

Sunday, February 21 First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Tropar, tone 5: Let us the faithful acclaim and worship the Word, * co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, * and born of the Virgin for our salvation. * For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh, * to suffer death and to raise the dead * by His glorious resurrection.

Tropar, 1st Sunday of Lent, tone 2: We pay homage to Your undefiled image, Good Lord, * and beg pardon for our faults, Christ our God. * By Your will You chose to mount the cross in Your flesh * to free Your creatures from slavery to the enemy. * For this we gratefully cry out to You: * "By coming to save the world, our Saviour, You filled all things with joy."

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak of the first Sunday of Lent, tone 8: The uncircumscribed Word of the Father * became circumscribed by being enfleshed from you, Godbearer. * You brought back the stained image to its original state * by infusing it with divine beauty. * But recognizing our salvation we portray it by word and deed.

Prokimen, tone 4: Blessed are you, and praiseworthy, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your name.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

Epistle: Hebrews 11: 24 -26; 32 - 12: 2
Brothers and Sisters! By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he wished to be ill-treated along with God's people rather than enjoy the fleeting rewards of sin. Moses considered the reproach borne by God's Anointed greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. What more shall I recount? I have no time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was just, obtained the promises; they broke the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the

devouring sword; though weak they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Others were tortured and would not receive deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Still others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about garbed in the skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, they dwelt in caves and in holes of the earth. Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect. Therefore, since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.

Alleluia Verses: Moses and Aaron are among His priests and Samuel among those who call upon His name.

They called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

Gospel: John 1: 43 - 51

At that time Jesus set out for Galilee, but first he came upon Philip. "Follow me," Jesus said to him. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter. Philip sought out Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses spoke of in the law -- the prophets too -- Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." Nathanael's response to that was, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" and Philip replied, "Come, see for yourself." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he remarked: "This man is a true Israelite. There is no guile in him." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked him. "Before Philip called you," Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree." "Rabbi," said Nathanael, "you are the Son of

God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus responded: “Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than that.” He went on to tell them, “I solemnly assure you; you shall see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Instead of 'It is truly right': In you, * Lady full of grace, * all creation rejoices, * the world of angels* and the human race. * Sanctified temple, spiritual paradise,* boast of virgins, * God* took flesh from you* and became a child; * He was God * before * the ages. * He made your womb * a throne * and made it * more encompassing * than the heavens . * In you, * Lady full of grace, * all creation rejoices, * glory be to you.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.
Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!