

SUNDAY OF PRODIGAL SON – Tone 5

St. Onesimus

Typika (Reader's Service)

When a priest is not present in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy

NOTE: Choose one person to be the Reader.

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

O heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere and fill all things;
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life,
come and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One!

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. **(3x)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake. Lord have mercy. **(3x)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespasses against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord have mercy. **(12x)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

The First Antiphon (Ps. 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful,

Longsuffering and of great goodness!

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed are You, O Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Second Antiphon (Ps. 146)

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live,

I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Put not your trust in princes,

In sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs, he returns to his earth;

On that very day his plans perish.

The Lord will reign forever, Your God O Zion to all generations.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Hymn of St. Justinian

Only-begotten Son and Immortal Word of God,
Who for our salvation willed to be incarnate
Of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary,
Who without change became man and were crucified,
Who are one of the Holy Trinity,
Glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
O Christ, our God, trampling down death by death, Save us.

Third Antiphon (*Matthew 5*)

In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your Kingdom
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Tone 5 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion Tone 1 *(Feast)*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Tone 5 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, //
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;
receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

Trisagion Hymn

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

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Prokeimenon (Lenten Triodion)

Reader: The Prokeimenon in 1st Tone

Reader: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

All: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!

All: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

Reader: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us

All: as we have set our hope on You!

Epistle

Reader: The Reading is from the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians –
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Reader: In the **1st Tone:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me.*

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: *He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with His Christ, with David and his seed forever.*

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Gospel

Reader: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

All: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

Reader: Luke 15:11-32

All: Glory to You, O Lord, Glory to You!

The Creed (Read Together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages;
Light of Light, true God of true God;
begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father;
by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;
And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life; Who proceeds from the Father;
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
Who spoke by the prophets.
In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Reader: Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for You are good and the Lover of mankind.

All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. **(12x)**

All: One is Holy, One is the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Hymn to the Theotokos

It is truly meet to bless you O Theotokos,
Ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God.
More honorable than the Cherubim,
and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim:
without defilement you gave birth to God the Word:
true Theotokos, we magnify you.

Litanies (optional) – Lead by Reader

General:

O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, in Your mercies and loving-kindness, You regard the humble prayers of all who call upon You with their whole heart. Incline Your ear and hear now our prayer, offered to You in humility.

Be mindful, O Lord, of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Confirm and strengthen it. Increase it and keep it in peace, and preserve it unconquerable forever.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our Father, Archbishop Irénée, and of every bishop of the Orthodox; the priests and deacons and all the clergy of the Church; which You have established to feed the flock of Your Word; and by their prayers have mercy on us sinners.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all civil authorities, of our armed forces, of this city in which we dwell, and of every city and country; grant them peaceful times that we, in their tranquility, may lead a calm and peaceful life in all godliness and holiness.

Be mindful, O Lord, of those who travel by land, by sea, and by air; of the old and the young; the orphans and widows; the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, the afflicted, the captives, and the needy poor; and send down Your mercies on all of them, especially ___N___ for You are the Giver of all good things.

Be mindful of us, O Lord, Your humble servants; and grant us Your grace, that we may be diligent and faithful, avoiding evil company and influence resisting temptation; that we may lead a godly and righteous life, blameless and peaceful, ever serving You; that we may be accounted worthy to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Be mindful, O Lord, of all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection unto life eternal, especially, _____N_____; pardon all their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, whether in word, or deed, or thought. Shelter them in a place of brightness, a place of green pastures, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away, and where the sight of Your countenance rejoices all Your saints from all the ages. Grant them Your heavenly Kingdom and a portion in Your ineffable blessings, and the enjoyment of Your unending Life.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for You are merciful and compassionate, and love mankind, and to You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen

For the Sick

O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, Who have sent Your Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: Visit and heal Your servant(s) ___N___, granting him/her/them release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he/she/they may give thanks unto You and bless Your holy Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

All: Amen

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. **(3x)**

All: O Lord, Bless.

Reader (Facing the Main Icons):

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

All: Amen.

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Sunday of the Prodigal Son



This parable of God’s forgiveness calls us to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 15:11-32. The parable is the story of a man and his two sons. The youngest of the sons asks his father to give him his inheritance. The father does this, and soon after the son leaves and journeys to a distant country (vv. 11-13).

After the younger son arrives, he squanders all of his possessions with “prodigal” living. Within a short period of time, he wastes everything. A severe famine comes, but he has nothing and falls into great need (vv. 13-14).

He is able to find work feeding swine, but this does not improve his situation. The Scriptures say, “He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, but no one gave him anything” (vv. 15-16).

The parable says that in the midst of his dire conditions, he came to himself. He realized that his father’s hired servants have enough to eat and food to spare, while he perishes with hunger. He says, “I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants’” (vv. 17-19).

He arose and returned to his father. But as he approached, his father saw him at a great distance. The father had compassion on his son, ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. The son admitted his sinfulness and his unworthiness to be called a son, but in his joy at the return of his son, the father called his servants to bring the best robe, a ring for his son's finger, and sandals for his feet. He also called for the fatted calf to be killed for a feast. He exclaimed, "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (vv. 20-24).

While they were feasting and celebrating the return of the prodigal son, the older son comes and inquires about what is happening. He is told that his brother had returned and that his father has received him with a feast. The older brother becomes angry and will not go in to the feast. The father comes out and pleads with him, but the older son answers by saying he has been faithful to his father for many years and yet the father never gave him the opportunity for such feasting. He expresses his anger and jealousy over his brother who was received in such a manner after he squandered his inheritance (vv. 25-30).

The father responds by telling his oldest son, "You are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found" (vv. 31-32).

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Orthodox Church the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.