

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Tropar, tone 8: You came down from on high, O Merciful One, * and accepted three days of burial * to free us from our sufferings. * O Lord, our life and our resurrection, * glory be to You.

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

Kondak, tone 4: Our father, teacher John, * the Lord has placed you and your faithfulness at the summit of the ascetic life * like an unerring star illuminating * the very limits of the world.

Prokimen, tone 8: Pray and give praise to the Lord our God.

Verse: In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle: Hebrews 6: 13-20

Brothers and Sisters! When God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, having no one greater to swear by, and said, "I will indeed bless you, and multiply you." And so, after patient waiting, Abraham obtained what God had promised. Men swear by someone greater than themselves; an oath gives firmness to a promise and puts an end to all argument. God, wishing to give the heirs of his promise even clearer evidence that his purpose would not change, guaranteed it by oath, so that, by two things that are unchangeable, in which he could not lie, we who have taken refuge in him might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope which is placed before us. Like a sure and firm anchor, that hope extends beyond the veil through which Jesus, our forerunner, has entered on our behalf, being made high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia Verses: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.

Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

Gospel: Mark 9: 17-31

At that time a man came up to Jesus and said: "Teacher, I have brought my son to you because he is possessed by a mute spirit. Whenever it seizes him it throws him down; he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. Just now I asked your disciples to expel him, but they were unable to do so." He replied by saying to the crowd, "What an unbelieving lot you are! How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you? Bring him to me." When they did so the spirit caught sight of Jesus and immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then Jesus questioned the father: "How long has this been happening to him?" "From childhood," the father replied. "Often it throws him into fire and into water. You would think it would kill him. If out of the kindness of your heart you can do anything to help us, please do!" Jesus said: "If you can? Everything is possible to a man who trusts." The boy's father immediately exclaimed, "I do believe! Help my lack of trust!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, reprimanded the unclean spirit by saying to him, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Get out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out of him; the boy became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet. When Jesus arrived at the house his disciples began to ask him privately, "Why is it that we could not expel it?" He told them, "this kind you can drive out only by prayer. They left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples in this vein: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men who will put him to death; three days after his death he will rise."

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. The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance; of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!