

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**  
**7th Sunday after Pentecost-Tone 6**  
**Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Lifegiving Cross**

Troparion:

The Angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

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!

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:

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans. (Rom. 15:1-7)

Brethren, we then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Alleluia Verses:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.  
(Vs.) He will say to the Lord: My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in whom I trust.

Tone 6 (Saint):

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 9:27-35)

At that time as Jesus was passing on, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Have pity on us, Son of David!" And when He had reached the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this to you?" They answered Him, "Yes, Lord," Then He touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done to you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus strictly charged them, saying, "See that no one knows of this!" But they went out and spread His fame abroad throughout all that district. Now as they were going out, behold, there was brought to Him a dumb man possessed by a devil. And when the devil had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never has the like of this been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "By the prince of devils He casts out devils." And Jesus was going about all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the kingdom, and curing every kind of disease and infirmity in the people.