

Vespers sung on Saturday 15th February for Sunday 16th February 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 1

[Music on website]

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 1 (For the Resurrection)

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins,//

for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God,//

Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Come, O people,

let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!

For He is our God,//

Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Be glad, O heavens!

Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!

Sing in gladness, O mountains!

Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!

Granting life, He has slain death.//

He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Let us praise Him

Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.

He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead.

By Orthodoxy confirm Thy Church, O Christ.//

Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of man.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

We stand before Thy life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,
offering glory to Thine ineffable compassion.
Thou hast accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One//
to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 1 *(From the Lenten Triodion)*

Rich and fertile was the earth allotted to us,
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 repentance.
Now we beg Thee, O Lord, eternal Master of the harvest:
“May Thy love become the breeze to winnow the straw of our worthless deeds!//
Make us like the precious wheat to be stored in heaven, and save us all!”

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Repeat: Rich and fertile ...

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Brothers, our purpose is to know the power of God’s goodness.
For when the Prodigal Son abandoned his sin,
he hastened to the refuge of his father.
That good man embraced him and welcomed him;
he killed the fatted calf and celebrated with heavenly joy.
Let us learn from this example
to offer thanks to the Father, Who loves all men,//
and to the glorious Victim, the Saviour of our souls!

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Repeat: Brothers, our purpose ...

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

Tone 2 *(From the Lenten Triodion)*

What great blessings have I forsaken, wretch that I am?
From what kingdom have I miserably fallen?
I have squandered the riches that were given me;
I have transgressed the commandments.
Woe to me when I shall be condemned to eternal fire!
Cry out to Christ, O my soul, before the end draws nigh://
“Receive me as the Prodigal, O God, and have mercy on me!”

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 1 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!
She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!
She destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!
Since she is our foundation of faith,
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!
Courage! Courage! O People of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies//
since He is all powerful.

APOSTICHA

Tone 1 (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

We have been freed from sufferings
by Thy suffering, O Christ.
We have been delivered from corruption
by Thy Resurrection.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Let creation rejoice!
Let the heavens be glad!
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,
for Christ our Saviour has nailed our sins to the Cross.
Slaying death, He has given life.//
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

As King of heaven and earth,
Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man.
Hell was angered when it met Thee below.
Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth.
O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?
Thou didst enlighten the world which cries://
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb,
bearing myrrh and lamenting.
Not finding Thy most pure body,
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.
They told the Apostles://
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

Tone 6 (*From the Lenten Triodion*)

I, a wretched man, hide my face in shame:
I have squandered the riches my Father gave to me;
I went to live with senseless beasts;
I sought their food and hungered, for I had not enough to eat.
I will arise, I will return to my compassionate Father;
He will accept my tears, as I kneel before Him, crying://
“In Thy tender love for all men, receive me as one of Thy servants and save me!”

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 (*Theotokion*)

My Maker and Redeemer, Christ the Lord,
was born of thee, O most pure Virgin.
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.
Unceasingly we magnify thee as the Mother of God!
Rejoice, O celestial Joy!
Rejoice, O Lady://
the protection, intercession and salvation of our souls!

TROPARIA**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 1**

[Music on website / Green Book page 2]

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!”

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 1

When Gabriel announced to thee, “Rejoice!”
the Master of all became incarnate within thee, O Virgin:
the holy tabernacle, at his cry,
as the righteous David said.

Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens,
having borne thy Creator.

Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee!

Glory to Him Who came forth from thee!

Glory to Him Who hath set us free//

by thy birthgiving.
