

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of
Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
March 6, 2011**

The holy martyrs and bishops of Cherson: Basil, Eugene, Agathadore, Elpidius, Etherius, Capiton, and Ephrem, who preached in the Crimea and gave their lives for the Faith. (4th century)

Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Evening for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) and the Sundays of the Great Fast.

Lamp-lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - Tone 8 samohlasen

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.

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 *unharmed*.

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.


(on 10)

Cantor: 


Bring my soul out of this pris-on and then I shall praise your name.

Stichera of Repentance - Tone 8 samohlasen

¹⁰




Un-ceas-ingly the angels sing to you, O King and Mas-ter. I fall before you




like the Publi-can and cry out: O God, cleanse me and have mer-cy on me!

(on 9)

Cantor: 

A-round me the just will assem-ble be-cause of your good-ness to me.

⁹



You are im-mor-tal, O my soul! Do not be overcome by the waves of life,



but rise up and, to your Benefac-tor, cry out: O God cleanse me and have



mer-cy on me!

(on 8)

Cantor: 

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

8

Give me the gift of tears, O Lord, as once you gave them to the sin - ful
 wo - man, and let me pour them o - ver your feet, for they have
 turned me away from the path of er - ror. I will of - fer you a sweet-smell - ing
 oint - ment, the con - ver - sion of my heart and the puri - ty of my life,
 so that I too may hear your gen - tle voice: Go in peace, for your faith has
 saved you.

Cantor: (on 7)

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plead - - ing.

7

When I look at my man - y e - vil deeds, and when I think of the fear - some
 judg - ment, I am seized with fright and take re - fuge in you; O Lord

and Lover of us all, do not de - spise me; you a - lone are with - out sin.

Be - fore the end, grant me con - tri - tion and save me.

(on 6) *Tone 2*

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur-vive?

But with you is found for - give - ness: for this we re - vere you.

Stichera of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 2 podoben: Jehda ot dreva

⑥

En - ter - ing in - to the a - re - na of the ho - ly Fast, let us

make ev - 'ry ef - fort to hum - ble our flesh by ab - sti-nence;

in prayer and with tears let us seek the Lord our Sav - ior, and, that

we might turn a - way from our e - vil deeds, let us say to him:

We have sinned a - gainst you, O Christ our King, save us as

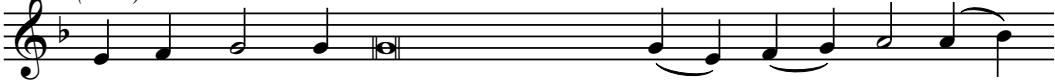

you saved the Nin - e - vites of old, and in your good - ness, grant us a share in the
King - dom of Heav - en.

Cantor: *(on 5)*

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watch - man for day - break.

⑤

When I see my deeds that de - serve such pun - ish - ment, I
am with - out hope, O Lord, for I have dis - o - beyed
your ho - ly com - mand - ments, and I have led a fool - ish life.
There - fore I be - seech you: Pur - i - fy me in the wa - ters of re - pent - ance
by fast - ing and prayer, O Sav - ior full of good - ness;
do not re - ject me, O Ben - e - fac - tor of the u - ni - verse.

(on 4)
Cantor: 
Let the watch - man count on daybreak and Is - ra - el on

the Lord.

④

Let us be - gin the time of this bright Fast, giv - ing our - selves

to spir - it - ual strug - gle. Let us san - cti - fy our soul and

pur - i - fy our flesh. Let us not on - ly fast from food; let us al - so


ab - stain from ev - 'ry pas - sion and cul - ti - vate spir - it - ual vir - tues.

And let us faith - ful - ly per - se - vere in this,


so that we may be worthy to see the holy Pas - sion of Christ our God

and the joy of his ho - ly Res - ur - rec - tion.

(on 3)


Cantor: 

Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp-tion,




Is - rael indeed he will re-deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.


Stichera of the holy martyrs of Cherson - Tone 4 samohlasen



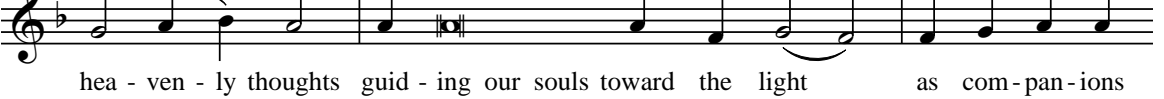
In - vinci-ble mar - tyrs, far - famed hierarchs, lights of the un - i - verse,



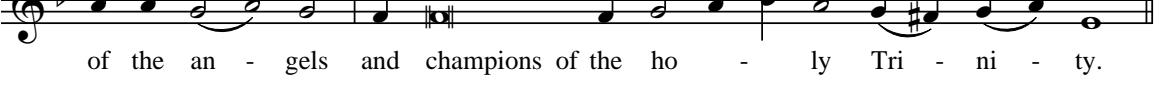
un - shakable pillars of the Church of God, sup - ports of the faith



and instructors for be - liev - ers, you swept a - way all error, O Fa - thers of




hea - ven - ly thoughts guid - ing our souls toward the light as com - pan - ions




of the an - gels and champions of the ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

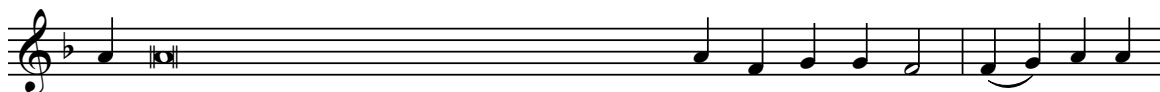
(on 2)

Cantor: 

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!



What divine prais-es can we ad - dress to the blessed and il-lus - tri - ous Eph - rem,



the wise Basil, the sublime Capiton, Agathadore, and El - pi - di - us, as well as



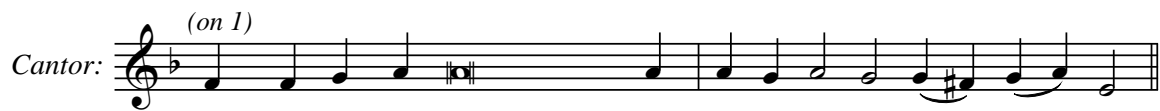
the far-famed Etheri-us and Eu - gene? For their lives were ven - 'ra - ble



and in holi-ness they strug - gled in order to dwell in the hea - ven - ly



king - - - - dom.



Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for - ev - er.



Put - ting to death all carnal cares by his strug - gles, Bas - il was able to call the



dead back to life. Ca-piton, the ho - ly pas - tor, ex - ult - ed in the midst of the



flames with-out be - ing con - sumed. By their prayers, O Lov - er of us all,



grant us par - don and great mer - - - - cy.

Cantor:

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.

Theotokion - Tone 4 samohlasen

Take away the defilement of my pas-sion-ate heart, O all-glori-ous The-o-to-kos.
 Cleanse all the wounds and de-file-ment which come from sin, O pure La - dy.
 Stop the wav-er-ing of my mind, that I, your wretched and unprofit-a - ble
 serv - ant, may ex - tol your pow'r and great as - sis - tance.

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 8.

Aposticha

Aposticha of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 4 samohlasen

① & ②

The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the
 favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works

of dark - ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light,

so that cross - ing the o - cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the

Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior

of our souls.

Cantor

To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the

eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hands of

her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mer - cy.

All repeat, "The light of your grace..."

Cantor

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too

full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's dis - dain.

③

You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God. Through their
 in - ter - ces - sions, send up - on us great mer - cy.

Cantor:

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it,
 now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Aposticha theotokion - Tone 4 samohlasen

The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - gin, for you have given
 birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through
 whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech
 him to send the light of sal - va - tion up - on the souls who pro-fess
 the true faith, prais - ing you as the Moth - er of our God.

The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon on page 13.