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**Sunday, November 19, 2023**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 7**

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Troparion:

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

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.

Kontakion:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: The Savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, but in thy 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 7th Tone:

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace.  
(Vs.) Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. (Eph. 2:14-22)

Brethren, for He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Alleluia Verses:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!  
(Vs.) To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 12:16-21)

The Lord told this parable: "The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundant crops. And he began to consider, saying, 'What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store up all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool, this very night, you must give up your life; and the things you have provided, whose will they be?' So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich as regards God." After He had said this, He cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."