

**Tropar, tone 7:** By Your cross You destroyed death;\* You opened Paradise to the thief;\* You changed the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers to joy,\* and charged the apostles to proclaim\* that You are risen, O Christ, our God,\* offering great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

**Kondak, tone 7:** No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity,\* for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers.\* Hades is bound.\* The prophets exult with one voice.\* The Savior has come for those with faith, saying:\* "Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!"

**Prokimen, tone 7:** The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

*Verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God, bring to the Lord young rams.*

**Epistle:** A reading from the First Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. (1: 10 - 18)

Brothers and Sisters! I beg you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree in what you say. Let there be no factions; rather, be united in mind and judgment. I have been informed, my brothers, by certain members of Chloe's household that you are quarreling among yourselves. This is what I mean: One of you will say, "I belong to Paul," another, "I belong to Apollos," still another, "Cephas has my allegiance," and the fourth, "I belong to Christ." Has Christ, then, been divided into parts? Was it Paul who was crucified for you? Was it in Paul's name that you were baptized? Thank God I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so there are none who can say that you were baptized in my name. Oh, and I baptized the household of Stephanus. Beyond that, I am not aware of having baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel -- not with wordy "wisdom," however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning. The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God.

**Alleluia Verses:** *It is good to give praise to the Lord; and to sing in Your name, O Most High.*

*To announce Your mercy in the morning and Your truth every night.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 14: 14 - 22

At that time as Jesus saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he cured their sick. As evening drew on, his disciples came to him with the suggestion: "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so that they may go to the villages and buy some food for themselves." Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves." "We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish." "Bring them here," he said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed and broke them and gave the loaves to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. Those who ate were about five thousand, not counting women and children. Immediately afterward, while dismissing the crowds, Jesus insisted that his disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!