

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026

+ Sunday of the Prodigal
Afterfeast of the Meeting

+ Great Martyr Theodore (Theódoros), General of Ieraklia C4
35th Sunday Tone 2 & Eothinón 2

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 2

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

O Lord, listen to me.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.
Come and worship the Word of God who was begotten by the Father
before all ages and became incarnate from the Virgin Mary. When
he had endured the cross, he was buried, as he himself desired.
When he rose from the dead, he saved me, for I had strayed.

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.

Christ our Saviour nailed the bond against us to the cross; he made it
of no effect and destroyed the power of death. We fall down before
his resurrection on the third day.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;

O Lord listen to my voice.

Together with the archangels, let us praise the resurrection of Christ.
He is our Saviour and Redeemer. He is coming with awesome glory
and mighty power to judge the world which he formed.

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.

The angel proclaimed you as the crucified and buried Master. He
said to the women, "Come and see the place where he lay. He has
risen, as he said, for he is almighty." Only immortal Lord, we
worship you. O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

You destroyed the curse of the tree by your cross. You destroyed the
might of death by your burial. You enlightened the human race by
your rising. O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to you!

Tone 1

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

The earth allotted to us was rich and fertile, but all we planted were
the seeds of sin. We reaped the sheaves of evil with the sickle of
laziness. We failed to place them on the threshing-floor of sorrow.
Now we implore you, O Lord, eternal Master of the harvest, "May
your love become the breeze to winnow the straw of our worthless
deeds. Make us like precious wheat to be stored in heaven and save
us all."

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.

Let us begin to sing and raise the hymn of salvation with our mouths.
All you people, come, fall down, worship in the house of the Lord
and say, "Cleanse our sins, for you were crucified on the tree, rose
from the dead and are in the bosom of the Father."

Tone 8

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O Simeon, tell us whom you bear in your arms who makes you
rejoice so greatly in the Temple? To whom do you shout and cry

1

aloud, "Now I am set free for I have seen my Saviour?" This is the
one who was born from a Virgin; this is the Lord who is the Word,
and God from God. He has assumed flesh and saved man for our
sake; let us worship him.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!

O Simeon, receive the Lord, whom Moses once saw in darkness,
when he granted the Law on Sinai. He has now become a baby
subject to the Law, yet this is the Lord who spoke through the Law.
This is the one whose voice was heard in the prophets. He has
assumed flesh and saved man for our sake; let us worship him!

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Come and let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs. Let us
receive the Lord whose salvation Simeon saw. This is the one whom
David announced; this is the one whose words the prophets spoke.
He has assumed flesh and speaks to us in the Law for our sake; let us
worship him.

Glory: Tone 2

I have forsaken such great blessings, wretch that I am! I have
miseraibly fallen from such a kingdom, squandered the riches which
were given me and broken the commandments. Woe is me when I
am condemned to eternal fire! O my soul, cry out to Christ before
the end approaches. "O God, receive me like the Prodigal and have
mercy on me."

Both now: Tone 2

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came. As the bush
burned, yet was not consumed, so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained
a virgin. The Sun of justice has risen instead of a pillar of flame and
Christ, the salvation of our souls, instead of Moses.

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!
O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,
O Son of God and Giver of life.
Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

P/D: The Evening Prokeimenon
R: The Lord reigns and is clothed with majesty.
S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.
S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you,
O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for
ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in
you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you,
O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you,
O Holy One; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy
lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you
belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages
of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Tone 2

O Christ our Saviour, your resurrection has enlightened the whole inhabited earth and recalled your creation. O almighty Lord, glory to you!

S1: The Lord reigns and is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. Ps 92

O Saviour, you destroyed the curse of the tree by the tree and killed the majesty of death by your burial. You have enlightened our race through your resurrection. O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. Ps 92

O Christ, when you were observed as you were nailed to the cross, you restored the beauty of your creatures. The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced your side with a spear. The Hebrews, who did not understand your power, asked for your tomb to be sealed, but you accepted the grave and rose on the third day in the mercy of your compassion. O Lord, glory to you!

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. Ps 92

O Christ, Giver of life, you willingly endured the passion for the sake of the dead. You descended into Hades as the mighty *Lord* to save those who waited for your coming and granted them the life of Paradise instead of Hades. Grant also to us, who glorify your resurrection on the third day, cleansing from our sins and great mercy.

Glory: Tone 6

I hid my face in shame like a heartbroken man. I have squandered the riches my Father gave me and went to live with senseless beasts. I sought their food and was hungry, for I did not have enough to eat. I will rise and return to my compassionate Father. He will accept my tears as I kneel before him and cry, "Receive me like one of your servants in your tender love for everyone and save me."

Both now: Tone 6

O Christ our God, today you were pleased to recline in the arms of Simeon the Elder, as though on the chariot of the Cherubim. Now save from the tyranny of passions those who praise you, and save our souls,

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,

² for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before all peoples,

³ a light of revelation for the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 2

O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!"

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. Ps 117

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,

for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,

but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This is the Lord's doing

and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

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Small Litany

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

Kathisma 1

Tone 2

The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the tree and wrapped it in fine linen. He anointed it with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But, O Lord, you rose on the third day and granted the world great mercy.

Glory:

The angel stood at the tomb and cried to the myrrhbearing women, "Myrrh is correct for the dead, but Christ has revealed himself a stranger to corruption, so proclaim that the Lord is risen and grants the world great mercy."

Both now: Tone 1

Let the choir of angels be amazed at this wonder and let us mortals raise our voices in song as we see the ineffable condescension of God. O aged arms now embrace him before whom the powers of heaven tremble, *for he is* the only Lover of the human race.

Kathisma 2

You did not prevent the stone of the tomb from being sealed; you rose and granted the rock of faith to everyone. O Lord, glory to you.

Glory:

The choir of the disciples, joined the myrrhbearing women and rejoiced in unison. Therefore, together with them, we keep the feast to glorify and honour your resurrection. O Lord and Lover of the human race, grant your people great mercy through them.

Both now: Tone 1^[117]

The *Lord* who is with the Father on the holy throne comes to earth and is born from a virgin. The *Lord* who is not bound by time becomes a baby. Simeon received him in his arms and said with joy, "O merciful Lord, now let me depart in peace, for you have made your servant glad."

Evlogitária

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them: Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb."

Glory:
We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:
O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)
O our God and our hope, glory to you.

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Ypákóι

Read without note

O Christ our God, the women went to the grave in order to anoint your body after the Passion. They saw angels in the tomb and were afraid, for they heard them say, "The Lord has risen and grants the world great mercy."

Anaváthmi Tone 2

Antiphon 1 Ps 122

O Saviour, I raise the eyes of my heart towards you;
save me with your illumination.
O my Christ, have mercy on us,
for we frequently and at every hour give you grief;
give us the means to turn back to you before the end.

Glory: Both now:

The rule, blessing and control of creation are the Holy Spirit's
for he is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Antiphon 2 Ps 123

If the Lord were not among us,
who could be protected from the murderous enemy?
O Saviour, do not hand over your servant to their teeth.
They move against me like a lion,
for they also are my enemies.

Glory: Both now:

The first cause of life and regal honour is the Holy Spirit's,
for as God, he gives all creatures power,
and guards them in the Father and the Son.

Antiphon 3 Ps 124

Those who put their trust in the Lord are like the Holy Mountain;
they are never shaken by the attacks of Beliar.
Do not let those who live for God
stretch out their hands to lawless deeds,
for Christ will not set aside the rod for his inheritance.

Glory: Both now:

All wisdom streams from the Holy Spirit.
Grace comes from him to the Apostles;
the Martyrs are crowned for their struggles
and the Prophets are given vision.

Prokeímenon Ps 7

R: O Lord my God, rise at the order which you have commanded.
and an assembly of people will gather round you.

S: O Lord my God, I have hoped in you.

Small Litany

For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kontákion

Without note

O Father, I have recklessly forgotten your glory and wasted in sin the riches which you gave me. Now I cry to you like the Prodigal, "O merciful Father, I have sinned before you. Receive me as a penitent and make me as one of your hired servants."

Íkos

Every day our Saviour teaches us with his own voice, so let us listen to the Scriptures on the Prodigal Son who regained wisdom. Let us follow the good example of his repentance with faith. Let us cry out with humility of heart to the *Lord* who knows all secrets, "O merciful Father, we have sinned against you and are unworthy ever again to be called your children as before. But since you are the Lover of the human race by nature, receive me as a penitent, and make me as one of your hired servants."

Synaxarion

Today we remember the holy and renowned great martyr Theodore, the general of the armies, who lived in Ieráklia during the Fourth Century. He was beaten, torn with hooks, crucified and finally beheaded. On the Eighth he bent his neck to the sword in his great love for God.

On the same day we remember the holy prophet Zechariah who lived in the Fourth Century before Christ. He saw the angels as horses and rose to heaven on them.

Ypómnima

Today we commemorate the parable of the which comes in the noble gospel and which our divine Fathers placed in the Triodion. O you, who are a prodigal, like me, come forward with confidence and tranquillity, for the door of divine mercy has been opened for everyone. Therefore, O Christ our God, in your ineffable love for the human race, have mercy on us. *Amen*.

Katavasías

1: The sun's rays once shone on dry land in the midst of the deep, for the water on both sides became as firm as a wall while the people crossed over the sea on foot. They offered this song acceptable to God, "Let us sing to the Lord, for he has been greatly glorified."

3: O Lord, *you are* the firm foundation of those who put their trust in you. Strengthen the Church which you have purchased with your precious blood.

4: O Christ, your virtue has covered the heavens, for after you came from your undefiled Mother, the ark of your sanctification, you appeared in the Temple of your glory as a Child in arms and the whole world was filled with your praise.

5: Isaiah symbolically saw God on a throne. He was lifted high and carried in triumph by angels in glory. He cried, "Woe is me, for I have seen the incarnate God beforehand. He is the Lord of the light which knows no evening and the King of peace."

6: When the Elder with his eyes saw the Salvation which had come to the Gentiles, he cried aloud to you, "O Christ, *you* come from God and are my God."

7: O Word of God, you dropped dew on the children as they spoke about divine matters in the midst of the fire. You took up your home in the pure Virgin. We praise you as we sing with devotion, "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

The youths who fought for godliness stood together in the unbearable fire, yet were not harmed by it. They sang a divine hymn, "Bless the Lord, all you his works, and exalt him above all for ever!"

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in his mighty firmament. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Eothinón Gospel 2

From the Holy Gospel according to Mark (16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; -- it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." ⁸ And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord and praise his resurrection. For he has destroyed death by death by enduring the cross for us.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin,

⁵ for I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.

⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done what is evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be right in your words
and overcome when you are judged,

⁷ for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother desired me in sin,

⁸ for see, you have loved truth
and shown me the mysteries and secrets of your wisdom.

⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.

¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
humbled bones will rejoice.

¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.

¹² O God, make a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.

¹³ Do not banish me from your presence

or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

¹⁴ Restore your saving joy to me
and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.

¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.

¹⁶ O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will announce your praise,

¹⁸ for if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built,

²¹ then you will be pleased with a just sacrifice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the apostles.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy:

Jesus has risen from the tomb as he foretold
and grants us eternal life and great mercy.

Intercession

Short form

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Joachim and Anna, of Great Martyr Theodore the General, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. R:

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. R:

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. R:

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. R:

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*

and dismissed the rich with nothing. R:
 6 He has helped his servant Israel
 in remembering his mercy,
 as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his seed for ever. R:

9: Those of us who are faithful see the outline in the shadow of the Law and in the Scriptures, "Every male child which opens the womb will be holy for God." Therefore we also glorify the First-begotten Word, and Son of the Father who has no beginning, the First-born Son of the unwedded Mother.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Holy is the Lord

Holy is the Lord our God. *X3*

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.
 for he is holy.

Exposteilaria

Tone 2

The myrrbearing women greatly rejoiced when they saw that the stone had been rolled away, for they saw a young man who sat at the grave and said to them, "Christ is risen. Go and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. You, his dear ones, will see him there as he told you."

O Lord, I am wretched and have destroyed your riches, squandering them and submitting myself to evil demons. Therefore, O most compassionate Saviour, pity me and purify me, the polluted one, and restore to me the first robe of your kingdom.

O holy Virgin Mother, Birth-giver of God, boast and glory of the apostles, martyrs, prophets and holy ones, obtain the gracious favour of your Son and Lord towards us, your servants when he will sit to judge the worthiness of each.

Praises

Tone 2

Let everything with breath
 praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his powers.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.

O Lord, everything with breath glorifies you. For you, the only Lover of the human race, have destroyed death by your cross and revealed to the peoples your resurrection from the dead.

S7: Praise God in his saints;
 praise him in his mighty firmament.

Do the Jews say that the soldiers who guarded the King destroyed him instead? Do they say that the stone did not preserve the Rock of life? Either let them give up the buried *Lord* or adore with us the one who has risen with us and say, "Glory to your great mercies! O Saviour, glory to you!"

S6: Praise him for his mighty *deeds*;
 praise him for the abundance of his majesty.

O people, rejoice and be glad! An angel sitting on the stone has announced to us the glad news and said, "Christ, the Saviour of the world, has risen from the dead and filled everything with sweet fragrance." O people, rejoice and be glad!

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;
 praise him with lute and harp.

O Lord, before your conception an angel came with the greeting, "Hail!" to the *Lady* who was full of grace and an angel rolled the stone from your glorious tomb at your resurrection. The one announced the signs of joy in place of sorrow, the other proclaimed to us the life-giving Master in place of death. Therefore we cry out to you, "O Lord and Benefactor of all, glory to you!"

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
 praise him with strings and flute.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
 praise him with joyful cymbals.

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

O compassionate *Master*, I come before you like the Prodigal Son. I have abandoned you for many years and now you are a stranger to me. O Lord, restore to me the first love which I wasted. Receive me in repentance and save me. *X2*

S2: O Lord my God, arise, let your hand be raised
 and never forget the needy. *Ps 9*

O merciful Lord, I come to you like the Prodigal Son. I have wasted all my life in a foreign land. O Father, I have scattered the riches which you gave me. O God, receive me in repentance and have mercy on me.

Tone 8

S1: O Lord, I will thank you with my all my heart
 and recount all your wonders. *Ps 9*

I have wasted my Father's fortune for a life of luxury. Now I wander aimlessly in the infertile lands of the wicked. No longer can I bear their loathsome company. I will rise and return to my Father, crying, "My Lord, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Accept me as one of your hired servants and have mercy on me."

Glory: Tone 6

O good Father, even though I have abandoned you, do not forsake me. Do not cast me out of the kingdom. The most evil enemy has stolen my fortune and left me naked. I have loved riotous living more than spiritual gifts, but now I return to you with tears and sighs, "O Lord, receive me back as one of your hired servants. You stretched your pure hands on the cross for my sake. You saved me from the grasp of the wicked enemy, restored the wedding garment of purity to me, for you alone are the merciful Lover of the human race.

Both now: Tone 2

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the One who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled. The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was. Glory to you!

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
 glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
 we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
 O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
 and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us,

⁵ for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,

⁶ for you sit on the right of the Father,
 and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
 O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
 and always praise your name for ever and ever. *Ps 144*

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
 to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. When he destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

LITURGY

Antíphon 1 Ps 44 Tone 2

S1: My heart has poured out a good word
and I speak about my works to the king;

R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.

S2: My tongue is the pen of a fast writer.

S3: Grace has been poured on your lips,
therefore God has blessed you for ever.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antíphon 2 Ps 44 Own Tone

**S1: O champion, fasten your sword to your thigh
with your good looks and your beauty.**

R: O Son of God, you arose from the dead
Save us who sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: Bend *the bow*, prosper
and rule for truth, gentleness and justice;
your right hand will amazingly guide you.

S3: O champion, your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antíphon 3 Ps 44 Tone 1

**S1: O daughter, listen, see and incline your ear;
forget your own people and your father's house.**

**R: Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice,
Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who
sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you
received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us
the resurrection.**

S2: The daughters of Tyre will adore him with gifts
and the rich people beg your favour.

S3: I will remember your name from generation to generation;
so people will know you for ever, and to the ages of ages.

R: O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!"

S2: Let the heaven and earth

praise him.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You arose from the dead.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikía

Tone 2

O immortal Life, when you went down to death you destroyed Hades with the lightning flash of your Divinity. When from the depths you raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to you!"

Tone 1

Hail, O virgin Theotokos, full of grace! The Sun of justice, Christ our God shone out from you and enlightened those who sat in darkness. O just Elder, rejoice and be glad, for you received into your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 1

O Christ *our* God, you sanctified the Virgin's womb by your birth and blessed Simeon's hands. Now you have come and saved us. Grant peace to your people in time of war and strengthen the rulers whom you have loved, for you are the only Lover of the human race.

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 32 Tone 1

R: O Lord, let your mercy be on us,
for we have hoped in you.
S: O just *people*, rejoice in the Lord;
praise is correct for the upright.

Apóstolos

From the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (6:12-20)
Brothers, "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Alleluia Ps 17 Tone 1

S1: *It is* God who gives me revenge
and has subdued peoples under me.
S2: He increases his king's victories,
showing mercy to his anointed

Communion Ps 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: There was a man who had two sons; ¹² and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them.

¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants." ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; ²³ and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry,' ²⁴ for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

Communion Ps 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!