

**Vespers Propers on the Evening of
Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
February 14, 2021**

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.

Psalm 140 and Stichera of Repentance are in the tone of the week (Tone 4).

Psalm 140 (Tone 4)

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 lifting up of my hands like an eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear
me, O Lord!

Continue with Psalm 140: "O Lord, set a guard before my mouth..." (p.8).

Stichera at the Lamplighting Psalms (pp. 9-10)

Cantor:
Bring my soul out of this pris-on and then I shall praise your name.

(10)

With my tears I desire to wash away the mark of my sins, O Lord, and through

pen - ance, I long to make the rest of my life pleas - ing to you; but the enemy

deceives me and struggles with my soul. Save me before I com - plete - ly

per - ish, O Lord.

Cantor: A - round me the just will assem-ble be-cause of your good-ness to me.

Who is there among the storm - tossed who hastens to your harbor and is not saved,

O Lord? Who is ill and seeks your healing and is not cured? O Cre - a - tor

of everyone and Heal-er of the sick, save me before I com - plete - ly

per - ish, O Lord.

Cantor:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

(8)

Wash me with my tears, O Sav - ior, for I am blemished because of my
man - y sins. And so I bow be - fore you; I have sinned, O God;
have mer - cy on me.

Cantor:

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plead - ing.

(7)

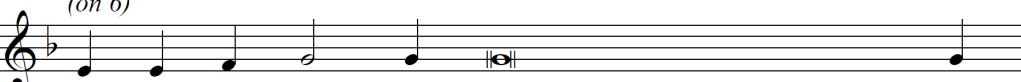
I am the lost sheep of your mys - ti - cal flock, and I take refuge in you, O
good Shep - herd. Have mer - cy on me, O God.

Cheesefare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)

Stichera for Psalm 140

Tone 2 samohlasen

(on 6)

Cantor: 

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

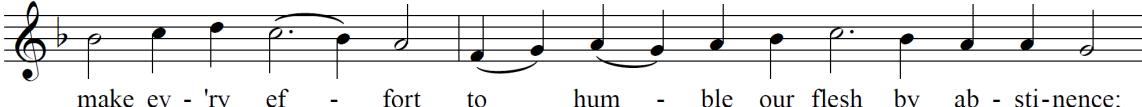


But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Tone 2 podoben: *Jehda ot dreva*

(6) 

Entering into the arena of the holy Fast, let us



make ev'ry effort to humble our flesh by abstinence;



in prayer and with tears let us seek the Lord our Savior, and, that



we might turn away from our evil deeds, let us say to him:



We have sinned against you, O Christ our King; save us



as you saved the Ninevites of old, and in your goodness, grant us a share



in the Kingdom of Heaven.

(on 5)

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)

When I see my deeds that de - serve such pun - ish-ment, I

am with - out hope, O Lord, for I have dis - o - beyed

your ho - ly com - mand - ments, and I have led a fool - ish life.

There-fore I be - seech you: Pur - i - fy me in the wa - ters

of re - pent - ance by fast - ing and prayer, O Sav - ior full of

good - ness; do not re - ject me, O Ben-e - fac - tor of the u - ni - verse.

(on 4)

Cantor:

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

(4)

Let us begin the time of this bright Fast giv - ing our-selves
 to spir - it - ual strug - gle. Let us san - cti - fy our souls and
 pur - i - fy our flesh. Let us not on - ly fast from food; let us al - so
 ab - stain from ev - 'ry pas - sion and cul - ti - vate spir - it - ual vir - tues.
 And let us faithfully per - se - vere in this, so that we may be wor - thy
 to see the ho - ly Pas - sion of Christ our God and the joy of his
 ho - ly Res - ur - rec - tion.

Tone 4 samohlasen

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 apostle Onesimus - Tone 1 samohlasen

(3)

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, acclaim him all you peoples!

(2)

Natural-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-praiseworthy 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; he is faith-ful

for - ev - - - er.

(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 - letē, O praised a pos - tle.

The faithful STAND.

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 - in the same tone

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 with "Wisdom!" and the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on p. 12.
Prokeimenon for Cheesefare Sunday, page 13.*

Aposticha (page 18)

Tone 4 samohlasen

(1) & (2)

The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the
favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works
of dark-ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light, so that
cross-ing the o-cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the Resurrection
on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - - ior of
our souls.

Cantor: 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 hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy.
Repeat "The light of your grace..."

Cantor: Have mercy 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 disdain.

(3)

O Christ our God, you are glorified in the remem-brance of your saints; through

their in - ter - ces - sion, send down on us great mer - cy.

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 - in the same tone

The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - - gin, for you have given
birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through
whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech him
to send the light of sal - va - - tion up - on the souls who pro-fess the true faith,
prais - ing you as the Moth - - er of our God.

The service continues with the Prayer of Holy Simeon the God-Bearer on page 18