

# Reader's Vespers on Saturday 7th February 2026

## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

“LORD, I CALL ...”

**Tone 2**

[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 2 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website]

Come, let us worship the Word of God  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!

Having endured the Cross,

He was buried as He Himself desired.//

And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

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

Christ our Saviour  
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,  
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//  
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

With the Archangels  
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!  
He is our Saviour, our Redeemer.  
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//  
to judge the world which He made.

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

The Angel proclaimed Thee,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty.”  
We worship Thee, O only immortal One.//  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

**Tone 1** *(From the Lenten Triodion)*

[Music on website]

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

**Repeat:** Rich and fertile was the earth allotted to us ...,

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

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

**Tone 1** *(For the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord)*

Simeon, tell us, Whom dost thou bear in thine arms,  
that thou dost rejoice so greatly in the Temple?

To Whom dost thou shout and cry aloud:

“Now am I set free, for I have seen my Saviour?”

This is He Who was born of a Virgin;  
this is God the Word, Who came forth from God,  
Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//  
Let us worship Him!

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

Simeon, receive Him Whom Moses once beheld in darkness,  
granting the Law on Sinai,

now that He has become a Babe subject to the Law!

This is He Who spoke through the Law.

This is He, of Whom the Prophets spoke,  
Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//  
Let us worship Him!

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

Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!

Let us receive Him Whose salvation Simeon saw!

This is He Whom David announced;

this is He Who spoke in the Prophets,

Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and Who speaks through the Law.//

Let us worship Him!

*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 2** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

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 Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//  
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

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## **APOSTICHA**

### **Tone 2** (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Thy creation.//  
Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

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

By the Tree Thou didst destroy the curse of the Tree, O Saviour.  
By Thy burial Thou didst mortify the majesty of death.  
Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection.//  
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

When Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
Thou didst restore the beauty of Thy creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear.  
The Hebrews, not knowing Thy power,  
asked that Thy tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Thy compassion,  
Thou didst accept the tomb  
and didst rise on the third day!//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead, Thou didst voluntarily endure death,  
descending into hell as the Mighty One  
to save those who awaited Thy coming,  
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day//  
cleansing of our sins and 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 5** *(For the Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord)*

The Ancient of Days, as a Child in the flesh,  
is brought by His Mother the Virgin into the Holy Temple,  
fulfilling the promise announced by His own Law.  
Receiving Him, Simeon said:  
“Now let Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word,///  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord!”

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**TROPARIA**

**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 2**

[Music on website / Green Book page 4]

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendour 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!”

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

**Troparion of the Meeting of Our Lord in Tone 1**

[Music on website / Sheet]

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

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