

**Vespers Propers on the Afternoon of
Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
February 14, 2010**

The holy apostle Onesimus, a fugitive slave whom St. Paul the apostle caught and gave birth to in Christ, a son in the faith, as Paul himself wrote to his master Philemon.

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

Lamp-lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - *Tone 4 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 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 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.

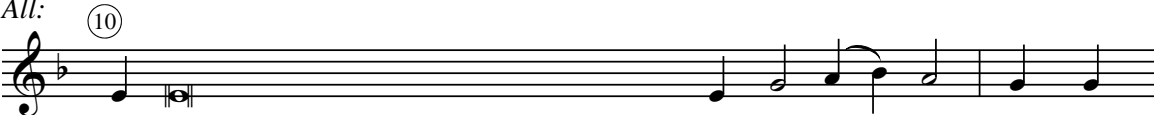
But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

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."

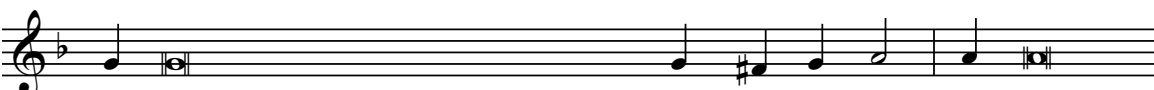
Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of *distress*.
Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.


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


Stichera of Repentance - Tone 4 samohlasen

All: 10 


With my tears I desire to wash away the mark of my sins, O Lord, and through

 pen - ance, I long to make the rest of my life pleas - ing to you; but the enemy

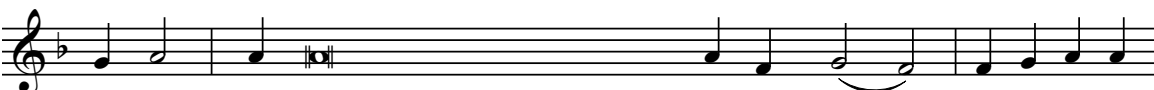
 deceives me and struggles with my soul. Save me before I com-plete - ly

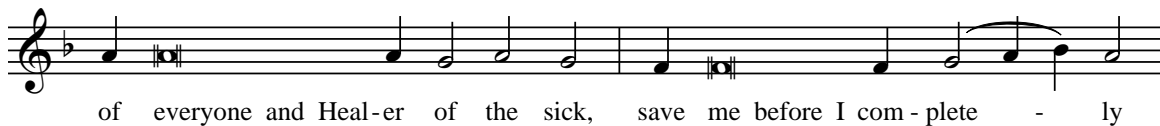
 per - ish, O Lord.

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

9 

Who is there among the storm - tossed who hastens to your harbor and is not saved,


 O Lord? Who is ill and seeks your healing and is not cured? O Cre - a - tor



of everyone and Heal-er of the sick, save me before I com - plete - ly



per - ish, O Lord.

Cantor: 

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

⑧ 

Wash me with my tears, O Sav - ior, for I am blemished because of my



man - y sins. And so I bow be - fore you; I have sinned, O God;



have mer - cy on me.

Cantor: 

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

⑦ 

I am the lost sheep of your mys - ti - cal flock, and I take refuge in you, O

good Shep - herd. Have mer - cy on me, O God.

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:

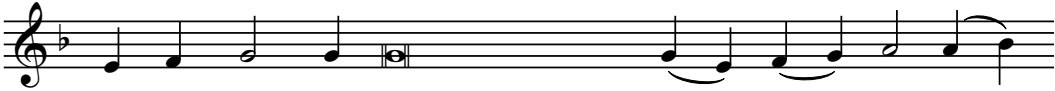
My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

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.

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.

Cantor:

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

Stichera of the holy apostle Onesimus - Tone 1 samohlasen

③

To - day, we celebrate with hymns the sa - cred me - mo - ry of the di - vine
apostle Onesi-mus, a mar - tyr for God. He was a - dopt - ed by God through grace
for the sake of our faith, and be - got - ten by the faith of Paul,
let us praise him.

Cantor:

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

②

Na - tural - ly es - cap - ing the slavery of decep-tion. O wise one, you be - came a

child of God by grace, the Ho - ly Spi - rit and faith in Christ.

join - ing the ho - ly and all-praiseworth - y dis - cip - les of Paul, O most

pro - fit - a - ble O - ne - - - - si - mus.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful

for - - ev - - - er.

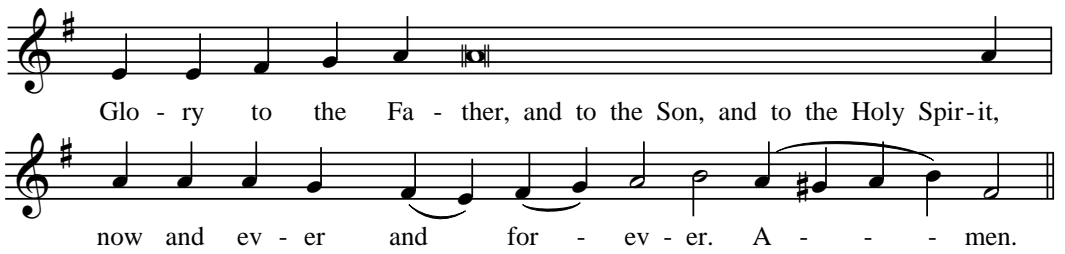
① O thrice-bles - sed O - ne - si - mus, you be - came a dis - ci - ple of the Word,

thanks to the most praised Paul, preacher and a - pos - tle. Three times

you received a two - fold crown from Christ. You were a - dorned as a priest,

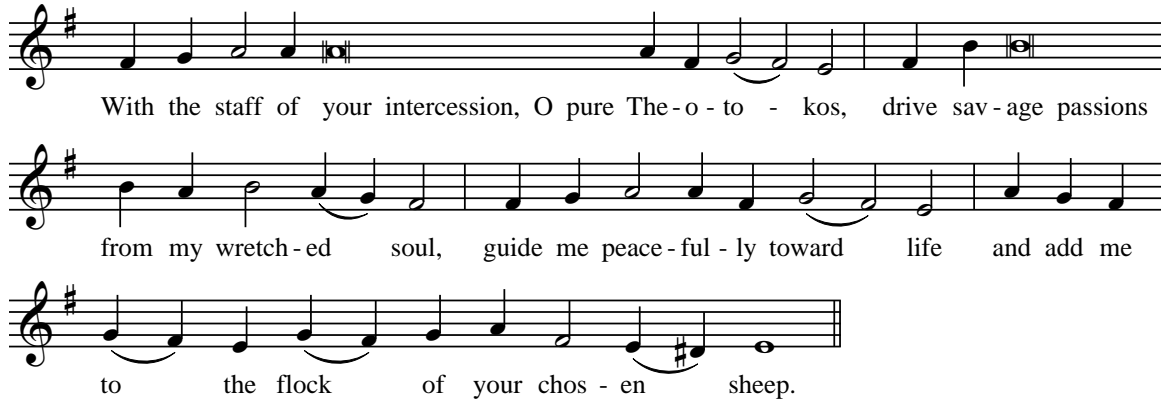
a preacher, and an ath - lete, O praised a pos - - - tle.

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.

Theotokion - Tone 1 samohlasen



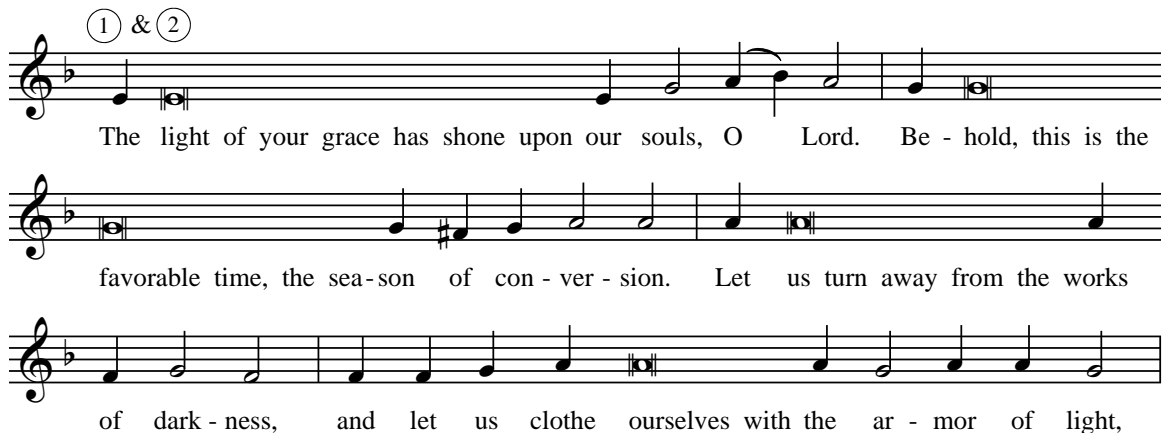
With the staff of your intercession, O pure The-o-to - kos, drive sav-age passions
from my wretch-ed soul, guide me peace-ful - ly toward life and add me
to the flock of your chos - en sheep.

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


Aposticha

Aposticha of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 4 samohlasen

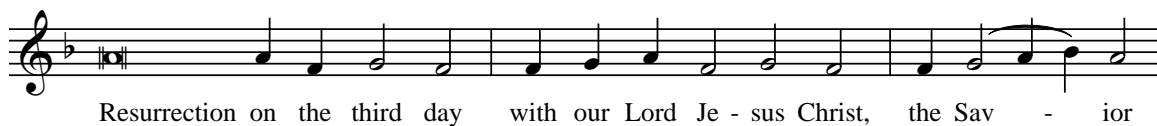
① & ②



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

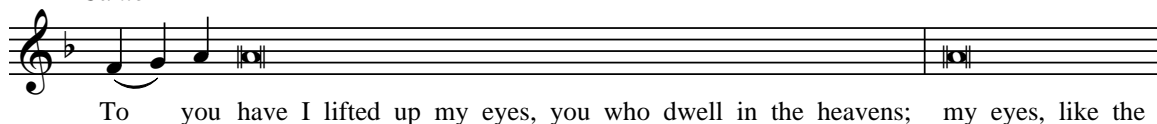


Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior

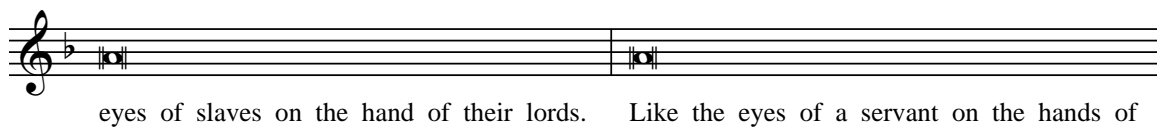


of our souls.

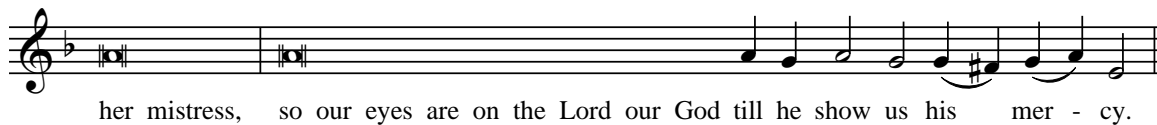
Cantor



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



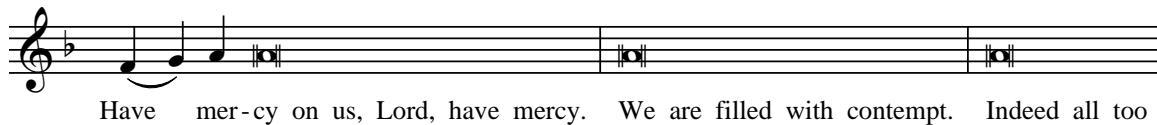
eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hands of



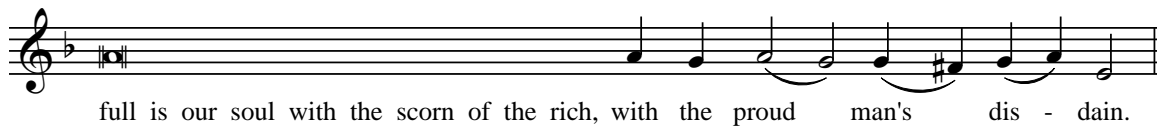
her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mer - cy.

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

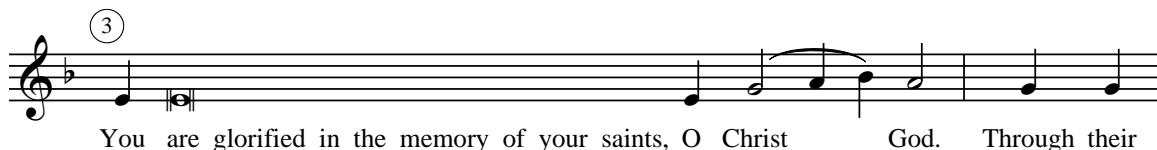
Cantor



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.