

**March 7, 2012**

**Wednesday of the Third Week of the Great Fast**

**Octoechos Tone 5**

**Our Venerable Father and Confessor Theophilactus, Bishop of Nicomedia**

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**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

**AT PSALM 140**

*In Tone 4*

10.

Like the prodigal I squandered my paternal inheritance,  
and now I am in desolation.

I dwell in the land of the wicked.

In my folly, I became like the unreasoning beasts,  
stripped of all divine grace.

So I return and cry out to You:

O merciful and compassionate Father,

I have sinned, O God.

Receive me as a penitent and have mercy on me.

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and now I am in desolation.

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8.

O martyrs of the Lord,

you are living sacrifices and spiritual offerings  
and perfect incense burnt to God.

You are sheep that know God and are known to Him,  
and wolves cannot break into His fold.

Pray that we may be led with you  
to pasture beside the still waters.

*In Tone 6*

7.

O apostles who have seen God,  
and who reflect the light of the spiritual Sun for us,  
pray for the illumination of our souls  
and deliver us from the gloomy darkness of suffering.  
Intercede that we may behold the day of salvation.  
Through your prayers and intercessions  
cleanse our heart which the Evil One has wounded,  
so that, saved by faith, we may ever honour you  
who brought the world salvation through your all-wise preaching.

6.

Into an evil land I have wandered,  
prodigal that I am;  
the wealth You gave to me, O compassionate Father,  
I have squandered in a life filled with vice.  
And now in hunger I long for the good I lost;  
I am clothed with the shame of my transgression.  
I have been stripped of righteous deeds and of divine grace.  
Now I cry out that I have sinned.  
But I know Your righteousness, O Christ;  
in Your kindness receive me as Your hired servant,  
through the prayers of Your apostles who love You.

5.

Apostles of the Lord and bright lights of the universe,  
you made us the recipients of salvation,  
and like the heavens you proclaim the glory of God;  
you are adorned with wonders and bright miracles.  
Intercede for us unceasingly before the Lord,  
that He may receive our prayers as a pleasing aroma,  
and grant that with love we may contemplate and kiss His life-giving Cross.  
In Your love for humankind,  
grant mercy to us who bow low before Your Cross, O Saviour.

*In Tone 1*

4.

Father Theophilactus, divine guardians watched over you  
and preserved you unharmed.  
You were revealed to be an unshaken pillar of the Church,  
undaunted by the trials of heretical snares!  
Pray for us now that peace and great mercy  
may be granted to our souls!

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2.

Blessed Father Theophilactus, you visibly beheld God with understanding!

You delighted in Him through a greater union,  
you were deified by partaking of Him!

You received with rejoicing the blessed One  
whom alone you desired, most honoured hierarch,  
and now you make your dwelling with the angels!

1.

You departed the earth, Father Theophilactus,  
hastening on high, blessed one, to heaven.

For the exile you endured for Christ,  
you were blessed to live in the heavenly mansions.

Beseech Him now that He may grant peace  
and great mercy to our souls!

*In Tone 5, Glory... Now...*

Come, all faithful, and rejoice in the Holy Scriptures!

Rejoice in the preaching of the apostles!

Rejoice in the Virgin who gave birth to God!

She is the Queen of Heaven.

In her we exult with hymns and songs,

for she is our fervent intercessor before God.

#### **PROKEIMENON I, TONE 4**

I trust in the goodness of God\* forever and ever.

*verse:* I will thank You forevermore; for this is Your doing.

#### **READING I (Genesis 7:6-9)**

Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

**PROKEIMENON II, TONE 4**

When God delivers His people from bondage,\* then Jacob will be glad and Israel rejoice.  
*verse:* Fools have said in their hearts: There is no God above.

**READING II (Proverbs 9:12-18)**

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,  
And if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”  
A foolish woman is clamorous;  
She is simple, and knows nothing.  
For she sits at the door of her house,  
On a seat by the highest places of the city,  
To call to those who pass by,  
Who go straight on their way:  
“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”;  
And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,  
“Stolen water is sweet,  
And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”  
But he does not know that the dead are there,  
That her guests are in the depths of hell.