

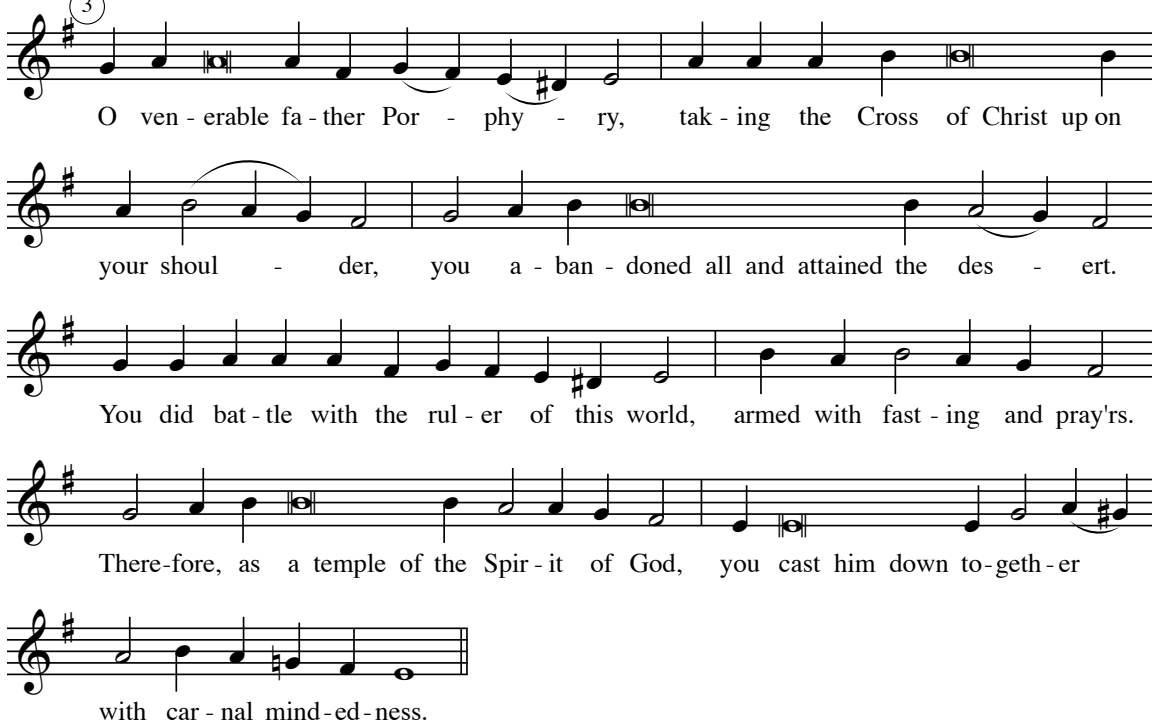
First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 25, 2007
The Holy Bishop Porphyry of Gaza

Our holy father Porphyry, bishop of Gaza in Palestine. Born in Thessalonica, he spent five years as a hermit in Skete and as many across the Jordan, where he was notable for his kindness toward the poor. Afterwards ordained a bishop, he overturned many temples of idols and was afflicted with troubles by their attendants for a long time, until, worthy of respect, he rested in peace with the saints. (421)

Cantor: (Tone 8) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Tone 8 samohlasen

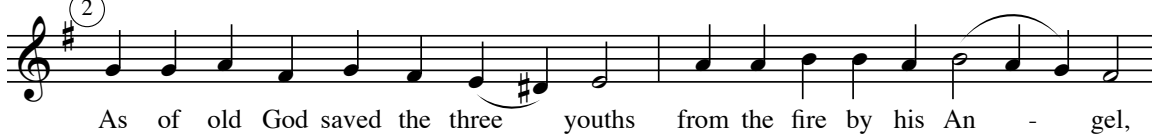
3



O ven - erable fa - ther Por - phy - ry, tak - ing the Cross of Christ up on
your shoul - der, you a - ban - doned all and attained the des - ert.
You did bat - tle with the rul - er of this world, armed with fast - ing and pray'rs.
There - fore, as a temple of the Spir - it of God, you cast him down to - geth - er
with car - nal mind - ed - ness.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, Psalm 116
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

2



As of old God saved the three youths from the fire by his An - gel,

so now through you he saved three youths that had been dragged down

in - to a pit. For when they were borne as in a bas - - - ket

he o - vershadowed them with the light of a cloud which formed three cross-es

on their bod - ies to the reproof of those who op - posed you, O

Por - phy - ry.


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

¹
Who can wor - thily praise your temp - ta - tions and pains, your mis - for - tunes and

trib - u - la - tions, your strug - gles for the faith, O Por - phy - ry?

For you showed the boldness that you have be - fore God to be great.

There - fore, we entreat you, for you have such bold - - - ness:



Pray in our be - half to the Lord, that we may be saved!

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen



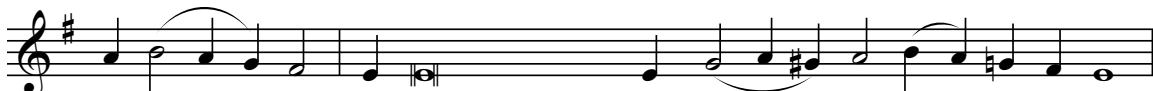
The pre - eternal God, tak - ing flesh from your blood, has re - vealed you, O pure Lady,



as our in - ter - ces - sor. There - fore, deliver your servants from all mis for - tune



and ev - 'ry e - vil cir - cum - stance, and grant that all who glorify and bow



be - fore you be counted worthy of the splen - dor of the e - lect.