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THE SUNDAYS OF LENT

Each of the Sundays of Lent in the Armenian Church is called by a proper name. During the period of Lent we will take a closer look at these Sundays and see that they embrace the whole of human life from birth to death. Last month we looked at Barekendan which, although not a day of Lent, began our Lenten period. We will now take a look at the remaining Sundays in the month of February.

SUNDAY OF EXPULSION GENESIS 2:1-24

The story and the meaning of the Second Sunday of Lent is the continuation of the Barekendan. This Sunday is dedicated to the loss of man's happiness and his "expulsion from paradise." The hymn (sharagan) of the day points up that idea sympathetically.

"O Lord, who did commit first in paradise the law of holy abstinence unto the first created, who broke it by tasting the fruit and thereby tasting the bitterness of sin and death, grant unto us that we may taste the sweetness of thy commandments. We have been smitten in our souls by the enemy with diverse wounds of sin, and in our manifold infirmities we are in need of thee, the lover of man, to relieve our pains; therefore, O Christ, that lovest man, heal us."

The real cause of man's expulsion from paradise was not because he ate from the forbidden fruit; our poor ancestors were already punished for that sin when after "eating from the fruit they knew that they were naked," which means that they knew they had lost something: their innocence, the greatest and the first loss a human being usually undergoes. They tried stupidly to cover

