

# Sunday, February 4, 2024 – Sunday of the Fearful Judgement (Meatfare). Post-feast of the Encounter. Our Venerable Father Isidore of Pelusium (408-50).

**Troparia and Kontakia** *Troparion, Tone 3:* Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,\* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.\* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;\* He saved us from the abyss of Hades\* and granted great mercy to the world.

*Troparion, Tone 1:* Rejoice, full of grace, Virgin Mother of God!\* From you there dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,\* who enlightens those who dwell in darkness.\* And you, O righteous Elder, be glad!\* You received in your embrace\* the Liberator of our souls,\* who grants us resurrection.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Kontakion, Tone 1:* When You come on earth, O God, in glory,\* and the universe trembles,\* while the river of fire flows before the seat of judgement,\* and the books are opened and all secrets disclosed,\* then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,\* and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand,\* O Judge who are most just.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

*Kontakion, Tone 1:* By Your birth, You sanctified a virgin womb\* and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon.\* You have come also now and saved us, O Christ our God;\* give peace to Your community in time of war,\* and strengthen its rulers, whom You love,\* for You alone,\* are the Lover of mankind.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 3** Great is our Lord and great is His strength;\* and of His knowledge there is no end. *verse:* Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good; may praise be sweet to Him. (*Psalms 146:5,1*)

**Epistle – A reading of Paul to the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (NRSV)**

*Brothers and Sisters,* “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

**Alleluia, Tone 8** *verse:* Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.

*verse:* Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms. (*Psalms 94:1,2*)

**IN CELEBRATION OF THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD - Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 (NRSV)**

At that time the parents brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout,

looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

***(Meatfare Sunday: Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV) – Encounter of Our Lord Gospel above read instead)***

*The Lord said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

***Hymn to the Mother of God*** O God-bearing Virgin, hope of Christians, protect and guard and save all those who put their trust in you. *and the Irmos, Tone 3:* In the law, the shadow, and the scriptures, we the faithful see a figure: every male child that opens the womb shall be sanctified to God. Therefore do we magnify the first-born Word and Son of the Father who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who had not known man.

***Communion Hymn*** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (*Psalms 148:1*)\* Rejoice in the Lord, O you just;\* praise befits the righteous.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia. (*Ps 32:1*)