

Sunday, July 25, 2021
5th Sunday after Pentecost-Tone 4

Dormition of the Righteous Anna,
Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

Troparion:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Divinely-wise Anna, you carried in your womb the pure Mother of God, who gave life to our Life. Therefore, you are now carried joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to the abode of those who rejoice in glory, where you seek forgiveness of sins for those who faithfully honor you, ever blessed one.

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:

My Saviour and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

We celebrate the memory of the progenitors of Christ, and with faith we ask their help, that deliverance from every affliction be granted to those who cry out: "Be with us, O God, who in Your good pleasure glorified them."

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 4th Tone:

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
(Vs.) Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

Another Tone 4 ((Saint):

God is wondrous in His saints, the God of Israel.

Epistle:

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

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Brethren, it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married." Now we, brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now. But what does the scripture say? "Cast out the slave and her son; for the son of the slave shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." So, brethren, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. (Gal 4:22-31)

Alleluia Verses:

Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of truth, meekness, and righteousness.
(Vs.) For Thou lovest righteousness and hate iniquity.

Another, Tone 4 (Saint):

The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 8:28-9:1)

At that time, as Jesus reached the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two men who were possessed, coming from the tombs, so exceedingly fierce that no one could pass by that way. And behold, they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now at a distance from them there was a herd of many swine, feeding. And the devils kept begging Him, saying, "If You cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." And they came out and entered into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed from the top of the cliff into the sea, and perished in the water. But the swineherds fled, and going away into the town, they reported everything, and what had befallen the men possessed by demons. And behold, all the town came out to meet Jesus; and on seeing Him, they insisted that He leave their district. And getting into a boat, He crossed over, and came into His own town.

The Lord said, "Now no one, when he has lighted a lamp, covers it with a bushel, or hides it under a couch, but puts in upon a lamp-stand, that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be made manifest; nor anything concealed that will not be known and come to light. Take heed, therefore, how you hear; for to him who has shall be given; and from him who does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away." Now His mother and brethren came to Him; and they could not get to Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him, "Your mother and your brethren are standing outside, wishing to see you." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God, and act upon it." (Luke 8:16-21)