

**Vespers Propers on the Afternoon of  
The First Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 1, 2009**

**The holy martyr Theodotus, bishop of Cyrene, who suffered under the emperor Diocletian. (302)**

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

*Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the tone of the week (Tone 1, p. 24)*

*Stichera of the First Sunday of the Fast, p. 61*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) 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 Theodotus - Tone 4 samohlasen**

Thrice-ho - ly hier - arch, hav - ing struggled faithful-ly as an ath - lete,  
un - shakable pillar of the Church, ver - i - ta - ble won - der - worker and gift of God,  
il - lus - tri - ous The - odotos, hie - ro - mar - tyr, you were truly a shin - ing torch,  
a paradise having in its midst Je - sus Christ, the Tree of life!

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

Scourged by leath - er whips, stretched on a tree and raked by i - ron hooks,

you were thrown in-to a dun-geon. En - dur-ing the horror of nails through your feet,  
 fas - ten - ing you to a heat - ed rack, you remained unshaken, O hieromartyr  
 The - o - do - tos, glo - rify-ing Him who gave you the strength to per - se - vere.

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

By the vigor of your strug - gles, you smothered the ene-my and his pow - er,  
 bring-ing him down to de-feat. Ris-ing up ra - diantly, you went to dwell in the  
 King-dom on high, bear-ing your crown, for you earned the light and joy of the festive  
 as-sem - bly. Now, O Theodotos, you intercede for the salvation of those  
 who hon - or you, O illustri-ous glo - ry of mar - - - tyrs.

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

**Theotokion**

All-pure Bride of God, de - liver my poor soul from the punishment de-served  
 by my sins. By your prayers, snatch me from death and grant that on the Day of  
 Judg - ment I may be jus - tified with the multi-tude of all the saints.  
 Be - fore the end, purify me through re-pent - ance and tears.

*The service continues on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the First Sunday, p.10*

*Aposticha of the First Sunday, p. 63*