

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of the
First Sunday of the Great Fast
February 22, 2026**

The holy martyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna who is honored as a disciple of blessed John and the final witness of the apostolic age. Under the emperors Marcus Antoninus and Lucius Aurelius Commodus, about the age of 90, he was given over to the flames in the amphitheater at Smyrna in Asia. Before the proconsul and the whole people, he gave thanks to God the Father because he had been deemed worthy to be numbered among the martyrs and to receive a portion from the cup of Christ. (c.155)

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

*Psalm 140 and Stichera of Forgiveness in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 35)
Stichera of the first Sunday of the Great Fast, p. 62.*

Tone 1

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 martyr Polycarp - Tone 1 samohlasen

O God-bless-ed Fa - ther, while still liv - ing on earth, you were joined
with the bod-i - less an - gels, and with them you ministered to the Trin - i - ty.
There - fore, as you dwell always in the highest as a heav - en - ly man,

you in - i - ti - ate those on earth into the mys - ter - - ies of God.

Cantor:

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

(2)

O God-bless-ed Fa - - ther, you were re-vealed to be a branch

of the ac - tion of Christ plant - ed by God. You put forth grapes of the

di - vine Word, from which we draw forth pre - cious sweet - ness in faith,

and with our whole heart we offer your teach - ing to the whole world.

Cantor:

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

for - - ev - - - - er.

(1)

Il - lu-mined with di - vine splen - dor, your bod - y consumed by ma - te - ri - al

fire, you passed o - ver to immaterial radi-ance, O Fa - ther. Grant us for-give-ness
 by your prayers, bring - ing light to the gloom - y night
 of the pas - sions of our souls, O wise Fa - ther.

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

Tossed a - bout on the storm-y seas of sin, I has - ten to the peaceful ha - ven of
 your prayer, O most pure The - o - to - kos; I cry out to you: Save
 me! Ex - tend your pow - er - ful right hand to your serv - ant, O all - spot - less one.

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. 65.