

Sunday, February 20

Sunday of Meat-fare

Tropar, tone 6: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb * and the guards became like dead men; * Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body. * You captured Hades without being overcome by it. * You met the Virgin and granted life. * O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You.

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

Kondak of Meatfare, tone 3: O God, when You come to earth in all Your glory, * when all things will tremble, when the river of fire will flow before Your judgment seat, * when the books will be opened and when what is secret will be revealed; * then save me from the unquenchable fire, * and grant that I may stand at Your right hand, most just Judge.

Prokimen, tone 3: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him.

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 8:8 - 9:2

Brothers and Sisters! Now food does not bring us closer to God. We suffer no loss through failing to eat, and we gain no favor by eating. Take care, however, lest in exercising your right you become an occasion of sin to the weak. If someone sees you, with your "knowledge," reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience in its weak state be influenced to the point that he eats the idol-offering? Because of your "knowledge" the weak one perishes, that brother for whom Christ died. When you sin thus against your brothers and wound their weak consciences, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin I will never eat meat again, so that I may not be an occasion of sin to him. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? And are you not my work in the Lord Although I may not be an apostle for others, I certainly am one for you. You are the very seal of my apostolate in the Lord.

Alleluia Verses: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior. Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

The Lord said: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. The king will say to those on his right: 'Come. You have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the just will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?' The king will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.' Then he will say to those on his left: 'Out of my sight, you condemned, into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food. I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was away from home and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to comfort me.' Then they in turn will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?' He will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.' These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life."

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!