

16th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 7)
Sunday after the Nativity of the Theotokos
St Theodora of Alexandria
2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 10 Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Beatitude Verses

6 from Octoechos for Resurrection
4 from Ode 3 from Menaion for the Afterfeast

People: In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth!

Reader: 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 Robber: Remember me, O Lord, in Your kingdom!

People: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled!

Reader: O Compassionate Lord, who was lifted up on the Cross, You have erased the record of Adam's ancient sin, and have saved the whole human race from deception. Therefore, we praise You, O Lord and Benefactor.

People: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

Reader: O compassionate Christ, You nailed our sins to the Cross, and by Your death You slew death, O You who raised up the dead from among the dead. Therefore, we worship Your holy resurrection.

People: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!

Reader: 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. Therefore, we cry out: Remember us, O Lord, in Your kingdom!

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God!

Reader: O Christ the Life of all, You were laid in the tomb as one dead; and You broke down the gates of Hades; and having risen again in glory on the third day as One mighty, You have illumined all. Glory to Your arising!

People: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

Reader: Having risen from the dead on the third day, the Lord bestowed His peace upon His disciples; and having blessed them, He sent them forth saying: Lead all into My kingdom!

People: Blessed are you when people revile you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake!

Reader: A fertile land is born of a barren land, bearing as fruit the Nourisher of all good things, the life-bearing Grain who nurtures all by His divine gesture.

People: Rejoice, and be extremely glad, for great is your reward in heaven!

Reader: Today has the rod of virginity sprouted forth, from where our God, the Gardener, blossoms forth as a flower, cutting down the branches of wickedness by His extreme beauty.

People: **Glory** to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Reader: Behold! The mountain unquarried, which arose from a barren rock, produces the spiritually quarried Stone, who crushes the falsehood of all graven idols.

People: **Now** and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: O Maiden; the foreshadowing of the Law revealed you beforehand. For outside the laws of nature, you carried in your womb the Lawgiver, who in a manner beyond reason, keeps you incorrupt and undefiled.

Troparia & Kontakia

Resurrection Troparion Tone 7

People:
You destroyed death by Your Cross, /
You opened Paradise to the robber. /
You reversed the lamentation of the Myrrh-bearing Women, /
and You commanded Your Apostles to proclaim /
that You arose, O Christ our God, /
granting to the world //
Your great mercy.

Troparion of Nativity of Theotokos
Tone 4

People:

Your nativity, O Theotokos, /
has proclaimed joy to the whole world; /
for from you has dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. /
He has released us from the curse, and has given us the blessing. //
He has abolished death and granted us eternal life.

Troparion of St Theodora
Tone 8

People:

In you, O mother, that which was created according to the image of God /
was manifestly saved; for, accepting your cross, you followed after Christ; /
and, praying, you learned to disdain the flesh, for you transcended it, /
and to take care of your soul, for it is immortal. //
Therefore, your soul rejoices with angels, O venerable Theodora.

Kontakion of St Theodora
Tone 2

People:

Laying waste to your body through fasting, /
you entreated the Creator /
with vigils of prayer because of your sin, /
that receiving full forgiveness, you might also receive remission, //
having come to know the path of repentance.

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

Kontakion of Nativity of Theotokos
Tone 4

People:

O undefiled Lady, by your holy nativity, /
Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness. /
Adam and Eve were freed from the corruption of death. /
Your people being redeemed from the guilt of sin,
celebrate by crying to you: /
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, //
who sustains of our life.

People: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Kontakion of the Resurrection
Tone 7**

People:

No longer can the dominion of death keep mankind imprisoned; /
for Christ has descended into Hades, /
demolishing and destroying the power of death. /
Hades is now bound in chains; /
the prophets rejoice with one voice, saying: /
The Savior has come for those who have faith. //
Come forth, O faithful, for the Resurrection.

**Resurrection Prokeimenon
Tone 7**

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

People: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Reader: Bring to the Lord, O you sons of God, bring to the Lord the sons of rams.

People: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Reader: The Lord will give strength to His people.

People: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Epistle
2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 10

Reader: Brethren, since we are God's fellow workers, we also entreat you not to receive His grace in vain, for He says, "At a favorable time I listened to you; In a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion for stumbling in anything, so that our ministry may not be blamed. Instead, we seek to be approved as servants of God in everything, in great endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in vigils, in fastings, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in a holy spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, and in the power of God. There is also the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, glory and dishonor, evil report and good report; being thought of as deceivers, and yet true; unknown, and yet well-known; dying, and behold, we live; punished, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; thought to have nothing even though we possess all things!

Priest: Peace be to you the reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Alleluiarion Tone 7

Reader: Alleluia in the 7th Tone.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: To proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Deacon: Bless Master, him who proclaims the Holy Gospel of the Holy, Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

Priest: May God, through the intercessions of the holy, glorious, all praised Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, enable you to proclaim the Good News with great power, for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

Deacon: **Matthew 25: 14 - 30**

People: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

The Hymn to the Theotokos

Or the Magnification (Megalynarion) of the Feast

Instead of "It is truly right..." we sing the Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Second Canon of the Nativity:

Tone 8

Refrain

Magnify, O my soul, /
the most glorious nativity of the Theotokos.

Irmos

Virginity is foreign to mothers, /
and strange is childbirth for virgins, /
yet both were accomplished in you, O Theotokos. /
Therefore, we and all generations of the earth //
unceasingly magnify you.

Communion Verse (Koinonikon)

People:

Resurrection:

Praise the Lord in the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

Theotokos:

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.