



St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2263 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA
A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

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Sunday February 28th 2016

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Glory be to Jesus Christ!!!



Tropar and Kondak Tone 6– Blue Book pg.96 Red Book pg.

Kondak of the Prodigal Son Blue Book pg.175 Red Book pg. 197-198

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: "I will rise up and go..." (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

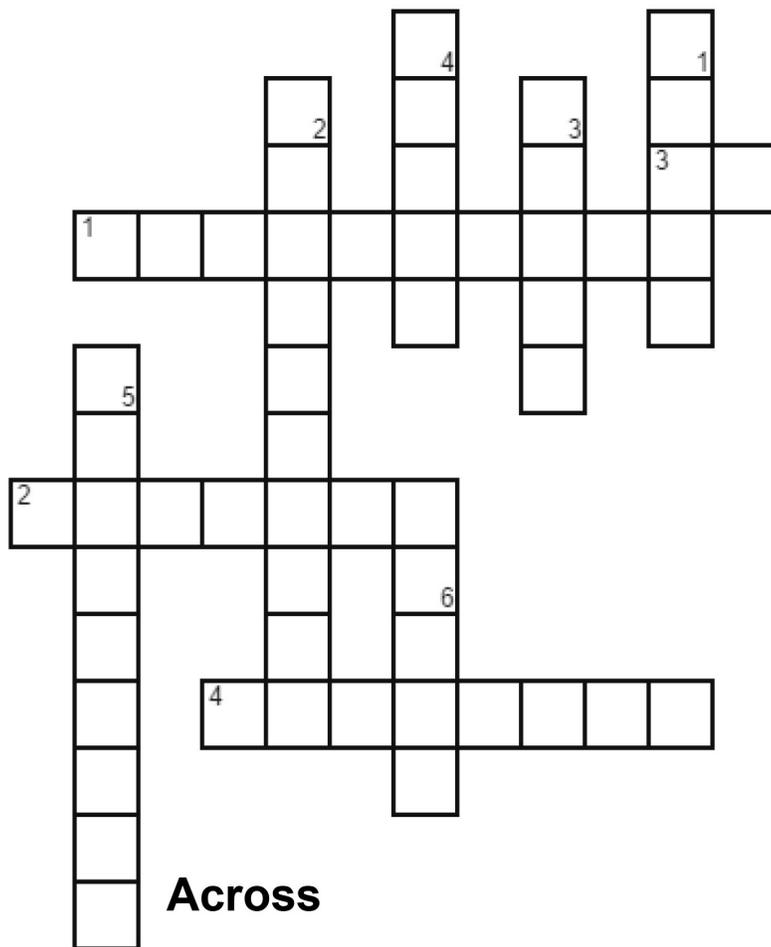
In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful

condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God's divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland. This is why in the Slavic tradition of the Orthodox Church the reading of Psalm 137 is added to the Matins service for this and the following two Sundays. This nostalgic lament of the Hebrew exiles states: "By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept as we remembered Zion. On the willows we hung our harps, for how could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137).

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

The Prodigal Son



Across

1. The Father had every right to be angry, but when he saw his son, he instead had _____.
2. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving _____.
3. In this parable the Prodigal Son is ____.
4. In this parable the father is our _____ Father.

Down

1. "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is _____."
2. The parable of the Prodigal Son is an icon of _____.
3. When we sin, we put ourselves in _____, just like the Prodigal Son.
4. After the Prodigal Son "came to himself"...He took action by saying, "I will _____ and go to my father"
5. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of _____ with God.

Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday 3/1 9AM- Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 3/2 7:20PM- Moleben
(Prayer Service) Followed by Discovering
Orthodoxy Class

Saturday 3/5 10AM- All Souls Saturday
Divine Liturgy

Sunday 3/6 10AM- Divine Liturgy

Announcements: Panachida for Lor-
raine Solinko + today on the 7th Anni-
versary (2/27/2011) of her repose.

Our Annual Parish meeting has been
rescheduled for two weeks from today,
Sunday, March 6th.

Prayer List

Evelyn Melnikoff, Fr. John and Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleinig , Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela , Tyler, Maria, Bezerra Family, Jeff, Lesley, Page Family, Stephen (Blessed Repose), The Blonar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise, Emma Rae , The Floyd Family, Phillip (Blessed Repose), Zachary, George, Fred and Helen Mileshko, Robin, Michael, Dean, Margaret, Jenny and Keith Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!