

**MARTYRS MENDORA, METRODORA, & NYMPHODORA
14TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
HYMNS & READINGS • SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

Beatitudes (Tone 5)

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

Believing Thee to be God, O Christ, the thief on the cross confessed Thee in a pure manner, crying out from the depths of his heart. Remember me in Thy Kingdom, O Lord!

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

Together let us hymn as Saviour and Creator Him Who on the tree of the Cross budded forth life for the human race and caused the curse which originated from the tree to wither up.

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

Arriving at Thy tomb, O Christ, the honorable women sought to anoint Thee with myrrh, O Bestower of life; but an angel appeared to them, crying out: the Lord is risen!

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

When Thou wast crucified between two condemned thieves, O Christ, one of them blasphemed Thee and was justly damned, while the other confessed Thee and hath now come to dwell in paradise.

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

O indivisible Trinity, all-effecting and all-powerful Unity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: thee do we hymn as our True God and Saviour!

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

Rejoice, O living temple of God and impassible gate! Rejoice, O fiery throne which burneth yet is not consumed! Rejoice, O Mother of Emmanuel, Christ our God!

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone V —

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the Feast, Tone IV —

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. // By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Troparion, Tone I

Let all who rejoice at their triumph honor those three virgin martyrs, who are united to God as sisters and who pour forth fair streams of grace: Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, who were in all things courageous; they ever pray to the Trinity for us.

Kontakion of the Resurrection, Tone V —

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, // and we cry to Thee, O Lord, save us!

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

Kontakion, Tone IV, 'As thou wast voluntarily...'

Invincible in your struggles for the Holy Trinity, and through your love for each other as sisters, you defeated the foe of the spiritual life, and with the five virgins, entered victoriously into the heavenly mansions where you ever rejoice with the angels in the presence of the King of all!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Kontakion of the Feast, Tone IV —

By thy nativity, most pure Virgin, Joachim and Ann are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve - from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: // "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Prokeimenon and Epistle

Tone 6: O Lord, save Thy people and bless thou inheritance

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

Tone 3: (*Song of the Theotokos*) My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

Epistle: (*2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4*) *Brethren,* He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. ¹ But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. ² For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? ³ And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Alleluia Verses:

(*Tone 1*) I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

(*Tone 1*) For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.

(*Tone 8*) Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear .

Gospel: (Matthew 22:1-14) *And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:* ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.”’” ⁵But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*. ⁷But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’” ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹²So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” ¹⁴“For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”