Vesper Propers, February 23, 2020
SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE
Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

The first and second findings of the head of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John. Tradition tells us that the first finding was by two monks, in the palace of Herod the King. They brought the relic to the city of Emmesia. The second finding was much later, during the reign of the emperor Marcianus (450-457). Transferred from Monday because of the Fast.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 58), stichera 10-7.

Cantor:  (Tone 6) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Stichera of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 6 podoben: Vsju otloživše

My Cre - a - tor and Lord has formed me from the clay of the earth;

he has giv - en me a soul by his life-giving breath. He has made me ruler of all things

vis - i - ble on the earth, and has made me a com - pan - ion of the an - gels.

But Sa - tan has used the ser - pent as a trap, and has de - ceived me with this bait;

he has sep - a - rat - ed me from the glo - ry of God and de - liv - ered me over to
the earth and to death. But you, O mer-ci-ful Lord, call me back to you.

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

A las! I have been stripped of my div-in-e gar-ment
by trans-gress-ing your com-mand-ment, O Lord, and by fol-low-ing the
coun-sel of the En-e-my. I am now clothed with fig leaves and the
gar-ment of skin; I now eat my bread by the sweat of my brow,
and be-cause of my fault, the earth is con-demned to bring forth this-tles and thorns.

But you, O Lord, born of the Virgin in these last times, call me back to
en-ter Pa-ra-dis-e once a-gain.
O be-lov-ed Para-dise, beauty of Spring-time and divine-ly cre-a-ted a-bode,
un-end-ing joy and de-light, the glo-ry of all the just, the en-chant-ment
of the proph-ets and the dwell-ing-place of the saints, by the rus-tling of your leaves,
implore the Cre-a-tor of the uni-verse to o-pen the
gates that I have closed by my fault; let me par-take of the Tree of Life,
and share the joy that I once found in you.

Cantor: (Tone 5) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the Findings - Tone 5 samohlasen

Re-joice, O sacred and light-bear-ing head, ven-er-a-ted by the an-gels,
Of old it was cut off by a sword, but cut down the shame of iniquity with
sharp re-proofs. It is a well-spring of miracles giving drink to the faithful.

It proclaims the saving coming of the Savior, and saw the coming of the Spirit who dwelt in you who stand between the grace of the old and new covenants. En-treat Christ God to grant our souls great mercy.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; acclaim him all you people. Psalm 116

(on 2)

The head of the Fore-runner which was once concealed in an earthen vessel, has appeared, clearly given up from the bosom of the earth and pouring forth streams of healing, for in the waters he washed the head of him that even now covers the chambers of the firmament with waters, and rains down divine forgiveness upon the human race. Therefore, let us bless it as truly most glorious,
and in its discovery let us keep a feast, entreat-ing Christ to
grant our souls great mer-cy.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

The head which proclaimed the Lamb of God has appeared in the flesh. With di-vine
com-mands it declared the ways of sav-ing re-pent-ance to all. Of old it
de-nounced the sin of Her-od, and there-fore was cut off from its bod-y
and en-dured con-ceal-ment for a time. Now it shines forth upon us like a
ra-diant sun, cry-ing out: Repent and submit to Christ in compunc-tion of soul,
for he grants the world great mer-cy.
Ad am sat be-fore Pa-ra-dise, sigh-ing and weep-ing o-ver his na-ked-ness:

Al-as! I was seduced by craftiness and stripped na-ked, and I am

now sepa-rate-d from glo-ry. Al-as! in my sim-pi-ci-ty, I was na-ked,

but now I do not know what to do. O Par-adise, never again shall I taste your joy;

nev-er again shall I see the Lord, my Cre-a-tor and God. For I must

re-turn to the earth from which I was tak-en. O mer-ciful God, I

cry out to you: I have fall-en, have mer-cy on me.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon in the Tone of the Week. (Tone 4, p. 64).

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1 (Composite IX)
Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 18, 17; Malachi 4:4-6 (Composite X)
Wisdom 4:7, 16-17, 19 - 5:7 (Composite III)
Aposticha

Aposticha in the Tone of the Week, concluding with:

Cantor:  (Tone 2) Glory...

Aposticha Doxastikon of the Findings - Tone 2 samohlasen

O illustrious John the venerable reliquary of divine thoughts

your head, which had clearly foreseen the mystery of the Ineffable One

came out from the caverns of the earth as from a mother's womb. It perfumes

the whole earth with the myrrh of holiness, as you preach the way of repentance,

interceding for our souls before the Savior of all.

Cantor:  (Tone 6) Now and ever...

Aposticha Doxastikon of Cheesefare Sunday - Tone 6 samohlasen

Adam was banished from Paradise because of the forbidden fruit. He sat before

the gates, sighing and lamenting: Alas! Woe is me! What is
happ'ning to me? I have transgressed the command-ment of the Lord, and now I am deprived of ev'ry bless-ing. O Par-adise so delightful, you were planted for me; and now you are closed be-cause of Eve. Be-seech your Cre-ator who has al-so fash-ioned me to fill me with the fragrance of your flow-ers once a-gain. And the Sav-iour said to him: I do not desire the destruction of my cre-a-tion; I wish it, rather, to be saved and come to the knowl-edge of truth; for I do not re-ject those who come to me.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, p. 68).

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

Troparion of the Forerunner - Tone 4

The head of the Fore-runner arose from the earth like a star, send-ing out
rays of healing and immortality. In heaven, it gathers together the choirs of angels, while on earth, it assembles the human race in a single voice to sing the glory of Christ our God.

Cantor:

Festal theotokion in same tone (Tone 4, p. 68).