

**The Divine Liturgy  
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Friday of the Third Week of the Great Fast  
March 9, 2007

*The reading from Genesis retells the story of the Great Flood.*

*The reading from Proverbs uses the device of literary "compare and contrast" to show us the stark difference between good and evil.*

**The forty holy martyrs of Sebaste in Armenia.** They were comrades, not in blood, but in faith and obedience to the will of their heavenly Father. At the time of the emperor Licinius, after binding and savage tortures, they were ordered to pass the night naked at the coldest time of winter in a swamp in the open air. They consummated their martyrdom by the breaking of their legs at crucifixion. (320)

## The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 7

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.

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

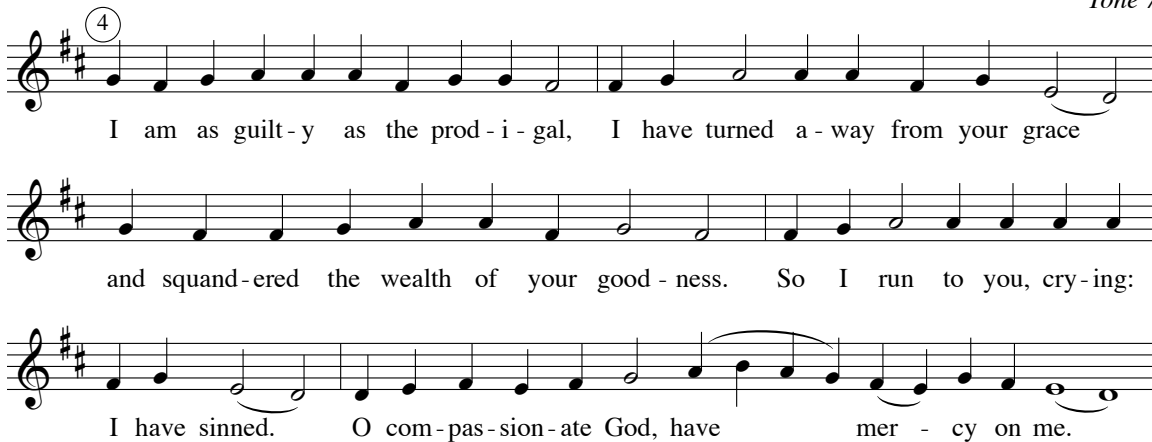
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

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 7*

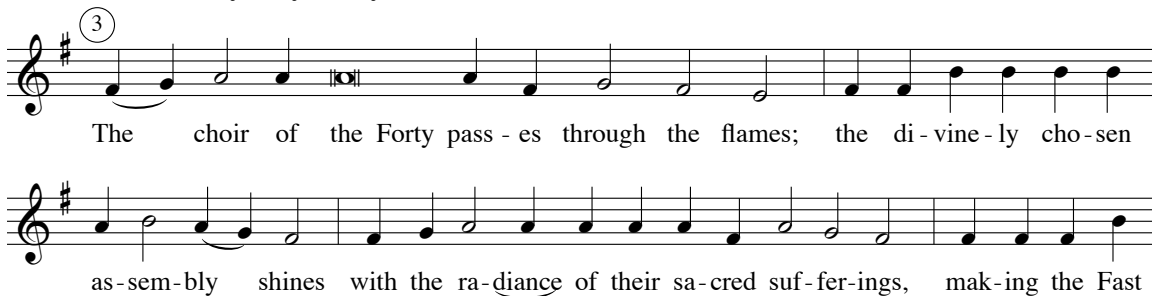


I am as guilt-y as the prod-i-gal, I have turned a-way from your grace  
and squand-ered the wealth of your good-ness. So I run to you, cry-ing:  
I have sinned. O com-pas-sion-ate God, have mer-cy on me.

**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 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.

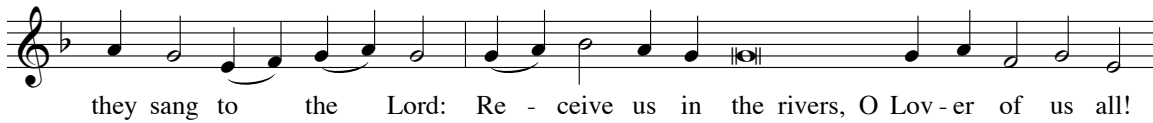
**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Praise the Lord, all you nations,  
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

*Tone 2*

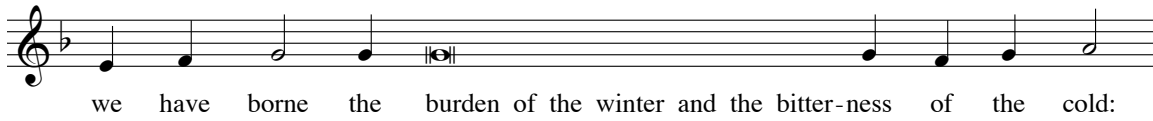
O Christ our God, the Mar - tyrs con - sid-ered the lake to be as par - a-dise,  
 and win - ter as the heat of day. Thoughts of the ty - rant's threats did not  
 fright - en them. Brave-ly they did not fear the in-crease of tor - tures,  
 for they ac-quired the Cross as a weap - on, and with it they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

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,



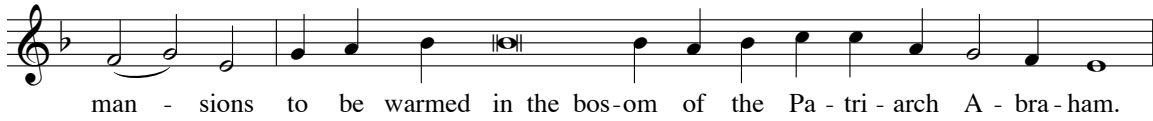
they sang to the Lord: Re - ceive us in the rivers, O Lov - er of us all!



we have borne the burden of the winter and the bitter-ness of the cold:



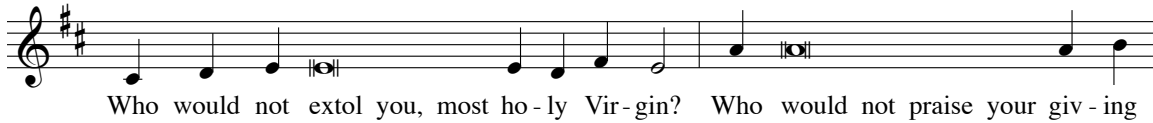
our feet are dyed in our own blood! O God, lead us to your e-ter - nal



man - sions to be warmed in the bos-om of the Pa - tri - arch A - bra - ham.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory ...now and ever...

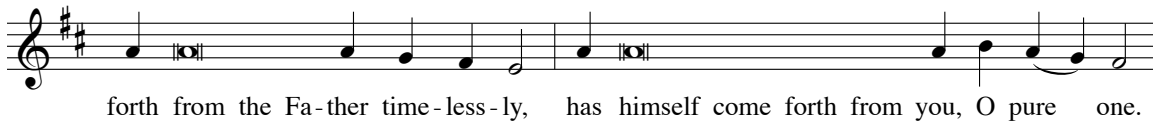
**Dogmatikon - Tone 6**



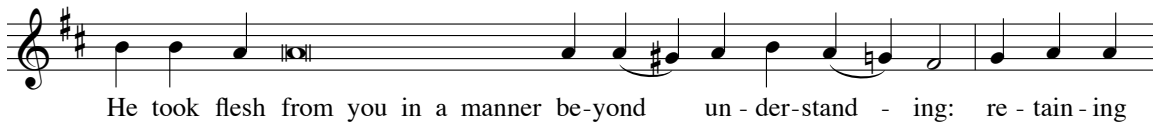
Who would not extol you, most ho - ly Vir - gin? Who would not praise your giv - ing



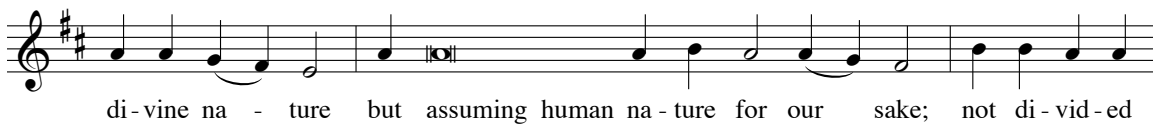
birth with - out pain? For the on - ly - be - got - ten Son, who shines



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 - 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** (Psalm 59: 13; 3)



Give us help a - gainst the foe, for the help of man is vain.

*Verse:* O God, you have rejected us and broken us.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

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

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Lector:** [Genesis 8: 4 - 21]

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 6** (Psalm 60: 2; 3a)



O God, hear my cry! Lis - - - ten to my pray'r!

Lis - ten to my pray'r!

*Verse:* From the end of the earth I call to you.

*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 10: 31 - 11: 12]

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

*The service continues with the Solemn Evening Psalm, found on page 26.*

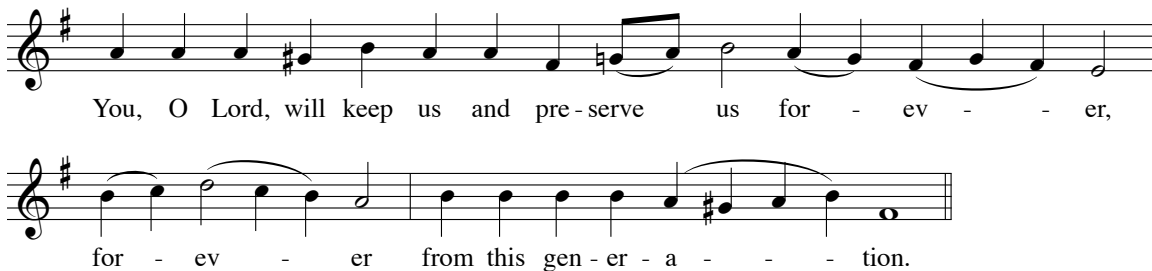
*After the Prayer of St. Ephrem:*

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace ❖ be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**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.

*The verse is chanted by the Lector.*

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

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Lector:** A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The faithful are seated.*

**Lector:** [Hebrews 12: 1 - 10]

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

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful STAND for the Alleluia, which they sing. The lector chants the verses.  
The holy gospel book is incensed along with the faithful.*

**Alleluia - Tone 4**



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

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

**Deacon:** Reverend Father, bless the proclaimer of the Gospel of the holy apostle and evangelist *Name*.

**Celebrant:** May God, through the prayers of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostle and evangelist Matthew, grant that you proclaim the word with great power for the fulfillment of the Gospel of his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deacon:** Amen.

**Celebrant:** Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the holy Gospel! Peace be to all!




**Deacon:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew,

**Response:**   
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you!

**Celebrant:** Let us be attentive!

*The deacon proclaims the holy Gospel.*

**Deacon:** [Matthew 20: 1 - 16]

**Response:**   
Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry to you!

*The service continues with the Litany of Supplication, found on page 29.*