

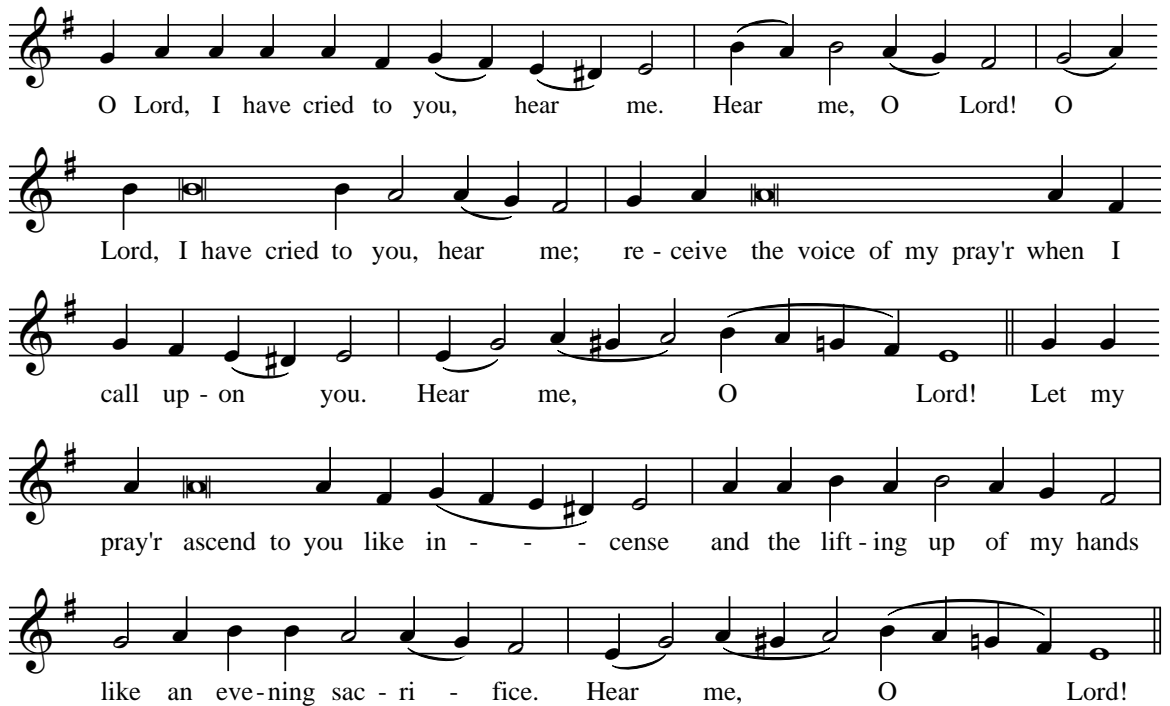
Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 6, 2016

**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 in the Tone of the Week - 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

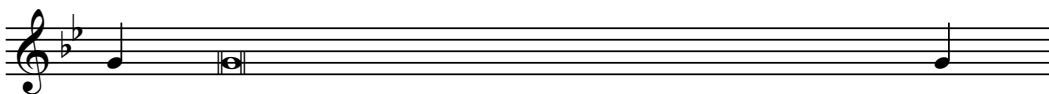


and Lover of us all, do not de-spise me; you a-lone are with-out sin.

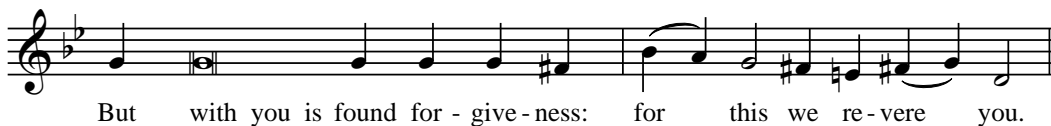


Be-fore the end, grant me con-tri - tion and save me.

*Tone 3 samohlasen*

*Cantor:* 

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

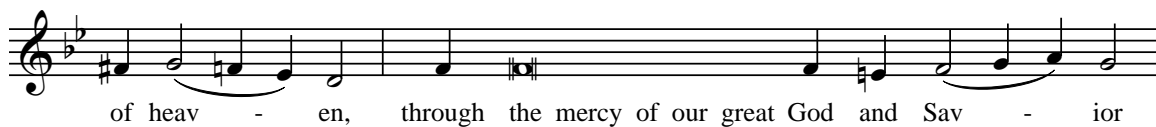


But with you is found for-give-ness: for this we re-vere you.

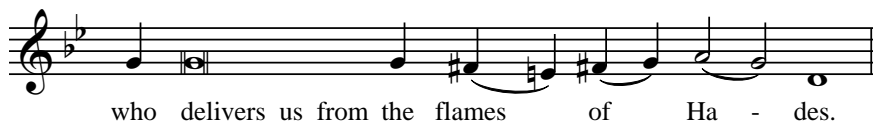
**Stichera of the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - *Tone 3 samohlasen***

⑥ 


In this time of fast-ing, O faith-ful, let us strive to gain the great glo-ry



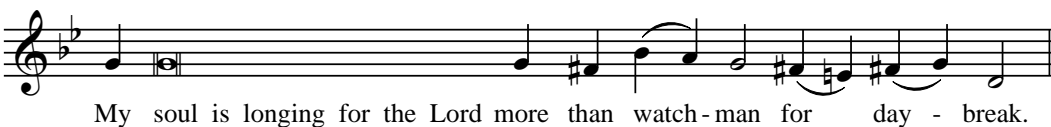
of heav - en, through the mercy of our great God and Sav - ior



who delivers us from the flames of Ha - des.

*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

Hav - ing passed the mid - point of this Fast, let us man - ifest the beginning of  
 con - ver - sion, so that at the end of a ho - ly life, we may find the  
 happiness that does not pass a - way.

*Tone 7 samohlasen*

Cantor:

Let the watchman count on daybreak and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

4

Hav - ing passed half the distance of this ho - ly Fast, let us has - ten to its  
 com - ple - tion in joy; let us a - noint our souls with oil for the strug - gle,  
 that we may be worthy to venerate the holy Passion of Christ our God  
 and to con - tem - plate his glo - rious Re - sur - rec - tion.

(on 3)

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 holy martyrs of Cherson - Tone 4 samohlasen

③

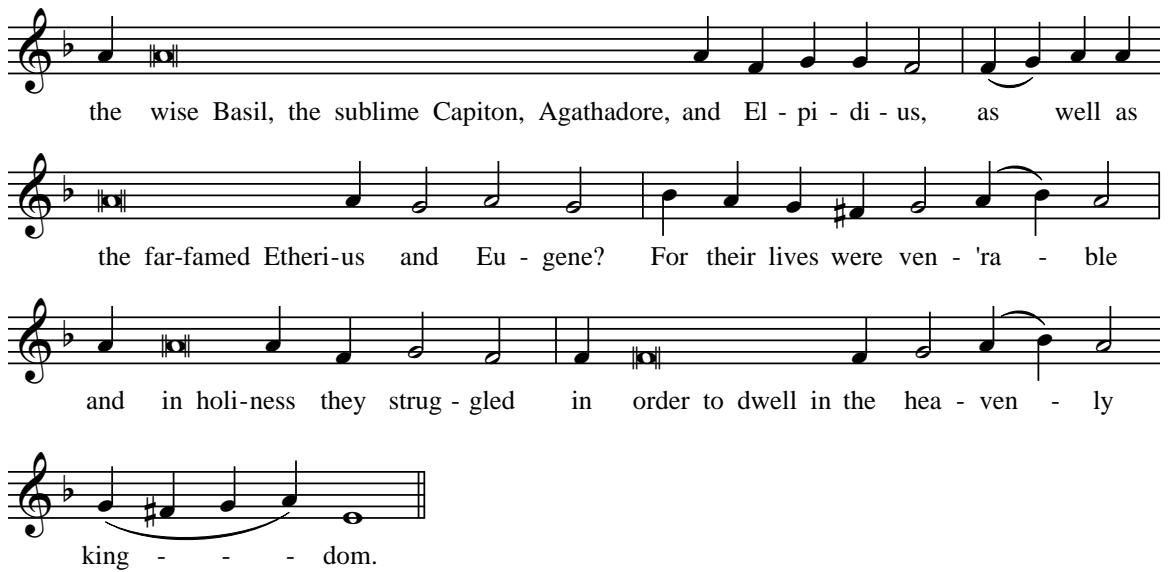
In - vinci-ble mar - tyrs, far - famed hierarchs, lights of the un - i - verse,  
un - shakable pillars of the Church of God, sup - ports of the faith  
and instructors for be - liev - ers, you swept a - way all error, O Fa - thers of  
hea - ven - ly thoughts guid - ing our souls toward the light as com - pan - ions  
of the an - gels and champions of the ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

Cantor:


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

②

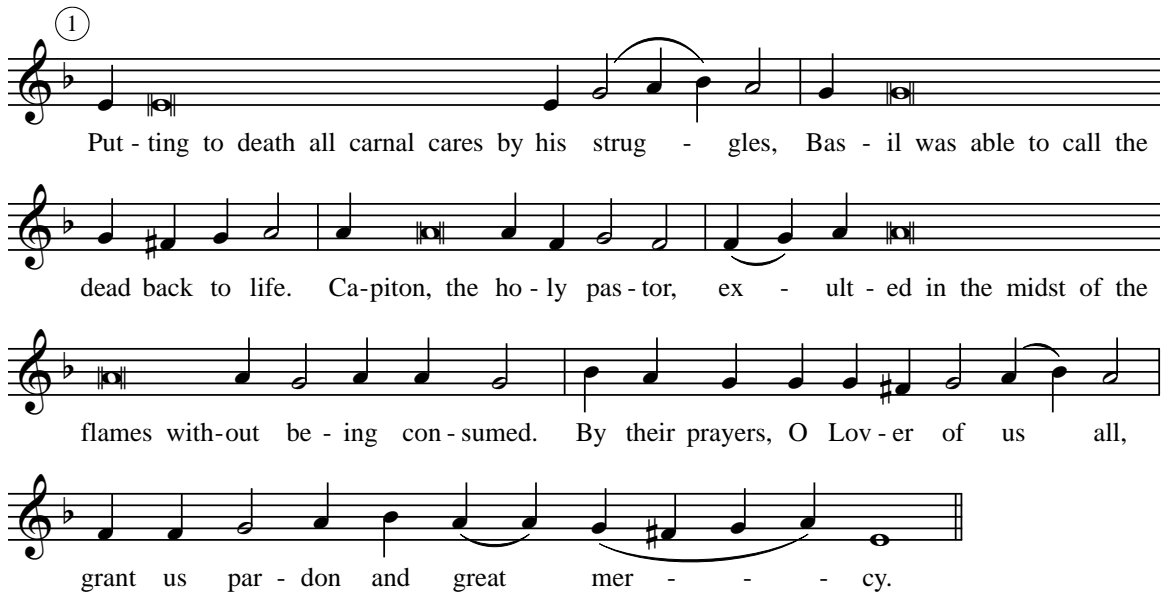
What divine prais-es can we ad-dress to the blessed and il-lus - tri - ous Eph - rem,



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.

*Cantor:* 

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

① 

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**

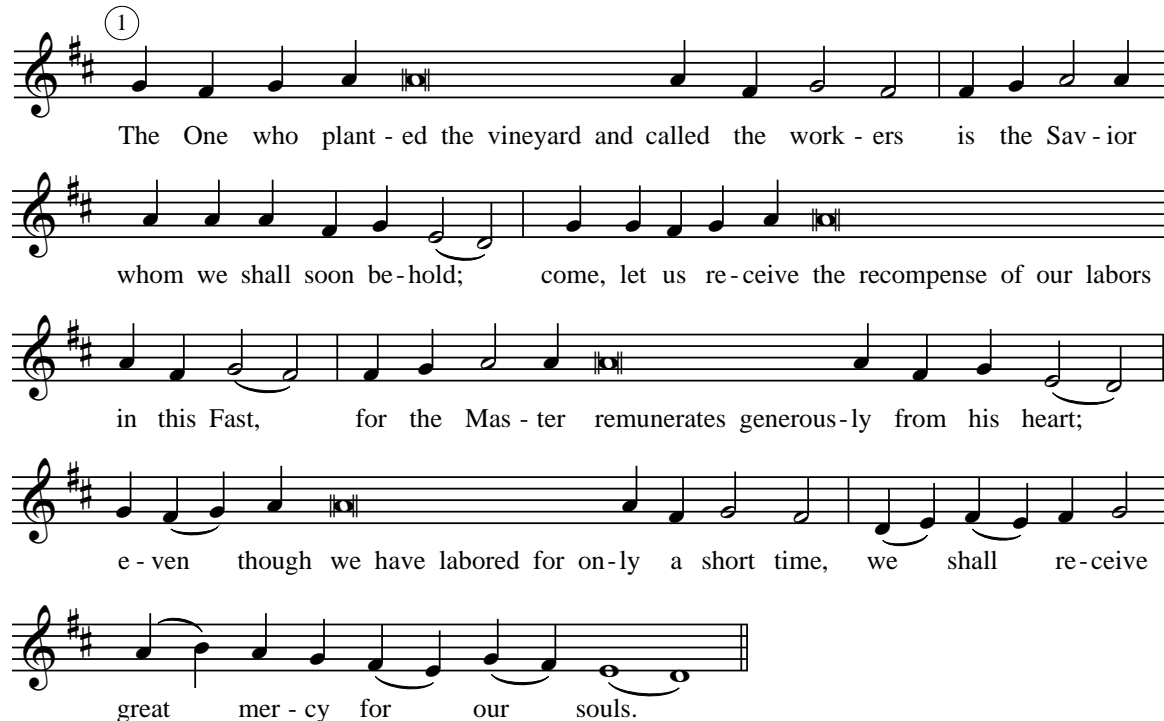
Take away the defilement of my pas-sion-ate heart, O all-glori-ous The-o-to-kos.  
 Cleanse all the wounds and de-file-ment which come from sin, O pure La - dy.  
 Stop the wav-er-ing of my mind, that I, your wretched and unprofit-a - ble  
 serv - ant, may ex - tol your pow'r and great as - sis - tance.

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

# Aposticha

## Aposticha of the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - *Tone 7 samohlasen*

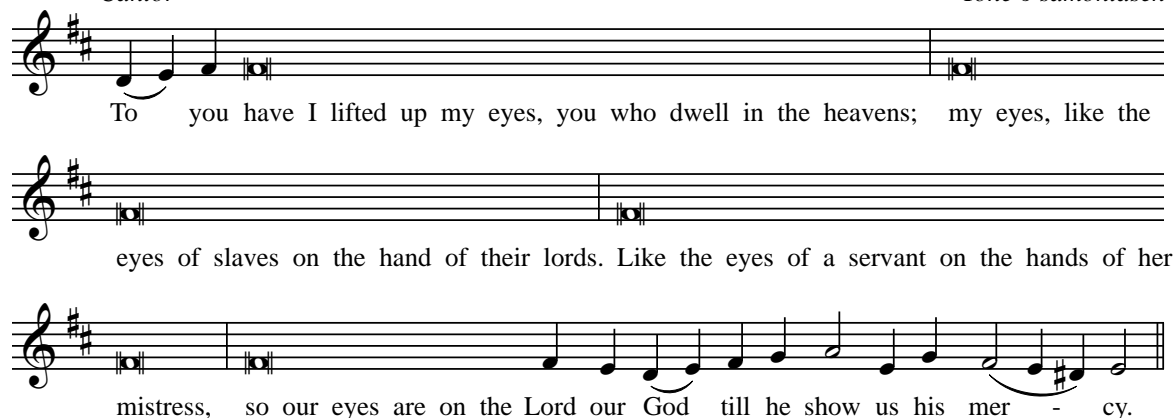
①



The One who plant - ed the vineyard and called the work - ers is the Sav - ior  
whom we shall soon be - hold; come, let us re - ceive the recompense of our labors  
in this Fast, for the Mas - ter remunerates generous - ly from his heart;  
e - ven though we have labored for on - ly a short time, we shall re - ceive  
great mer - cy for our souls.

*Cantor*

*Tone 6 samohlasen*



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.

②



Ad - am fell into the hands of rob - bers of thought; his spirit was betrayed and his



soul was cov - ered with wounds; and he lay na - ked and with - out help.



It was not the priest from be - fore the Law, nor the levite, who came af - ter the Law,



but it was you, O Lord my God, who cared for him. You came, not



from Samaria but from the Vir - gin Mar - y! O Sav - ior of our souls,



glo - ry to you!

*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



Your mar - tirs did not re - ject you, nor did they re - nounce your law.

Have mer - cy on us through their prayers!

*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.

**Aposticha theotokion - Tone 8 samohlasen**

Re - ceive the prayers of your serv - - - ants, O our ho - ly La - dy.  
De - liver us from every af - flic - - - tion and dan - - - ger.

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