

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on
Wednesday in the Fifth Week of the Great Fast
March 9, 2005
The Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

The reading from Genesis tells of God's promise to Abram to make him the "father of many nations."

The reading from Proverbs uses the device of literary "compare and contrast" which can be summed up in this verse: "All the ways of a man may be pure in his own eyes, but it is the Lord who proves the spirit."

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 8

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 lift - ing 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*harmed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 8

④

I fell in with thiev-ing e - vil thoughts; they stripped my wretched mind and beat me
ter - ri - bly. My soul is total-ly wound - ed, and I lay stripped of virtue
on the road of life. A priest saw me suffering from in - cur - a - ble wounds
but passed by with-out a se - cond glance. Next, a Le vite came and saw, but
he a - void - ed me, re - pulsed by the painful pol-lu - tion of my soul.
But who chose to take flesh, O Christ our God, not from Samaria,

but from Ma - ry, grant me heal-ing in your love for man-kind, pour-ing out
on me your great mer - cy.

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 Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

Tone 1

The choir of the Forty pass - es through the flames; the di - vine - ly cho - sen
as - sem - bly shines with the ra - diance of their sa - cred suf - fer - ings, mak - ing the Fast
re - splen - dent by sanc - ti - fy - ing and en - light - en - ing our souls.

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

Tone 2

O Christ our God, the Mar - tyrs con - sid - ered the lake to be as par - a - dise,
and win - ter as the heat of day. Thoughts of the ty - rant's threats did not
fright - en them. Brave - ly they did not fear the in - crease of tor - tures,

for they ac-quired the Cross as a weap-on, and with it they van-quished the
 foe in might, for which they re-ceived crowns of grace.

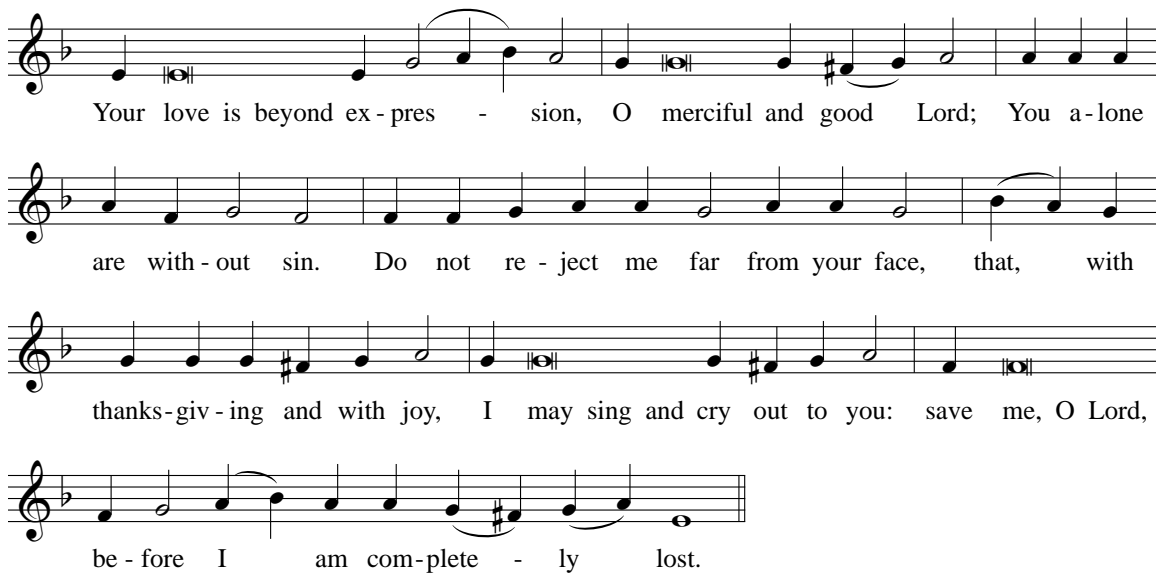
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

①
 Who does not re-mem-ber in hymns the choir of For-ty Mar - tyrs?
 They bold - ly went into the wa-ters of the lake. Held fast by the ice,
 they sang to the Lord: Re - ceive us in the rivers, O Lov - er of us all!
 we have borne the burden of the winter and the bitter-ness of the cold:
 our feet are dyed in our own blood! O God, lead us to your e-ter-nal
 man - sions to be warmed in the bos-om of the Pa - tri - arch A - bra - ham.

Cantor: Glory...

Doxastikon

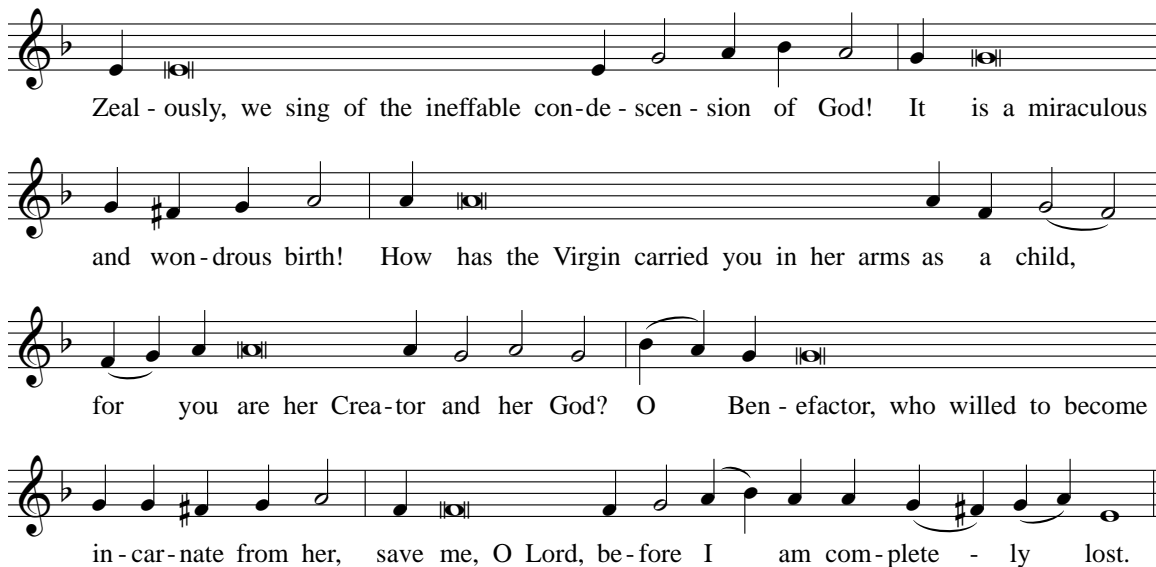
Tone 4



Your love is beyond ex - pres - sion, O merciful and good Lord; You a-lone
are with - out sin. Do not re - ject me far from your face, that, with
thanks-giv - ing and with joy, I may sing and cry out to you: save me, O Lord,
be - fore I am com-plete - ly lost.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion:



Zeal - ously, we sing of the ineffable con-de - scen - sion of God! It is a miraculous
and won-drous birth! How has the Virgin carried you in her arms as a child,
for you are her Crea-tor and her God? O Ben - efactor, who willed to become
in-car-nate from her, save me, O Lord, be-fore I am com-plete - ly lost.

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 - 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!

Lector: A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

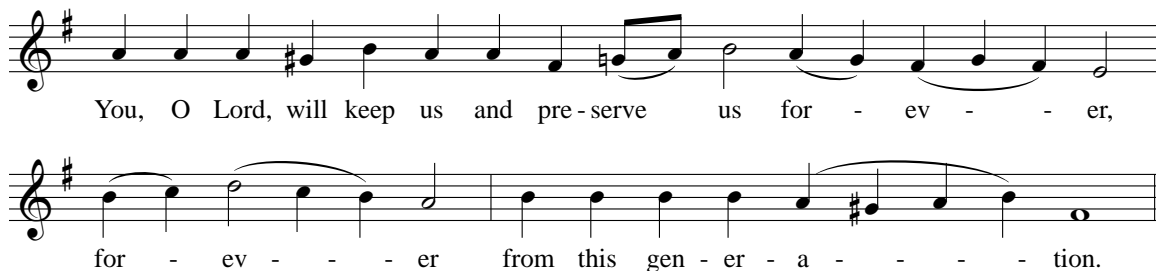
Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Proverbs 15: 20 - 16: 9]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.

After the Prayer of St. Ephrem:

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 11:8,2):



You, O Lord, will keep us and pre-serve us for - ev - - er,
for - ev - - - er from this gen - er - a - - - - tion.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the righteous have vanished.

Epistle: [Hebrews 12: 1 - 10]

Alleluia - Tone 4



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - - ia!

Verse: Cry out with joy, all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name,
O render him glorius praise.

Verse: For you, O God, have tested us, you have tried us as silver is tried.

Gospel: [Matthew 20: 1 - 16]

The service continues with the Litany of Supplication.