

**The Divine Liturgy  
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Wednesday of the Third Week of the Great Fast  
February 20, 2008

*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 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.

## 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 9:12-18]

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

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 *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 4 samohlasen*

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 mer-ci-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.

**Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4** (Psalm 51:10b, 3)

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** (Psalm 52: 7b, 2a)

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 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!

O a - pos - tles who have seen God, you re - flect the spir - i - tual Sun.  
 Pray for our soul's en - light - en - ment, de - liv - er us from the gloomy darkness  
 of pas - sions, and intercede that we may see the day of sal - va - tion.  
 Through your prayers and in - ter - ces - sions, cleanse our hearts, wounded by the  
 e - vil one. Saved by faith, we will al - ways hon - or you; for you have  
 saved the world by your all - wise preach - ing.

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

I am a prod - igoal son exiled in an e - vil land, I have squandered horribly the  
 wealth you gave me, O com - pas - sion - ate fa - ther. Now I starve for  
 lack of good deeds. Clothed with the shame of my trans - gres - sion, be - hold

me, stripped of grace. So I cry out to you: I have sinned, for I know your  
 good - ness. Re - ceive me mercifully as one of your hired hands, O Christ,  
 through the prayers of the a - pos - - - tles who have loved you.

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

O a - pos - tles of the Lord, en - lighteners of the whole world, you did good deeds  
 and brought sal - va - tion. Like the heav - ens, you declare the glo - ry of God,  
 you shine with miracles and wondrous heal - ings as if with stars. Beg the  
 Lord for us in - ces - sant - ly that he accept our prayers as a pure fra - grance  
 and allow us all to see his life - giv - ing Cross, to bow be - fore it  
 and kiss it with awe. Send down on us your mer - cies, O Sav - ior who

love all of us.

**Cantor:** *(Tone 5)* Glory ...now and ever...

**Theotokion - Tone 5 samohlasen**

Re - joyce, O Seal of Pro - phe - cy, good news of the god - ly - voiced a - pos - tles;  
 for you tru - ly gave birth to God in the flesh which we can - not fathom or ex - plain,  
 O pure one. For this you were the first to be hon - ored and to sa - vor  
 the de - lights of Par - a - dise. There - fore, we extol you with songs as a  
 bril - liant ad - vo - cate and in - ter - ces - sor pleas - ing to God.  
 Through you, O most pure one, we have been en - riched and made wor - thy of the  
 everlasting life of your Son who rich - ly be - stows great mer - cies.