

Sunday, October 17 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Tropar, tone 4: When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the glorious news of the resurrection * and cast off the ancestral condemnation, * they proudly told the apostles: * "Death has been plundered! Christ our God is risen * granting to the world great mercy."

Tropar of the Holy Fathers, tone 8: O Christ our God, You are above all praise, * for You established our Fathers as beacons to all the earth. * You led us to the true faith through them. * O Most Bountiful Lord, 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!

Sunday Kondak, tone 4: My Saviour and Deliverer * from the grave as God has raised out of bondage the children of earth * and shattered the gates of Hades; * and as Master, He rose on the third day.

Prokimen, tone 4: How great are Your works, O Lord: You have made all things in wisdom.
Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, You are exceedingly great.

Epistle: Galatians 2: 16-20
Brothers and Sisters: Knowing that a man is not justified by legal observance but by faith in Jesus Christ, we too have believed in him in order to be justified by faith in Christ, not by observance of the law; for by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we are shown to be sinners does that mean that Christ is encouraging sin? Unthinkable! If, however, I were to build up the very things I had demolished, I should then indeed be a transgressor. It was through the law that I died to the law, to live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me. I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Alleluia Verses: Poise yourself and advance in triumph and reign in the cause of truth, and meekness, and justice.
You have loved justice and hated iniquity.

Gospel: Luke 8: 5-15

The Lord told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow some seed. In the sowing, some fell on the footpath where it was walked on and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, sprouted up, then withered through lack of moisture. Some fell among briars, and the thorns growing up with it stifled it. But some fell on good soil, grew up, and yielded grain a hundredfold." As he said this he exclaimed: "Let everyone who has ears attend to what he has heard." His disciples began asking him what the meaning of this parable might be. He replied, "To you the mysteries of the reign of God have been confided, but to the rest in parables that, seeing they may not perceive, and hearing they may not understand. This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the footpath are people who hear, but the devil comes and takes the word out of their hearts lest they believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear the word, receive it for a while, but fall away in time of temptation. The seed fallen among the briars are those who hear, but their progress is stifled by the cares and riches and pleasures of life and they do not mature. The seed on good ground are those who hear the word in a spirit of openness, retain it, and bear fruit through perseverance."

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.
Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia