

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Great Vespers for the 38th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

TONE 5

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame.
By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify You, O only begotten One.

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.
The princes of hell were frightened by this,
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.
Christ the King of glory had entered,
saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//
And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man
and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)

We offer You our evening worship,

O never setting Light,

Who came in these last days to the world in the flesh;

Who even descended to hell to dispel its darkness.

Who has revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;

by His Resurrection from the dead,

the world was saved from deceit.

The assembly of Angels rejoices

as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//

Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:

"Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:

'The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep.'"

But who has heard of a body being stolen,

a body embalmed and naked,

with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?

Do not be deceived, O Jews,

study the words of the Prophets and understand://

Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

V. (4) 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 sorrow.
Now we beg You, O Lord, eternal Master of the harvest:
“May Your 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!”

V. (3) 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...”)

V. (2) 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 Savior of our souls!

V. (1) 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;

* Music for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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 5 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.
There Moses divided the waters;
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.
O ever-existing God Who appeared as Man, //
O Lord, have mercy on us!

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify You in songs of praise,
O incarnate Christ and Savior.
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,
as the Lord and Lover of man,
You overthrew the gates of hell, //
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.
By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.
You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,
and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God.//
Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Your crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.
You have captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.
You have opened Paradise and given it to us.
Grant us purification of sins,
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!
Make us worthy of Paradise//
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

For our sake, You accepted death in the flesh,
to rise from the dead on the third day.
Heal us from our earthly passions,
and restore us from our evil transgressions//
and save us, O Lover of man!

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 Your tender love for all men, receive me as one of Your 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 you, O most pure Virgin.
By accepting my nature, He freed Adam from his ancient curse.
Unceasingly we magnify you as the Mother of God!
Rejoice, O celestial Joy!
Rejoice, O Lady://
the Protection, Intercession and Salvation of our souls!

(at Great Vespers)

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.

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

Tone 5 **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

Rejoice, Impassable Gate of the Lord!
Rejoice, Wall and Protection of those who run to you!
Rejoice, Unshakable Refuge!
Rejoice, you who knew not wedlock,
who gave birth in the flesh to your Creator and God!//
Do not cease praying for those who praise and worship your Son!