Forgiveness Vespers
Stichera on "Lord I have cried"
Tone 2, Special Melody "When from the Tree"
Optina Hermitage Melody

6) Reader: In the 2nd Tone, Special Melody "When from the Tree..."
If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand?

I-descant
II-chant melody

For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Let us all make haste to humble the flesh by abstinence,
as we set out upon the God-given course of the holy Fast;
and with prayers and tears let us seek our Lord and Saviour.

Carol Surgant ~ music.russianorthodox-stl.org ~ 3/7/08
Laying aside all memories of evil, let us cry aloud:

We have sinned against Thee, Christ our King;

save us as the men of Nineveh in days of old,

and in Thy compassion make us sharers in Thy heavenly Kingdom.
5) Reader: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word,

My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

When I think of my works deserving every punish-ment,

I despair of my-self, O Lord. For see, I have despised Thy precious com-mand-ments and wasted my life as the Prod-i-gal.
Therefore I entreat Thee: cleanse me in the waters of repentance, and through prayer and fasting make me shine with light, for Thou alone art merciful; abhor me not, O Benefactor of all, supreme in love.
Let Israel hope in the Lord.

Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast,

and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our flesh; and as we fast from food,
let us abstain also from every passion. Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and with great spiritual gladness to behold His holy Passover.*