

**Vespers sung on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**  
**Sunday of Cheesefare**  
**Forgiveness Sunday**  
**The Expulsion of Adam & Eve from Paradise**  
**Our Father among the Saints Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector**  
**of our Community**

“LORD, I CALL ...”

**Tone 3 (For the Resurrection)**

[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 3 (For the Resurrection)**

[Music on website]

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,  
death's dominion has been shattered;  
the devil's delusion destroyed.  
The race of man, being saved by faith,//  
always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.  
Paradise has been opened again.  
All creation, praising Thee,//  
always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.  
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:  
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//  
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

**Tone 6 (From the Lenten Triodion)**

The Lord took a handful of dust from the earth.  
He breathed into it and created me, a living man.  
He made me lord and master of all things on earth;  
truly I enjoyed the life of the angels.  
But Satan the deceiver tempted me in the guise of a serpent;  
I ate the forbidden fruit and forfeited the glory of God.  
Now I have been delivered to the earth through death.//  
O my compassionate Lord, call me back to Eden!

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

When the Enemy tempted me,  
I disobeyed Thy command, O Lord.  
I exchanged the glory of my mortal body for shame and nakedness.  
Now I must wear garments of skins and fig-leaves;  
I am condemned to eat the bread of bitter hardship by the sweat of my brow.  
The earth is cursed and brings forth thorns and husks for me.  
O Lord, Thou didst take on flesh from the Virgin in the fullness of time;//  
call me back and restore me to Eden!

*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.*

O Paradise, garden of delight and beauty,  
dwelling-place made perfect by God,  
unending gladness and eternal joy,  
the hope of the prophets and the home of the saints,  
by the music of thy rustling leaves beseech the Creator of all  
to open the gates which my sins have closed,  
that I may partake of the Tree of Life and Grace//  
which was given to me in the beginning!

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

Adam was exiled from Paradise through disobedience;  
he was driven from eternal bliss, deceived by the words of Eve;  
he sat naked and weeping before the gates of Paradise.  
Let us hasten to enter the season of fasting;  
let us carefully obey the Gospel commands,  
that we may be made acceptable to Christ our God,//  
and regain our home in Eden!

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

#### **Tone 4 (For Saint Chad)**

Attaining full spiritual maturity  
under the cultivation of the holy Aidan,  
O wondrous father Chad, thy soul grew in stature and ripeness  
like a mighty mustard plant,  
which, spreading its verdant branches like a lofty noetic tree,  
gave shade to thy holy disciples//  
and to this day provideth shelter for all the faithful.

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

Endowed by God with modesty  
and having attained marvellous humility, O Chad,  
in all the virtues thou didst strive to imitate Christ,  
that thereby thou mightest ascend the ladder of salvation;  
and the people, beholding thy struggles  
and thy manifold victories over the spiritual foe,//  
heeded thy corrections and eagerly sought salvation.

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

Adorned with humble-mindedness,  
O godly hierarch Chad,  
like the Lord thou didst ever travel on foot to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation unto all;  
and, perceiving thy great love for God and thy manifest charity toward thy neighbour,  
they forsook the trackless wastes of falsehood//  
and sought out the kingdom of God Most High.

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

**Tone 6** (*From the Lenten Triodion*)

Adam sat before the gates of Eden,  
bemoaning his nakedness and crying out:  
“Woe to me! I have listened to wicked deceit;  
I have lost my glory, and now am driven away!  
Woe to me! My open-mindedness hath left me naked and confused!  
No longer will I enjoy thy delights, O Paradise;  
no longer can I see my Lord, my God and Creator.  
He formed me from dust, and now to the dust I return!  
I beg Thee, O compassionate Lord://  
Have mercy on me who have fallen!”

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

**Tone 3** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

How can we not wonder  
at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?  
For without receiving the touch of man,  
thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.  
The Son born of the Father before eternity  
was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady.  
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,  
but preserved the fullness of each nature.  
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,  
to save the souls of those who confess thee, in the Orthodox manner,//  
to be the Theotokos.

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**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**The Reading from the Book of Proverbs.**

The memory of the righteous is with praise and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom and the mortal who has understanding. For it is better to purchase her than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she bears law and mercy upon her tongue. Hear me, O child, for I will speak noble things. Blessed is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favour from the Lord. therefore, I pray thee, and utter my voice to the sons of men: For I, wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine, understanding and strength are mine. I love those who love me and those seeking me shall find grace. Understand craftiness, O you who are simple, and imbibe knowledge, you who are untaught. Hear me again, for I will speak noble things: I will open my mouth and from my lips shall come what is right. For my throat shall meditate truth; false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them that is twisted or perverse. They are all straight to him who understands and right to those who find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.

**The Reading from the Book of Proverbs.**

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse. A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust. When the wicked dies, his hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to

nought. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked gets into it instead. With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbour, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

### **The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.**

When the righteous is praised, the people rejoice: For his memory is immortality, since it is known both by the Lord and by men, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord. Therefore love wisdom, O men, and live. Desire her and be instructed: For her beginning is love and the keeping of her laws. Honour wisdom that you may reign forever. I will tell you and not hide the mysteries of God from you. For He is the Guide of wisdom, the Corrector of the wise and the Artisan of all thoughts and deeds. Wisdom will teach with all understanding: For in her is a Spirit, intelligent and holy, the Radiance of the Everlasting Light and the Image of the Grace of God. She fashions friends of God and prophets. For she is more beautiful than the sun and above all the order of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be first. She delivered from infirmities those pleasing her and guided them on the paths of righteousness. She gave to them understanding to be holy and to preserve them from those who would ensnare them, and she granted them strength in struggles, so that all might understand that the most powerful of all is piety, and that evil might not prevail against wisdom, nor judgement pass away without convicting the wicked. Having reasoned unrighteously, they said to themselves, "Let us oppress the righteous man and not spare his venerableness, nor let us be ashamed of the grey hairs of the old man of many years. But let our might be our law and let us seize the righteous, because he is inconvenient to us and is opposed to our deeds; he reproaches us for apostasy against the law and divulges the sins of our training. He declares to us to have knowledge of God and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his life is unlike that of others, and his ways are very different. We are considered by him to be an insult, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the end of the righteous blessed. Let us see if his words are true; let us test him to see what will happen to him. Let us torment him with revilement and tortures, that we may understand his meekness and test his guilelessness. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to his own words, he shall be respected." Thus they reasoned, but were deceived, for their wickedness blinded them. They did not know the mysteries of God, nor did they discern that Thou alone art God, having the power of life and death; Who savest in times of affliction and deliverest from every evil; Who art compassionate and merciful, granting Grace to His venerable ones, and opposing the proud with His arm.

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### **APOSTICHA**

**Tone 3** (*For the Resurrection*)

[[Music on website](#)]

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,  
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//  
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,  
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.  
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://  
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,  
Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.  
Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.  
It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.  
By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//  
Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,  
to deliver the race of men from death.  
Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,  
raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God//  
and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

**Tone 8 (For Saint Chad)**

Lindisfarne, the Holy Isle,  
doth cherish the memory of thee, O holy Chad;  
Lastingham likewise rejoiceth in thee as its godly abbot and shepherd;  
York also was gladdened by thy hierarchal ministry;  
but more than these doth Lichfield exult,  
for it witnessed thy passage into heaven//  
and treasures thy sacred relics.

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

**Tone 6 (From the Lenten Triodion)**

Adam ate the forbidden fruit and was driven from Paradise.  
He sat outside, weeping bitterly:  
“Woe to me! What will become of me, a worthless man?  
I disobeyed one command of my Master and lost every good thing!  
O holy Paradise, planted for me by God, and closed by the weakness of Eve,  
grant that I may once again gaze on the flowers of thy gardens!”  
The Saviour said to him:  
“I do not wish the death of My creation!  
I desire that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth,//  
for him who comes to Me I shall never cast out!”

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**TROPARIA**

**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 3**

[Music on website / Green Book page 6]

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

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

**Troparion of Saint Chad in Tone 2**

[Music in Folder]

As a Bishop thou gavest thyself  
to preaching the truth and the purity of the Church.  
Thou didst shine forth as an example of humility and holiness;  
studying the Scriptures, thou tookest care to follow the Word.  
Pray for thy children, O Holy Father Chad,  
that we too may follow Christ,//  
and be found worthy to partake of the nature of God.

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