

Propers for the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  
Wednesday in the Fourth Week of the Great Fast  
March 18, 2009

*The reading from Genesis tells of the drunkenness of Noah and how his three sons react to their father's behavior.*

*The reading from Proverbs, still using the "compare/contrast" style we heard last Friday, demonstrates how good and evil are received by the wise and by the foolish.*

## 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 excuse for the 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.

### Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 72:28, 1)

To be near God is my hap - pi - ness; to be near God  
is my hap - pi - ness.

*Verse:* How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure of heart.

**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.*

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

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The faithful SIT while the lector chants the reading.*

**Lector:** [Proverbs 12:23 - 13:9]

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

*The service continues with the solemn evening psalm ("Let my prayer ascend").*

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Celebrant:** Peace ☩ be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4** (Psalm 71: 18, 1)



Bless - ed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el who a - lone works  
won - - - ders.

*Verse:* O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Lector:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

*The faithful SIT while the lector chants the reading.*

**Lector:** [Genesis 9:18 - 10:1]

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The faithful STAND.*

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.

**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 **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.

**Psalms 129** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear *my* voice!

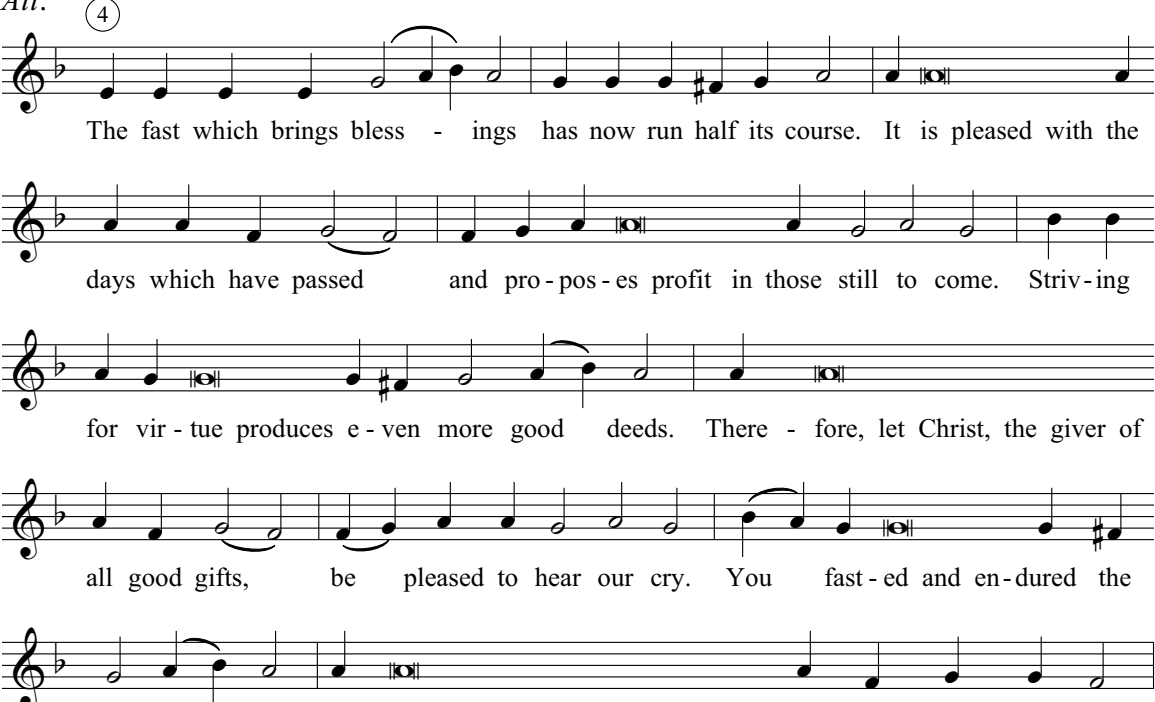
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

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:*  Tone 4

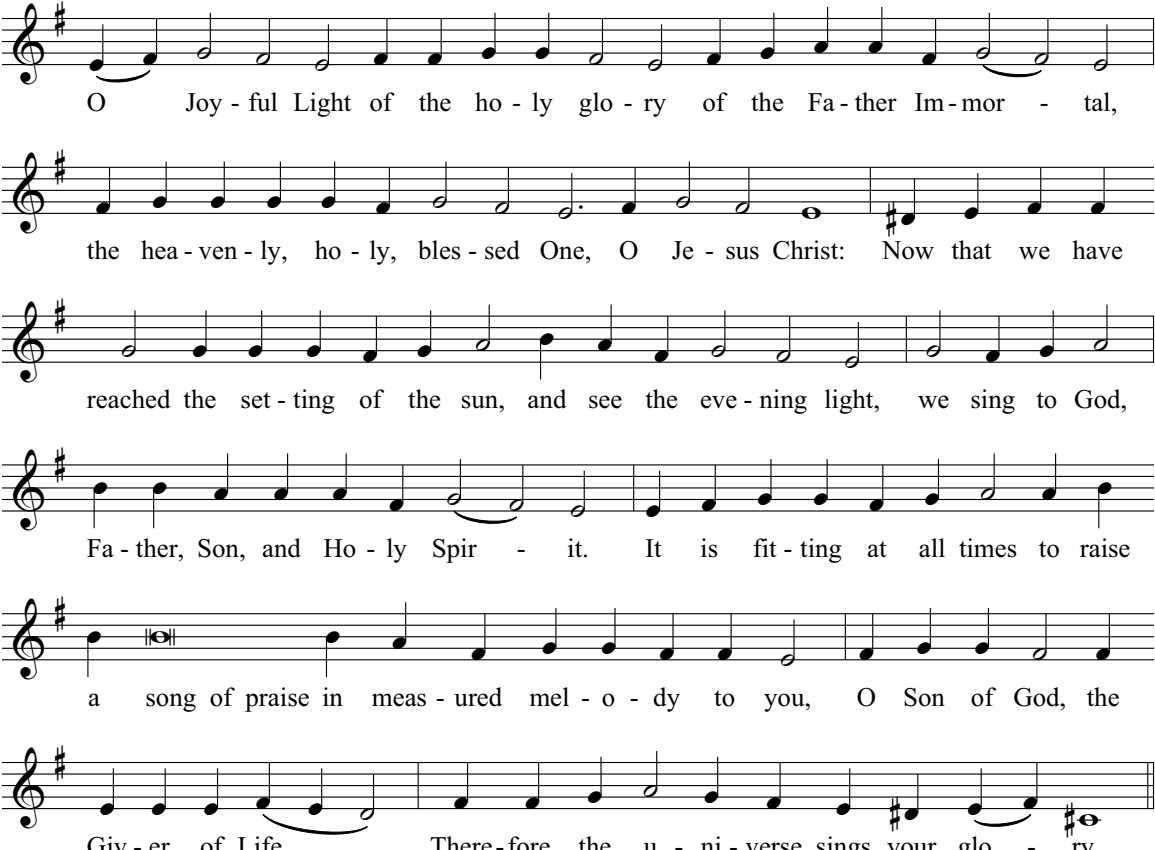
Let the watch-man count on day-break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

*All:* 

The fast which brings bless - ings has now run half its course. It is pleased with the  
days which have passed and pro - pos - es profit in those still to come. Striv - ing  
for vir - tue produces e - ven more good deeds. There - fore, let Christ, the giver of  
all good gifts, be pleased to hear our cry. You fast - ed and en - dured the  
cross for us; al - low us to partake of your divine Pas - cha blame - less - ly

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung.  
The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.*



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 u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

for the sake of cap - tives. The pure Vir - gin Mother saw him on the cross  
 and said: A-las, my child, why have you done this? You who were fair-er  
 than all the chil - dren of men Now ap - pear life - less and de - formed,  
 with - out form or beau ty. A-las, my light, I cannot stand to see you a - sleep.  
 I am deep - ly wound - ed, and a cru - el sword pier - ces my heart.  
 I praise your passion and adore your com - pas - sion, O long - suf - fer - ing Lord,  
 glo - ry to you!

and to pass our lives in peace, prop - erly praising you together with the Fa - ther  
 and the Spir - it.

*Tone 5*

*Cantor:* Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp - tion,  
 Is - ra - el in - deed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

*All:* Those who do good deeds in se - cret not boast - ing a - bout them in pub - lic  
 but bear - ing them in their hearts, will re - ceive a spirit - ual re - ward.  
 God who sees all se - crets will re - ward them for their self - con - trol.  
 Let us com - plete the fast with - out put - ting on a gloom - y face.  
 Let us pray in the in - ner room of our soul, cry - ing out in - ces - sant - ly:

Our Fa-ther who art in heav - en, lead us not into temp-ta - tion, we pray;  
but de - liv - er us from e - - - vil.

*Cantor:* *Tone 1*  
Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!

*All:*   
Let us all wash our souls in the wa-ters of the Fast and ap-proach the Lord's precious

and most hon - 'ra - ble cross. Let us a-dore it faith-ful - ly and draw di - vine

en-light-en-ment from it so that we may reap the eternal fruits of sal - va - tion,

peace, and great mer - cy.

*Cantor:* *Tone 7*  
Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for-ev - er.

*All:*   
As we a-dore the cross of the Lord today, let us cry out: Re - joice, Tree of

Life, you de-mol-ished Ha-des. Re-joice, O Joy of the World, you abol-ished

cor-rup-tion. Re - joice, for you scatter the de-mons by your pow-er. You are an

in - vin - cible weapon to sup-port the faith - ful. We be - seech you, guard and

sanc - ti - fy those who hon - or you.

*The faithful STAND.*

*Cantor:* *Tone 8*  
Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it,

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

*All:*   
To-day, he who is by nature in - ac - cess - i - ble be-comes ac - cess - i - ble

to me and suf-fers the passion to free me from pas - sions. The En-light-en-er

of the blind is spit up-on by law - less lips. He gives his back to be scourged