

**VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS
3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
HYMNS & READINGS • MARCH 11, 2018**

Verses for the Beatitudes *(Tone 7)*

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

The fruit which slew me was beautiful and good to eat; but Christ is the Tree of life, and eating of Him I do not die, but cry out with the thief: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom!

***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.***

The serpent once poured its venom into the ears of Eve; but on the tree of the Cross, Christ poured forth the sweetness of life upon the world. Wherefore, we cry out: Remember us, O Lord, in Thy kingdom!

***Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.***

Thou wast laid in the tomb as one dead, O Christ, Thou Life of all; and Thou didst break down the gates of hades; and having risen again in glory on the third day as One mighty, Thou hast illumined all. Glory to Thine arising!

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

(Precious Cross) O ye faithful, let us cry aloud with joy and sing triumphantly to God, as we greet the Cross of the Lord; for it is a fountain of holiness to all those in the world.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

(Precious Cross) The words of the Psalmist are fulfilled: for see, we bow before the footstool of Thy most pure feet, O Lord all-powerful, at Thy Precious Cross, the thrice-blessed Wood.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!

(Precious Cross) O Ewe free from blemish, the greatest wonder of all wonders was revealed in thee: for thou hast borne the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Entreat Him fervently for those who sing thy praises.

Troparion & Kontakion

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone VII —

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy; and Thou didst command Thy disciples: O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion, Tone I —

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone VII —

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Saviour, hast come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise."

Prokeimenon & Epistle

Prokeimenon Tone 6: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!

Verse: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle (*Hebrews 4:14-5:6*): *Brethren*, we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” As *He* also says in another *place*: “You *are* a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”

Alleluia Verses:

(*Tone 8*) Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old!

(*Tone 8*) God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!

Gospel (Mark 8:34-9:1): The Lord said, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

