

**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