For the value of a prostitute is only one loaf,

And such a woman hunts for the precious souls of men.

Shall anyone bind fire to his bosom

And his garments not burn?

Or will anyone walk about on coals of fire

And not burn his feet?

Likewise is the one who goes in to a married woman;

He shall not be guiltless, nor any who touch her.

It is not surprising if anyone who steals is caught,

For he steals that he may fill his hungry soul;

But if he is caught, he will repay sevenfold,

And by giving all his goods, he shall deliver himself.

But the adulterer through his lack of discernment

Obtains the destruction of his soul;

He bears both pain and dishonor,

And his disgrace will not be wiped away forever.

For the anger of her husband is full of jealousy;

He will not spare in the day of judgment;

He will not take any ransom in exchange for his hatred,

Thursday, April 6, 2017 - The Repose of Our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs (885) and our Holy Father Eutychius, Archbishop of Constantinople (587) *Rank: All-Night Vigil Great Fast. Day of fast. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 65:8-16

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 8

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Account us worthy of beholding the week of Your passion,
Lover of mankind,
for we have finished the forty days of the fast;
may we glorify Your mighty deeds,
Your ineffable dispensation for our sakes:
Lord, glory to You!

In Tone 4

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Two of the sacred apostles,
knowing You, O Christ, as one of the Trinity,
now are sent by You to bring the ass
in fulfillment of the prophecy.
Humbling yourself, You will sit on it, compassionate One;
You prepare a throne in the highest for those who love You!
And those who in their folly submitted to unreasoning passions, Word,
You made cry out to You: Hosanna!

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

Two of the sacred apostles, *(Repeat Previous)*

Nor will he be reconciled by many gifts.
My son, guard my words,
And hide my commandments within yourself.

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 - The Holy Martyr Agapius and the Six Martyrs with Him (284-305) *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 10:12-20

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Like the prodigal I squandered my paternal inheritance,
and now I am in desolation.
I dwell in the land of the wicked.
In my folly, I became like the unreasoning beasts,
stripped of all divine grace.
So I return and cry out to You:
O merciful and compassionate Father,
I have sinned, O God.
Receive me as a penitent and have mercy on me.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Like the prodigal I squandered my paternal inheritance, *(Repeat Previous)*

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

O martyrs of the Lord,
you are living sacrifices and spiritual offerings
and perfect incense burnt to God.
You are sheep that know God and are known to Him,
and wolves cannot break into His fold.
Pray that we may be led with you
to pasture beside the still waters.

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

O apostles who have seen God,

and who reflect the light of the spiritual Sun for us,

pray for the illumination of our souls

and deliver us from the gloomy darkness of suffering.

Intercede that we may behold the day of salvation.

Through your prayers and intercessions

cleanse our heart which the Evil One has wounded,

so that, saved by faith, we may ever honour you

who brought the world salvation through your all-wise preaching.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is*

that You may be revered.

Into an evil land I have wandered,

prodigal that I am;

the wealth You gave to me, O compassionate Father,

I have squandered in a life filled with vice.

And now in hunger I long for the good I lost;

I am clothed with the shame of my transgression.

I have been stripped of righteous deeds and of divine grace.

Now I cry out that I have sinned.

But I know Your righteousness, O Christ;

in Your kindness receive me as Your hired servant,

through the prayers of Your apostles who love You.

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on*

*Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Apostles of the Lord and bright lights of the universe,

you made us the recipients of salvation,

and like the heavens you proclaim the glory of God;

you are adorned with wonders and bright miracles.

Intercede for us unceasingly before the Lord,

that He may receive our prayers as a pleasing aroma,

and grant that with love we may contemplate and kiss His life-giving Cross.

In Your love for humankind,

grant mercy to us who bow low before Your Cross, O Saviour.

Reading V - Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

and no torture will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the undiscerning they seemed to have died,

and their departure was considered to be misfortune,

and their passage from us to be their destruction;

But they are at peace.

For though in man's view they were punished,

Their hope is full of immortality.

Though chastened in a few things,

Great kindness will be shown them,

For God tested them and found them worthy of Himself.

He tested them like gold in a furnace

and accepted them as a whole burnt offering.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,

and they will run about like sparks through straw.

They will judge nations and rule over peoples,

and the Lord shall reign over them unto the ages.

Those who trust in Him will understand truth,

and the faithful shall continue with Him in love,

Because grace and mercy are upon His elect.

heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the resident alien, for you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.”

But the upright man himself understands his ways.

There is no wisdom, there is no courage,

There is no counsel for the ungodly.

The horse is prepared for the day of war,

But help is from the Lord.

A good name is to be chosen more than much wealth,

And good grace more than silver and gold.

The rich man and the poor man meet with one another,

But the Lord made both.

An astute man, seeing an evil man severely punished, is himself instructed,

But those passing by without discernment suffer loss.

The fear of the Lord and riches and glory and life

Are the offspring of wisdom.

Reading III - Deuteronomy 1:8-17

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, “The Lord our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying, ‘Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them.’ So I spoke to you at that time, saying, ‘I alone am not able to bear you. The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said. How can I alone bear your labors, your burdens, and your lawsuits? Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them leaders over you.’ Then you answered me and said, ‘The thing you told us to do is good.’ So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall judge the small and the great; you shall not shrink before any man’s presence, for the judgment is God’s. The case too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.’”

Reading IV - Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, “Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your

In Tone 8

4. *From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.*

What shall we call you, glorious one?

Warrior of the mighty King and God?

For you courageously destroyed the impiety of bodiless demons!

Beacon shining with spiritual light?

A powerful destroyer of idols?

A most fervent athlete and lawful sufferer?

Pray that our souls may be saved!

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

What shall we call you, glorious one? *(Repeat Previous)*

2. *Praise the Lord, all the nations;* proclaim His glory, all you people.*

What shall we now name you, Sabinas?

A river of living waters pouring out on us a spiritual flood?

a truly inexhaustible fount of healing,

for us who are cruelly oppressed?

A cup overflowing with spiritual drink;

a most true wonder-worker, equal in honor to the bodiless ones?

Pray that our souls may be saved!

1. *Strong is the love of the Lord for us;* eternally will His truth endure.*

What shall we call you, holy one?

Guide to those who are going astray?

An intercessor for sinners storm-tossed with evil,

and a true physician for them?

A precious and fragrant lily of paradise?

The first-fruit among martyrs and their confirmation?

An ever-flowing source of miracles;

a valiant struggler?

Pray that our souls may be saved!

In Tone 2, Glory... Now...

The Word of God, equal in honour to the Father and the Holy Spirit, has shone forth from the Virgin in these latter days as a mighty sun, illuminating heaven and earth from end to end.
He has sent you, O glorious apostles, as light to illumine with the light of faith all nations living in the darkness of ignorance, and by divine teachings to lead them to the true faith.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

I trust in the goodness of God* forever and ever.

verse: I will thank You forevermore; for this is Your doing.

Reading I - Genesis 7:6-9

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. Then Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, entered the ark because of the flood waters. Also the clean and unclean birds, the clean and unclean cattle, and everything that creeps on the earth, entered with Noah into the ark, two by two, male and female, as God commanded him.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 4

When God delivers His people from bondage,* then Jacob will be glad and Israel rejoice.

verse: Fools have said in their hearts: There is no God above.

Reading II - Proverbs 9:12-18

My son, if you become wise in yourself,

you shall also be wise toward your neighbor;

But if you prove to be evil, you alone will go through troubles.

He who supports himself with lies will shepherd winds

And chase flying birds;

For he abandoned the ways of his own vineyard

And strayed from paths of his own farming;

And he will pass through a waterless desert,

A land assigned to drought,

And he gathers barrenness with his hands.

A woman in need of a morsel is without discernment and overbold;

She has no sense of shame.

She sits upon the doors of her own house,

Upon a seat openly in the streets,

Calling to those who pass by

And who go straight along their paths.

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to his brothers, "Come near to me." So they came near. Then he said, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now therefore, do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to save life. For this is the second year of famine in the land, and five years still remain in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. For God sent me before you to preserve you as a remnant on the earth, and to sustain you as a great remnant. So now, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. "Hurry then and go up to my father, and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, "God made me lord of all Egypt; and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your sheep and oxen, and all you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all you have, come to poverty; for five years of famine still remain." And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see it is my mouth that speaks to you. Therefore, you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after this his brothers talked with him. Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

Prokeimenon II, Tone 4

I will pay my vows to the Lord,* in the presence of all His people.

verse: I trusted, even when I said: I am sorely afflicted.

Reading II - Proverbs 21:23-22:4

A troublemaker is called rash, arrogant, and boastful,

And he who bears malice is called lawless.

Desires kill a slothful man,

For his hands choose not to do anything.

The ungodly man desires evil all day long,

But the righteous man shows mercy and compassion unsparingly.

The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord,

For they offer them lawlessly.

A false witness shall perish,

But an obedient man will speak guardedly.

An ungodly man resists shamelessly to the face,

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In Tone 1, Glory...

O bishop Methodius, renowned citizen of the land of Moravia,
glory and boast of the northern countries,
your lofty preaching calls us together.
Come, O feast-lovers, let us rejoice in faith and exult with him
on the feast of his glorious falling asleep.
May he offer unceasing prayer to Christ our God,
that our souls may be delivered from all troubles and dangers.

In Tone 4, Now...

O Mother of Christ our God,
you who gave birth to the Maker of all,
deliver us from every danger,
so that we may cry out to you with one accord:
Rejoice, O only intercessor for our souls!

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

I walk in the presence of the Lord* in the land of the living.
verse: I love the Lord, for He has heard the cry of my appeal.

Reading I - Genesis 43:26-31 and 45:1-16

When Joseph came home, they brought the present in their hand to him in the house, and bowed down before him to the earth. Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" So they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." Then he said, "Blessed be that man in God"; and they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves. Then Joseph lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother you said you would bring to me?" So he said, "May God grant you mercy, my son." Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. Then he went into his inner chamber and wept there. He then washed his face and came out; and he composed himself, and said, "Serve the bread." Now Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. Then he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph then said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were stunned in his presence. But Joseph said

Friday, March 17, 2017 - Our Venerable Father Alexius, Man of God
Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat.
This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 13:2-13

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 7

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Like the prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace;
I have wasted the riches of Your goodness, O Lord.
I now run to You and cry out:
I have sinned, O Lord, have mercy on me.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

Like the prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace; *(Repeat Previous)*

In Tone 2

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

Since You did not love earthly delights, O martyrs,
you were worthy of the blessings of heaven,
and now you abide with the angels.
O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us.

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

Through the prayers of the holy martyrs
and their songs of praise to Christ,
all error has come to an end,
and all people are saved by faith.

6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with Your forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

As they withstood the tortures,
the company of martyrs said:
We serve in the forces of the King.
Though you deliver us to fire and torment,
we shall not deny the power of the Trinity.

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded, my soul patiently relies on Your promise, * for it has trusted in the Lord.

Great is the glory you obtained by faith, O saints;

For not only did you triumph over the Enemy in your sufferings, but after death you healed the infirm and drove out evil spirits,

O physicians of souls and bodies.

Intercede before the Lord,

entreating Him to have mercy on our souls.

In Tone 4

4. From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.

You shone like a star, enlightening the faithful

with the sacred brightness of your teachings,

while you darkened the heresies.

You were victorious to the end,

as a servant increasing the talent given to you.

You were well-pleasing to God, Cyril, blessed one of God,

and you surrendered your spirit into His hands.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

You shone like a star, enlightening the faithful (Repeat Previous)

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.

In the wisdom of your words and the splendor of your life,

you shone forth in the midst of the council of the fathers

like a most luminous star.

You were worthy of working wonders!

You choked the godless Macedonius with the cords of grace

as he madly blasphemed and openly worked iniquity

against the Holy Spirit Who gives life to all!

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.

You put the evil mind of the senseless Manes to shame,
denouncing the unworthy teachings of his foolishness wisely and well,
chief among teachers and splendor of priests;

In Tone 4

4. From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.

O holy Bishop Methodius,

By holy letters you brought together and handed on these teachings

to your people and your flock,

and they blessed the Lord.

We, therefore, bless you worthily.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

O holy Bishop Methodius, (Repeat Previous)

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.

O blessed Methodius,

you followed the words of the Lord,

and truly blessed the Father,

who gave birth to the Word in essence,

and sent forth the all-holy Spirit.

You continue to profess this, crying aloud,

“Truly the Comforter proceeds from the Father and not from the Son.”

Therefore, O divine preacher,

you stand with the fathers of the First Council in their same profession,

pray with them to the Saviour, that he may save us all.

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.

O father Methodius,

you received apostolic grace from God in abundance.

You were counted worthy of the wonder of prophecy,

seeing the future as if it were present.

Rejoice, O glorious father,

sight of the blind, expeller of demons and healer of the sick.

Grant us forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer.*

As You walked in the flesh, O Jesus,
in the land beyond the Jordan,
You said to those who were with You:
Our friend Lazarus has died and has been placed in the tomb.
But I rejoice for you, my friends,
for you will learn that I know all things,
and that with God, I am one,
even though by nature I appear in human form.
Therefore, let us go and give life to Lazarus
so that Death may recognize this victory,
and the perfect consummation I shall bring about
by granting great mercy to the world.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

O faithful, let us imitate Martha and Mary,
and offer virtuous deeds as ambassadors before the Lord,
that when He comes, He may uplift our minds full of misery which now lie
dead in the tomb.
Without life, they have no sense of what they are neglecting,
and they are unaware of the awesomeness of God.
Behold, O Lord, now give life to all and grant us Your great mercy,
as once You had pity on Your friend Lazarus,
and by Your awesome power, You raised him from the dead.

In Tone 6

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Now Lazarus has been in the tomb for two days,
and he sees all generations of the dead.
He beholds such strange and awesome things
and a countless number held within the power of death.
His relatives weep bitterly before his tomb;
but Christ is on His way to give life to His friend,
that He may stir up the same joy in the hearts of all.
Blessed are You, O Saviour; have mercy on us.

Godly champion of the Church of Christ!
Therefore in gladness we celebrate your holy dormition.

In Tone 2, Glory...

O what an ordeal must the soul endure
when it parts from the body!
O how profusely that soul weeps,
and there is no one to show it pity.
It turns its eyes to the angels and its prayer is in vain.
It extends its hands to people and finds no one to help.
Therefore, O beloved faithful,
considering the brevity of our life,
let us beseech from Christ mercy for our souls.

Now...

O Virgin, the shadow of the law passed away
with the realization of grace.
For as the bush had burned without being consumed,
so you gave birth while a virgin
and you remained a virgin.
Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice;
instead of Moses Christ God came forth,
the Saviour of our souls.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

Give us Your help against the foe,* for human help is vain.
verse: O God, You have rejected us and broken us. You have been angry; come
back to us.

Reading I - Genesis 8:4-21

The ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month,
on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the
tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the
mountains were seen. So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, Noah opened
the window of the ark he had made. Then he sent out a raven, which kept
going to and fro until the waters dried up from the earth. He also sent out from
himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.
But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned
to him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - The Holy Martyrs Theodulus and Agathopedes and Those with Them (c. 305) *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an alturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 58:1-1

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 5

10. *Lead my soul forth from prison* that I may give thanks to Your name. I am rich in all sorts of passions,*

and I am clothed in a garment of hypocrisy,

as I revel in the intemperance of sin.

My lack of mercy is beyond measure,

and I disregard my spirit lying before the gates of repentance.

Starved of every good thing, I suffer from illness.

But You, O Lord, make me like Lazarus who was poor in sin,

so that I will not have to beg for a drop of water

for my tongue suffering from thirst in the eternal fire.

Make me dwell in the bosom of the patriarch Abraham, O Lover of humankind.

9. *The just shall gather around me* when You have been good to me. I am rich in all sorts of passions, (Repeat Previous)*

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.* O Lord, hear my voice!*

With your souls filled with unquenchable love, O holy martyrs,

you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;

and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.

You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed

and have gone to dwell in heaven.

Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,

beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

put out his hand and took her, and brought her to himself in the ark. Then he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove returned to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth, and Noah knew the waters had receded from the earth. So he waited yet another seven days and again sent out the dove; however, she did not return to him any more. And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed, the surface of the ground was dry. Now in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. Then the Lord God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and their wives with you. Also, bring out with you every living thing of all flesh: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, so they may abound on the earth, and increase and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. Every animal, every bird, and every creeping thing that moves upon the earth, according to their kind, went out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to God, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered whole burnt offerings on the altar. So the Lord God smelled a sweet aroma. Then the Lord God thought it over and said, "I will never again curse the earth because of man's works, although the mind of man is diligently involved with evil things from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Prokimenon II, Tone 6

O God, hear my cry!* Listen to my prayer!

verse: So I will always praise Your name; day after day I will fulfil my vows.

Reading II - Proverbs 10:31-11:12

A righteous man will never fail,

But the ungodly shall not inhabit the earth.

The mouth of a righteous man distills wisdom,

But the tongue of an unrighteous man utterly destroys.

The lips of righteous men distill grace,

But the mouth of the ungodly is perverse.

Deceitful scales are an abomination before the Lord,

But a righteous weight is acceptable to Him.

Wherever arrogance enters, there also is dishonor,

But the mouth of the humble meditates on wisdom.

When a righteous man dies, he leaves regret,

But the bones of a sorrowful man dry him up.
The ways of a man who receives gifts unrighteously do not prosper,
And the ungodly man shuns the ways of righteousness.
The face of a wise man shows understanding,
But the eyes of the man without discernment are upon the ends of the earth.
A son without discernment is wrath to a father
And grief to her who bore him.
It is not good to punish a righteous man,
Nor is it holy to plot against righteous princes.
He who refrains from uttering a harsh word is intelligent,
And a longsuffering man has discernment.
Wisdom shall be imputed to a man without understanding who asks for
wisdom,
And anyone who holds his peace will seem to have discernment.
A man seeks a pretext when he wishes to separate from his friends,
But he shall be reproached at every opportunity.
A man lacking understanding has no need of wisdom,
For he is rather led by lack of discernment.
When an ungodly man comes into the depth of evil things, he acts
contemptuously,
But dishonor and reproach come upon him.
A word in the heart of a man is deep water,
And a river and a fountain of life spring up from it.
It is not good to admire the person of the ungodly,
Nor is it holy to pervert righteousness in judgment.

But the destruction of the ungodly is immediate and brings joy.
Righteousness cuts straight and blameless paths,
But ungodliness embraces wrongdoing.
The righteousness of upright men delivers them,
But lawless men are taken to their destruction.
When a righteous man dies, his hope does not perish,
But the boast of the ungodly perishes.
A righteous man escapes from a snare,
But the ungodly man is handed over in his place.
There is a snare for citizens in the mouth of the ungodly,
But the perception of the righteous is prosperous.
A city stays upright in the good things of the righteous,
But it is razed to the ground by the mouths of the ungodly.
A man in need of discernment treats citizens with contempt,
But a man of discernment keeps quiet.
A double-tongued man reveals deliberations heard in council,
But a man faithful in spirit conceals matters.
Those for whom there is no leadership fall like leaves,
But there is salvation in much counsel.

Isaac his son hand and foot and laid him on the altar, upon the firewood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." He then replied, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place The-Lord-Has-appeared; as it is said to this day, "In the mountain the Lord was seen." Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son, I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore; and your seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you obeyed My voice."

Prokeimenon II, Tone 4

How great are Your works, O Lord.* You have made all things in wisdom.
verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great.

Reading II - Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Why do goods belong to a man without discernment?
For a heartless man is unable to gain wisdom.
He who makes his own house lofty seeks destruction,
And the one who turns away from learning will fall into evils.
Let a friend be with you on every occasion,
And let brethren be useful in necessities,
For they are begotten for this reason.
A man without discernment applauds and rejoices over himself,
As also the one who gives himself as surety for his friend.
He who loves sin rejoices in quarrels,
And the hard-hearted man does not assemble with good men.
A changeable man will fall into evils with his tongue,
And a heart without discernment is grieved to the one possessing it.
A father does not delight in an uninstructed son;
But a son with discernment gladdens his mother.
A cheerful heart makes a man healthy,

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - The Holy Priest-Martyr Basil, Presbyter of Ancyra (363); Passing into eternal life (1924) of Fr. Isidore Dolnytsky, hymnographer, professor and spiritual father of L'viv and the Greek College in Rome - *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an alturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 26:21-27:9

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 4

10. Lead my soul forth from prison* that I may give thanks to Your name.

The Fast that brings integrity has now run half its course.

These past days have proved acceptable,

and now we see the need of the days to come.

Our perception of their value will make them yield more abundant fruit.

Therefore, let us beseech Christ our Benefactor

who fasted and endured the Cross for us:

Grant that we might share in Your divine Pascha without condemnation

and pass our lives in peace,

worthily glorifying You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Tone 5

9. The just shall gather around me* when You have been good to me.

Those who do good deeds in secret

and receive a spiritual reward,

do not boast in public about their deeds,

but they carry them in their hearts;

and He who sees the secret deeds of all

grants us the reward of self-control.

Let us then complete this Great Fast without putting on a gloomy face;

but while praying in the secrecy of our souls,

let us cry out unceasingly:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

lead us not into temptation, we pray,

but deliver us from evil.

In Tone 2, Glory... Now...

That mystery which is from all eternity
is being revealed today.
The Son of God becomes the Son of Man.
He accepted the lowliest in order to give us the highest.
In times of old, Adam was deceived;
he desired to become like God and did not.
Now God becomes human that He may make Adam God.
Let all creation be happy:
let nature dance with joy
because the Archangel stands in awe before the Virgin and greets her.
He brings the greeting which changes our grief into joy.
Through the mercy of Your compassion, You became incarnate;
O our God, glory to You!

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

The Lord is compassion and love,* slow to anger and rich in mercy.
verse: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.

Reading - Genesis 22:1-18

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your beloved son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains I tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey; and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split firewood for the whole burnt offering, and arose and went to the place God told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. Thus Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

So Abraham took the firewood of the whole burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Then Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the firewood, but where is the sheep for a whole burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the sheep for a whole burnt offering." So the two of them went together. They came to the place where God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the firewood in order; and he bound

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice!*

With your souls filled with unquenchable love, O holy martyrs,
you endured the most terrible sufferings without ever denying Christ;
and you laid low the impudence of the torturers.
You kept the faith unwavering and unharmed
and have gone to dwell in heaven.
Therefore, having the boldness to approach the Lord,
beg Him to grant us His great mercy.

In Tone 1

7. Let Yours ears be attentive to the voice of my prayer.*

Let us all wash our souls in the water of the Fast
and approach the precious and all-praiseworthy Cross of the Lord.
Let us faithfully bow to it,
drawing divine illumination from it
and reaping the fruit of eternal salvation,
which is peace and great mercy.

6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

O precious Cross, the boldness of the apostles,
You are revered by the Archangels, Powers and Principalities.
Save from all evil those who bow before You,
and make us worthy to pass through the course of the Fast in a holy way,
that we may see Your salvation and holy Resurrection.

In Tone 7

5. I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise, for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Bowing before the Cross of the Lord on this day, let us sing:
Rejoice, O Tree of Life;
You are the joy of the world who destroy Hades and Death;
Your strength puts the demons to flight.
You are the invincible weapon and support of believers;
preserve and sanctify those who bow before You.

4. *From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.*
Using abstinence as a bridle, you curbed the pleasures of the body
and the disobedience of the flesh, blessed one.

Courageous, you vanquished the full armor of the enemy
by the power of the Spirit.

Therefore, you were a leader of monks
who ever followed your most wise and divine preaching, Nikon.

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful
redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Using abstinence as a bridle, you curbed the pleasures of the body (*Repeat
Previous*)

2. *Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

You shone forth from the east like the sun,
most glorious one,

bringing light to the whole world with the radiance of miracles,
guiding the choir of your brilliant disciples like a star!

Together with them you suffered in might.
You were beheaded by the sword,

placing your souls in the hands of the King and Master of all.

1. *Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

Neither hunger nor tribulation, truly wondrous ones,
nor nakedness nor wounds
nor the necessity of a violent death

were able to separate you from the love of God!
Crown-bearing athletes,

following the Shepherd like sheep led to the slaughter,
from the sunset you reached the unending rest of the heavenly Kingdom!

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:

You appear to me as a mortal,
and your words go beyond human thought.
You have said that God is with me,

and that He shall take up abode in my womb.

Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the infinite One,
the Lord who rides on the Cherubim?

Do not mislead me with deceit,

for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.

Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

2. *Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.*

The Archangel then said to her:

Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome,

and that which is beyond human power is accomplished.

Therefore, O most pure and ever-holy One, believe my true words.

She then cried out, saying:

Let it now be done to me according to your word,

and I will give birth to the One who is without flesh.

He will take flesh from me,

so that by the union He may raise the human race to the original dignity,

1. *Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*

The Archangel then said to her: (*Repeat Previous*)

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer.*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin,
and revealed the pre-eternal plan to you.
He greeted you and announced:
Rejoice, O earth that had not been sown!
Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed!
Rejoice, O unsearchable depth!
Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven;
O high ladder which Jacob saw!
Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna!
Rejoice, O invocation of Adam!
The Lord is with you.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, *(Repeat Previous)*

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, *(Repeat Previous)*

4. *From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.*

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:
You appear to me as a mortal,
and your words go beyond human thought.
You have said that God is with me,
and that He shall take up abode in my womb.
Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the infinite One,
the Lord who rides on the Cherubim?
Do not mislead me with deceit,
for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.
Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

In Tone 8, Glory... Now...

Today the inaccessible Lord draws me close to Him.
He endures His Passion to free me from my passions.
He who gives light to the blind, receives spitting from impure lips
and permits Himself to be scourged to save the captives.
When His Mother, the Virgin, saw Him on the Cross, she sighed and said:
Alas, O my beloved Child!
You surpass every mortal in beauty; yet You are now without charm or
attraction,
having neither grace, nor form, nor life.
Alas! O Light of my eyes,
a sword pierces my heart, and I suffer inwardly to see You so.
I sing and praise Your Passion,
I venerate Your infinite mercy,
O long-suffering Lord, glory to You.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,* who alone does wondrous things.
verse: O God, give Your judgment to the king, and to the king's son Your
justice.

Reading I - Genesis 9:18-10:1

The sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. Then Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard. So he drank of the wine and was drunk and naked in his house. Now Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walking backwards they covered their father's nakedness. Since their faces were turned away, they did not see his nakedness. Thus when Noah became sober and knew what his younger son had done to him, he said:

“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”
He also said,
“Blessed be the Lord God of Shem,
And Canaan shall be his servant.
May God enlarge Japheth,

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 6

10. *Lead my soul forth from prison * that I may give thanks to Your name.*

Departing from Your divine precepts as from Jerusalem,

and going down to the passions of Jericho,

travelling by way of the cares of this life

on the pathways of dishonour,

I fell prey to the thievery of thoughts;

they stripped me of my noble garment,

which You gave me by the grace of adoption.

I was left half-dead and covered with wounds;

a priest passed by and saw my misfortune, but he paid no attention;

a Levite felt nothing but disgust, and so he turned away from me;

but You, O Lord, who were born ineffably from the Virgin,

You poured as oil and wine,

the blood and water which flowed freely from Your life-giving side,

to dress and bind up my wounds.

In Your compassionate love, O Christ our God,

grant me a place in Your Kingdom.

9. *The just shall gather around me * when You have been good to me.*

Departing from Your divine precepts as from Jerusalem, (*Repeat Previous*)

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; * O Lord, hear my voice!*

Your martyrs did not reject You,

nor did they renounce Your commandments.

Through their prayers, have mercy on us.

Prokimenon II, Tone 4

To be near God is my happiness. * I have made the Lord God my refuge.

verse: How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart.

Reading II - Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Nothing unrighteous will ever be pleasing to the righteous,

But the ungodly will be filled with evil things.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,

But he who shows faithfulness is acceptable to Him.

A man of understanding is a throne of perception,

But the heart of the undiscerning will meet with curses.

The hand of the chosen shall prevail easily,

But the deceitful shall be for captivity.

A fearful word troubles the heart of a righteous man,

But a good message makes him glad.

A righteous arbiter shall be his own friend,

But the decisions of the ungodly are unreasonable.

Evil things shall pursue sinners,

And the way of the ungodly will lead them astray.

A deceitful man will not gain his prey,

But a pure man is a precious possession.

In the ways of righteousness there is life,

But the ways of remembering wrongs are unto death.

An astute son is obedient to his father,

But a disobedient son is for destruction.

A good man eats from the fruits of righteousness,

But the souls of the lawless will destroy themselves before their time.

He who guards his mouth keeps his own soul,

But he who is hasty with his lips will dismay himself.

Every idle man has desire,

But the hands of the courageous are diligent.

The beginning of a good way is to do righteous things,
And this is more acceptable to God than to offer sacrifices.
He who seeks the Lord will find knowledge with righteousness,
And those who seek Him rightly will find peace.
All the works of the Lord are with righteousness,
But the ungodly man is kept for an evil day.
There is an oracle on the lips of a king,
And his mouth does not err in judgment.
The weight of a scale is righteousness before the Lord,
For His works are righteous standards.
He who does evil things is an abomination to a king,
For the throne of a ruler is prepared with righteousness.
Righteous lips are acceptable to a king,
And he loves upright words.

A righteous man hates an unrighteous word,
But an ungodly man is ashamed and will not have confidence.
Righteousness guards the simple,
But sin makes the ungodly worthless.
There are those with nothing who make themselves rich,
And there are those, though very rich, who humble themselves.
The ransom of a man's soul is his own wealth,
But the poor man does not withstand a threat.
Light is with the righteous continually,
But the light of the ungodly is extinguished.

Friday, March 24, 2017 - Fore-feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God; Our Venerable Father Zachary; Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia in Pisidia - *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an aliturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 29:13-23

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 7

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name.*

I have enslaved the dignity of my soul to the passions,
and have become like the beasts;
I can no longer raise my eyes to You, O God most high.
But, like the Publican I bow to the earth,
and I cry to You in supplication:
Forgive me, O Lord, and save me.

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me.*

I have enslaved the dignity of my soul to the passions, *(Repeat Previous)*

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord.* O Lord, hear my voice!*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin,

and revealed the eternal plan to you.

He greeted you and announced:

Rejoice, O earth that has not been sown!

Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed!

Rejoice, O unsearchable depth!

Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven,

O high ladder which Jacob saw!

Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna!

Rejoice, O invocation of Adam!

The Lord is with you.

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, *(Repeat Previous)*

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? * But with You forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, *(Repeat Previous)*

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:

You appear to me as a mortal,

and your words go beyond human thought.

You have said that God is with me,

and that He shall take up abode in my womb.

Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the Infinite One,

the Lord Who rides on the Cherubim?

Do not mislead me with deceit,

for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.

Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

4. *From the morning watch until night* let Israel trust in the Lord.*

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts: *(Repeat Previous)*

But a man with discernment walks uprightly.

Those not honoring councils defer their deliberations,

But counsel remains in the hearts of those who resolve to do it.

The evil man will not obey counsel,

Nor will he speak anything appropriate, even something for the common good.

The thoughts of a wise man are his ways of life,

That he might turn aside and be saved from Hades.

The Lord will destroy the houses of the arrogant,

But He will strengthen the boundary of a widow.

The thinking of the unrighteous man is an abomination to the Lord,

But the words of the holy are sacred.

He who receives bribes utterly destroys himself,

But he who hates the receiving of bribes saves himself.

Sins are cleansed by almsgiving and faithfulness,

And by the fear of the Lord everyone turns aside from evil.

The hearts of the righteous care about faithfulness,

But the mouth of the ungodly answers evil things.

The ways of righteous men are acceptable before the Lord,

And through them even enemies become friends.

God is far from the ungodly,

But He hears the prayers of the righteous.

Better is a small yield with the righteous

Than abundant fruits with the unrighteous.

Let the heart of a man think righteous things

That he may make his steps straight under God.

The eye that beholds good things gladdens the heart,

But a good report enriches the bones.

He who rejects instruction hates himself,

But he who gives heed to reproofs loves his soul.

The fear of God is instruction and wisdom,

And the beginning of glory will respond to it.

All the works of the humble are evident before the Lord,

But the ungodly will be destroyed in the evil day.

Every high-hearted man is unclean before the Lord,

And he who joins hands with the unrighteous will not go unpunished.

Now...

Zealously, we sing of the ineffable condescension of God!
It is a miraculous and wondrous birth!
How has the Virgin carried You in her arms as a child,
for You are her Creator and her God?
O Benefactor, who willed to become incarnate from her,
save me before I completely perish, O Lord.

Prokeimenon I, Tone 4

O Lord, God of vengeance,* show Yourself.
verse: Rise up, O Judge of the earth; give the proud what they deserve!

Reading I - Genesis 17:1-9

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am your God; be pleasing before Me and blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be your God and the God of your seed after you. Also I will give you and your seed after you the land you are occupying as a sojourner, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations."

Prokeimenon II, Tone 6

O sing to the Lord a new song,* sing to the Lord all the earth!
verse: O sing to the Lord; bless His name.

Reading II - Proverbs 15:20-16:9

A longsuffering man will extinguish condemnations,
But the ungodly man stirs up more.
The ways of idle men are strewn with thorny plants,
But the thorny plants of the courageous are worn smooth.
A wise son gladdens a father,
But a son without discernment treats his mother with contempt.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption;* and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:
(Repeat Previous)

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations;* proclaim His glory, all you people.

The archangel then said to her:

Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome,
and that which is beyond human power is accomplished.

Therefore, O most pure and everlasting One, believe my true words.
She then cried out, saying:

Let it now be done to according to your word,
and I will give birth to the One Who is without flesh.

He will take flesh from me,
so that by the union He may raise the human race to the original dignity,
for He alone is all-powerful.

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us;* eternally will His truth endure.

The archangel then said to her: *(Repeat Previous)*

Glory... Now...

The archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven
to bring to the Virgin glad tidings of her conception.

When he came to Nazareth,
he marvelled at the miracle and thought to himself:
How is it that He Whom the heavens cannot comprehend
is now being born of a virgin?

The One Who has heaven for a throne and earth for a footstool
is being enclosed within a virgin's womb.

He, upon whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim cannot
gaze,

wills to become incarnate of her by a single word.

The Word of God is at hand.

Then why do I stand by and not say to the Virgin:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!

Rejoice, O pure Virgin and Maiden Bride!

Rejoice, O Mother of the Life!

Blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Prokimenon I, Tone 6

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, * You who lead Joseph's flock.
verse: Shine forth from Your Cherubim throne.

Reading I - Genesis 12:1-7

The Lord said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed." Then Abram departed as the Lord said to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son and all their possessions and every soul they acquired in Haran, and they departed for the land of Canaan. Thus they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I will give this land." And there Abram built an altar to the Lord, who appeared to him.

Prokimenon II, Tone 4

Ring out your joy to God, our strength, * shout in triumph to the God of Jacob.
verse: Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the sweet-sounding harp and lute.

Reading II - Proverbs 14:15-26

A simple man believes in every word,
But an astute man comes to repentance.
A wise man fears and turns away from evil,
But a man without discernment persuades himself to mingle with a lawless man.
A quick-tempered man acts with recklessness,
But a man with discernment bears many things.
Men without discernment will share in evil,
But the astute will take hold of perception.
Evil men will slip and fall in the presence of good men,
And the ungodly shall serve at the gate of the righteous.
Friends will hate poor friends,
But the friends of the rich are many.
He who dishonors the poor sins,
But he who has mercy on the poor is very blessed.

4. From the morning watch until night * let Israel trust in the Lord.

Kindly, You dried up the marsh of her passions,
when the woman with the flow of blood touched Your garment.
I have received the forgiveness of my sins
by drawing near to You in complete faith;
receive me, as You accepted her, and heal me of my grief;
save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Lord, Your word has made heaven and earth,
and You shall come to sit upon a throne;
and we shall all stand in Your presence and confess our sins.
Before that day comes, receive my repentance;
save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; * proclaim His glory, all you people.

Mercifully look upon me and spare me, O Saviour,
pour out the streams of healing upon my poor and afflicted soul.
Purify it from all stain
so that I may sing to You:
Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.

Now my soul has been quickly assailed by the sword that the devil prepared;
he has made me a stranger to the light of Your face, O Lord.
But, by the power of Your arm,
draw me up from his jaws;
save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Glory...

Your love is beyond expression, O merciful and good Lord!
You alone are without sin!
Do not reject me far from Your face,
that, with thanksgiving and with joy,
I may sing and cry out to You:

Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;* O Lord, hear my voice!*

Greatly despising You commandments,
I have sinned, O Christ our God.
Spare me, O Benefactor,
that my inner eye may be freed from darkness;
and in fear I shall cry out to You:
Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

7. *Let Yours ears be attentive* to the voice of my prayer:*

Having been encircled by wild beasts,
I beseech You to deliver me from their clutches, O Lord.
You wish that all be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth;
save all Your people, O Creator,
that I may be saved with them;
save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

6. *If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?* But with Your forgiveness is that You may be revered.*

I am lying here in sin;
heal me, O Redeemer and Benefactor;
be not far from me, O Saviour.
Raise me up, O almighty One,
that I may confess all my sins and cry to You:
Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

5. *I have waited for You as You have commanded; my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

Just as the foolish servant,
I have hidden the talent You gave me;
I have buried it in the ground.
I have been condemned as useless,
and I dare not ask for anything more.
In Your goodness, spare me,
that I may also cry to You:
Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.

Deceivers devise evil things,
But good men devise mercy and truth.
Devisers of evil things do not understand mercy and faithfulness,
But mercies and faithfulness are with devisers of good things.
To everyone who is careful there is an abundance,
But he who is pleasure-taking and slothful shall be in want.
The crown of the wise is astuteness,
But the pastime of the undiscerning is evil.
A faithful witness will rescue a soul from evil men,
But a deceitful man kindles lies.

Reading III - Exodus 3:1-8

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites.

Reading IV - Proverbs 8:22-30

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth; before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit,

simple, let him turn in here!” To him who is without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simplicity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 - Our Venerable Father Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, the Deacon Cyril and Others Martyred During the Reign of Julian the Apostate (360-63) - *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. This an altiturgical day – the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated on this day.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 41:4-14

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

At Psalm 140

In Tone 3

10. Lead my soul forth from prison that I may give thanks to Your name. Even more than all others, I have sinned of my own will, and for that, I am condemned; the arrogance of my flesh is the enemy of my soul. O guide for those who have lost their way and light for those without hope, save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.*

9. The just shall gather around me when You have been good to me. For the Prophet says, my soul shall live and shall praise You, O Lord. I am the lost sheep; call me back and number me among Your flock. Give me time to repent that I may sigh and cry out to You: Save me, O Lord, before I completely perish.*

so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always.

Reading V - Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you.” Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it.” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

Reading VI - Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God.” Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And he said to me, “This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered by it; therefore, it shall remain shut. Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way.” Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple of the Lord; and I fell upon my face.

Reading VII - Proverbs 9:1-11

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her maids to call from the highest places in the town, “Whoever is