

Sunday, August 15, 2021
8th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 7
Dormition of the Ever-Virgin Mary

Troparion:

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy! And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy!

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity! In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos! You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death!

Kontakion:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: the savior has come to those in faith! Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

The Lord shall give strength to His people! The Lord shall bless His people with peace!
(Vs.) Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Tone 3 (Theotokos):

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (1 Cor. 1:10-18)

Brethren, now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 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.

Brethren, let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:5-11 Theotokos)

Alleluia Verses:

In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.
(Vs.) Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

Tone 2 (Theotokos):

Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 14:14-22)

At that time when Jesus saw a large crowd, out of compassion for them He cured their sick. Now when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a desert place and the hour is already late; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you yourselves give them some food." They answered Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fishes." He said to them, "Bring them here to me." And when He had ordered the crowd to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowd. And all ate and were satisfied; and they gathered up what was left over, twelve baskets full of fragments. Now the number of those who had eaten was five thousand men, not counting women and children. And immediately afterwards He made His disciples get into the boat and cross ahead of Him, while He dismissed the crowd.

At that time Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also seated herself at the Lord's feet, and listened to His word. But Martha was worried about much serving. And she came up and said, "Lord, is it no concern of yours that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her therefore to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her." Now it came to pass as He was saying these things, that a certain woman from the crowd lifted up her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you." But He said, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28 Theotokos)