

Sunday, October 31, 2021
19th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2
New Hieromartyr Archpriest John Kochurov

Troparion:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead! And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, in spite of our honor and devotion we are unable to give you worthy praise, through your glorious and noble birth your mother's childlessness was ended, your father's tongue was freed, and the incarnation of the Son of God was proclaimed to the world.

Aflame with love for God, you gave your life as a martyr for Christ and neighbor, for this you received a crown of righteousness from Him. Hieromartyr John, entreat the most Merciful God to preserve the Holy Church in peace and to save our souls.

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Kontakion:

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee! And the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

You were revealed to all as a true shepherd O Hieromartyr John of Chicago, for you nurtured your people in the Orthodox Faith, guiding them by word and deed on the path of salvation, and defended the Faith even unto the shedding of your blood. Therefore, we, your spiritual children, cry out in thanksgiving: Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you the Martyr's crown! Glory to Him who through you grants mercy to all!

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, For you always ever protect those who honor you!

Prokeimenon in the 2nd Tone:

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.
(Vs.) The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over unto death.

Tone 7 (St. John):

Let the saints be exalted in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

Epistle:

The reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (2 Cor. 11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (Heb. 13:7-16)

Alleluia Verses:

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee!
(vs.) Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call to Thee!

Tone 2 (St. John):

Thy priests shall be clothed in righteousness and Thy saints shall rejoice!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 8:26-39)

At that time when Jesus came to the country of the Gerasenes there met Him a certain man from the town who for a long time was possessed by a devil, and wore no clothes, and lived in the tombs, not in a house. And when he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him, and crying out with a loud voice, said, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the most high God? I pray you, do not torment me." For He was forcing the unclean spirit to go out from the man. For many times it had laid hold of him; and he was bound with chains and ropes, and kept under guard, but he would break the bonds asunder, and be driven by the devil into the wilderness. And Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many devils had entered into him. And he begged Him not to command them to go into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was there, feeding on the mountainside. And they kept begging Him to let them enter into them. And He did. And the devils came out from the man and entered into the swine; and the herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and were drowned. And when the swineherds saw what had happened, they fled and reported it in the town and in the country; and people came out to see what had happened. And they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the devils had gone out sitting at His feet, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those also who had seen it reported to them how the demoniac had been saved. And all the people of the Gerasene district asked Him to go away; for they were seized with great fear. And He got into a boat and went back. But the man from whom the devils had gone out prayed Him that he might remain with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your house, and tell all that God has done for you." And he left proclaiming throughout the whole town all that Jesus had done for him.

The Lord said, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms. Make for yourselves purses that do not grow old, a treasure unfailing in heaven, where neither thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart. Let your belts be tightened and your lamps lit, and be like men waiting for their master's return from the wedding, so that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open to him. Blessed are those servants whom the master, on his return, shall find watching. Amen, I say to you, he will put on a towel, and make them sit down at table, and come and serve them. And if he comes in the second watch, and if in the third, and finds them waiting, blessed are those servants! But of this be assured, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would certainly have watched, and not let his house be broken into. You too must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:32-40)