

LENTEN VESPERS WITH A PRIEST BERKELEY OCF

Opening

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before our King and God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Invitatory Psalm 103/104

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight. They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I

rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

[and again] The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God, our hope, O Lord: glory to you!

Great Synapte & Prayer

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our Archbishop and Patriarch Bartholomew, together with all Orthodox hierarchs, the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our country, the president, and all those in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our schools and this Institute; for their administrators, staff, and faculties, their students and alumni, trustees and benefactors, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For this city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For travelers by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and oppressed, and for

their safety and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Only true God, who created the days and nights – one for labor and good works and doing what is right, and the other so that we might rest from our toils – you who delight in our life and take pleasure in whatever good we do: During this lenten season, we beseech you to strip us of all vestiges of darkness and clothe us in the new humanity radiant with the light of virtue. Prepare us for the paschal mysteries by letting our minds and hearts be filled with the praise of your name and not with apathy and indifference. For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Incense Psalm 140/141 & Troparia

Lord, I call upon you; hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon you; hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you. Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord!

Soloist 1: My eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

Soloist 2: Keep me from the trap that the wicked have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

Soloist 2: I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: When my spirit is faint, you know my way.

Soloist 2: I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

Soloist 2: Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Soloist 2: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

[Chants or reads the first kekragarion troparion from the Triodion. See Appendix.]

Soloist: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

[Chants or reads the second kekragarion troparion from the Triodion. See Appendix.]

Soloist: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

[Chants or reads the third kekragarion troparion from the Triodion. See Appendix.]

Soloist: Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

[Chants or reads the first kekragarion troparion from the Menaion.]

Soloist: For great is his steadfast love toward us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

[Chants or reads the second kekragarion troparion from the Menaion.]

Soloist: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

[Chants or reads the Stavrotheotokion from the Menaion.]

Hymn of Light

People: *[recited]* Radiant Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, and blessed Father! O Christ Jesus! Now as we come to sunset, as we see the evening lights, we sing to God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At all times are you worthy to be praised by undefiled tongue, O Son of God, who give life to the world. For this, the universe glorifies you.

Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone *[tone number]*, from Psalm *[psalm number]*.

[Reads the day's prokeimenon and its verse.]

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader 1: The reading is from the book of Genesis.

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader 1: *[Reads the day's pericope.]*

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone *[tone number]*, from Psalm *[psalm number]*.

[Reads the day's prokeimenon and its verse.]

(intoned loudly) Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Arise!
The light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The reading is from the book of Proverbs.

Priest: Let us be attentive.

[Reads the day's pericope.]

Evening Prayer

People: Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen. Lord, let your mercy come upon us, for we have trusted in you. Blessed are you, Lord; teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master; grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One; enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your love endures forever; do not turn away from the work of your hands. To you belong praise, song, and glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Synapte & Aitesis

Priest: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy, on us, and protect us by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the remainder of this evening may be holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For an angel of peace, a trustworthy guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest:

For forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For the completion of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful and for a good account before the awesome judgement-seat of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: Remembering our most-holy, pure, blessed, and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Loving God and Father: We stand before you this evening, at the close of our lenten vespers, and we ask you to be merciful to us in our brokenness. Do not wait for our feeble wills to act, for we lack the eagerness to correct ourselves. You know only too well how often we protest that we are ready to repent and then fail to follow through on our intention, only showing what liars we are. Yet, over and over, you have ignored our failures and raised us up in your grace and loving kindness. Though we fail to show and gratitude even for this graciousness, do not cut us down like fruitless trees, nor seize us, unprepared as we are, to stand before your awesome and impartial judgement. In your endless compassion, hear this plea we make to you through the Theotokos and, through her, lead us to yourself. For you are indeed our God, and we give glory to you, together with your only-begotten Son, and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer of Inclination

Priest: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Almighty Lord: Behold us this evening as we bow our heads to you. Bless us for the effort we have put into living according to your will, forgive us our shortcomings, and, as night falls, refresh us with the consolation of your Holy Spirit. So that ever safe and sound in soul and body, we may persevere with confidence in glorifying your wondrous and blessed name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Canticl e of Symeon

Priest: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

People: Amen.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for the glory of your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Lenten Apolytikia

Virgin Mother of God, hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to the Savior of our souls.

Baptizer of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our transgressions: for you have been given grace to intercede for us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us, holy Apostles and all you Saints, that we may be delivered from dangers and afflictions: for in you we have gained fervent advocates with the Savior.

Now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

We take refuge beneath your compassion, Mother of God: do not despise our petitions in trouble: but rescue us from dangers, only pure, only blessed one.

Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever, and to the ages of ages.
Amen

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, you are truly Theotokos, you do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

Priest: HE WHO IS is blessed, even Christ our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Heavenly King, establish our rulers: strengthen the faith: calm the nations: make the world peaceful: guard well this holy Institute and our Schools: assign our brothers and sisters who have gone before us to the tents of the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession, as you are good and love humankind.

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

Lord and Master of my life, do not give me a spirit of sloth, idle curiosity, love of power and useless chatter. (Prostration)

Rather accord to me, your servant, a spirit of sobriety, humility, patience and love. (Prostration)

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to condemn my brother; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

Dismissal

Priest: Glory to you, Christ our God and our hope; glory to you.

May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr, patron of this holy church; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saint (*of the day*) whose memory we commemorate today; and of all the saints, for he is good and loves humankind.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.

LENTEN VESPERS WITHOUT A PRIEST BERKELEY OCF

Opening

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before our King and God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Invitatory Psalm 103/104

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight. They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

[and again] The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: glory to you, O God, our hope, O Lord: glory to you!

Great Synapte & Prayer

In peace let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For our Archbishop and Patriarch Bartholomew, together with all Orthodox hierarchs, the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For our country, the president, and all those in public service, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For our schools and this Institute; for their administrators, staff, and faculties, their students and alumni, trustees and benefactors, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For travelers by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and oppressed, and for their safety and salvation, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Only true God, who created the days and nights – one for labor and good works and doing what is right, and the other so that we might rest from our toils – you who delight in our life and take pleasure in whatever good we do: During this lenten season, we beseech you to strip us of all vestiges of darkness and clothe us in the new humanity radiant with the light of virtue. Prepare us for the paschal mysteries by letting our minds and hearts be filled with the praise of your name and not with apathy and

indifference. For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Incense Psalm 140/141 & Troparia

Lord, I call upon you; hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon you; hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you. Hear me, O Lord!
Let my prayer arise in your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord!

Soloist 1: My eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

Soloist 2: Keep me from the trap that the wicked have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: With my voice I cry to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

Soloist 2: I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: When my spirit is faint, you know my way.

Soloist 2: I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

Soloist 2: Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist 1: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Soloist 2: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

People: Hear me, O Lord.

Soloist: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

[Chants or reads the first kekragarion troparion from the Triodion. See Appendix.]

Soloist: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

[Chants or reads the second kekragarion troparion from the Triodion. See Appendix.]

Soloist: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

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Soloist: Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

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Soloist: For great is his steadfast love toward us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
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Soloist: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
[Chants or reads the Stavrotheotokion from the Menaion.]

Hymn of Light

People: *[recited]* Radiant Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, and blessed Father! O Christ Jesus! Now as we come to sunset, as we see the evening lights, we sing to God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At all times are you worthy to be praised by undefiled tongue, O Son of God, who give life to the world. For this, the universe glorifies you.

Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone *[tone number]*, from Psalm *[psalm number]*.
[Reads the day's prokeimenon. See Appendix.]
The reading is from the book of Genesis.
[Reads the day's pericope. See Appendix.]

Reader 2: The prokeimenon is in Tone *[tone number]*, from Psalm *[psalm number]*.
[Reads the day's prokeimenon. See Appendix.]
The reading is from the book of Proverbs.
[Reads the day's pericope. See Appendix.]

Evening Prayer

People: Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, Lord, God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen. Lord, let your mercy come upon us, for we have trusted in you. Blessed are you, Lord; teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master; grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One; enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your love endures forever; do not turn away from the work of your hands. To you belong praise, song, and glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Synapte & Aitesis with Prayer

Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy, on us, and protect us by Your grace.

That the remainder of this evening may be holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.

For an angel of peace, a trustworthy guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.

For forgiveness and remission of our sins and offenses, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.

For all that is good and beneficial for our souls and for peace in the world, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.

For the completion of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.
For a Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful and for a good account before the awesome judgement-seat of Christ, let us ask: Grant this, O Lord.

Remembering our most-holy, pure, blessed, and glorious lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Loving God and Father: We stand before you this evening, at the close of our lenten vespers, and we ask you to be merciful to us in our brokenness. Do not wait for our feeble wills to act, for we lack the eagerness to correct ourselves. You know only too well how often we protest that we are ready to repent and then fail to follow through on our intention, only showing what liars we are. Yet, over and over, you have ignored our failures and raised us up in your grace and loving kindness. Though we fail to show and gratitude even for this graciousness, do not cut us down like fruitless trees, nor seize us, unprepared as we are, to stand before your awesome and impartial judgement. In your endless compassion, hear this plea we make to you through the Theotokos and, through her, lead us to yourself. For you are indeed our God, and we give glory to you, together with your only-begotten Son, and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer of Inclination

Let us bow our heads to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Almighty Lord: Behold us this evening as we bow our heads to you. Bless us for the effort we have put into living according to your will, forgive us our shortcomings, and, as night falls, refresh us with the consolation of your Holy Spirit. So that ever safe and sound in soul and body, we may persevere with confidence in glorifying your wondrous and blessed name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Canticl e of Symeon

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Amen.

Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for the glory of your name.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who

trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lenten Apolytikia

Virgin Mother of God, hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to the Savior of our souls.

Baptizer of Christ, remember us all, that we may be delivered from our transgressions: for you have been given grace to intercede for us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us, holy Apostles and all you Saints, that we may be delivered from dangers and afflictions: for in you we have gained fervent advocates with the Savior.

Now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

We take refuge beneath your compassion, Mother of God: do not despise our petitions in trouble: but rescue us from dangers, only pure, only blessed one.

Lord, have mercy. (12)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, you are truly Theotokos, you do we magnify.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Heavenly King, establish our rulers: strengthen the faith: calm the nations: make the world peaceful: guard well this holy Institute and our Schools: assign our brothers and sisters who have gone before us to the tents of the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession, as you are good and love humankind.

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

Lord and Master of my life, do not give me a spirit of sloth, idle curiosity, love of power and useless chatter. (Prostration)

Rather accord to me, your servant, a spirit of sobriety, humility, patience and love. (Prostration)

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to condemn my brother; for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

APPENDIX

Troparia and Readings

For Each Week

Tuesday of Week 1.	16
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Tuesday of Week 1

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 2

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

Formerly driven out of Paradise * for having eaten the bitter fruit, * let us strive to return there by abstaining from our passions, * and let us cry to our God: * You have stretched out your hands on the Cross, * drinking the vinegar and tasting the gall; * you patiently endured the pain of the nails * to pull out the nails of our passions from our souls; * in your great goodness, save your servants.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

Formerly driven out of Paradise * by the fruit of the forbidden tree, * let us now return there through the tree of the Cross. * We offer it to you as our Advocate. * And we, the faithful, pray to you: * In this time of absitence, O God of goodness, * unlock the fountain of our tears * to purify the stain of our passions * and to wipe out our sins, * so that we may sing: Glory to you, O Lord.

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Grant me the joy of abstinence, O Word, * as you once granted Paradise to our first parents. * Let me taste the fruits of your Law * by renouncing those of sin forever, * that I may enter with joy * into the life-giving sufferings of your Cross.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 6, from Psalm 7.

Lord my God, I have put my trust in you.

Save me from all who persecute me, and deliver me.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[1:14-23]

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 1: God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 5, from Psalm 8.

How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

Your majesty is praised above the heavens.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[1:20-33]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing

and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,

and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,

when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge

and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

would have none of my counsel,

and despised all my reproof,

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.” *[We continue on page 4 or 11.]*

Tuesday of Week 2

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 1

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

O Christ, you stretched out your immaculate hands upon the Cross * to bring together the ends of the earth. * Therefore I cry to you: * Bring unity to my scattered spirit, * free my heart vexed by my passions, * and let me partake of your sufferings. * By abstinence purify me completely.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

In ancient times the holy youths were strengthened by fasting, * and they were shown to be stronger than the blazing furnace, as it is written. * Therefore, my poor soul, fast also and rekindle your love for the Lord, * so that you may escape the future torments * and burn up your wicked passions.

Tone 3

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Let us delight in the joy of this time of the Fast. * May it shine with purity and sincere charity, * in the splendor of prayer and the abundance of all virtues. * With joy let us sing: * O holy Cross of Christ * who blossomed forth the fruit of life, * give us a pure heart so that we may adore you worthily; * and grant us forgiveness of sins.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 6, from Psalm 27.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Unto you have I cried, O Lord my God.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[4:8-15]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 1: Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer

on the earth.”

Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.”

Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is Tone 7, from Psalm 28.

The Lord will give strength to his people, the Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you children of God, give the Lord glory and honor.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[5:1-15]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

My child, be attentive to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my understanding,
so that you may hold on to prudence,
and your lips may guard knowledge.
For the lips of a loose woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;
but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol.
She does not keep straight to the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

And now, my child, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.
Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house;
or you will give your honor to others,
and your years to the merciless,
and strangers will take their fill of your wealth,
and your labors will go to the house of an alien;
and at the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are consumed,
and you say, “Oh, how I hated discipline,

and my heart despised reproof!
I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.
Now I am at the point of utter ruin
in the public assembly.”

Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.

[We continue on page 4 or 11.]

Tuesday of Week 3

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 3

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

O Lord, who on the Cross triumphed over the deceit of the Serpent, * deliver my soul which has been led astray by sin. * Purify me in this Fast and grant that I may fulfill your will, * so that I may serenely contemplate your precious Passion, O Master.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

I have been wounded by the weapon of pleasure, O Lord, * it has made me fall treacherously. * Give life to my poor soul and heal me, * O Master, who was pierced with a lance. * O Lord, you have already healed those wounded by the arrows of the enemy; * grant that I may be a partaker of your precious Passion.

Tone 2

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

In this Fast may we receive the illumination of our souls, O Lord, * so that without condemnation we may contemplate your Cross in joy * and bow before it in love. * For the Cross already illumines your voluntary Passion, * which in your goodness you allow us to behold, O Lord.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 3, from Psalm 47.

The Lord is great and worthy to be praised in the city of our God.

In the city of God and in his holy mountain.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[7:1-5]

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 1: Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 2, from Psalm 48.

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[8:32-9:11]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

“And now, my children, listen to me:
happy are those who keep my ways.
Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.
Happy is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.
For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord;
but those who miss me injure themselves;
all who hate me love death.”

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals,
she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse;
whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt.
A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you;
the wise, when rebuked, will love you.
Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
For by me your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.

[We continue on page 4 or 11.]

Tuesday of Week 4

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 6

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

In the middle of the earth, you suffered the Passion and the Cross * to grant us, in your goodness, * both redemption and the control of our passions. * In the middle of the Fast, today we bring out your Cross * and bow low before it, venerating it with joy. * Grant that we may see your sufferings * and your life-giving Resurrection * in the light of the heavenly virtues, * O Word of God who alone have mercy on us.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

You willingly suffered death on the Cross; * you were pierced with a lance and tasted the bitter gall, * O long-suffering Lord, * who by the hand of Moses sweetened the waters of Meribah. * I now implore you and cry out: * Deliver my heart from the bitterness of the passions; * sweeten my soul with the honey of repentance; * and grant that I may venerate your holy Passion.

Tone 1

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Today we see exposed before our eyes * the Cross which Moses prefigured in days of old * when he stretched out his hands to overcome Amalek. * Let us kiss it in the purity of our lips and hearts. * For on it Christ was exalted triumphing over death. * Having been deemed worthy of his grace, * let us sing with a joyful melody to the Lord of the universe, * and beseech him to show all of us his life-giving Resurrection.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 6, from Psalm 67.

O sing to the Lord, sing praises to his name; prepare a way for him who rides on the clouds.

The Lord is his name; exult at his presence.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[9:8-17]

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 1: Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him. "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all

flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds. I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 6, from Psalm 68.

I am lowly and in pain; let your salvation, O God, protect me.

Let the oppressed see it and be glad; seek God and your soul shall revive.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[12:8-22]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

One is commended for good sense,
but a perverse mind is despised.
Better to be despised and have a servant,
than to be self-important and lack food.
The righteous know the needs of their animals,
but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.
Those who till their land will have plenty of food,
but those who follow worthless pursuits have no sense.
The wicked covet the proceeds of wickedness,
but the root of the righteous bears fruit.
The evil are ensnared by the transgression of their lips,
but the righteous escape from trouble.
From the fruit of the mouth one is filled with good things,
and manual labor has its reward.
Fools think their own way is right,
but the wise listen to advice.
Fools show their anger at once,
but the prudent ignore an insult.
Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence,
but a false witness speaks deceitfully.
Rash words are like sword thrusts,

but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.
Deceit is in the mind of those who plan evil,
but those who counsel peace have joy.
No harm happens to the righteous,
but the wicked are filled with trouble.
Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,
but those who act faithfully are his delight.

[We continue on page 4 or 11.]

Tuesday of Week 5

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 8

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

O you faithful, taking love as our food, through abstinence let us gain control over our passions; and let us strive to live a life acceptable to God, who for our sakes was raised upon the Cross, and his side was pierced by a spear. So shall we enjoy eternal blessedness, and glorify the Savior of our souls.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

Through a tree we once found death, but now we find life again through the Tree of the Cross. Let us then put to death the impulses of the passions; and with all the faithful let us pray to the Benefactor of all: that shining with the radiance of divine actions and made beautiful by the virtues, we may attain the holy Resurrection and glorify the Savior of our souls.

Tone 2

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

We praise your life-giving Cross, O Lord, and the holy sufferings of your flesh for our sake: the spear, the death, the derision and the spitting, blows and buffetings, the purple robe and crown of thorns, by which you have redeemed us all and saved us from the curse. Therefore we entreat you: Grant us to complete the time of the Fast in peace.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 4. Psalm 89.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[15:1-15]

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 1: The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid. Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then

he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know this for certain. that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.”

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 5, from Psalm 90.

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, abide in the shade of the Almighty.

They shall say to the Lord: You are my refuge and my stronghold.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[15:7-19]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

The lips of the wise spread knowledge;
not so the minds of fools.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord,
but he loves the one who pursues righteousness.

There is severe discipline for one who forsakes the way,
but one who hates a rebuke will die.

Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the Lord,
how much more human hearts!

Scoffers do not like to be rebuked;
they will not go to the wise.

A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance,
but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken.

The mind of one who has understanding seeks knowledge,
but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

All the days of the poor are hard,

but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.
Better is a little with the fear of the Lord
than great treasure and trouble with it.
Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is
than a fatted ox and hatred with it.
Those who are hot-tempered stir up strife,
but those who are slow to anger calm contention.
The way of the lazy is overgrown with thorns,
but the path of the upright is a level highway.

[We continue on page 4 or 11.]

Tuesday of Week 6

Troparia for Psalm 140/141

Tone 2

Soloist: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.*

All the arrows of the Enemy have pierced my over-burdened heart; * it now lies in the tomb of laziness, * hardened as the rock of the tomb. * But you, O Savior, who by the wood of your Cross * have given life to the captives in Hades, * awaken me and give me life, * that in fear I may glorify your divinity.

Soloist: *For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord. My soul has waited on your word. My soul has hoped in the Lord.*

I have always loved the treasure of my deadly pleasures, * and with the aid of the Evil One, * without conscience, I have delighted in trivialities. * I have disregarded my groaning spirit as another Lazarus, * and I hunger for food from on high. * Save me, O Word of God, from the threatening fire, * that I may glorify your mercy and your love for humankind.

Tone 3

Soloist: *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Today Lazarus gives up his spirit. * Bethany laments and cries for the one * whom you, O Savior, shall raise from the dead, * to strengthen, by your friend, the belief in your divine Resurrection, * which vanquishes death and gives us life. * Therefore, we glorify and praise you.

The Readings

Reader 1: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 4, from Psalm 110.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom.

I will thank the Lord with all my heart in the council of the just and in the congregation.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader 1: The Reading is from Genesis.

[31:3-16]

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader 1: The Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your ancestors and to your kindred, and I will be with you." So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was, and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me as favorably as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. You know that I have served your father with all my strength; yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not permit him to harm me. If he said, "The speckled

shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore speckled; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father, and given them to me.

During the mating of the flock I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats that leaped upon the flock were striped, speckled, and mottled. Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' And he said, 'Look up and see that all the goats that leap on the flock are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and return to the land of your birth.'" Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has been using up the money given for us. All the property that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you."

Reader 2: The Prokeimenon is in Tone 4, from Psalm 111.

Full of honor and majesty is the Lord's work; his righteousness endures forever.

Happy are those who fear the Lord, who take delight in all his commands.

Reader 2: [*intoned*] Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader 2: The Reading is from the book of Proverbs.

[21:3-12]

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Reader 2:

To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
Haughty eyes and a proud heart –
the lamp of the wicked – are sin.
The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.
The getting of treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.
The violence of the wicked will sweep them away,
because they refuse to do what is just.
The way of the guilty is crooked,
but the conduct of the pure is right.
It is better to live in a corner of the housetop
than in a house shared with a contentious wife.
The souls of the wicked desire evil;
their neighbors find no mercy in their eyes.
When a scoffer is punished, the simple become wiser;

when the wise are instructed, they increase in knowledge.
The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked;
he casts the wicked down to ruin.
If you close your ear to the cry of the poor,
you will cry out and not be heard.
A gift in secret averts anger;
and a concealed bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.
When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous,
but dismay to evildoers.
Whoever wanders from the way of understanding
will rest in the assembly of the dead.
Whoever loves pleasure will suffer want;
whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich.
The wicked is a ransom for the righteous,
and the faithless for the upright.
It is better to live in a desert land
than with a contentious and fretful wife.
Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise,
but the fool devours it.
Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness
will find life and honor.

[We continue on page 4 or 11.]