

Sunday, July 30, 2023
8th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 7

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!

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:

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!

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 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!

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.

Alleluia Verses:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High!
(Vs.) To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

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.