

**Vespers Propers on the Afternoon of
Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
February 22, 2009**

The holy martyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna who is honored as a disciple of blessed John and the final witness of the apostolic age. Under the emperors Marcus Antoninus and Lucius Aurelius Commodus, about the age of 90, he was given over to the flames in the amphitheater at Smyrna in Asia. Before the proconsul and the whole people, he gave thanks to God the Father because he had been deemed worthy to be numbered among the martyrs and to receive a portion from the cup of Christ. (c.155)

*All page references are to **The Order of Vespers on Sunday Afternoons in the Great Fast***

Hymn

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov/We Hasten to Your Patronage



1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You taught us, Lord, to pray,
2. In blaz - ing light Your Cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
3. As we be - gin the Fast once more, we pray You, Lord of all:



But You a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
What triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!
Take far from us in - dif - fer - ence, de - spair, and pow - er's call.



How can Your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;
In - stead, be - stow in - teg - ri - ty, hu - mil - i - ty and love;



That broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.
Let me not judge my neigh - bor's fault! grant mer - cy from a - bove.

stanzas one and two: Rosamund Herklots, b. 1905; © Oxford University Press

stanza three: J. Michael Thompson

Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 8, p. 52)
Stichera of Cheesefare Sunday, p. 56

Cantor: (Tone 1) 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 holy martyr Polycarp - Tone 1 samohlasen

③

O God-bless-ed Fa - ther, while still liv - ing on earth, you were joined
with the bod-i-less an - gels, and with them you ministered to the Trin-i - ty.
There - fore, as you dwell always in the highest as a heav - en - ly man,
you in - i - ti - ate those on earth into the mys - ter - ies of God.

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

②

O God-bless-ed Fa - ther, you were re-vealed to be a branch
of the ac - tion of Christ plant - ed by God. You put forth grapes of the
di-vine Word, from which we draw forth pre-cious sweet-ness in faith,

and with our whole heart we offer your teach - ing to the whole world.

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

Il - lu - mined with di - vine splen - dor, your bod - y consumed by ma - te - ri - al
 fire, you passed o - ver to immaterial radi - ance, O Fa - ther. Grant us for - give - ness
 by your prayers, bring - ing light to the gloom - y night
 of the pas - sions of our souls, O wise Fa - ther.

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

Theotokion

Tossed a - bout on the storm - y seas of sin, I has - ten to the peaceful ha - ven of
 your prayer, O most pure The - o - to - kos; I cry out to you: Save me!
 Ex - tend your pow - er - ful right hand to your serv - ant, O all - spot - less one.

The service continues on page 9.

Prokeimenon: "Hide not your face..." p. 10

Aposticha of Cheesefare Sunday, p. 59