

Sunday, July 16, 2023
6th Sunday after Pentecost-Tone 5
Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

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.

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:

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!

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 protect those who honor you!

Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
(Vs.) For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

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, 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: Tone 1: (Fathers)

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
(Vs.) Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

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 blasphemes." 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 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)