

Sunday, March 3, 2024
39th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 6
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Troparion:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

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:

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father, receive me a penitent and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

Brethren, "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. "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. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. 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! 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." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. 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; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Alleluia Verses:

He who dwelleth in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the under the protection of the God of heaven.

(Vs.) He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Him will I trust.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 15:11-32)

The Lord told this parable: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his possessions between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered up all his wealth and traveled to a far country; and there he squandered his fortune in loose living. And after he had spent all, there came a severe famine over that country, and he began to suffer from it. And he went and joined one of the local landowners, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. And he longed to fill himself with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one offered to give them to him. But when he had come to his senses, he said, 'How many hired men in my father's house have bread in abundance, while I am perishing with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' And he got up and went to his father. But while he was yet a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion and ran and fell upon his neck and kissed him. 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.' But the father said to his servants, 'Fetch quickly the best robe and put it on him, and give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet; and bring out the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; because this my son was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came close to the house, he heard music and dancing. And calling one of the servants he asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has got him back safe.' But he was angered and would not go in. His father, therefore, came out and began to beg him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I have been serving you, and have never disobeyed any of your orders; and yet, you have never given me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours comes, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you have killed for him the fattened calf!' But he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours; but we were bound to make merry and rejoice, for this your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost, and is found.'