

**PROPHET ZEPHANIAH
HYMNS & READINGS • DECEMBER 3, 2017
26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Verses for the Beatitudes *(Tone 1)*

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

Through food did the enemy lead Adam forth from paradise; but by the Cross hath Christ led back to it the thief who cried: Remember me when Thou comest in Thy kingdom!

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

O Sinless One, of Thine own will Thou was crucified and place in the tomb; yet Thou didst arise as God, raising up with Thyself Adam who crieth out: Remember me when Thou comest 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.***

Very early, the myrrh-bearing women arrived, weeping, at Thy tomb, O Christ God; and they found an angel sitting there, clad in white garments, who said: What seek ye? Christ is risen! Lament no longer!

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

When Thine apostles went to the mountain whither Thou hadst commanded them to go, and saw Thee, O Saviour, they worshipped Thee; and Thou didst send them unto the nations, to teach and baptize them.

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

Let us worship the Father, let us glorify the Son, and together let us hymn the all-holy Spirit, crying out and saying: O most holy Trinity, save us all!

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

Thy people bring Thy Mother before Thee to make supplication, O Christ. Through her entreaties grant us Thy compassions, O Good One, that we may glorify Thee Who hast shone forth upon us from the tomb.

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone I —

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life; Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Troparion, Tone II

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord; through him we beseech Thee: "Save our souls!"

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

Kontakion, Tone IV

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah, for thou proclaimedst the coming of God: "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Kontakion of the Resurrection, Tone I —

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Prokeimenon and Epistle

Prokeimenon 1st Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous!
Praise befits the just!

Epistle: (*Ephesians 5:9-19*) *Brethren,* ⁹the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, ¹⁰finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." ¹⁵See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord!

Alleluia Verses

(Tone 1) God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

(Tone 1) He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

Gospel: (Luke 15:18-27) At that time, ¹⁸ Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ” ²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” ²² So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²³ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. ²⁴ And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” ²⁷ But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

