

Sunday, March 31, 2024
Second Sunday of Great Lent - Tone 2

St. Gregory Palamas

Troparion:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church. Its Confirmation! O Ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians! O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace! Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our honor and devotion we are unable to give you worthy praise, through your glorious and noble birth your mother's childlessness was ended, your father's tongue was freed, and the incarnation of the Son of God was proclaimed to the world.

Kontakion:

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: We have sinned more than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of All, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns.

Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone:

Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
(Vs.) Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Tone 1 Saint:

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Epistle:

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb. 1:10-2:3)

Brethren, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end. But to what angel has He ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who

is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord. (Heb 7:26-8:2)

Alleluia Verses:

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the Name of the God of Jacob protect thee!
(Vs.) Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call upon Thee!

Tone 2 Saint:

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark. (Chapter 2:1-12)

At that time Jesus entered Caparnaum, and it was reported that He was at home. And immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even around the door. And He spoke the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four. And since they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was, and, having made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Now some of the Scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man blaspheme in this way? Who can forgive sins, besides God?" And at once Jesus, knowing in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why are you arguing these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet, and walk?' But that you may know the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house." And immediately he arose and, taking up his pallet, went forth in the sight of all, so that they were all amazed, and gloried God, saying, "Never did we see anything like this!"

The Lord said, "I am the Door. If any one enters by me he shall be safe, and shall go in and out, and shall find pastures. The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. But the hired hand, who is not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees. And the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep; but the hired hand flees because he is a hireling, and has no concern for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, even as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." (John 10:9-16)