

The Ancient Faith in Its Historical and Living Traditions  
Explained Through...

A Guided Journey Through the 2026 Lenten and Pascal Seasons  
of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church

## 4. Vision of Isaiah and Divine Liturgy

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1

## Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

2

## Lenten Scripture Readings

- Weekdays
  - Isaiah (6th Hour Daily Office)
  - Genesis (1st scripture reading Vespers)
  - Proverbs (2nd scripture reading Vespers)
- Saturdays and Sundays
  - Hebrews
  - Gospel of Mark
  - Some Gospel of John

3

Hesychasm and Reading  
Example St. Prophyrios of Kafsokalyvia (+1991)

- Use of the Holy Scripture by the Fathers in the cultivation of divine eros
  - "Everything proceeds from Holy Scripture. You must read it continually in order to learn the secrets of spiritual struggle."
  - Then he gives an example....

p 110. "Wounded By Love - The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios", 2005. Denise Harvey.

4

**Hesychasm and Reading**  
**Example St. Prophyrios of Kafsokalyvia (+1991)**

In the ninth chapter of my beloved Wisdom of Solomon [9:1-5] it says:

O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, who made all things by your word, and by your wisdom formed man to have dominion over the creatures you have made, and to rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and to pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul, give me the wisdom that sits by your thrones, and do not reject me from among your servants. For I am your slave and the son of your maidservant, a man who is weak and short lived, with little understanding of judgment and laws.

p. 111 "Wounded By Love - The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios", 2005. Denise Harvey.

5

**Hesychasm and Reading**  
**Example St. Prophyrios of Kafsokalyvia (+1991)**

- Use of the Holy Scripture by the Fathers in the cultivation of divine eros
  - "Everything proceeds from Holy Scripture. You must read it continually in order to learn the secrets of spiritual struggle."
  - after quoting from Wisdom of Solomon, then he says...
  - "We see here how the wise Solomon asks God in such a humble way for His wisdom. And God gave it to him in abundance. All these wise things that he writes are not his own. They are inspired by the same Spirit which inspired the words of the poetic canons written by the hymnographers of the Church. That's why I love them so much. Read them, study them and delight in them. That's how you will acquire divine eros."

p. 111 "Wounded By Love - The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios", 2005. Denise Harvey.

6

**Hesychasm and Reading**  
**Example St. Prophyrios of Kafsokalyvia (+1991)**

- Do not fight to expel the darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear. The same holds for our passions and our weaknesses. Do not fight them, but transform them into strengths by showing disdain for evil.
- Occupy yourself with hymns of praise, with the poetic canons, with the worship of God and with divine eros. All the holy books of our Church — the Book of the Eight Tones, the Book of the Hours, the Psalter, the books with the Offices for the Feasts and Saint-day Commemorations — contain holy, loving words addressed to Christ.
- Read them with joy and love and exaltation. When you devote yourself to this effort with intense desire, your soul will be sanctified in a gentle and mystical way without your even being aware of it."

p. 136 "Wounded By Love - The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios", 2005. Denise Harvey.

7

**2nd Thursday of  
Great 40-Day Fast  
6th Hour Reading from  
Isaiah 6**

8

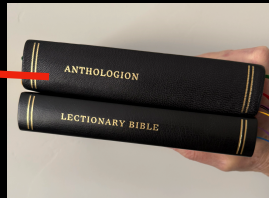
## St Ignatius Orthodox Press - Anthologion & Lectionary Bible

xcii Scripture Lectionary

ORDER OF SAINT	APOSTLE	GOSPEL
Confessors	Eph. 6:10-17 or 2 Tim. 1:9-18	Luke 12:9-12
Unmercenary Healers	1 Cor. 12:27-13:8	Matt. 10:1, 5-8
Fools for Christ	Gal. 5:22-6:2	Matt. 11:27-30 or Luke 6:17-23

WEEK	DAY	SIXTH HOUR	VESPERS
Cheese Fare	Wed.	Jud. 2:12-27	Jud. 3:12-21
	Fri.	Zech. 8:7-17	Zech. 8:19-23
1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent	Mon.	Isa. 1:1-20	Gen. 1:1-13 Prov. 1:1-20
	Tue.	Isa. 1:19-2:3	Gen. 1:14-23 Prov. 1:20-33
	Wed.	Isa. 2:3-11	Gen. 1:24-2:3 Prov. 2:1-22
	Thu.	Isa. 2:11-21	Gen. 2:4-19 Prov. 3:1-18
	Fri.	Isa. 3:1-14	Gen. 2:20-3:20 Prov. 3:19-34
2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lent	Mon.	Isa. 4:2-5:7	Gen. 3:21:4-7 Prov. 3:34-4:22
	Tue.	Isa. 5:7-16	Gen. 4:8-15 Prov. 4:1-5
	Wed.	Isa. 5:16-25	Gen. 4:16-26 Prov. 5:1-6:3
	Thu.	Isa. 6:1-12	Gen. 5:1-24 Prov. 6:3-26
	Fri.	Isa. 7:1-14	Gen. 5:32-6:8 Prov. 6:20-7:1
3 <sup>rd</sup> of Lent	Mon.	Isa. 8:13-9:7	Gen. 6:9-22 Prov. 8:1-21
	Tue.	Isa. 9:9-10:4	Gen. 7:1-5 Prov. 8:32-9:11



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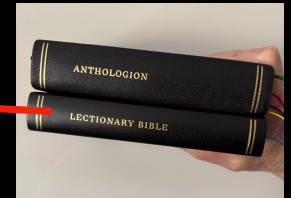
Second Week of Lent 567

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Lent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at Vespers  
**M**y son, drink water from your own vessels, and the spring of your own wells. Let the waters from your spring overflow for you; let your waters flow into your streets. Keep them for yourself alone, and let no stranger share with you. Keep your well of water strictly for yourself, and be glad with the wife of your youth. Let the fawns of your love and the colt of your graces be your companion, and let her be your own, with you at all times: filled with her love, you will achieve great things. Do not be with a strange woman for long, nor find yourself in the arms of a woman who is not your own; for a man's ways are before the eyes of God, and he keeps watch over all his tracks. A man falls into the net of his transgressions; each one is caught in the abundance of his livelihood, and he has perished through foolishness. My son, if you take on the debt of your friend, you will surrender your hand to an ene-

my; for a man's own lips are a powerful trap to him, and he is caught with the lips of his own mouth. My son, do what I command you, and you will save yourself. †

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Lent, at the Sixth Hour  
**I**t happened in the year of King Uzziah's death that I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, and the house was full of his glory. Seraphim stood around him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their face, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And they cried out, one to the other, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Sabaoth; the whole earth is full of his glory." The doorposts were lifted up at the sound of their voices, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said, "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart! I am a man with unclean lips, and I live among people with unclean lips; yet I have seen the abundance of his livelihood, and he has perished through my own eyes!" Then one of the Seraphim was sent to me, and he had a coal in his hand, which he had

2<sup>nd</sup> at Vespers: Psalms 51:15-40 (107); Sixth Hour: Isaiah 6:1-12 (114).



## Isaiah 6 - Vision of Isaiah (OSB / LXX)

1 In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. **The house was full of His glory.**

2 Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; **the whole earth is full of His glory.**"

4 The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

## Isaiah 6 - Vision of Isaiah (OSB / LXX)

5 So I said, "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!"

6 Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a **live coal in his hand**, which he took with **tongs** from the altar.

7 He touched my mouth, and said, "Behold, this has **touched your lips**. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed."

## Isaiah 6 - Vision of Isaiah (OSB / LXX)

8 I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?" Then I said, "Behold, here am I, send me."

9 So He said, "Go, and tell this people, 'You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.'

10 For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them."

13

## The Vision of Isaiah (6) Influence on Divine Liturgy

14

## Trisagion Hymn (Divine Liturgy) - Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8

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

Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος Ἰσχυρός, ἅγιος Ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. (3)

- 447 AD - first used in Constantinople as a penitential hymn given by revelation to a small boy during procession led by the Byzantine Emperor and Patriarch of Constantinople as city repented before God during a series of devastating earthquakes
- mid-5th century - from outdoor penitential processional to internal "Little Entrance" carefully times to take advantage of the 10-second reverberation of Agia Sophia's unique acoustics, creating transportive experience mirroring splendor of angelic choirs
- 512 AD - Trisagion riots in Constantinople when Emperor Anastasius I attempted to add the phrase "who was crucified for us," leading to full-scale rebellion and nearly forcing the Emperor's abdication. Issue was Trinitarian vs Christological interpretation.

15

## Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Priest's Prayer of the Trisagion Hymn

O Holy God, who is resting among the holy ones,  
praised by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy voice,  
glorified by the Cherubim,  
and worshiped by every celestial power,  
You have brought all things into being out of nothing.

16

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Priest's Prayer of the Trisagion Hymn

You have granted us, Your humble and unworthy servants,  
to stand even at this hour before the glory of Your holy  
Altar of sacrifice  
and to offer to You due worship and praise.

17

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Priest's Prayer of the Trisagion Hymn

Master, accept the Trisagion Hymn also from the lips of us  
sinners,  
and visit us in Your goodness.  
Forgive all our voluntary and involuntary transgressions,  
sanctify our souls and bodies,  
and grant that we may worship You in holiness all the days of  
our lives,  
through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the  
saints who have pleased You throughout the ages.

18

### Cherubic Hymn (Divine Liturgy)

Let us, who mystically represent the Cherubim and who  
sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity, now  
lay aside every worldly care. So that we may receive the  
King of all. Who is invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts.

- 573–574 AD Introduced
- Major chant of the Great Entrance;
- Shapes all subsequent mystagogy (leading into the mysteries) of  
the Divine Liturgy and other Holy Mysteries

19

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn

No one bound by carnal desires and pleasures is worthy to approach,  
draw near, or minister to You, the King of Glory.  
For to serve You is great and awesome even for the heavenly powers.  
Yet, because of Your ineffable and immeasurable love for humankind,  
You impassibly and immutably became man.  
You, as the Master of all, became our high priest and delivered unto  
us the sacred service of this liturgical and bloodless sacrifice.  
Indeed, Lord our God, You alone reign over the celestial and the  
terrestrial; borne aloft on the cherubic throne, Lord of the Seraphim  
and King of Israel, the only holy and resting among the holy ones.

20

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn

I now beseech You, who alone are good and inclined to hear:

Look down upon me, Your sinful and unprofitable servant, and cleanse my soul and heart of a wicked conscience.

Vested as I am with the grace of priesthood by the power of Your Holy Spirit,

make me sufficient to stand before Your holy Table and perform the sacrament of Your holy and pure Body and Your precious Blood.

21

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn

I come before You, with my head bowed, and I implore You:

Turn not Your face away from me,  
nor reject me from among Your children,

but make me, Your sinful and unworthy servant, worthy to offer these gifts to You.

For You are the One who both offers and is offered,

the One who is received and is distributed, O Christ our God,

and to You we offer up glory, and to Your Father, who is without beginning, and Your all-holy and good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

22

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - The Cherubic Hymn

Let us,  
who mystically represent the Cherubim  
and who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity,  
now lay aside every worldly care.

So that we may receive the King of all.

Who is invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (3)

23

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Anaphora

Master of all, Lord of heaven and earth and all creation visible and invisible,

who sit upon the throne of glory

and behold the depths, unoriginate, unseen, incomprehensible, uncircumscribed, unalterable:

You are the Father of our Lord and great God and Savior Jesus Christ, our hope.

He is the image of Your goodness, an exact seal, showing You the Father in himself; the living Logos, true God, eternal wisdom, life, sanctification, power, the true light.

24

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Priest's Prayer of the Trisagion Hymn

You have created man according to Your image and likeness  
and adorned him with all the gifts of Your grace.  
You give wisdom and understanding to the one who asks,  
and You overlook not the sinner,  
but have set repentance as the way of salvation.

25

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Anaphora

Through Him was the Holy Spirit manifested,  
the Spirit of truth, the gift of adoption, the pledge of future inheritance, the firstfruits of the eternal blessings, the life-giving power, the source of holiness.  
Through the Spirit are all rational and spiritual creatures enabled to worship You,  
and they offer up perpetual glorification to You, for all things are Your servants.

26

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Anaphora

And they all praise You, angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers, and the many-eyed cherubim.  
Around You stand seraphim; each one has six wings. With two they cover their faces, with two they cover their feet, and with two they fly.  
And one cries to another with unceasing voices and resounding glorification.

27

### Divine Liturgy St Basil the Great - Prayer of the Anaphora

(Priest says loudly)  
Singing the triumphal hymn, exclaiming, proclaiming, and saying...  
Choir:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord Sabaoth, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

28

## Christ in Luke 13:34-35

34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

35 See! **Your house is left to you desolate** (Isaiah 11:4); and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, **‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’** ” (Psalm 113:30 / 134:19)

29

## John 12 (OSB) - Palm Sunday / Hosanna

9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,

11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

30

## John 12 (OSB) - Palm Sunday / Hosanna

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

**“Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!”**

31

## John 12 (OSB)

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,

38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

32

## John 12 (OSB)

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them."

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

33

34

35

36