

## FORGIVENESS SUNDAY - Temptation and Expulsion from Eden (Genesis 3)



A composition of Icons and portions of Saturday vespers and the Sunday hymns on the theme of Forgiveness Sunday: **The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise**



The creation of Adam (Monreale)

From Sunday Vespers: The Lord, my Creator, took me as dust from the earth, and with the breath of life He gave me a soul and made me a living creature.

He honoured me as ruler on earth over all things visible and as a companion of the Angels.

But Satan the deceiver, using the serpent as his instrument, enticed me by food, separated me from the glory of God and gave me over to the earth and to the lowest depths of death. But as Master and compassionate, call me back again.



20<sup>th</sup> century fresco, Paris

Wretch that I am, I have cast off the robe woven by God, disobeying Your divine command, Lord, at the counsel of the enemy, and I am clothed now in fig leaves and in garments of skin.

I am condemned to eat the bread of toil in the sweat of my brow, and the earth has been cursed so that it bears thorns and thistles for me. But, Lord, who in the last times were made flesh of a Virgin, call me back and bring me into Paradise again.

From Sunday of Forgiveness service:



Exile and Lament of Adam

Adam sat opposite Paradise and, lamenting his nakedness, he wept: *'Woe is me ! By evil deceit was I persuaded and robbed, and exiled far from glory.'*

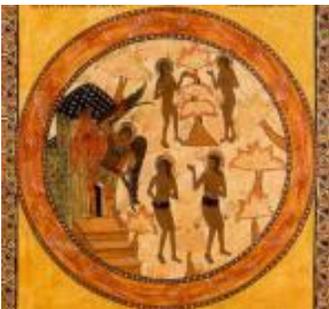
*Woe is me! Once naked in my simplicity, now I am in want. But, Paradise, no longer shall I enjoy your delight; no more shall I look upon the Lord my God and Maker, for I shall return to the earth whence I was taken.*

*Merciful and compassionate Lord, I cry to you, 'Have mercy on me who am fallen.'*



Decani Monastery, Kosovo

Through eating Adam was cast out of Paradise. And so, as he sat in front of it, he wept, lamenting with a pitiful voice and saying, 'Woe is me, what have I suffered, wretch that I am! I transgressed one commandment of the Master, and now I am deprived of every good thing. Most holy Paradise, planted because of me and shut because of Eve, pray to him who made you and fashioned me, that once more I be filled with your flowers.' Then the Saviour said to him, 'I do not want the creature which I fashioned to perish, but to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth, because the one who comes to me I will in no way cast out.'



Detail of the Altar Door

*"Woe is me!"* cried Adam in lament, "that a serpent and a woman have deprived me of intimate communion with God; and eating from the tree has estranged me from the Paradise of delight.

Woe is me, for I cannot bear the disgrace! Once the king of all God's creatures on the earth, I am now viewed as a hostage because of one piece of illicit advice; and though once vested with the glory of immortality, I, as mortal, carry about the skin of deadness lamentably.

Woe is me! Which lamentation shall I enlist to collaborate with me? But You, Friend of man, who fashioned me from the earth, and who donned compassion; recall me from servitude to the enemy and save me."



Serbian Fresco, 14<sup>th</sup> Century

The stadium of virtue is now open; those who wish to compete, enter therein, girded for the good contest of Lent, for those who compete according to the rules shall receive their laurels rightfully. Taking up the full armor of the Cross, let us do battle against the Enemy. As an impregnable wall, we have the Faith, prayer as our breastplate, and acts of mercy as our helmet. Instead of sword, there is fasting, which cuts every evil from the heart. He who does this shall attain a true crown from Christ, the King of all, on Judgment Day.

*(Idiomela of the Praises)*



The Good Thief & Old Testament Righteous in Paradise

O precious Paradise, unsurpassed beauty, tabernacle built by God, unending gladness and delight, glory of the just, joy of prophets, and dwelling place of saints, with the sound of your leaves implore to the Maker of all to open for me the gates which I closed by my transgression, and may count me worthy to partake of the Tree of Life, and of the joy in which I delighted when I dwelt in you before Adam was banished from Paradise through disobedience and cast out from delight, beguiled by the words of a woman. (from Saturday Vespers)

*[From iconreader.wordpress.com]*