

Sunday, October 1, 2023
17th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 8
**The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos
and Ever-Virgin Mary**

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Troparion:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

O Mother of God, sheltered by thy coming we faithful people today keep feast enjoy, and looking at thy most pure image, moved to the depths of our hearts, we pray; "Protect us with thy precious veil and deliver us from every ill, by entreating Christ thy Son and our God, to save our souls."

Kontakion:

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

The virgin is present today in the church and with the fellowship of saints she prays to God on our behalf. The angels and bishops worship; the apostles and the prophets rejoice for the Theotokos makes supplication for us to the everlasting God.

Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone:

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!
(Vs.) In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Tone 3 (Song of the Theotokos):

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

Brethren, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Brethren, now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.
(Heb. 9:1-7)

Alleluia Verses:

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
(Vs.) Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

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Tone 8 (Theotokos):

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St Luke. (Chapter 6:31-36)

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merit have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for He is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful.

At that time Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also seated herself at the Lord's feet, and listened to His word. But Martha was worried about much serving. And she came up and said, "Lord, is it no concern of yours that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her therefore to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her." Now it came to pass as He was saying these things, that a certain woman from the crowd lifted up her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you." But He said, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28)