

**Sunday, September 13**  
**Sunday before the Exaltation**

---

**Tropar, tone 6:** Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\* You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You.

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

**Kondak, tone 6:** With His life-giving hand Christ our God, the Giver of life,\* raised all the dead from the murky abyss\* and bestowed resurrection upon humanity.\* He is for all the Savior,\* the resurrection and the life, and the God of all.

**Prokimen, tone 6:** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

*Verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence.*

**Epistle:** A reading from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians(6: 11 - 18)

Brothers and Sisters! See, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval --- with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance. May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. Brothers, may the favour of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

*Alleluia Verses: I have promoted the one chosen from my people and anointed him with my holy oil.*

*My hand will be constantly with him, he will be able to rely on my arm.*

**Gospel:** John 3: 13 - 17

The Lord said, No one has gone to heaven except the One who came down from there -- the Son of Man who is in heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

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