

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
First Sunday of the Great Fast  
February 14, 2016**

**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.

*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 5, p. 40)*

*Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 61*

**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 apostle Onesimus - Tone 1 samohlasen**

To - day, we celebrate with hymns the sa - cred me - mo - ry of the di - vine

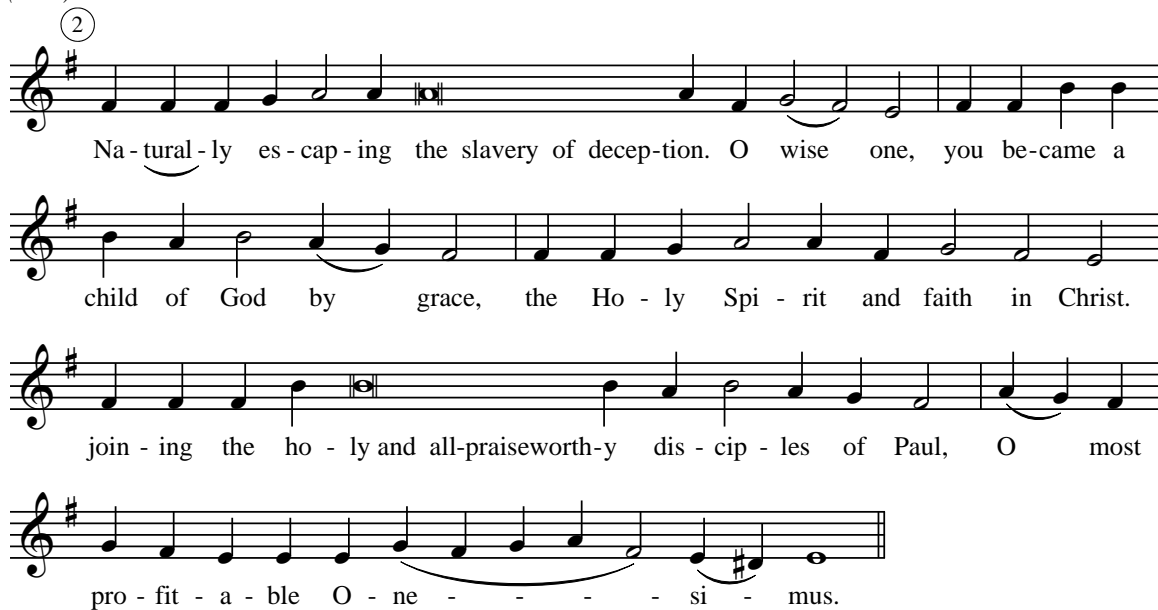
apostle Onesi-mus, a mar - tyr for God. He was a - dopt - ed by God through grace

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 nations; **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him, all you peoples!

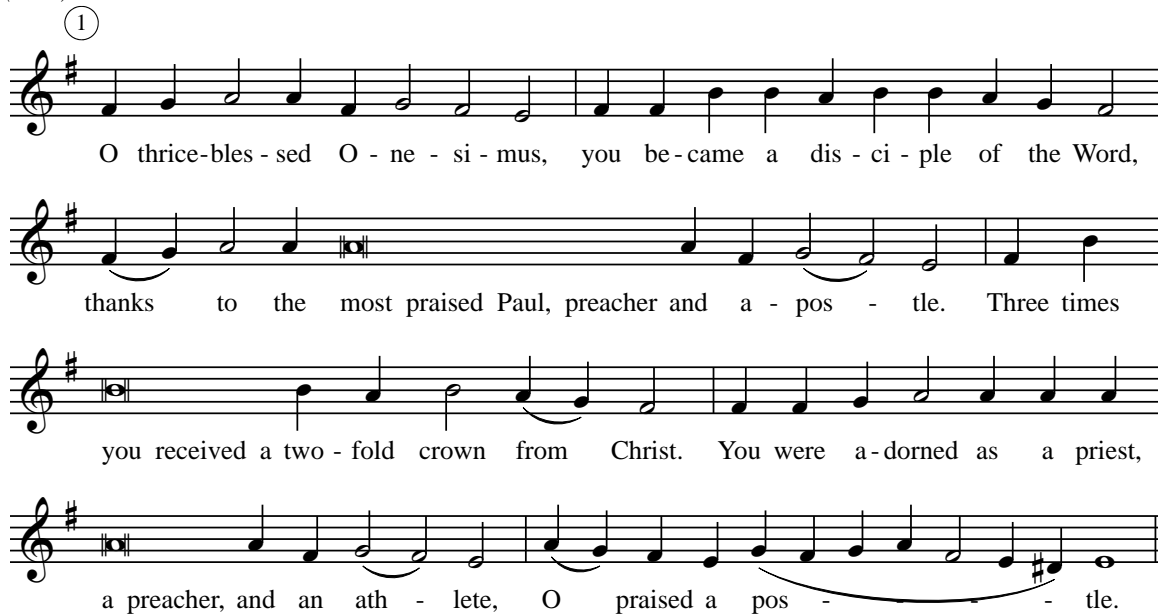
②



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;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

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:** (Tone 1) Glory...now and ever...

**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 on page 9.*

*Prokeimenon for the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 10*

*Aposticha of the First Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 63*