

Sunday, September 5 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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 for ever 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: 2nd Corinthians 4: 6-15

Brothers and Sisters! For God, who said, "Let light shine in our hearts, out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed, full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live, we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Death is at work in us, but life in you. We have that spirit of faith of which the Scripture says, "Because I believed, I spoke out." We believe and so we speak, knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up along with Jesus and place both us and you in his presence. Indeed, everything is ordered to your benefit, so that the grace bestowed in abundance may bring greater glory to God because they who give thanks are many.

Alleluia Verses: He who lives in the aid of the Most High, shall dwell under the protection of the God of heaven.

He says to the Lord: You are my protector and my refuge, my God, in Whom I hope.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 35-46

At that time, a lawyer approached Jesus, in an attempt to trip him up, asked him, "Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well." In turn Jesus put a question to the assembled Pharisees, "What is your opinion about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "David's," they answered. He said to them, "Then how is it that David under the Spirit's influence calls him 'lord' as he does: 'The Lord said to my lord. Sit at my right hand, until I humble your enemies beneath your feet'? If David calls him 'lord,' how can he be his son?" No one could give him an answer, therefore no one dared, from that day on, to ask him any questions.

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