



## Sunday of the Expulsion

This second Sunday invokes the loss of happiness as Adam and Eve are driven out of Paradise. The day's hymn recounts how the forbidden fruit tasted of sin and death.

Our ancient forebears knew they had made a mistake immediately after eating the fruit, for they were ashamed of their "nakedness" and foolishly tried to cover themselves and hide from God. Indeed, the sinful notion that they were better, wiser, and more capable than the Almighty in deciding to eat the fruit of the "knowledge of good and evil" is at the heart of every sinful thought or action.

We often experience this in daily life. When we do something we're not proud of, facing God is difficult. Expulsion Sunday reminds us of our original exile from God's presence, but an exile that God's mercy will not let us endure forever. He gives humanity hope and provides us with the opportunity to regain that "lost paradise." The Lenten season is a unique opportunity to feel God's absence as the entire Armenian Church community spends 40 days in prayer and reflection.

**Read:** *Genesis 3*

**Reflect:** *In verse 4, the serpent undermines Eve's trust in God; what erodes your trust in God?*

*"Creation" by brothers Malnazar & Aghap'ir, 17th c, J. Paul Getty Museum  
Text adapted from The Golden Chain of Lenten Sundays by Patriarch Shmork Kaloustian*

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