

Sunday, April 7, 2024
Third Sunday of Great Lent - Tone 3
Veneration of the Precious CROSS

Troparion:

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians, over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

Kontakion:

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of paradise; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Saviour, didst come and cry to those in hell: Enter again into Paradise.

Today the assembly of New Martyrs stands together with us in the Church and together we raise a festive song celebrating the uncovering of the relics of our Hierarch Father Tikhon who defeated the enemy and preserved the Faith While protecting the flock entrusted to him. For he ever prays for us all that we may never be deprived of the Love of God.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Tone 1 Saint:

My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding

Epistle:

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb. 4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz'edek."

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord. (Heb 7:26-8:2)

Alleluia Verses:

Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old.

(Vs.) God is our King before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Tone 2 (Saint)

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark. (Chapter 8:34-9:1)

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who would save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffers the loss of his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father." And He said to them, "Amen I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death, till they have seen the kingdom of God coming in power."

The Lord said, "I am the Door. If any one enters by me he shall be safe, and shall go in and out, and shall find pastures. The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. But the hired hand, who is not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees. And the wolf snatches and scatters the sheep; but the hired hand flees because he is a hireling, and has no concern for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, even as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And other sheep I have that are not of this fold. Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." (John 10:9-16)