

Sunday, February 27 Sunday of Cheese-fare

Sunday Tropar, tone 7: By Your cross You destroyed death; * You opened Paradise to the thief; * You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy, * and charged the apostles to proclaim * that You are risen, O Christ, our God, * offering great mercy to the world.

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

Kondak of Cheese-fare Sunday, tone 6: Guide of wisdom, giver of understanding, * teacher of the ignorant and protector of the poor, * Master, strengthen my heart and make it understand. * You give me speech, word of the Father, * for I will not keep my lips from crying out to You. * Merciful Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.

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

Verse: God is renowned in Judah, in Israel great is his name.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Brothers and Sisters! Our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. Let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as in daylight; not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. Extend a kind welcome to those who are weak in faith. Do not enter in disputes with them. A man of sound faith knows he can eat anything, while one who is weak in faith eats only vegetables. The man who will eat anything must not ridicule him who abstains from certain foods; the man who abstains must not sit in judgment on him who eats. After all, God himself has made him welcome. Who are you to pass judgment on another's servant? His master alone can judge whether he stands or falls. And stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Alleluia Verses: It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Your name, O Most High! To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night.

Gospel: Matthew 6: 14-21

The Lord said: If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours. If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you. When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see they are fasting. I assure you, they are already repaid. When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. In that way no one can see you are fasting but your Father who is hidden; and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is there your heart is also.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!