

**Sunday, July 14, 2024**  
**3rd Sunday After Pentecost-Tone 2**  
**Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**

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.

You are most glorious, O Christ our God. You have established the Fathers as lights upon the earth., and through them, You have guided all of us to the true Faith! O greatly compassionate one, glory to You.

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.

The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers sealed the one Faith of the Church; and clad in the garment of truth woven of theology from on high, it teaches aright and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, despise not the entreating cries 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 is become my salvation.  
(Vs.) The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Tone 4 (Song of the Fathers):

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans. (Rom 5:1-10)

Brethren, therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Brethren, remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose

blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (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 upon Thee!

Tone 1 (Fathers):

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. Therefore if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness itself! No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will stand by the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you shall eat and drink; nor yet for your body, what you shall wear. Is not life a greater thing than food, and the body than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you of much more value than they? But which of you by being anxious about it can add to his stature a single cubit? And as for clothing, why are you anxious? See how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these. But if God so clothes the wild flower of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more you, O you of little faith! Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?', or, 'What are we to wear?' (for all these things the Gentiles seek); for your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all the rest shall be given you besides.

At that time Jesus raised His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come! Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You, even as You have given Him power over all flesh, in order that to all You have given Him He may give everlasting life. Now this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and the one You have sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified You on earth; I have accomplished the work You have given me to do. And now do You, Father, glorify me with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your name to the men You have given me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have learned that whatever You have given me is from You; because the words that You have given me I have given to them. And they have received them, and have known as a fact that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You did send me. I pray for them; not for the world do I pray, but for those whom You have given me, because they are Yours; and all things that are mine are Yours, and Yours are mine; and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You, Holy Father, keep in Your name those You have given me, that they may be one even as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those You have given me I guarded; and not one of them perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You and these things I speak in the world, in order that they may have my joy made full in themselves." ((John 17:1-13)