

**Sunday, August 1, 2021**  
**6th Sunday after Pentecost-Tone 5**  
**Procession of the Life-Giving Cross**

Troparion:

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Kontakion:

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty; resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, and we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

As You were voluntarily crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

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 4:

The Lord has shown the wonders of His will to the saints who are in His land.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans. (Rom. 12:6-14)

Brethren, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Brethren, for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:18-24 Cross)

Brethren, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 11:33-

12:2 Martyrs)

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.

Another in the Same Tone (Martyrs):

The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and He delivered them from all their troubles.

Gospel:

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

At that time, getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over and came to His own town. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a pallet. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven you." And behold, some of the Scribes said within themselves, "This man blasphemeth." And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic – "Arise, take up your pallet and go to your house." And he arose, and went away to his house. But when the crowds saw it, they were struck with fear, and glorified God who had given such power to men.

At that time the chief priests and the elders took counsel among themselves against Jesus to put Him to death. And they went to Pilate saying, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a Law, and according to that Law He must die, because He has made Himself Son of God." Now when Pilate heard this statement, he feared the more. And he again went back into the praetorium, and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, "Will you not speak to me? Do you not know I have power to release you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all over me were it not given you from above." Pilate therefore, when he heard these words, brought Jesus outside, and sat down on the judgment seat, at a place called Lithostrotos, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day for the Passover, about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!" But they cried out, "Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. And so they took Jesus and led Him away. And bearing the cross for Himself, He went forth to the place called the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on each side and Jesus in the center. And Pilate also wrote an inscription and had it put on the cross. And there was written, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews therefore read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Greek and in Latin. Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother and His mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, Jesus, knowing all things were now accomplished, bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. The Jews therefore, since it was the Preparation Day, in order that the bodies might not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a solemn day), asked Pilate that their legs be broken, and that they be taken away. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other, who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers opened His side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. And the one who saw it has borne witness, and his witness is true. (John 19:6-11; 13-20; 25-35 Cross)

The Lord said to His disciples, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I in turn will disown him before my Father in heaven. Do not think I came to send peace upon the earth; I have come to bring a sword, not peace. For I have come to set a man at variance with his father, and a daughter with her mother, and a daughter-in-law with her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be those of his own household." Now it came to pass when Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, that He passed on from there to teach and preach in their towns. (Matt. 10:32-36; 11:1 Martyrs)