

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Friday in the Fifth Week of the Great Fast
March 7, 2008

The reading from Genesis tells one of the most difficult stories in the Old Testament: the command of God to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah.

The reading from Proverbs this evening emphasizes the behavior of the foolish man, who has no understanding of the wisdom of God.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 6

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.

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 103: 24ab, 1ab)

How man - y are your works, O Lord. In wis - dom you have
made them all.

Verse: Bless the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, how great you are.

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 17: 17 - 18: 5]

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 *un*harméd.

Psalm 141 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.

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.

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 6

I left the Jerusalem of your di-vine com-mands and went down toward the pas-sions of Je-ri-cho, dragged down by the false glo-ry of earth-ly cares. I fell in with thieving thoughts of e-vil, who stripped off the robe of my a-dop-tion by grace, leav-ing me wound-ed, with-out the breath of life. A priest came by and ignored me, looking down at my fall; then a Levite avoided me as some-thing un-clean. But you, O Lord, incarnate from the Vir-gin in-ex-pres-si-bly,

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-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 102: 8, 1)

The Lord is com-pas-sion and love, slow to an-ger and rich in mer-cy.

Verse: My soul gives thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless his holy name.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 22: 1-18]

be-come god but failed. Now God becomes man that he may make Ad - am God.

Let cre - a - tion re-joyce; let na - ture ex - ult; for the arch - an - gel stands in fear

be-fore the Vir - gin. He greets her: "Rejoyce!" and sor - row is dis - pelled.

O God, in your mer - ci - ful com - pas - sion you have be-come

man. Glo - ry to you!

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,

have poured out your sal - va - tion like oil on my scars, O Christ our God,

in the blood and water will - ing - ly shed from your side. Bind up my wounds with

lin - en and merciful - ly in - clude me in the choir of heav - - - en.

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

Ga - bri - el stood be - fore you, O maid - en, and revealed to you the pre - e - ter - nal plan

when he greet - ed you and said: Re - joyce, O Un - sown Ground;

re - joyce, O Bush Un - burned; re - joyce O Un - fath - om - a - ble Depth; re - joyce,

O Bridge which leads to Heav - en, and Ladder which Ja - cob saw raised on high;

re - joyce O Di - vine Jar of Man - na; re - joyce, O Re - lease from the Curse;

re - joyce, O Restora - tion of Ad - am; the Lord is

with you.

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

The un-defiled maiden said to the angel-ic com-mand-er: How do you appear to me in hu-man form but speak of su-per-hu-man things? You have said that God will be with me and will o-ver-shad-ow my womb. Tell me, how am I a spa-cious land? How am I a sanc-ti-fied place? How shall I conceive the one who is borne up-on the cher-u-bim? Do not de-ceive me, for I am in-no-cent. I have not known the pleasures of mar-riage. How then shall I bear a child?

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

The bod-i-less an-gel said: When-ever God so wills, the order of na-ture is o-ver-turned to ac-com-lish su-per-hu-man deeds. Be-lieve that my words are true, all-ho-ly and most pure one. She ex-claimed: Let it be done to me ac-cord-ing to your word, and I shall bear the fleshless God who takes flesh from me so that he may restore the ancient dignity of hu-man na-ture by joining it to the di-vine, as he a-lone can do.

Cantor: Glory ...now and ever...

Theotokion

Tone 2

To-day is revealed the mystery from all e-ter-ni-ty; the Son of God be-comes the Son of Man that, by shar-ing in what is worse, he may give me a share in what is bet-ter. Once Ad-am was de-ceived, he sought to