

Sunday, July 18, 2021
4th Sunday After Pentecost-Tone 3
Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

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!

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:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

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 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 3rd Tone:

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
(Vs.) Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

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. 6:18-23)

Brethren, and having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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:

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!
(Vs.) Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

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 8:5-13)

At that time when Jesus entered Capernaum, there came to Him a centurion who begged Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying sick in the house, paralyzed, and is grievously afflicted." Jesus said to him, "I will come and cure him." But in answer the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, and have soldiers subject to me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." And when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following Him, "Amen I say to you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel. And I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west, and will feast with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be put out into the darkness outside; there will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; as you have believed, so be it done to you." And the servant was healed at that hour.

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)