

## **MELODY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST**

### Old Refrain:

*Blessed are those who have mercy  
Who give to the poor and fast and pray  
The Holy Spirit will fill their hearts  
The Son will show them mercy on Judgment Day*

### New Refrain:

*Blessed are those who have mercy  
From God they shall obtain mercy  
On Judgment Day Christ will set them apart  
May His Holy Spirit fill all their heart*

Fasting is an unshakable fortress  
Prayer is a weapon that ever lasts  
Blessed is he who fasts in purity  
And loses not hope because of the sinful past

Listen with understanding  
Against the Judge, do not sin  
If the devil causes you to transgress  
Resist sin with tears and regret

Begin your repentance today  
Be fearful of the Judgment Day  
Friend and kin will desert you  
No one can help you on that day

Our Lord spoke a parable  
About the prodigal son  
It was written in the Scriptures  
For the benefit of everyone

In the Gospel it is written  
There was a man who had two sons  
The younger son said to his father  
Give me my share of your fortune

He divided all he had  
To his two sons his fortune was given  
The youngest son went far away  
And spent his money in prodigal living

He became poor and lost all he had

Of goodness, he became naked  
A famine struck throughout the land  
It was void of anything blessed

He looked for work in that place  
He joined a man who is the devil  
That place is this evil world  
The swine are the sins and evils

He humiliated him to care for swine  
He wished to eat the pods of sins  
He became poor in his faith  
He became a slave to his sin

The Lord God covered him  
With His riches when He created him  
He gave him a mind and freedom  
To continue doing all good things

He despised the gift  
Delivered himself to Satan's heart  
He lost the virtues and was hungry  
From good works, he did depart

He desired to fill his stomach  
With the pods of the swine  
Evil deeds could not fill him  
His father's goodness, he could not find

He came to himself and thought  
In my father's house I had honor  
Now I serve in this sinful world  
Evil has become my banner

I did not heed my father's advice  
The words of evil, I accepted  
Sin is sweet at the beginning  
But leaves one painfully humiliated

Now I live in pain and hunger  
But how many servants of my father  
Have food enough and more left over  
Here I suffer in bitter hunger

From my sins and evils, I will arise  
From my father I wish to be forgiven  
Repentant, I will confess to him  
I have sinned before you and heaven

I went astray and neglected your law  
I am not worthy to be called your son  
Make me like one of your servants  
From the evil place, I am now gone

The lamb escaped the wolf's teeth  
His wisdom covered his foolishness  
The sinner won a second chance  
Through repentance of his transgressions

The physician of souls and bodies  
Embraced him and his love increased  
When he repented and returned  
He bestowed on him all good deeds

He showed him all goodness  
He accepted and elevated him  
After he lost all that he had  
His crown of virtue was restored to him

He cried aloud to his servants  
"My son was dead and is now alive  
The evil wolf murdered him  
Satan, the father of every lie

"On my son I am merciful  
I am gentle like rain on wool,  
When he repented and returned  
Out of burning fire, him I shall pull

"For a time He was lost  
Satan caused him to go astray  
Today he returned with sincere tears  
How can I turn him away?

"He knocked at my door with tears  
Seeing him, how could I not be joyful?  
My door is open to receive  
Those who repent and are hopeful

"I joyfully set a banquet  
For my lost son who returned  
O angels come and rejoice  
For my lamb returned after he sinned

"O priests prepare the first garment  
That my son will wear with pride

Baptism is that first garment  
The source of all deeds good and right

“Crown my son with a crown of light  
On his finger, put a ring  
By the Spirit, he will be confirmed  
Fortified from Satan’s sting

“A ring of pure gold  
The Spirit will give him wisdom  
To be awake and alert  
And not return to the dark kingdom

“Put sandals on his feet  
To be always standing and prepared  
The serpent shall not injure him  
From temptations, he shall be delivered

“I became like a meek lamb  
To restore the rebellious one  
To make him meek and merciful  
Good deeds shall now be done

“Bring the fattened calf to the slaughter  
It has been feeding in the field  
The sinners of this world  
Are like animals who just feed

“I am the fattened calf  
I came to be slaughtered  
To restore the sinner from the dead  
That he may drink my precious Blood

“My son was dead and now is alive  
Now is found, though he was lost  
Today I shall rejoice  
My son is alive after the fall”

Let us contemplate this parable  
And take heed from evil deeds  
And repent to God Almighty  
He shall accept us back indeed

When the people of Nineveh sinned  
Through fasting and prayer they were accepted  
Three days and three nights  
Despite the curse, they were not rejected

King Ahab was refused  
For his sins, he was rejected  
He did not repent to God  
With many troubles, he was afflicted

When Pharaoh rejected God  
Of eternal fire, he was worthy  
His fall is known forever  
He has no chance for God's mercy

When David committed adultery  
He repented with many tears  
When he returned to God  
He accepted him and brought him near

St. Peter cried bitterly  
After he denied the Lord Jesus  
Christ accepted him again  
He gave keys of heaven to the Apostles

O Lord, do not take away repentance  
Behold we are always tempted  
The trap of the enemy is set forth  
Behold, no one can escape it

O Lord, do not reject us  
Take not away your support  
We have sinned against heaven and you  
You are our intercessor in the Heavenly Court

O who gave us life through His fasting  
And saved us from the enemy's captivity  
Confirm us in the true faith  
Grant us goodness and mercy

Protect all our clergy  
Confirm all Your congregation  
Save the monks and anchorites  
Protect the deacons from temptations