

# **The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

## **First and Second Finding of the Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John**

celebrated on Wednesday in the Third Week of the Great Fast  
February 23, 2005

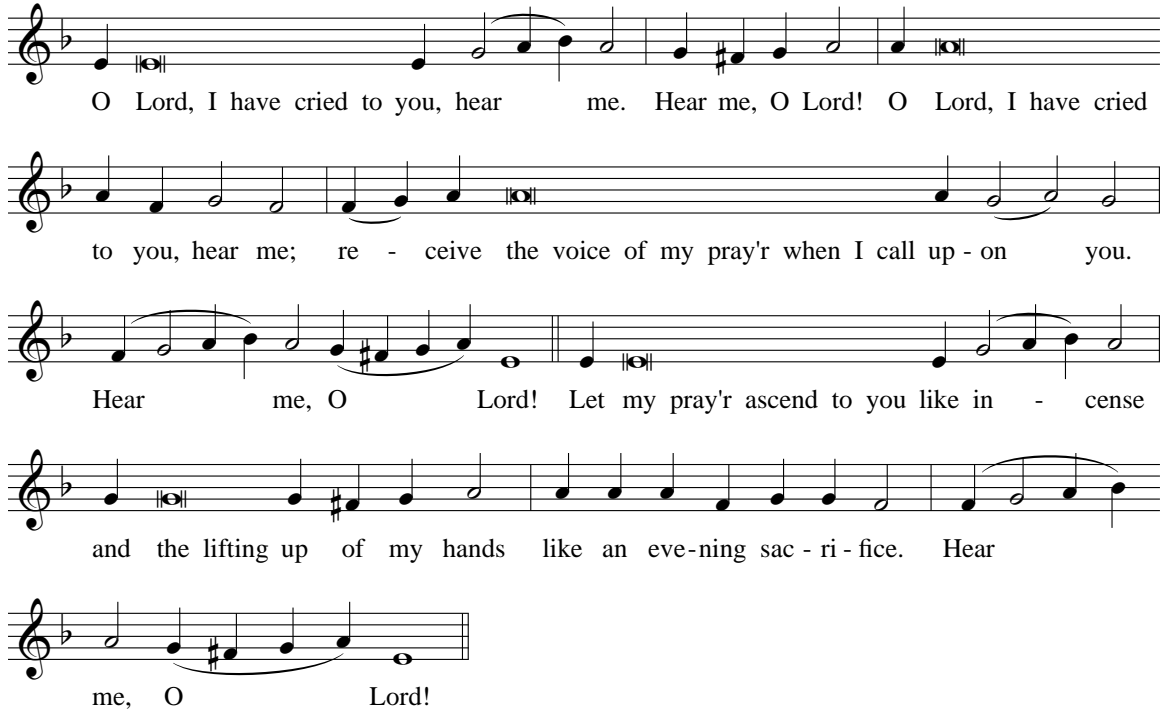
*The reading from Genesis tells of the entrance of Noah and his family and the living creatures into the ark which God commanded him to build.*

*The reading from Proverbs tonight personifies Folly, describing her as a loose woman who tempts men from their straight path into ways of destruction.*

# The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 4



O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O Lord, I have cried  
to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I call up - on you.  
Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to you like in - cense  
and the lifting up of my hands like an eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear  
me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.  
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
while I pursue my way *un*harméd.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *ent*rap me.

Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths *of* distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

**Psalm 129** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we *revere* you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman *for* daybreak.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

*Tone 4*

④

Like the prod-i-gal son, I squand-ered my fa-ther's wealth and I grew des-o-late.  
Liv-ing in the land of the wick-ed, I im-itated the irrational beasts in my  
fol-ly. I have stripped off ev'ry di-vine grace; and so I return cry-ing out to you:  
My com-pas-sionate and merci-ful Fa-ther, I have sinned, O God;  
wel-come me as a penitent and have mer-cy on me.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the Baptist

Tone 5



Re - joice, O sacred and light-bear - ing head, ven - er - a - ted by the an - gels,



Of old it was cut off by a sword, but cut down the shame of iniquity with



sharp re-proofs. It is a well - spring of miracles giving drink to the faith - ful.



It pro - claims the saving com - ing of the Sav - ior, and saw the coming of the



Spirit who dwelt in you who stand between the grace of the old and new



cov - e - nants. En - treat Christ God to grant our souls great mer - - - cy.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations,  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!



The head of the Fore-run-ner which was once concealed in an earth-en ves - sel,



has ap - peared, clearly given up from the bos - om of the earth and pour - ing forth



streams of heal - ing, for in the wa - ters he washed the head of him that e - ven



now covers the chambers of the fir - ma - ment with wa - ters, and rains down divine



forgiveness upon the hu - man race. There - fore, let us bless it as tru - ly most glo - ri - ous,

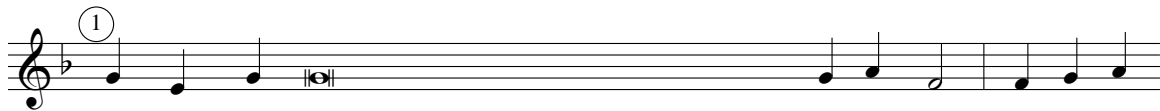


and in its discovery let us keep a feast, en - treat - ing Christ to



grant our souls great mer - - - cy.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



The head which proclaimed the Lamb of God has appeared in the flesh. With di - vine



com - mands it declared the ways of sav - ing re - pent - ance to all. Of old it



de - nounced the sin of Her - od, and there - fore was cut off from its bod - y



and en - dured con - ceal - ment for a time. Now it shines forth upon us like a

ra-diant sun, cry - ing out: Repent and submit to Christ in compunc-tion of soul,  
for he grants the world great mer - - - cy.

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Doxastikon**

*Tone 6*

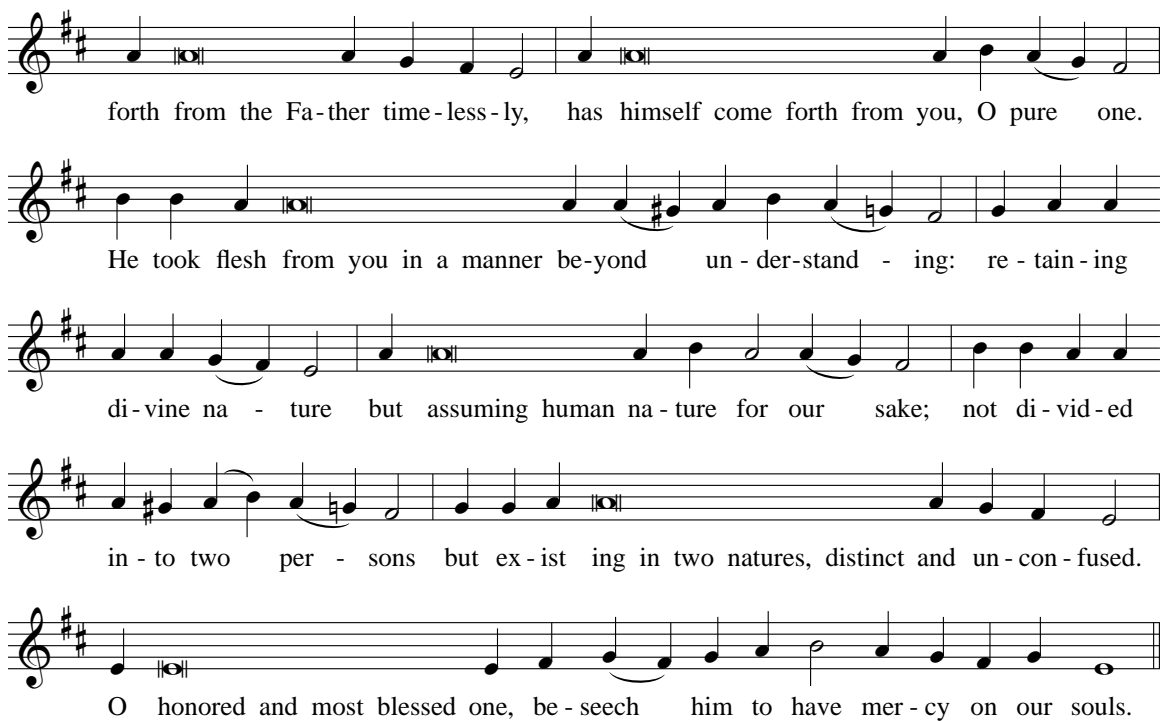
The di - vine - ly pre-served head, a treasury of di - vine gifts,  
has shone forth from the bosom of the earth, O Fore-run - ner. Glo-ri-ous  
proph-et, we receive it in faith and bow be-fore it, en - riched by you with most  
glo-ri-ous mir - a - cles and the for-give-ness of our sins, O Bap - tist of Christ.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion**

*Tone 6*

Who would not extol you, most ho-ly Vir-gin? Who would not praise your giv-ing  
birth with - out pain? For the on - ly - be - got - ten Son, who shines



forth from the Fa-ther time-less-ly, has himself come forth from you, O pure one.

He took flesh from you in a manner be-yond un-der-stand - ing: re - tain - ing

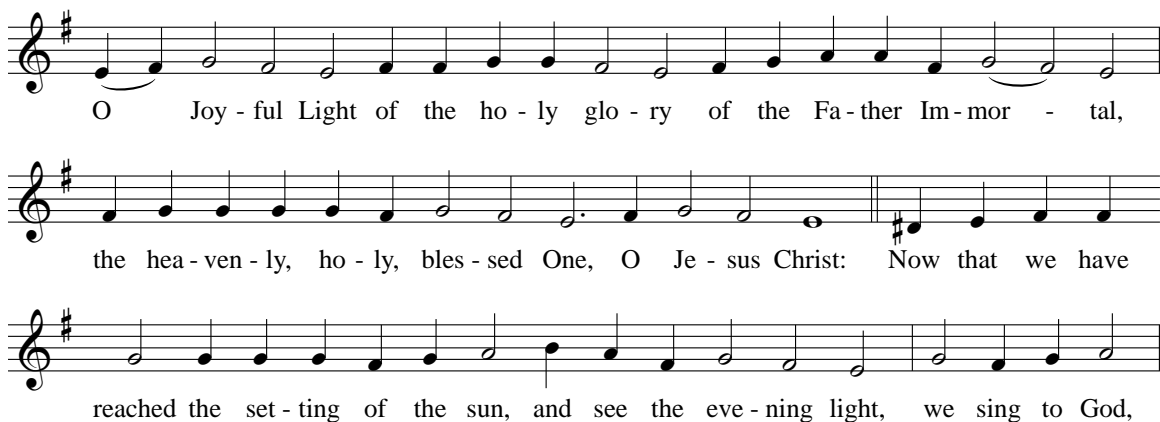
di-vine na - ture but assuming human na - ture for our sake; not di - vid - ed

in - to two per - sons but ex - ist ing in two natures, distinct and un - con - fused.

O honored and most blessed one, be - seech him to have mer - cy on our souls.

### The Hymn of the Evening

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!



O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,

the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have

reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise  
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the  
Giv - er of Life. There-fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace ✠ be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4**

I trust in the good - - - ness of God for - ev - er and  
ev - - - er.

*Verse:* Why do you boast of your wickedness, you champion of evil?  
*All repeat the Prokeimenon .*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Lector:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Genesis 7: 6 -9]

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4**

When the Lord de - liv - ers his peo - ple from bond - age,  
then Ja cob will be glad and Is - ra - el re - joice.

*Verse:* The fool has said in his heart: There is no God.

*All repeat the Prokeimenon.*

*The faithful kneel.*

**The Blessing With Light**

**Deacon:** Give the command!

**Celebrant:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

The light of Christ shines upon everyone.

*The faithful give no response to these words. All make three prostrations in silence.*

*The faithful are seated. The lector, without introduction, begins:*

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Proverbs 2: 1 - 22]

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Composite Reading IX, *Festal Menaion*, p. 495]

**Celebrant:** Peace ✠ be to you, reader.