

The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Clean Friday
February 23, 2007

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 first and second findings of the head of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John. Tradition tells us that the first finding was by two monks, in the palace of Herod the King. They brought the relic to the city of Emmesia. The second finding was much later, during the reign of the emperor Marcianus.

Commemoration of the Miracle of St. Theodore

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 5

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 *unharm*ed.

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 *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.

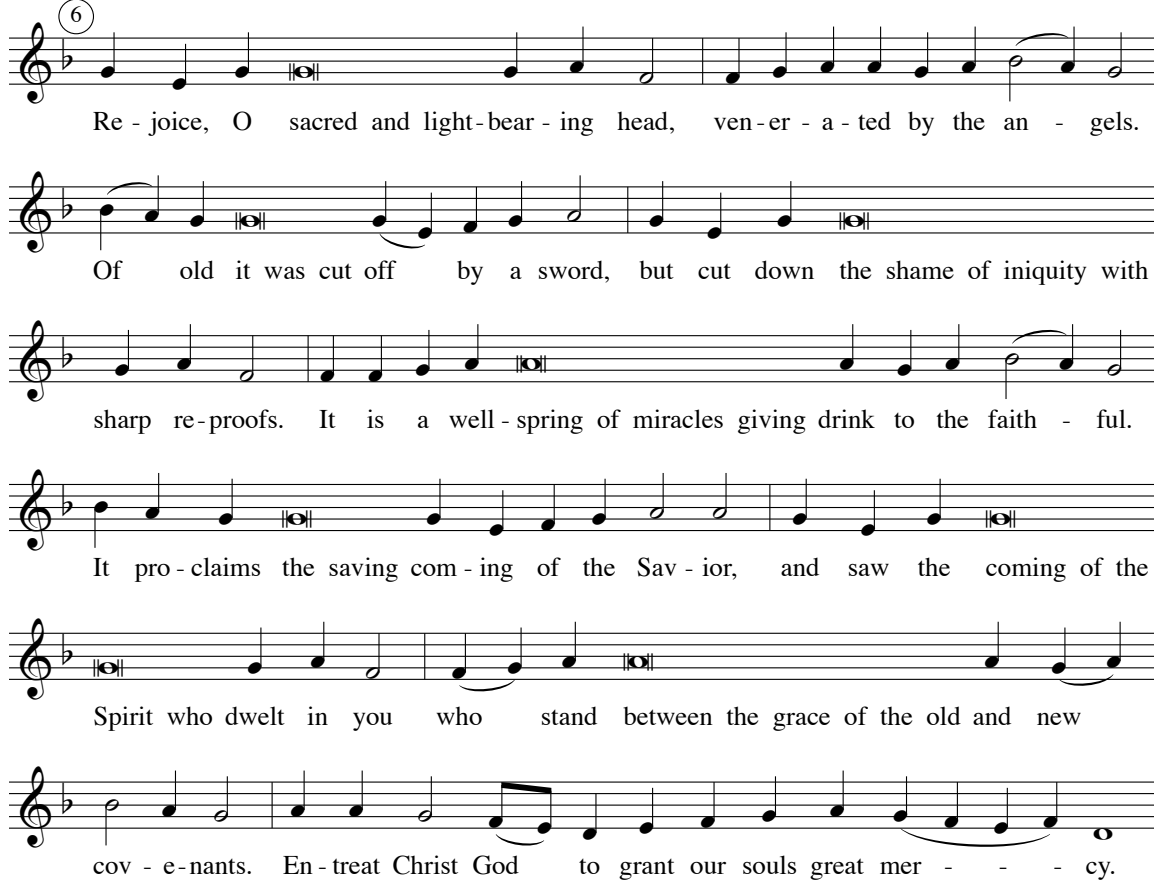
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

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.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would stand?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of the Head of John the Baptist - Tone 5 samohlasen



Re - jice, 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: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

5

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

4

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: (Tone 5) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Sticheron of Clean Friday - Tone 5 samohlasen

3
 Come, you faith-ful, let us do God's works in light; let us walk uprightly
 in the light of day. Let us rip up every unjust claim a-against our neigh - bors,
 and put no stum-bling block in their path. Let us put a-side pleas-ures of the flesh.
 Let us grow in spir - it - ual gifts. Let us give bread to those in need

and run to Christ, cry-ing in re-pent-ance: Have mer - cy on us,

our God.

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

Stichera of the Martyr Theodore - Tone 2 samohlasen

2
Come, all you who love the mar - tyrs, let us re-joyce in spir - it

and cel - e-brate. For to - day the martyr Theodore has set a mys - tic - al ta - ble

to glad-den us who love to keep the feasts. So we cry out to him:

Re - joice, in - vin - ci - ble he - ro who tram - pled the threats of earth - ly

ty - rants. Re - joice, for you surrendered your body of clay to tor - ture

for the sake of Christ our God. Re - joice, for you have been tested through

var - i - ous trials and shown to be a sol - dier of heav - en's host.

There - fore, we beg you, O glo - ry of mar - tyrs, in - ter - cede for our souls.

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

① Your name shows you to be God's ex - cel - lent gift, O Mar - tyr

The - o - dore. Af - ter your death, just as in your life, you grant the requests of

those who run to you. Once the son of a widow was carried off by pa - gan

sol - diers, and she came to you, drenching your shrine with tears; and in your

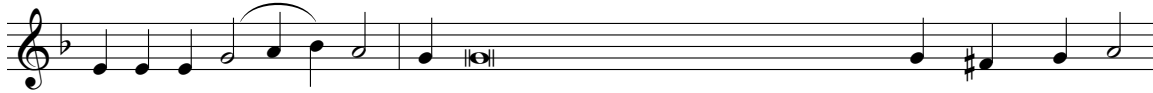
sym - path - y for her, mount - ed on a white horse, you brought back her child

in - vis - i - bly. From that day to this, you have not ceased work - ing mir - a - cles.

Pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

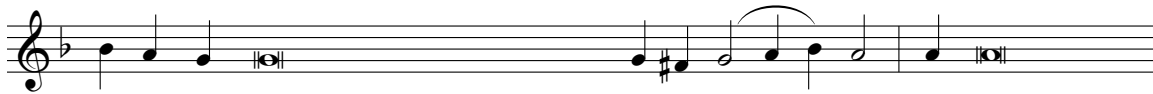
Dogmatikon - Tone 4



O The-o - to - kos, Da - vid the prophet and ancestor of God an-nounced in song



to the one who would do great things for you: The Queen stands at your right hand.



He re vealed you as the Mother of Life and In-ter-ces - sor. God was pleased to



become man from you with-out a fa-ther so that he might restore the image which



pas-sions had de-formed, and find the sheep stray-ing in the hills, lift it on



his shoulders, and bring it to his Fa-ther, u - nit-ing it to the heaven ly pow - ers.



Thus Christ will save the world, for he has a-bun-dant and great mer - cy.

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

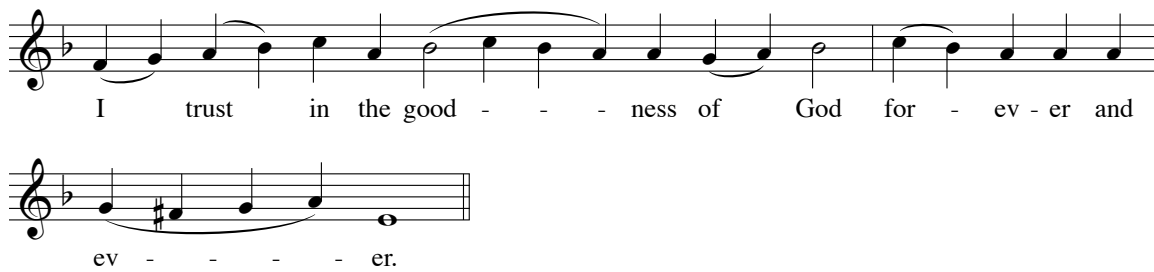
O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times 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!

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!

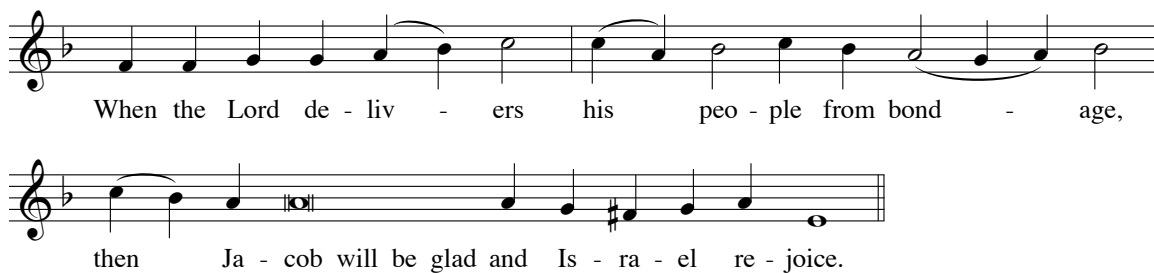
Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

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 - jice.

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.