

**LITURGICAL
PROPER
Great Lent 2018:
Presactified
Divine Liturgy**



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 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.

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 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

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Wednesday, February 14, 2017 - Holy and Great-Martyr Theodore the Recruit (286-305) Great Fast Day 3. Feast of St. Cyril transferred to February 17 this year. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.

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.

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.

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.”

In Tone 2

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.

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.

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 You 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 8

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

What shall we call you, O Apostle?
Heaven, for you have confessed the glory of God?
A River, since you mystically give drink to all creation?
A Star that illumines the Church?
A Chalice pouring out the holy drink?
An Intimate of Christ, dwelling equally with the angels?
Pray that our souls be saved.

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.
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
ways;

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.

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, O Apostle?
Heaven, for you have confessed the glory of God?
A River, since you mystically give drink to all creation?
A Star that illumines the Church?
A Chalice pouring out the holy drink?
An Intimate of Christ, dwelling equally with the angels?
Pray that our souls be saved.

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

O Apostle and Preacher of God,
you came forth from Christ like a shining arrow.
You wounded His enemies,
and you manifestly healed our wounded souls.
Therefore, we praise you fervently, and we celebrate your Feast-day today.
Pray that our souls be saved.

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

O glorious Apostle who sees God,
your feet have become beautiful, pursuing the path of preaching.
You made narrow the way of the wicked
by the width of your divine knowledge of the Word,
Who is revealed in the coarseness of the flesh.
The most glorious Lord chose you as His disciple, O blessed one.
Pray to Him that our souls be saved.

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

By your great power, O pure one,
deliver us from sorrows and save us from death!
Protect us from every attack of the devil;
free us from every affliction.
Pray without ceasing to your Son,
that He may deliver us from every oppression.

was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my 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, March 28 - Great and Holy Wednesday; Our Venerable Father Hilarion the New; the Holy Stephen the Wonderworker (464) *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.

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;

“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 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, the five talents came forward, bringing 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 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.’

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I

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.”

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 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 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, February 16 - The Holy Martyrs Pamphilus the Priest (c. 309) and Porphyrius and Their Companions *Great Fast. Day of fast and abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. **Great Fast Day 5. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.***

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)*

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 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."

Prokeimennon 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 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 struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and brother's house; and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness, 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 worshiped. 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.

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

O Father, you shone with the beauty of virtue,

and you went about the whole world,

like a bee putting the purest honey of divine wisdom

in the good hearts of those believing in the one Christ,

who came on earth and visited our lowliness

with his endless mercy and humility.

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

O Father, you shone with the beauty of virtue, *(Repeat Previous)*

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

O Father, you shone with the beauty of virtue, *(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.*

With the wisdom of meekness

and filled with love of God and knowledge of the true faith,

you netted the cities and countryside for God, O blessed Cyril.

By grace you came to those who had not received saving wisdom,

and therefore, we praise you with holy hymns.

In Tone 2

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

Come, all you friends of the martyrs,

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;

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.
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.

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,
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.

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

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 3, Now...

O Lady most honourable,
how could we but be rapt in wonder at your giving birth
to the incarnate God who without a mother was born of a Father before all ages.
You gave Him birth in the flesh without a father,
without a man's instrumentality.
He is God and man whose two natures are intact, neither one losing any of its
properties.
Therefore, O Virgin Mother, intercede with Him to save the souls
of those who believe and profess in true faith that you are the Mother of God.
He is all-powerful!

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*

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,

and we shall be worthy of the joy of the Lord.

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*)

Tuesday, March 27 - Great and Holy Tuesday; Our Holy Mother Matrona of Thessalonica - *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)*

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." Thus He said, "Who said you were naked? Have you eaten from the one tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" Then Adam said, "The woman You gave me, gave me of the tree, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, 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.”

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain and your groaning, and in pain you shall bring forth children. Your recourse will be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you headed the voice of your wife, and ate from the one tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground in your labours. In toil you shall eat from it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground from which you were taken. Earth you are, and to earth you shall return.” So Adam called his wife’s name Life, because she was the mother of all living.

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,
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,

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,

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.

Wednesday, February 21 - Our Venerable Father Timothy of Symbola (8th c.); Our Holy Father Eustathius, Archbishop of Great Antioch (338)- Great Fast Day 10; Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.

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.*

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

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 8

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

O praiseworthy Martyrs of Christ,
you considered attacks by persecutors and violent death to be as nothing.
Boldly you armed yourselves with courage for battle,
and robed yourselves in glorious victory.
You were numbered with all the just
with whom we bless you in constant praise.

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 praiseworthy Martyrs of Christ, *(Repeat Previous)*

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

O most blessed Martyrs of Christ,

you gave yourselves up freely to be sacrificed.

With your blood you sanctified the earth,

you brightened the air by your departure from this life.

Now you live in heaven, in a never-setting light.

O Martyrs, who see God, always pray for us.

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

O invincible Martyrs of Christ,

with the dew of divine grace you pass through the pain of fire without harm.

You are considered worthy to live by the waters of peace, since you received a

crown of victory.

With joy we celebrate your holy feast,

and we give glory to Christ.

In Tone 4, Glory... 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!

Prokimenon I, Tone 8

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

verse: Blessed are those whose offense 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

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, March 26 - Great and Holy Monday; Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel *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.

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,
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.

Friday, March 10, 2017 - The Holy Priest-Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (155-56) *Great Fast Day 12. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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 4

8. *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;* O Lord, hear my voice!*
You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God,
Through their intercessions,
send upon us Your great mercy.

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.

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 Sion.
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

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

O God, who has accepted the long-suffering of the holy martyrs,
accept our song, O Lover of humankind,
and, through their prayers, grant us Your great mercy.

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

O saints, who have the boldness to approach the Saviour,
pray without ceasing for us sinners,
asking remission for our transgressions,
and great mercy for 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.*

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.

In Tone 5

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

Rejoice, holy and light-bearing head, venerated by the angels!
Of old, you were cut off by the sword,
for you had cut through the shame of impurity with incisive reproofs!
Like a fountain refreshing the faithful with wonders,
you declared the saving coming of the Saviour,
and perceived the coming of the Spirit, which took up his abode in you,
as you stood between the grace of the Old and New Covenants.
Entreat Christ God to grant our souls great mercy!

his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed 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. 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

*3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; * and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*
 Rejoice, holy and light-bearing head, venerated by the angels!
 Of old, you were cut off by the sword,
 for you had cut through the shame of impurity with incisive reproofs!
 Like a fountain refreshing the faithful with wonders,
 you declared the saving coming of the Saviour,
 and perceived the coming of the Spirit, which took up his abode in you,
 as you stood between the grace of the Old and New Covenants.
 Entreat Christ God to grant our souls great mercy!

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

The head of the Forerunner is made manifest.
 Once it was concealed in an earthen vessel;
 now it is openly given up from the depths of the earth,
 pouring forth streams of healing.
 For he washed in the waters the Head of the One
 who even now covers the chambers of the firmament with waters
 and rains down divine forgiveness for all peoples!
 Then let us bless this truly praiseworthy head
 and joyfully celebrate its finding,
 entreating Christ to grant our souls great mercy!

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

The head of the Forerunner is made manifest. (*Repeat Previous*)
In Tone 6, Glory...

A treasury of divine gifts, your head, O Forerunner,
 guarded by God, has risen from the depths of the earth!
 As we faithfully receive it and venerate it, glorious one,
 we are made rich through you, Baptist of Christ,
 with marvellous wonders and remission of sins!

*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

Now...

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?
Who would not sing a hymn of praise
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?
The Only-begotten Son Himself,
begotten of the Father before all ages,
was made flesh out of you in a manner
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature
assumed the nature of a man.
He is not divided into two persons;
He is understood to have two natures
without commixion or confusion.
O noble and blessed Woman,
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

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.

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

*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, March 23 - OThe Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and His Disciples, Martyred with Him (270-75) *Great Fast Day 40. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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,
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.

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

Reading III - Isaiah 40:1-11

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people,” says God. “O priests, speak to the heart of Jerusalem, comfort her, for her humiliation is ended, her sin is pardoned; for she received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the Lord has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out.” So I said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all man’s glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever.’ O you who bring good tidings to Zion, go into the high mountain; O you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God.” Behold, the Lord is coming with strength, and His arm is with authority. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.

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.

Prokimenon 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 slotful 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,

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.

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord Almighty. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can withstand His appearance? For He enters like a refiner’s fire and as soap in one’s wash. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver and gold. He will purify the sons of Levi and pour them out as purified gold and silver, and they will bring an offering to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

“And I will draw near to you in judgment, a swift witness against sorcerers, adulterers, those who swear falsely by My name, those who exploit wage-earners, those who oppress widows and afflict orphans, those who pervert the justice due foreigners, and those who do not fear Me,” says the Lord Almighty. “For I am the Lord your God; I have not changed. But you, O sons of Jacob, have not abstained from the sins of your fathers. You have turned away from My ordinances and have not kept them.

“Return to Me and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you say, ‘In what way shall we return? Will a man insult God? Yet you have insulted Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we insulted You?’ You kept back your tithes and offerings. You most certainly turned your back on Me, you and the whole nation, and you insulted Me. You brought all the produce into the storehouses—but it will be plundered in its house. Return now in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it is overflowing. And I shall send it to you for food and I will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor will the vine in the field fail to bear fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. “And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

“You spoke harsh words against Me,” says the Lord, “yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ You have said, ‘One who serves God is foolish; what profit have we from keeping His ordinances, and why do we go as supplicants before the face of the Lord Almighty? And now we call foreigners blessed, and those doing lawless deeds are raised up—they even oppose God and go tree.’”

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 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; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, 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

Then those who feared the Lord spoke these things each to his neighbor, and the Lord listened and heard them, and He wrote a book of remembrance before His face for those who feared the Lord and revered His name. “They shall be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day that I make them My possession, and I will choose them as a man chooses his own son who serves him. Then you shall return, and you will discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

“For behold, the day of the Lord is coming, burning like an oven. And it will burn them up, and it shall be that all foreigners and all who do wickedly will be stubble; and the day that is coming shall burn them up,” says the Lord Almighty, “and neither root nor branch will be left of them. But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings, and you shall go forth leaping as little calves released from their bonds. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under your feet on the day I do this,” says the Lord Almighty. “Behold, I will send you Elijah before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And he will turn the heart of the father to his son, and a man’s heart to his neighbor, lest I come and strike the earth completely. Be in remembrance of the Law of Moses My servant as I commanded him, with its statutes and judgments, at Horeb for all Israel.”

Reading V - Wisdom 4:7-15

Though a righteous man may die before his time,
He shall be at rest.

For old age is not honored for its length of existence,
Nor measured by its number of years;

But discernment is gray hair for mankind,

And a spotless life is the maturity of old age.

There was once a man pleasing to God and loved by Him,

And while living among sinners he was taken up.

He was caught up lest evil change his understanding

Or deceit deceive his soul.

For envy arising from lack of judgment obscures what is good,

And a whirling of desire undermines an innocent heart.

He was made perfect,

For in a short time he fulfilled long years,

For his soul was pleasing to the Lord;

Therefore, He took him early from the midst of evil.
Yet peoples saw this but did not understand,
Nor take such a thing to heart,
That the Lord's grace and mercy are with His elect
And that He watches over His holy ones.

Wednesday, February 28- Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Asceical Companion of Procopius (716-40) *Great Fast Day 17. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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.

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In Tone 4

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

O blessed, wise Basil,

you have brightened your sacred and divine garment with the crimson of your blood.

You have gone piously from earthly power to Power,
from earthly glory to Glory.

Now ask that our souls 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.*

O blessed, wise Basil, (*Repeat Previous*)

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

As a most righteous priest, you first offered the unbloody sacrifice to God
With your own blood you then offered yourself, like first-fruits, as a pleasing sacrifice.

As a true martyr, you followed after Christ.

O honourable Teacher,

pray to Him for those who sing to you.

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

You have brought to Christ, O Father, an army of martyrs

by your teaching and precepts.

Not only did you instruct with words, O wise Father,

but you showed them an example by offering yourself.

Pray with them that our souls be granted peace

and great mercy.

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.

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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.

In Tone 6

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.

Wednesday, March 21, 2017 - Our Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania (813-20) *Great Fast Day 38. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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.

In Tone 2
4. *From the morning watch until night * let Israel trust in the Lord.*

Richly illumined with spiritual light,

you scorned the world for love of the only Kingdom.

By encountering immeasurable suffering,

you defeated the enemy.

O glorious Martyr Eudocia,

you wove a wreath of victory for yourself.

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

Richly illumined with spiritual light, *(Repeat Previous)*

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

You suppressed the lusts of the flesh and extinguished the fire of sin

with the dew of the divine Spirit as your help, O noble Martyr.

Then you tamed the wild beast in the arena,

and with courage you submitted your body to beatings.

By this, blessed Eudocia, you brought down the enemy

and you wove a wreath of victory for yourself.

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

Neither sword, nor fire, nor scourging,

anguish, hunger, or any kind of torture

could break your desire for the Lord, O Martyr Eudocia,

in seeking Him with a fervent heart, you renounced all visible things,

and entered into the divine chamber

to become the bride of the King of all.

In Tone 5, Glory... Now...

Come, all faithful, and rejoice in the Holy Scriptures!

Rejoice in the preaching of the apostles!

Rejoice in the Virgin who gave birth to God!

She is the Queen of Heaven.

In her we exult with hymns and songs,

for she is our fervent intercessor before God.

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.

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.

Friday, March 2 - The Holy Priest-Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrenia (c. 321) *Great Fast Day 19. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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 5

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

You were not concerned about all these earthly matters,

and you courageously braved the tortures.

You did not sin against hope,

having confidence in God's love for humankind;

thus you were made heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven,

O most praise-worthy martyrs.

Ask for peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

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

Putting on the shield of faith

and fortifying themselves with the symbol of the Cross,

Your saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture.

They defeated the craft and insolence of the devil!

By their supplications, O all-powerful God,

send peace to the world and great mercy to our souls

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."

Prokimenon 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,

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

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

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs,
that we may be delivered from our iniquities;
for the grace to pray for us is given to 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.*

With your souls filled with unquenchable love,
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 8

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

O praiseworthy Martyrs of Christ,
you considered attacks by persecutors and violent death to be as nothing.
Boldly you armed yourselves with courage for battle,
and robed yourselves in glorious victory.
You were numbered with all the just
with whom we bless you in constant praise.

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 praiseworthy Martyrs of Christ, *(Repeat Previous)*

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

O most blessed Martyrs of Christ,
you gave yourselves up freely to be sacrificed.
With your blood you sanctified the earth,
you brightened the air by your departure from this life.
Now you live in heaven, in a never-setting light.
O Martyrs, who see God, always pray for us.

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us; * eternally will His truth endure.*
O invincible Martyrs of Christ,
with the dew of divine grace you pass through the pain of fire without harm.
You are considered worthy to live by the waters of peace, since you received a
crown of victory.
With joy we celebrate your holy feast,
and we give glory to Christ.

In Tone 5, Glory...

I recall the prophet crying out:
I am ashes and dust.
And again, I looked into the graves and saw bones laid bare and I said:
Which is king or soldier, rich or poor, righteous or sinner?
But, with the just, give rest, O Lord, to Your departed servants,
since You are the Lover of humankind.

Now...

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and bride was revealed in the Red Sea.
There, Moses divided the waters;
here, Gabriel is the messenger of the miracle.
There, the Israelites crossed the deep and their feet were not even wet;
here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed.
There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel;
here the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel.
Therefore, O Immortal God, who appeared in the flesh as true Man, have
mercy on us!

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

*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:
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,

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)*

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.

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?

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 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.

Prokeimenon 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 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.

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.

Friday, March 16 - The Holy Martyrs Sabinus and Papas (284-305) - *Great Fast Day 33. Abstinence from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

Readings for the day - Sixth Hour - Isaiah 45:11-17

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,
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*)

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.
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.

Wednesday, March 7 - The Holy Priest-Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and Others (284-305); Passing into Eternal Life (1935) of Blessed Leonid Fedorov, Exarch of the Russian Catholic Church, and Martyr - *Great Fast Day 24. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.*

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.

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.

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.
The paths of one without understanding are in need of discernment,
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,

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.

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.

In Tone 4

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

Holy and inspired Theophilactus,
we know you as a foundation of truth and a confirmer of the faith.
Your understanding of the dogmas was exceptional.
You were a composer of piety, and an abode of purity;
a chosen vessel, and the sweet fragrance of the Spirit.
You were a great treasury of teaching
and a pillar of the Church of Christ.

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

Holy and inspired Theophilactus,
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a chosen vessel, and the sweet fragrance of the Spirit.
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and a pillar of the Church of Christ.

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

You were a successor to the throne of the apostles;
you are of one mind with the martyrs.
And you emulate ascetics zealously.
Therefore we honour you, O praiseworthy God-bearer;
for you are the seal of teachers and the image of God.
You were initiated into the mysteries of Christ.
O wise Theophilactus, you are the river of understanding
that drowns the schemes of the lawless blasphemers.

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

You multiplied the talent of wisdom, O glorious Confessor,
and became worthy of the joy of your Lord.
O Theophilactus, adorned with divine rays of grace,
you shone with the light of spiritual wisdom,
and now stand before the Life-bringing Right Hand
from which we also receive the light.

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 You forgiveness is
that You may be revered.*

I am lying here in sin;
I 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.

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.

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 hear, 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.

Prokimenon 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,

Wednesday, March 14 - Our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (547) -
Great Fast Day 31. Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat.
According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not celebrated today.

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.

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.

And let him dwell in the habitations of Shem.
Let Canaan be his servant as well.”

Now Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died. Now this is the genealogy of Noah’s sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and sons were born to them after the flood.

Prokeimenon 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.

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 9 - The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (321-23) - *Great Fast.*

Rank: Polyteles - Great Fast Day 26. Abstinence from meat and foods that

contain meat. According to liturgical prescriptions, the Divine Liturgy is not

celebrated today.

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)*

In Tone 6

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!

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The Lord told this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who

went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when

he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his

vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in

the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever

is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and

the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and

found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here

idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them,

'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'

"So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward,

'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the

first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each

received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would

receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had

received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men

have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne

the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said,

'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same

as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is

your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For

many are called, but few chosen."

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.

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the LORD loves He chastens,

And scourges every son whom He receives.”

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

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

Your martyrs, O Christ,
have endured many sufferings for Your sake,
and have received their heavenly crowns.|
Now they intercede for our souls.

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

The suffering martyrs, citizens of heaven,
when taking part in the contest upon earth,
endured manifold torments.|
By their intercessions and prayers, preserve us, O 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.*

Your Cross, O Christ, has been an invincible weapon for the martyrs;
for beholding the approach of death
and foreseeing the future life,
they were made strong by the hope that lies in You.
By their intercession, have mercy on us!

In Tone 1

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

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!

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 (*Repeat Previous*)

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 6, Glory...

Your creating command was my origin and formation,

for You willed to fashion me, a living creature,

out of visible and invisible nature.

From the earth You formed my body

and gave me a soul by Your divine and life-creating breath.

Therefore, O Christ, give rest to Your servant in the place of the living,

in the abodes of the just.

Now...

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?

Who would not sing a hymn of praise to the glory of your giving birth without

pain or travail?

The only-begotten Son Himself,

begotten of the Father before all ages,

was made flesh out of you in a manner that cannot be explained, O Woman

most pure!

And for our sake He who is God by nature assumed the nature of man.

He is not divided into two persons;

He is understood to have two natures without commixion or confusion.

O noble and blessed Woman,

intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

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 de-parted 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

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.