

Sunday, August 30, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 3

Troparion:

Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down Death by death! He has become the First-born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted 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.

Praise goes well with every just man's memory, but for you only Christ's praises will do. Of all the prophets, you are indeed the greatest, for you, alone, were chosen to announce Him. You, alone, were chosen to baptize Him in the Jordan! Truth has cost you much, O John the Baptist, but joy has also filled your heart, for even those long dead were graced to hear your words: God has taken flesh to save the world from sin, and grant us His great Mercy!

Kontakion:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power!

The awesome beheading of the precursor was a sign of the eventual descent of Christ into hell. Cry your eyes out you murder-loving Herodias! You loved neither the law of God nor Life Everlasting, but only the temporary and perishable age!

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 3rd Tone:

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
(vs.) Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle:

The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:1-11)

Brethren, now I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Alleluia Verses:

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!
(Vs.) Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew. (Chapter 19:16-26)

At that time a certain young man came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good work shall I do to have eternal life?" He said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God. But if you will enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus answered, "Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, honor thy father and mother, and, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have kept; what is still lacking in me?" Jesus said to him, "If you will be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when the young man heard these words, he went away sad, for he had great possessions. But Jesus said to His disciples, "Amen I say to you, with difficulty will a rich man enter the kingdom of heaven. And further I say to you it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." The disciples, hearing this, were exceedingly astonished, and said, "Who then can be saved?" And looking upon them, Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."