

**Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the
British Isles and Ireland
Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East**

Charity number: 1192469

Sunday 8 February 2026. Issue 15.

Tone 2.

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Greatmartyr Theodore the
General; Prophet Zachariah**

**Epistle Reading
I Corinthians (6:12-20)**

Prokeimenon in Tone II

The Lord is my strength and my song, He has become my salvation.

Verse: With chastening hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but no all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside his body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Alleluia.

Verse 1: May the Lord hear you in the day of afflictions; may the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

Verse 2: O Lord, save the king, and hearken to us in what day soever we call upon Thee.

Gospel Reading Luke (15:11-32)

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will come to me.’ So the father divided his livelihood between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all that he had and traveled to a far country. There, he squandered his property, living immorally. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to feed himself with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I am dying with hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son! Make me as one of your hired servants.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran, and embraced his son, and kissed him. Then the son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you! I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Bring out the first robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet! Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and he is alive again! He was lost and [now he] is found!’ And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has returned! Your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.’ However, the elder son became angry and he would not go in. Therefore, his father came

out and begged him. But he answered his father, ‘Look, for so many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed a commandment of yours. Yet, you never gave me a goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, arrived, he who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours! But it was fitting to celebrate and to rejoice, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found!’”

Troparion of the Resurrection. Tone 2.

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

The Meeting of the Lord Troparion

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

St Martin the Merciful Troparion

In signs and in miracles thou wast renowned throughout the land of Gaul. By grace thou art a light for the world, O Martin, Bishop blessed of God. Deeds of mercy and compassion filled thy life with their splendours, teaching and wise counsel were thy riches and treasures, which still thou dost dispense freely to those who honour thee.

St Helen Troparion

We behold thee, glorious Helen, with thy God-inspired son, in the joys of the kingdom of Heaven, and we magnify Christ, for he hath revealed to us thine honoured festival, giving light more brilliant than the sun. Therefore we cry in faith: O People, exalt Christ above all forever!

The Meeting of the Lord Kontakion

Thou, who didst sanctify the virginal womb by thy nativity and didst bless the hands of Symeon, hast come this day and saved us, O Christ God. Grant peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom thou hast loved, O only Lover of mankind.

St Theodore the General

A man of many talents and a convert to Christianity, Theodore was both a gifted speaker and a brave soldier. Open about his faith, he preached boldly among the pagans under his authority, and through his words and personal example, many abandoned their false gods. Before long, nearly all of Heraclea had accepted Christianity.

Emperor Licinius attempted to force Theodore to sacrifice to pagan gods. Theodore invited the emperor to Heraclea, proposing that they sacrifice publicly together. After receiving the golden idols brought by Licinius, Theodore secretly destroyed them during the night and distributed the gold to the poor. When the time for sacrifice came, a centurion reported seeing a poor man wearing the golden head of the statue of Artemis.

Theodore was arrested and cruelly tortured, during which he continually prayed, "Glory to Thee, my God!" Though crucified, he was miraculously healed by an angel and found alive the next morning. Witnessing this miracle, several soldiers were baptised.

Refusing to escape martyrdom, Theodore surrendered himself again, urging Christians not to resist, recalling Christ's own restraint on the Cross. As he went to his execution, many were healed by touching his robe. By imperial order, Theodore was beheaded on February 8, 319. Before his death, he asked his servant Varus to record the date and bury him in Euchaita. Thus, St. Theodore received the crown of martyrdom, and his relics were later transferred on June 8, 319.

Source: Orthodox Wiki

Liturgy this week has been cancelled